

Report on the
20th Season of the Joint Swiss-Egyptian Mission
in Syene / Old Aswan (2019/2020)

by

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1. Introduction

The 20th season of the joint archaeological project of the Swiss Institute for Architectural and Archaeological Research Cairo and the Aswan Inspectorate of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities in Syene/Old Aswan was carried out between November 16th, 2019 and March 18th, 2020¹. Due to the effects of the global crisis caused by the Corona virus, the archaeological work of the mission had to stop prematurely. Only the construction works in Area 2 continued without interruption and were completed June 4th, 2020.

¹ We are grateful to the Ministry of Antiquities and the members of the Permanent Committee for granting permission to undertake the Joint Mission in Aswan. We appreciate very much the fruitful cooperation with our colleagues of the Aswan Inspectorate in this joint mission. The mission was directed by C. VON PILGRIM, in close cooperation with ABDELMONEIM SAID MAHMOUD. The fieldwork was directed by W. MÜLLER. Team members were the archaeologists V. GEISSLER, M. HEPÄ, L. KREUZBURG and C. THIRY, the epigraphers S. TORALLAS TOVAR and A. ZOMENO, and the photographer P. MORA RIUDAVETS. Egyptian members of the mission were HAYTAM MOHAMED ABDEL METAL AFIFI and YOSRA KHALFALLA EL ZOHRY. Additional assigned inspectors were FATHIA AHMED EL-HEFNY, AHMED MOHAMED AHMED MOHAMED, and SAMAH EL SAIED ABDEL HALEEM in the magazines. - We are much indebted to P. ROSE for correcting the English of this report.

The construction of the new magazine is a major success of the past season and puts an end to years of efforts to improve the storage of the finds of the joint mission.

For many years, one of the main concerns of the mission has been the permanent monitoring of construction sites in the urban area of Aswan in order to carry out rescue excavations where necessary, if ancient layers or building remains are encountered and endangered as a result of the building process.² However, the number of new construction projects in the Old Aswan area has declined steadily in recent years. The systematic inspection of the few new construction sites did not reveal any ancient remains last season and no rescue excavations were carried out. Nevertheless, some important information for the reconstruction of the ancient topography of Aswan was obtained during the inspection of the construction pits.

The field work in the past campaign was thus limited to the continuation of the excavations in the area south of the small temple of Khnum ("Temple of Domitian") in Area 3. The excavations were carried out from November 20th until December 12th, 2019.

The oldest building layers in this area originate from the 27th Dynasty and overlie a zone on the riverbank with traces of quarrying activity of the Pharaonic period. This season's investigations were undertaken on the layers from the Ptolemaic period that lie further up the slope. They show that the urban area close to the riverbank was radically modified during this period.

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

In addition to the fieldwork, the processing of the finds and in particular the pottery continued. The latter again concentrated on the Ptolemaic pottery from the animal necropolis in Area 2. In addition, the pottery from Middle Kingdom settlements discovered during salvage excavations in previous seasons was processed by I. FORSTNER-MÜLLER and V. GEISLER. C. THIRY continued documenting the Late Period pottery from Area 3 in order to establish a typology of vessel forms.

In the spring season 2020, SOFÍA TORALLAS TOVAR and AMALIA ZOMEÑO RODRÍGUEZ continued the inventory of the ostraca and the study of Greek and Arabic ostraca.

² Cf. for the report on the last season: C. VON PILGRIM ET AL., 'Report on the 19th Season of the Joint Swiss-Egyptian Mission in Syene/Old Aswan (2018/19), *ASAE*, forthcoming (http://www.swissinst.ch/downloads/Report%20Swiss_Egyptian%20Mission%20ASWAN%202019.pdf) (henceforth quoted as *Nineteenth Season*), and for all reports on previous seasons: http://www.swissinst.ch/html/forschung_neu.html. For recently published special studies see J. Nováček/K. Scheelen-Nováček/M. Hepa/M. Schultz/C. von Pilgrim/W. Müller, Roman and Late Antique Burials from the Old Town of Aswan (Egypt), *Anthropologie* LVII/I (2019), S. 3-51; M. Hepa, A Clay Gladius Sheath from Area 13c in Ancient Roman Town of Syene, *EtudTrav.* XXXI, 2018, 167-179; G. Williams, Medieval Ceramics from Aswan, *Bulletin de Liaison de la Céramique Égyptienne* 28, 2018, 297-306.

2. The construction of a new storage building in Area 2 (Birket Damas)

It has always been a serious problem for all archaeological work in Aswan that there was no magazine for finds from excavations in the urban area of Aswan, as a result of which all finds had of necessity been stored inappropriately inside the Isis Temple. With the opening of the SCA-magazine next to the Inspectorate of Antiquities the situation improved considerably. However, this magazine, which holds the finds of all archaeological missions working in the whole region, had no space for the large quantities of potsherds and other finds from the joint mission's city excavations since 2000. In 2009, therefore, the joint mission received permission from the Permanent Committee to build a new magazine for potsherds and objects for study from the joint mission's excavations. The preparatory work for the construction began in 2012, but had to be abandoned due to acute security problems in the aftermath of the events of 2011. Since then, the master plan supported by the Sawiris Foundation for the creation of a central archaeological zone from the merging of the two Areas 1 and 2 is also pending.

After the Permanent Committee issued a reminder to build the magazine in 2017, the Swiss Institute tried to renew the building licence from the City Council of Aswan for the construction. After a prolonged effort, the new building licence was issued in February and handed over to the Swiss Institute on February 16th, 2020, so that the start to construction work could be arranged.³ An experienced general contractor from Cairo (Al Habashi General Contracting) was commissioned with the construction and the work began on March 2nd, 2020. The whole building covers an area of c.370 sqm along the southern edge of Area 2 and contains a large and a small storage room, two workrooms, a guard room and two bathrooms. After a construction period of three months the building was completed on June 4th, 2020 (Fig. 1). We are most grateful to the former President of the Swiss Confederation, Pascal Couchepin, for making this project possible through a substantial donation.

In the coming season the building will be furnished and an iron gate will be built into the perimeter wall of the area.

The facilities for archaeological work in Aswan will improve considerably with this new building, and the protection of the archaeological finds recovered so far is now sustainably guaranteed. This is all the more important as the finds and the potsherds in particular represent an archive of information whose potential is far from exhausted.

3. Site Management

As the MoA did not have adequate space in the past to store the many ancient architectural elements and large stone objects found in the excavations and construction sites in the city, they were

³ We are indebted to the General Director of Antiquities for Aswan and Nubia, Mr. Abdelmoneim Said, and especially to Inspector of Antiquities Mahmoud Abdin for their support to overcome all the bureaucratic obstacles.

temporarily stored either in the ancient house ruins next to the Isis Temple or in the open air storage area of the Nubian Fund at Talaina (10 km south of Aswan). The large collection of pieces include columns, capitals, column bases, statue bases, millstones and Pharaonic temple blocks, all of which derived from monumental buildings of different periods.

At the request of the local Inspectorate of Antiquities, the joint mission has developed a masterplan for the improved storage of these important collections. Accordingly, they will be transferred to Area 2 (Birket Damas), where, after completion of the archaeological work in 2015, a large area outside the ancient city wall offers sufficient space. It is planned in future to fix the components on pedestals and to prepare a well-organized blockyard, complemented by an open-air exhibition of elements of important architecture from Aswan. The area is now protected by a surrounding wall which was built by the mission in 2012, and is also in the immediate vicinity of the new storage building completed in June 2020.

Although parts of this area are currently still occupied by building material from the magazine construction we began to move a large group of building elements stored at Talaina to Area 2 in the spring of 2019. Due to the urgent request of the local Inspectorate, we continued the work in November 2019 to remove the collection of stone pieces currently stored in the ancient houses next to the Isis Temple (Fig. 2). We focussed in particular on the assemblage of pieces stored in that part of the area where the local Inspectorate had decided to build a ticket office and a sanitary room. The larger blocks have been directly transferred to Area 2, and the collection of smaller blocks has been temporarily stored in another part of the same area until the construction of the nearby magazine in Area 2 is completed.

The transfer of the remaining groups still at Talaina and in the area of the Isis Temple will be continued in the next season, along with the development of the new storage and block-yard in Area 2.

(C. von Pilgrim)

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

Area 3 constitutes one of only three protected areas in Old Aswan (Fig. 3). While most of the results of the mission have come from rescue excavations and are thus nowadays seen only in publications as they have vanished under modern buildings, discoveries in protected research areas can be presented to the public after the completion of the archaeological investigation.⁴ Protection of these sites and the development of site-management procedures are thus always a focus of the mission.⁵ According to these principles, a massive retaining wall was built at the eastern limit of Area 3 in order to protect the site and the street passing it at a much higher level to the east.⁶ Area 3 is situated in the close vicinity of the ancient riverbank of the main branch of the River Nile.⁷ To the east of it, a steep slope, defined by numerous granite outcrops, rises towards the east.⁸

The importance of the area with the Temple of Domitian as its central monument was clear from the beginning of the mission, as it was evident that the area would make a perfect showcase for the history of Aswan. Therefore, work started as far back as 2001 with extensive cleaning and continued with excavations in 2003 and 2014.⁹

During Seasons 16–19 (Figs. 4 and 5), the western part of the area next to the German Hospital and the garden of the former Grand Hotel was subject to an extensive archaeological intervention that

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

⁵ Cf. C. VON PILGRIM, 'Auf Elephantine sollten wir überhaupt einmal graben: Ein Streifzug durch die Forschungsgeschichte der Städte am 1. Nilkatarakt', in M. HÖVELER-MÜLLER, A. EL-HAWARI (eds.), *Zwischen den Welten: Grabfunde von Ägyptens Südgrenze*, (Rahden 2011), pp. 79-84 for the structure and general aims of the Swiss-Egyptian Mission at Old Aswan, *idem*, *supra*, chs. 1-3 for recent activities of the Swiss Institute.

⁶ *Idem*, in *Fourteenth Season*, pp. 3-4, figs. 21 and 27.

⁷ Cf. W. MÜLLER, in *9th Season*, pp. 20-23 for the medieval riverbank that was encountered in Area 52.

⁸ Cf. W. MÜLLER, M. DE DAPPER, 'The Urban Landscape of Aswan (Egypt) Since the Predynastic Period: a Geoarchaeological Approach', in Y. TRISTANT, M. GHILARDI (eds.), *Landscape Archaeology. Egypt and the Mediterranean World*, *BiEtud* 169 (Cairo 2018), fig. 4 with a profile of the granite landscape to the east of Area 3.

⁹ C. VON PILGRIM, in *1st Report*, p. 124, K. C. BRUHN, in *2nd Report*, pp. 251-253, W. MÜLLER, in *Fourteenth Season*, pp. 12-18.

had its origin in the - later abandoned - plan to build a subterranean storage facility for non-registered pottery and animal bones found by the mission. The potential of this part of the site quickly became obvious, especially with respect to archaeological remains from the Late Period and earlier Pharaonic periods that were easily accessible here due to excavations in connection with construction activities at the beginning of the 20th century but were covered by several metres of stratigraphy everywhere else in Area 3.¹⁰

Stratum N

On top of layers containing evidence of extensive quarrying activity with pottery dating from the Old, Middle and New Kingdoms (Stratum O),¹¹ a settlement of the Late Period came into existence. Stratum N (Saite-Early Persian) marked the first phase of this settlement.¹² A spacious house (House 14) and parts of another building (House 15) were located in the southern part of the excavated area (Fig. 6).¹³

House 14

After the remains of the stone platform W3-431 (Fig. 7) in the south-eastern part of the South-Eastern Sector were removed in Season 20, the south-eastern corner of House 14 could be investigated in its entirety (Fig. 8). It was confirmed that W3-645 was indeed the eastern limit of the house. The ground-plan of the house is now complete. It covered nearly 60sqm and belonged thus with the more spacious domestic buildings in Late Period Syene or Elephantine.¹⁴ The building comprised seven rooms. Rooms 7 and 4 were part of a staircase, evidence of the fact that at least a second floor existed. Room 6 constituted a small vestibule and access point for the whole house. This part of the house was the best preserved area and thus best suited for an investigation into its phases of use and abandonment. The threshold of the main entrance, which was situated in the eastern wall next to the south-eastern corner of Room 6 had to be renewed at least five times (Fig. 9). The level of the latest preserved thresholds made of unfired bricks was more than 1m higher than the earliest one. This shows that the house was in use for a considerable time. This became necessary as sediment (mostly windblown) and mud-brick debris accumulated in the house during each phase of abandonment. The fact that little pottery or other material was found in the building is evidence of the fact that these abandonments took place in an orderly and planned manner. While Room 6 was used as a vestibule during the earliest

¹⁰ Cf. W. MÜLLER, in *Sixteenth Season*, pp. 3-17, *idem*, in *Seventeenth Season*, p. 3-16, *idem*, in *Eighteenth Season*, p. 4-14, *idem*, in *Nineteenth Season*, pp. 5-14 for information on previous work in the western part of Area 3.

¹¹ Cf. *idem*, in *Nineteenth Season*, p. 5 n. 16 and C. VON PILGRIM, in *Report on the 5th and 6th Season*, pp. 307-311 on evidence for the processing and transport of granite in Area 23 in the very north of Aswan. The pre-Late Period Pharaonic pottery was dated by I. FORSTNER-MÜLLER.

¹² The Late Period pottery from Area 3 is studied by C. THIRY in his PhD thesis.

¹³ Cf. MÜLLER, in *Nineteenth Season*, pp. 5-7.

¹⁴ Cf. S. MARCHI, *L'habitat dans les forteresses de Migdol (Tell el-Herr) durant les V^e et IV^e siècles avant J.-C. Étude archéologique*, (Paris 2014), pp. 197-201 for a comparative study of domestic structures in garrison towns of Late Period Egypt.

phase of House 14, a bread oven was installed there later. Towards the end of the habitation of the house, the oven was given up without replacement. Doors led from Room 6 into the staircase to the east and into Room 3b to the north. The threshold of the latest phase of the door into Room 3b was at the same level and constructed in the same way as the one observed at the main entrance.

The findings of Stratum N, limited in space as they were (no architectural traces of this stratum were found in the Northern Sector of Area 3 or other areas in Syene), are of the utmost importance for our understanding of the history of the city of Aswan as they mark the very beginning of an urban tradition that continues with minor interruptions until today. In nearby Area 15, the contemporary Stratum K was below the ground-water table and thus yielded no clear architectural structures.¹⁵ The houses in Area 3 were built on unfavourably low ground in immediate vicinity of the River Nile, probably due to a nearby harbour installation.¹⁶

Strata M-L

After the houses of Stratum N were given up, the overall organisation of space changed in Stratum M with the construction of huge retaining walls made of mudbrick. These two walls met at a corner in the south-eastern part of the area (Fig. 6). As no other architecture was preserved and the walls were mostly destroyed soon after their construction, their function remains enigmatic. Stratum L follows the orientation of the walls of Stratum M but marks the beginning of a densely built-up quarter of the town of the later Persian Period and Dynasty 30. Several complete ground-plans of houses separated by two streets were documented (Fig. 10).

A special feature of the houses of Stratum L was the frequent use of stone for their walls. This has been identified as a major feature of the architecture of the Persian Period in Syene as not only the town wall, but also parts of domestic structures were at least partly made of stone. Besides free-standing stone walls as seen in House 25¹⁷ and several examples in Areas 2 and 15,¹⁸ there were also terracing walls built against slopes either consisting of the ruins and collapse of abandoned houses (Houses 12 and 13 in Area 3,¹⁹ Houses 4, 5. And 6 in Area 15²⁰) or granite outcrops (Area 62)²¹ in order to create elevated level building ground and to adapt to the uneven granite landscape. In the case of House 12, the wall W3-431 (Stratum L/3) was situated to the south of Street 3 and supported a platform covered with the same building material (mostly granite rubble) (Fig. 7).²² The dimensions of

¹⁵ W. MÜLLER, in *Report on the 5th and 6th Season*, pp. 314-315.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 325, MÜLLER/DE DAPPER, in TRISTANT/GHILARDI (eds.), *Landscape Archaeology*, pp. 22-23. For average flood-levels in the Cataract region cf. S. J. SEIDLMEYER, *Historische und Moderne Nilstände, ACHET A1* (Berlin 2001), p. 90, tab. 7.

¹⁷ W. MÜLLER, in *Eighteenth Season*, pp. 7-8.

¹⁸ Cf. *idem*, in *Fifteenth Season*, pp. 5-6 for Area 2 and *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 for Area 15.

¹⁹ *Idem*, in *Sixteenth Season*, pp. 8-9.

²⁰ *Idem*, in *Report on the 5th and 6th Season*, pp. 319-320.

²¹ *Idem*, in *Tenth Season*, p. 17.

²² *Idem*, in *Nineteenth Season*, pp. 9-10.

this structure were such (from the rounded corner to the east to the edge where it is destroyed by modern buildings to the west it measured more than 12m) that it was probably constructed to support a non-domestic building or several houses, as was the case with, for example, Houses 4 and 5 in Area 15. Except for a small-scale investigation of the last remains of W3-431, no additional information on Strata M-L could be gained in Season 20.²³

Stratum L saw the development of the Late Period garrison town of Syene. This urban tradition was initiated with the construction of the town wall. A small part of the western sector of this wall was exposed in Area 15. Projecting its course towards the north, it runs between Areas 52 and 3 beneath the surgical unit of the German Hospital.²⁴ With the construction of this massive structure, the liminal parts of Late Period Syene were finally protected from the river and town quarter began to thrive after its humble beginnings in Stratum L/4, to the definition of the road grid in Stratum L/3 and finally to the densely built-up quarter of Strata L/2 and L/1. The quarter of the garrison town excavated in Area 3 shows a decidedly domestic character and looks thus significantly different from other parts of the town investigated in Areas 2 and 15.²⁵

Strata K-H

After the abandonment and partial destruction of the houses of Stratum L, it took until the early 2nd century BC for major new activity to start in the area.²⁶ Then massive terracing work began along the whole riverside of Ptolemaic Syene (Stratum K).²⁷ Soon afterwards, from the 2nd half of the second century onwards, House 20 came into existence in the northern part, with several bread-ovens in a huge open-air area to its south (Fig. 11). (Stratum J/2). At the end of the Ptolemaic and the beginning of the Roman Period, a densely built-up town quarter came into existence again (Stratum J/1). This quarter is represented in Area 3 by Houses 16 and 17 (Fig. 12). Several structures, comprising the remains of mudbrick walls and foundations made of granite rubble in the Southern Sector were too badly destroyed to understand them completely. These houses, dating to the Late Ptolemaic and Early Roman Imperial Period, are contemporary with Strata E-C in Area 15.²⁸ The buildings show the same spacious layout and share features such as small vaulted substructures, probably used for storage. The settlement tradition started then continued well into the medieval period.

During the Roman Imperial Period, a new house, House 28 (Figs. 12 and 5), came into existence to the south of Street 1 (Stratum H). The Temple of Domitian was constructed at the same time as these developments in the second half or at the end of the 1st century AD.²⁹ The chronological

²³ Cf. *idem*, in, *Sixteenth Season*, pp. 5-13, *idem*, in *Seventeenth Season*, p. 5-13, *idem*, in *Eighteenth Season*, p. 4-10, *idem*, in *Nineteenth Season*, pp. 7-11 on results of previous seasons.

²⁴ MÜLLER/DE DAPPER, in TRISTANT/GHILARDI (eds.), *Landscape Archaeology*, p. 27.

²⁵ MÜLLER, in *Eighteenth Season*, p. 14.

²⁶ *Idem*, in *Nineteenth Season*, p. 11.

²⁷ Cf. *idem*, 'Hellenistic Aswan', in D. RAUE et al. (eds.), *The First Cataract of the Nile. One Region – Diverse Perspectives*, SDAIK 36 (Berlin/Boston 2013), pp. 126-127.

²⁸ *Idem*, in *Report on the 5th and 6th Season*, pp. 333-336.

²⁹ H. JARITZ, 'Untersuchungen zum "Tempel des Domitian" in Assuan', *MDAIK* 31 (1975), pp. 237-257.

relationship between settlement and temple will be the subject of a special investigation in the next chapter of this report.³⁰

The medieval town quarter in Area 3 (Strata C-D)

Of special importance in Area 3 are the extensive medieval remains that are preserved there (Fig. 13).³¹ A significant part of a quarter of the town of the Ayyubid and Mamluk city with domestic and economic elements spread around the still-standing Temple of Domitian that became part of one or several houses.³² Streets 5 and 7 met in the north-eastern part of the area (Fig. 14). The street to the north of the temple (Street 5) was discovered during cleaning activities in Season 19.³³ During these works a system of sewers for waste-water disposal was discovered, which was most probably connected with the well-like sewage pits omnipresent in Fatimid and Ayyubid Aswan.³⁴

The investigations during Season 20 helped to clarify the situation to the north of the temple. In its western part, before it was destroyed by the aforementioned activities in the early 20th century, the street was 1.40m wide. It became wider to the east of House 30 (ca. 1.90m). Similarly, the contemporaneous Street 7 was ca. 1.9m wide near its junction with Street 5 and narrowed to 1.40m further south. Of the houses adjoining the street to the north, only the front walls were examined as excavations had to stop here due to security reasons. As was the case with Street 7, all the front walls of the houses showed a similar, and by Aswan standards quite elaborate, design.³⁵ The walls were, at least up to the preserved level, made of stone and fired brick with carefully crafted faces towards the street. The south-eastern corner of House 29 was clearly defined while the southern wall of neighbouring House 31 was only partly preserved. This wall seemed to sit immediately on a very compact earlier (street-?) surface while all other walls along the street showed deep foundations constructed of sandstone and granite rubble. The south-eastern corner of House 30, situated to the south of Street 5, seemed to abut the north-eastern corner of the *pronaos* of the Temple of Domitian. Although no gap in the wall could be observed, the *pronaos* was most probably part of another house (House 32) that was limited by Streets 5 and 7 and House 3 to the north. The interior structure of Houses 30 and 32 is currently rather obscure as the latter is completely covered by a significantly later building and the outlines of several walls of House 30 are already visible but are still covered by modern material. In both cases work in future seasons will reveal more details.

³⁰ For a more detailed description for Houses 16, 17, 8 and 28 and their chronological and topographical relationship *cf.* this report, *infra*, chapter 5.

³¹ MÜLLER, in *Fourteenth Season*, pp. 12-18.

³² R. ENGELBACH, 'Small Temple of Domitian at Aswan', *ASAE* 21 (1921), p. 195. JARITZ, *MDAIK* 31, pp. 242-243,

³³ MÜLLER, in *Nineteenth Season*, pp. 13-14.

³⁴ *Idem*, in *Fourteenth Season*, p. 16 and p. 32, fig. 24 (Area 3), *idem*, in *Sixteenth Season*, p. 16 and *idem*, in *Eighteenth Season*, p. 13, *idem*, in *Eighteenth Season*, p. 14 n. 53, *idem*, in *Report on the 7th Season*, p. 184, fig. 4 (Area 31).

³⁵ *Idem*, in *Fourteenth Season*, pp. 17-18.

The most important discovery in this part of the area was the sewage system. A central main channel, running under Street 5, and several feeder channels were observed (Figs. 14, 15 and 16). One channel abutted the north-eastern corner of House 30 and ran under the northern wall of House 32 that was built against the northern wall of the *pronaos*. This channel was connected to a small room, most probably a rectangular basin that measured 1.5 x 0.30m. The northern wall of the *pronaos* formed the southern limit of this basin. A little further to the east, a significantly smaller feeder-channel led into House 31. Again, the channel met the house near a corner. This channel was intentionally closed with several fired bricks and destroyed further to the north. Next to the north-eastern corner of the *pronaos*, a channel broke through the northern wall of House 2 and led into the room in front of the temple's façade, where traces of another small basin were visible. Apart from the smaller channel that was later given up, all feeder-channels were 0.30m wide. The main channel measured 0.40m in width. The channels themselves were made of fired bricks with a thick coating of lime mortar (Fig. 17). The main channel showed a distinct gradient from east to west and thus drained into the River Nile. The covers of the channels, well-dressed sandstone slabs, were preserved in all exposed parts of the sewer apart from the partly-destroyed westernmost area. Considering the robust cover of the channel and the levels of the preserved stepping-stones in front of Houses 30 and 31, the covering slabs were probably visible, at least when the street came into existence.

The special way in which the former Temple of Domitian was connected to the sewer system and the small basin towards the street indicates a special non-domestic reuse of the temple. While the exact function of the building around the temple (House 32) can only be established after excavation of the room to the east of the temple's façade, several possibilities come to mind, as the extensive use of water was mainly restricted to public baths and mosques. A small room for prayer was already discovered in House 4.³⁶

As the pottery has not yet been studied, the date of these installations to the Fatimid, Ayyubid or Early Mamluk Period is based on the dating of comparable structures in Fustat and Cairo.³⁷

That sewers and similar installations for waste-water transport and disposal were found throughout the city, is an indicator of Aswan's status during the Early Medieval period, as such installations were by no means common, especially in Egypt.³⁸

(W. Müller)

5. The chronological development of the Ptolemaic and Roman town quarter in Area 3. A stratigraphical ceramological study of selected contexts

³⁶ *Idem*, in *Fourteenth Season*, p. 15. Cf. P. SPEISER et al., 'Umayyad, Tulunid, and Fatimid Tombs at Aswan', in D. RAUE et al. (eds.), *The First Cataract of the Nile, SDAIK 36* (2013), p. 216-217 for similar rooms in the Fatimid Cemetery in Aswan.

³⁷ Cf. W. KUBIAK/G. T. STANLON, 'Fustat Expedition: Preliminary Report, 1966', *JARCE* 10 (1973), p. 17-19 for examples from Fustat dating to the Fatimid period. S. PRADINES et al., 'Excavations of the Archaeological Triangle. 10 Years of Archaeological Excavations in Fatimid Cairo (2000 to 2009)', *MISHKAH* 4 (2009), p. 195 and 198 date similar installations to the Ayyubid and Early Mamluk periods.

³⁸ E. WIRTH, *Die orientalische Stadt* (Mainz am Rhein 2000), pp. 205-207.

The architectural and stratigraphical setting

The pottery introduced in this chapter comes from well-stratified layers connected to houses and structures dating to Strata K – H, with a special focus on the Ptolemaic and Roman Periods. All the structures were located on the slope that came into existence when the German Hospital and the Grand Hotel were constructed at the beginning of the 20th century (“South-Eastern Sector” on Fig. 4). The ground level in Area 3 is thus deepest next to the German Hospital at the western extremity of the site. The ground then gradually rises in a steep slope towards the east to the level of the Temple of Domitian.³⁹

This slope only exists in the southern part of the site as deep robbery pits were dug up to the western limit of the temple's foundations. The infill of these pits could be dated to the early 20th century.⁴⁰

After the houses of the densely built-up city quarter of Stratum L had fallen into ruins, their building materials were recycled in huge *mahmara* pits.⁴¹ (Stratum K-L = Context 1) The material investigated here belongs to several such huge pits and layers of *mahmara* to the north of W3-431, the northern wall of House 12 (19-3-30-2 – 9 and 19-3-34-13 - 14).⁴² As this wall, built against the ruins of Stratum N in Stratum L/3, was made of stone, it remained standing to considerable height until Stratum K and was only overbuilt in Stratum J/1.⁴³

During Stratum K (Context 2), major terracing work took place. The ruins of preceding strata were now covered with a massive levelling layer mostly consisting of burnt material, at least in the western and northern part of the excavated area.⁴⁴ In the south and towards the east this highly important layer thinned out (19-3-28-7 – 8, 19-3-30-1, 19-3-34-11 – 12).⁴⁵

Stratum J/2 (Context 3) saw a complete remodelling of this part of the town. As a result of extensive terracing work, a horizontal building surface came into existence with the preserved top of W431 as its top level. At this time, the first phase of House 20 was constructed in the northern part of the area.⁴⁶ To its south, a spacious courtyard was mainly used for the baking of bread. The eastern limit of this courtyard was W3-413, its southern limit probably the still-standing wall W3-431. As the situation regarding Street 1 has yet to be clarified, the connection between House 20 and W3-413 is hypothetical but it is highly probable that it abutted W3-410. Several bread ovens covered the open area of the courtyard. The large open space was occupied in an informal arrangement as the density of the ovens scattered over the available space was not very high.⁴⁷ Most of the investigated pottery comes

³⁹ MÜLLER, in *Nineteenth Season* p. 5 and *idem*, in this report *supra*, chapter 2.

⁴⁰ *Idem*, in *Seventeenth Season*, p. 4.

⁴¹ The term *mahmara* is used for a pit or layer with remains of the production of mud-mortar or mud bricks. Often mud-brick debris was soaked in such pits for reuse in new buildings.

⁴² MÜLLER, in *Seventeenth Season*, p. 13.

⁴³ *Idem*, in *Sixteenth Season*, pp. 8-9 and *idem*, in *Nineteenth Season*, pp. 9-10.

⁴⁴ *Idem*, in *Sixteenth Season*, pp. 16 and *idem*, in *Seventeenth Season*, pp. 13-14.

⁴⁵ Cf. M. HEPÄ, in *Nineteenth Season*, pp. 14-23 for a detailed study on this layer.

⁴⁶ MÜLLER, in *Seventeenth Season*, p. 15. Cf. *ibid.*, n. 37 for the dating of contemporary structures in Area 15.

⁴⁷ *Idem*, in *Sixteenth Season*, p. 13 and *idem*, in *Eighteenth Season* p. 11.

from the area to the east of W3-413, outside the courtyard (Context 3). The material and especially the degree of fragmentation of the sherds suggests an interpretation of these surfaces and layers as street-fills (19-3-28-1 – 6, 19-3-34-4 – 10 and 20-3-3-12 - 15).

While the next building-phase in House 20 during Stratum J/1 saw minor changes to its interior organization of space, the southern part of the quarter was completely remodelled, as the former courtyard was now covered with parts of Houses 16 and 17. Wall W3-413 was reused for the construction of House 17 but was cut by House 16. Between Houses 16 and 20, Street 1 came into existence and remained in place as a defining element of the cityscape until medieval times.⁴⁸ Substantial remains of houses were only preserved in the area of the slope. The ground plans of these houses were thus covered by later structures to the east and destroyed by later activities to the west. As a result of a new analysis of the structures preserved in the Southern Sector, it became evident that the foundation of W3-416 and 417, of granite rubble, continued further west until it met a north-south foundation of the same technique at a corner. This corner of House 17 seems to be exactly aligned with its southern neighbour House 8 but not with its northern neighbour House 16. The east-west extension is thus at least 8.80m in length (the eastern limit of the house is covered by House 28). Like House 16/Room 1, House 17 thus included a large rectangular room, most probably a courtyard, at its western end. Traces of a narrow mudbrick wall in Room 6 are most probably remains of a staircase at the eastern end of the house.

At the end of Stratum J/1 or during Stratum H, the Temple of Domitian was constructed to the north of Street 1. The temple stood on a significantly higher building level with its inner floor 3-4m higher than the floors of Strata J/1 and H to the south of Street 1. This was probably due to a granite outcrop in this area which today is completely covered. To create a level building surface, the walls of House 20 were preserved to a height of several metres and then filled in.⁴⁹ The western part of the temple rested on the infilled ruin of the house. The foundations of the *pronaos* abut the northern wall of House 20 or its projection towards the east. This wall functioned as a retaining or terracing wall for the construction of the temple. Its facade stood several metres high until the continuously rising street-levels of Street 1 had finally reached the level of the temple's floors in the medieval period and Street 1 was blocked by House 3. While the temple stayed in place, a settlement sequence of often rebuilt and repaired houses developed to the south of Street 1.

House 17 showed several repair phases but was not well enough preserved to allow any further functional analysis. The material from the earlier phases of Stratum J/1 consisted of pottery from floor levels and other layers in Room 5 (20-3-3-2 – 11 = Context 6) and in Room 6 (19-3-34-1 – 3 = Context 5). The later phase, marked by some repairs in the southern part of the house, is represented by layers from House 17/Room 5 (19-3-36-12 – 14 and 20-3-3-1 = Context 7).

House 8 in the very south of the investigated area and today mostly covered by the pharmacy of the German Hospital was constructed during later Stratum J/1. It was separated from House 17 by a

⁴⁸ *Idem*, in *Nineteenth Season*, p. 11.

⁴⁹ *Cf. Idem*, in *Seventeenth Season*, p. 15, figs 34 and 35 for a staircase in the north-eastern corner of House 20 (Stratum J/1) that was preserved almost up to the 2nd floor of the house.

narrow passage, labelled Street 6. The investigated material comes from layers and surfaces of this street (Context 4) connecting the southern wall of House 17 (W3-417) and the northern wall of House 8 (W3-404) (19-3-22-1 – 6) and from the foundation trench of W3-404 (19-3-22-7).

The intermediary phase after the destruction of House 17 and predating the construction of House 28 in Stratum H is represented by Context 8 (20-3-4-6 - 8), a surface below House 28/Room 2.

Stratum H saw the construction of House 28, a building of considerable dimensions. Of the three visible rooms and the cellar cutting into Room 2 of House 16, only the two southernmost Rooms 1 and 2 are part of this study.⁵⁰

In the northern Room 1, the investigated layers were located in a trench in the northern half of the room. They comprise filling layers that were deposited in order to reach the level (19-3-36-5 – 8 = Context 11) of a pavement of sandstone slabs and *spoliae* that was only preserved at the eastern wall of the room, and the construction layers of the house (19-3-36-9 – 11 = Context 10).

In Room 2, a low vault (the reconstructed inner height was ca. 1.20m) was partly preserved. Several examples of such small vaulted substructures were found across Roman and Ptolemaic Syene.⁵¹ They are too low to be considered proper cellars and were most probably used for storage. The investigated material originates from a small trench in the northern half of the room, where the vault was less well preserved. Pottery from material that was deposited on top of the vault in order to create a level floor (19-3-33-5 and 19-3-35-2) and pottery from the bricks of the vault (20-3-4-1), all of them belonging to Context 9 (Fig. 18), give a *terminus ante quem* for the construction of House 28. Context 10 comprises only layer 19-3-33-9 and represents the construction layer of House 28. The material inside the vault (19-3-33-1 – 8 and 20-3-4-2 – 5 = Context 12) mostly contained settlement debris in loose ashy material that can only have accumulated there after the abandonment of the house (Fig. 19).

It became evident in previous seasons that the floor- and street-levels in the houses to the south of Street 1 were several metres lower than the preserved inner floor of the temple. The crucial question that arises is which of the strata was contemporary with the construction of the temple,⁵² and how the city-scape looked at the time, as the more pronounced the difference in level between the temple and the domestic quarter to the south was, the more prominent was the impression that the temple must have made. The whole setting of Area 3 and the parts of Syene built on terraces on the slope to the east of it must have been quite spectacular.⁵³ Of special importance in this respect is a monumental terrace with a foundation of carefully crafted sandstone blocks that was located to the east of Area 13, high above Area 16. This construction of Ptolemaic date most probably carried a major building such as a

⁵⁰ MÜLLER, in *Nineteenth Season*, pp. 12-13.

⁵¹ *Idem*, in LADSTÄTTER/SCHEIBELREITER (eds.), *Städtisches Wohnen im östlichen Mittelmeerraum*, p. 436.

⁵² JARITZ, *MDAIK* 31, pp. 250-252 proposes a date in the reign of Emperor Domitian (81-96 AD). Based on epigraphical observations, E. LASKOWSKA-KUSZTAL now suggests a Neronian or even Tiberian date (personal communication).

⁵³ MÜLLER, in *Tenth Season*, pp. 16-17.

temple.⁵⁴ All this architectural splendour was located next to the administrative centre of Roman Syene.⁵⁵

The ceramological evidence

The pottery presented here is based on a selection of diagnostic fragments⁵⁶ that were excavated in Seasons 19 and 20 in Area 3.⁵⁷

It is the aim of this study to transform the established relative chronology into an absolute chronological sequence. The chronological, stratigraphical and architectural relations are illustrated in a stratigramm (Fig. 20).⁵⁸ This contribution complements the already-published more specialised study on the massive Middle Ptolemaic levelling layer dating to Stratum K from the same area.⁵⁹

A special focus was the reconstruction of vessels and a systematic analysis of joins between contexts, as such joins between layers and structures provide further information on the formation of the deposits⁶⁰. Joins were noted between pieces from Contexts 1 (19-3-30-4), 2 (19-3-28-7) and 3 (19-3-28-6), within Context 3 (19-3-28-3, 19-3-28-4), within Context 10 (19-3-33-9, 19-3-36-9, 19-3-36-10) and within single layers of Context 12 (19-3-33-3, 19-3-33-6, 19-3-33-7).

The study offers a typological overview of the main shapes of ceramics from the middle-late Ptolemaic until the Middle Imperial Period. Most of the pottery was made of distinctive local Aswan Clay.⁶¹

Context 1 (Stratum K-L)

Context 1 comprises material from layers belonging to Stratum K-L that covered the ruins of Stratum L.⁶² It contained a huge variety of shapes characteristic of the Early and Middle Ptolemaic periods.

Bowls with incurved rims, so called *Echinus*-bowls, made of Nile clay, (Fig. 21, 1) first appear in the Early Ptolemaic period and continued over a long period,⁶³ as the type can still be found in the

⁵⁴ *Idem*, in *Fifteenth Season*, pp. 11-12.

⁵⁵ *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. 66-67.

⁵⁶ The drawings and the digital preparation of the selected material was done by LEA KREUZBURG.

⁵⁷ MÜLLER, in *Nineteenth Season*, pp. 11-13.

⁵⁸ Cf. C. VON PILGRIM, *Elephantine XIII. Untersuchungen in der Stadt des Mittleren Reiches und der Zweiten Zwischenzeit*, AV 91 (Mainz 1996), pp. 26-27 on stratigramms and the shortcomings of the classic Harris Matrix when documenting complex stratigraphies in a settlement.

⁵⁹ HEPA, in *Nineteenth Season*, pp. 15-23.

⁶⁰ 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), p. 7.

⁶¹ For the fabric classifications of the Aswan production cf. L. PELOSCHKE, *Cultural Transfers in Aswan (Upper Egypt). Petrographic Evidence for Ceramic Production and from the Ptolemaic to the Late Antique Period*, unpublished PhD (Vienna 2015) and D. ASTON, *Elephantine XIX. Pottery from the Late New Kingdom to the Early Ptolemaic Period*, AV 95 (Mainz, 1999), pp. 2-9 who used a variant of the "Vienna System".

⁶² MÜLLER, in *Nineteenth Season*, p. 28, Fig. 10.

⁶³ LADSTÄTTER, in LADSTÄTTER/SCHEIBELREITER (eds.), *Städtisches Wohnen im östlichen Mittelmeerraum*, p. 452.

Late Ptolemaic Period (Fig. 22, 8) and from the Early to Middle Roman Periods (Fig. 23, 14-15; Fig. 24, 25-26) - then mainly produced in Aswan Clay (Fig. 25, 42-43) and covered with red slip - until the beginning of Late Antiquity.⁶⁴ Associated with the bowls, are conical dishes with thickened rims (Fig. 21, 2; Fig. 22, 9). These are also attested in Late Ptolemaic layers (Fig. 24, 29-30). Fragments of globular storage jars (Fig. 21, 3-4) and large storage bowls (Fig. 21, 5-6) represent the 4th century BC in this context. The fragment of a lid can be dated to the 6th century BC or later (Fig. 21, 7). Only two uncertain parallels are attested in Elephantine and Tell el-Herr. The frequent occurrence of residual material in filling layers is not surprising. The material from Context 1 provides a *terminus* between the second half of 3rd and early 2nd century BC.

Catalogue: Fig. 21

1. 19-3-30-9/K1. Bowl, RS, ø 18cm. Cream slipped exterior and interior: 5YR7/6; ASW-NILE_02, Fabric: 2.5YR5/8; black stripes on the rim exterior. Dating: second half 3rd – early 2nd century BC. Parallels: ASTON, *Elephantine XIX*, Nr. 3107; L. REMBART, *Kulturelle Identitäten Oberägyptens in ptolemäisch-römischer Zeit am Beispiel von Syene. Typochronologie, Akkulturation und wirtschaftsarchäologische Interpretation von ausgewählten Fundkomplexen aus der Stadtgrabung*, unpublished PhD (Salzburg 2018), p. 63, T21.
2. 19-3-30-3/K1. Dish, RS, ø 16cm. Pink slipped exterior and interior: 2.5YR5/6; ASW-NILE_02, Fabric: 2.5YR4/8. Dating: 3rd century BC. Parallels: ASTON, *Elephantine XIX*, Nr. 2521; A. BERLIN, *Naukratis-Kom Hadid: A Ceramic Typology for Hellenistic Lower Egypt*, in: A. LEONARD JR. (ed.), *Ancient Naukratis: Excavations at a Greek Emporium in Egypt. Part II. The Excavations at Kom Hadid*, AASOR 55, (Arizona 2001), p. 51, Fig. 2.1, 1.
3. 19-3-34-13/K2. Storage jar, RS, ø 12cm. Red slipped exterior and interior: 2.5YR6/4; ASW-NILE_02, Fabric: 2.5YR5/6. Dating: 4th century BC. Parallels: ASTON, *Elephantine XIX*, Nr. 2213; LADSTÄTTER, in LADSTÄTTER/SCHIEBELREITER (eds.), *Städtisches Wohnen im östlichen Mittelmeerraum*, p. 463, 49.
4. 19-3-34-13/K3. Storage jar, RS, ø 12cm. Cream slipped exterior and interior: 7.5YR7/3; ASW-NILE_05, Fabric: 5YR6/3. Dating: 4th century BC. Parallels: LADSTÄTTER, in LADSTÄTTER/SCHIEBELREITER (eds.), *Städtisches Wohnen im östlichen Mittelmeerraum*, p. 469, 79-80.
5. 19-3-34-13/K4. Storage bowl, RS, ø 20cm., uncoated. Exterior and interior: 2.5YR5/6; ASW-NILE_02, Fabric: 2.5YR4/8. Dating: 4th-3rd century BC. Parallels: A. MASSON, 'Ptolemaic Ceramics of the Theban Region Between Tradition, Imitation and Innovation: The Priests' Quarter as a Study Case', in R. DAVID (ed.), *Céramiques ptolémaïques de la Région Thébaine. Actes de la Table Ronde de Karnak les 28 et 29 Septembre 2014*, CCE 10 (Cairo 2016), p. 162, Fig. 10, 5.
6. 19-3-30-7/K1. Storage bowl, RS, ø 40cm. Pink slipped exterior: 2.5YR5/6; interior: 2.5YR4/6; ASW-NILE_04, Fabric: 2.5YR4/8. Dating: Hellenistic or older? Parallels: (similar) BERLIN, *Naukratis-Kom Hadid*, p. 179, Fig. 6.15, 25.
7. 19-3-34-13/K1. Lid, RS, ø 10cm. Pink slipped exterior and interior: 2.5YR7/3; ASW-NILE_02, Fabric: 2.5YR5/6. Dating: 6th-4th century BC. Parallels: ASTON, *Elephantine XIX*, Nr. 2012, 2458 (as dish); C. DEFERNEZ, *Tell el-Herr 5/2*, Pl. XVI, 44.

Context 2 (Stratum K)

This context is characterized by only a few diagnostic sherds of early Ptolemaic date, such as a fragment of a *lekythos* (Fig. 22, 10). The storage jar with short, squared rim (Fig. 2, 12) can be compared to a type from Context 1 (Fig. 21, 5). The fragment of a tall lid (Fig. 22, 13) with traces of burnish probably belonged to a cooking pot or casserole. The two-handled jar with a large, grooved ledge rim (Fig. 22, 11) appears for the first time in this context and continues in Context 3 (Fig. 23, 20). The vessel is attested in Egypt from the middle of the 2nd century BC⁶⁵ onwards and becomes especially

⁶⁴ MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, pp. 267-268.

⁶⁵ S.C. HERBERT, A. BERLIN, *Excavations at Coptos (Qift) in Upper Egypt. 1987-1992*, JRA-Suppl. 53 (Portsmouth, Rhode Island 2003), p. 84

common in the 1st century BC.⁶⁶ Based on the pottery, Stratum K can be dated to the middle of the 2nd century BC.

Catalogue: Fig. 22

8. 19-3-30-1/K1. Bowl, RS, ø 15cm, uncoated. Exterior: 10R6/6; interior: 10R6/6; ASW-PC_01, Fabric: 10R5/6. Dating: from 4th century BC – 1st century AD. Parallels: N. HUDSON, *Late Persian and Early Hellenistic Pottery at Tell Timai, BCE* 26 (Cairo 2016), p. 103, Fig. 10, 43; MASSON, in DAVID (ed.), *Céramiques ptolémaïques de la Région Thébaine*, p. 159, Fig. 5, 1-2; MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, pp. 267-268; REMBART, *Kulturelle Identitäten Oberägyptens in ptolemäisch-römischer Zeit am Beispiel von Syene*, p. 50, T2.

9. 19-3-30-1/K6. Dish, RS, ø 11cm, uncoated. Exterior and interior: 2.5YR6/6; ASW-NILE_02, Fabric: 2.5YR4/8. Dating: 3rd century BC. Parallels: LADSTÄTTER, in LADSTÄTTER/SCHIEBELREITER (eds.), *Städtisches Wohnen im östlichen Mittelmeerraum*, p. 460, 30; REMBART, *Kulturelle Identitäten Oberägyptens in ptolemäisch-römischer Zeit am Beispiel von Syene*, p. 120, T123-124.

10. 19-3-30-1/K4. Jug, *lekythos*, RS, ø 8,4cm. Pink slipped exterior: 2.5YR5/6; interior: 2.5YR4/6; ASW-NILE_02, Fabric: 2.5YR4/8. Dating: early 3rd century BC. Parallels: REMBART, *Kulturelle Identitäten Oberägyptens in ptolemäisch-römischer Zeit am Beispiel von Syene*, pp. 310-311, T512; C. HARLAUT/J.W. HAYES, *Pottery in Hellenistic Alexandria. Aux origines d'Alexandrie et de sa production céramique. Hellenistic pottery deposits from Alexandria, Études Alexandrines* 45, (Alexandria 2018), p. 137, Fig. 17, 98.

11. 19-3-30-1/K5. Jar, RS, ø 20cm, uncoated. Exterior: 2.5YR5/6, black painting on the rim; interior: 2.5YR4/6; ASW-NILE_02, Fabric: 2.5YR5/6. Dating: mid. 2nd century BC. Parallels: HERBERT/BERLIN, *Coptos (Qift) in Upper Egypt*, Fig. 69, H3.32.

12. 19-3-30-1/K3. Storage jar, RS, ø 20cm, uncoated. Exterior and interior: 2.5YR5/6; ASW-NILE_02, Fabric: 2.5YR5/6. Dating: 3rd-2nd century BC. Parallels: REMBART, *Kulturelle Identitäten Oberägyptens in ptolemäisch-römischer Zeit am Beispiel von Syene*, pp. 215-216, T316.

13. 19-3-30-1/K2. Lid, RS, ø 20cm, uncoated. Exterior: 10R5/6; interior: 10R6/6; ASW-NILE_02, Fabric: 2.5YR5/6. Dating: 3rd-2nd century BC. Parallels: HERBERT/BERLIN, *Coptos (Qift) in Upper Egypt*, Fig. 52, H2.49.

Context 3 (Stratum J/2)

This context comprises material from the use horizons and street layers of Stratum J/2 and contains a wide spectrum of shapes, among them residual pieces including typical Ptolemaic bowls and dishes already seen in Contexts 1 and 2. The differently-shaped cooking vessels that frequently occur in this context, such as early Hellenistic pots with angled necks (Fig. 23, 18-19; Fig. 24, 37) and associated domestic wares, such as the storage jar with thickened rim (Fig. 23, 22) are commonly dated to the early to late 3rd century BC. Among the material dating to the middle of the 2nd century BC, some forms are not attested in earlier contexts, such as two handled jugs with long necks and squared rims (Fig. 23, 16-17), fragments of a storage jar with a grooved ledge rim (Fig. 23, 21) and a jar or cooking vessel with a straight neck and small ledge rim (Fig. 23, 23). Amphoras made of Nile clay are represented by a rim fragment (Fig. 23, 24) and a toe (Fig. 24, 41) of an Egyptian amphora type 1. Further new local forms are attested in layers 20-3-3-15 – 12. The bowl with incurved and folded rim (Fig. 24, 28) can be dated to the end of the 1st century BC. It is made of Nile clay and covered on both surfaces with red slip. The shape clearly follows Late Ptolemaic traditions.⁶⁷ Some new forms of storage jars (Fig. 24, 39-40) start to appear at this time. The sequence of cooking vessels dates from the beginning until the middle of the 1st century BC. The cooking bowl (Fig. 24, 32), the cooking pot (Fig. 24, 38) and the casserole (Fig. 24, 35) date to the end of the 1st century BC. The deep cooking bowls, *caccabi* (Fig. 24, 33-34), seem to be transitional forms of the late 1st century BC to the beginning of the

⁶⁶ LADSTÄTTER, in LADSTÄTTER/SCHIEBELREITER (eds.), *Städtisches Wohnen im östlichen Mittelmeerraum*, p. 450; p. 458, 8.

⁶⁷ MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 273.

Early Imperial period.⁶⁸ The distinctive bichrome cooking pot with a flanged lip (Fig. 24, 36) has parallels in Syene⁶⁹ and other sites in Egypt that are dated to the late 1st century BC.⁷⁰ Based on the pottery, then, the context can be dated to the end of the 1st century BC.

Catalogue: Fig. 23

- 14.** 19-3-34-8/K1. Bowl, RS, ø 18cm. Orange slipped exterior and interior: 2YR6/6; ASW-NILE_02, Fabric: 2.5YR5/6; black stripes on the rim exterior. Dating and parallels: *supra* (Nr. 6).
- 15.** 19-3-28-4/K1. Bowl, RS, ø 18cm. Orange slipped exterior and interior: 2YR6/6; ASW-NILE_02, Fabric: 2.5YR6/6; black stripes on the body exterior. Dating and parallels: *supra* (Nr. 6); REMBART, *Kulturelle Identitäten Oberägyptens in ptolemäisch-römischer Zeit am Beispiel von Syene*, p. 69, T28.
- 16.** 19-3-28-4/K1. Jug, RS, ø 12cm. Slightly cream slipped exterior and interior: 7.5YR7/2; ASW-MARL_02, Fabric: 7.5YR4/1. Dating: mid. 2nd century BC. Parallels: HERBERT/BERLIN, *Coptos (Qift) in Upper Egypt*, Fig. 67, H3.27; REMBART, *Kulturelle Identitäten Oberägyptens in ptolemäisch-römischer Zeit am Beispiel von Syene*, p. 308, T508.
- 17.** 19-3-28-5/K5. Jug, RS, ø 11cm. Slightly cream slipped exterior: 7.5YR7/2; interior: 2.5YR5/6; ASW-NILE_02, Fabric: 2.5YR5/6. Dating: mid. 2nd century BC. Parallels: H. JACQUET-GORDON, *Karnak-Nord X. Le trésor de Thoutmosis Ier: La céramique*, *FIFAO 65* (Cairo 2012), Fig. 150, k (P.2428); (similar) LADSTÄTTER, in LADSTÄTTER/SCHIBELREITER (eds.), *Städtisches Wohnen im östlichen Mittelmeerraum*, p. 459, 17.
- 18.** 19-3-28-6/K7. Cooking pot, RS, ø 10cm, uncoated. Exterior: 2.5YR3/4; interior: 2.5YR5/4; ASW-NILE_03, Fabric: 2.5YR5/6. Dating: early 3rd century BC. Parallels: BERLIN, *Naukratis-Kom Hadid*, p. 81, Fig. 2.16, 6.
- 19.** 19-3-28-6/K6. Cooking pot, RS, ø 12cm, uncoated. Exterior: 2.5YR4/3; interior: 2.5YR5/4; ASW-NILE_03, Fabric: 2.5YR5/6. Dating: early 3rd century BC. Parallels: BERLIN, *Naukratis-Kom Hadid*, p. 81, Fig. 2.16, 3.
- 20.** 19-3-28-6/K3. Jar, RS, ø 16cm, uncoated. Exterior: 5YR6/4, black slipped on the rim; interior: 5YR6/4; ASW-NILE_02, Fabric: 2.5YR6/6. Dating and parallels: *supra* (Nr. 10).
- 21.** 19-3-28-4/K3. Storage jar, RS, ø 22cm, uncoated. Exterior and interior: 2.5YR7/4; ASW-NILE_02; Fabric: 2.5YR5/6. Dating: second half 2nd – early 1st century BC. Parallels: HERBERT/BERLIN, *Coptos (Qift) in Upper Egypt*, Fig. 28, H1.10; N. LICITRA, R. DAVID, 'L'évolution des céramiques ptolémaïques à Karnak d'après la documentation du Trésor de Chabaka', in R. DAVID (ed.), *Céramiques ptolémaïques de la Région Thébaine. Actes de la Table Ronde de Karnak les 28 et 29 Septembre 2014*, *CCE 10* (Cairo 2016), p. 109, Fig. 17, 90.
- 22.** 19-3-28-5/K3. Storage jar, RS, ø 30cm, uncoated. Exterior: 2.5YR4/3; interior: 2.5YR5/4; ASW-NILE_02, Fabric: 2.5YR5/6. Dating: late 3rd century BC. Parallels: BERLIN, *Naukratis-Kom Hadid*, p. 147, Fig. 2.49, 7.
- 23.** 19-3-28-6/K8. Storage jar, RS, ø 14cm. Slightly cream slipped exterior and rim interior: 2.5YR5/6; ASW-MARL_01; Fabric: 10R5/6. Dating: mid. 2nd century BC. Parallels: ASTON, *Elephantine XIX*, Nr. 3068, 3126; HERBERT/BERLIN, *Coptos (Qift) in Upper Egypt*, Fig. 67, H3.30; BALLETT/POLUDNIKIEWICZ, *Tebtynis V*, p. 302, pl. 64, 627.
- 24.** 19-3-34-4/K2. Amphora AE 1, RS, ø 10cm, uncoated. Exterior and rim interior: 7.5YR8/2; ASW-NILE_01; Fabric: 5YR6/3. Dating: mid. 1st century BC. Parallels: M. LAWALL, 'Egyptian and imported transport amphoras', in S.C. HERBERT/A. BERLIN, *Excavations at Coptos (Qift) in Upper Egypt. 1987-1992*, *JRA-Suppl. 53* (Portsmouth, Rhode Island 2003), p. 168, Fig. 102, 17.

Catalogue: Fig. 24

- 25.** 20-3-3-13/K3. Bowl, RS, ø 18cm. Pink slipped exterior and interior: 2.5YR7/4; ASW-NILE_02, Fabric: 2.5YR5/6. Dating and parallels: *supra* (Nr. 5).
- 26.** 20-3-3-14/K1. Bowl, complete, ø 11cm. Pink slipped exterior and interior: 2.5YR7/2; ASW-NILE_02, Fabric: 2.5YR6/8. Dating: 2nd-late 1st century BC. Parallels: R. TOMBER, *The Pottery*, in: V.A. MAXFIELD/D.P.S. PEACOCK (eds.), *Survey and Excavations, Mons Claudianus, Volume III: Ceramic vessels and related objects*, *FIFAO 54*, (Cairo 2006), Fig. p. 100, 1.38, 4-501; BALLETT/POLUDNIKIEWICZ, *Tebtynis V*, p. 242, pl. 4, 58-60.
- 27.** 20-3-3-13/K4. Bowl GT 302, RS, ø 16cm. Red slipped exterior and interior: 2.5YR6/6; ASW-PC_02, Fabric: 2.5YR6/6. Dating: late 1st century BC. Parallels: BALLETT/POLUDNIKIEWICZ, *Tebtynis V*, p. 246, pl. 8, 102; (similar) MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 91, Abb. 4.7, 35.
- 28.** 20-3-3-15/K2. Bowl GK 400, RS, ø 14cm. Pink slipped exterior and interior: 10R6/6; ASW-NILE_02, Fabric: 10R6/8. Dating: late 1st century BC. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 25, Abb. 2.11, 75.
- 29.** 20-3-3-15/K1. Dish, RS, ø 21cm. Black slipped exterior and interior: Gley 1 6/N; Nile clay, Fabric: Gley 1 6/N. Dating: 3rd century BC. Parallels: HERBERT/BERLIN, *Coptos (Qift) in Upper Egypt*, Fig. 27, H1.1; 2

⁶⁸ P. BALLETT/ A. POLUDNIKIEWICZ, *Tebtynis V. La céramique d'époques hellénistique et imperial. Campagnes 1988-1993. Production, consommation et réception dans le Fayoum méridional* (Kairo 2012), p. 72; MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 272.

⁶⁹ Cf. parallels to Fig. 4, 36.

⁷⁰ HERBERT/BERLIN, *Coptos (Qift) in Upper Egypt*, p. 70; p. 92, Fig. 70, H3.41.

- 30.** 20-3-3-13/K1. Dish, RS, ø 18cm. Pink slipped exterior and interior: 2.5YR6/6; ASW-NILE_02, Fabric: 2.5YR6/8. Dating and parallels: *supra* (Nr. 8).
- 31.** 20-3-3-12/K4. Juglet, *askos*, RS, ø 3cm, uncoated. Exterior and interior: 2.5YR6/8; ASW-NILE_02, Fabric: 2.5 R6/8. Dating: late 1st century BC. Parallels: REMBART, *Kulturelle Identitäten Oberägyptens in ptolemäisch-römischer Zeit am Beispiel von Syene*, pp. 391-392, T691.
- 32.** 20-3-3-12/K7. Casserole, *lopas*, RS, ø 40cm. Slightly cream slipped exterior and interior: 2.5YR7/6; ASW-NILE_02, Fabric: 2.5YR6/8. Dating: early-mid. 1st century BC. Parallels: HERBERT/BERLIN, *Coptos (Qift) in Upper Egypt*, Fig. 69, H3.36; BALLETT/POLUDNIKIEWICZ, *Tebtynis V*, p. 256, pl. 18, 220;
- 33.** 20-3-3-14/K3. Cooking bowl, RS, ø 21cm. Slightly cream slipped exterior and interior: 7.5YR6/6; ASW-NILE_03, Fabric: 5YR5/4. Dating: 3rd-2nd century BC? Parallels: (similar) BERLIN, *Naukratis-Kom Hadid*, p. 93, Fig. 2.22, 7; (similar) REMBART, *Kulturelle Identitäten Oberägyptens in ptolemäisch-römischer Zeit am Beispiel von Syene*, p. 290, T468.
- 34.** 20-3-3-13/K7. Cooking bowl, RS, ø 12cm. Slightly cream slipped exterior and interior: 2.5YR6/6; ASW-NILE_02, Fabric: 2.5YR6/8. Dating: late 1st century BC. Parallels: (similar) TOMBER, *Mons Claudianus*, p. 117, Fig. 1.45, 64.
- 35.** 20-3-3-15/K4. Cooking bowl, RS, ø 34cm, uncoated. Exterior and interior: 10R5/8; ASW-NILE_02, Fabric: 10R5/8. Dating: late 1st century BC. Parallels: (similar) MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 27, Abb. 2.13, 92.
- 36.** 20-3-3-13/K9. Cooking pot GK 407, RS, ø 17cm. Beige slipped exterior and rim interior: 2.5YR7/6; ASW-NILE_03, Fabric: 2.5YR6/6. Dating: late 1st century BC. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 21, Abb. 2.7, 17; REMBART, *Kulturelle Identitäten Oberägyptens in ptolemäisch-römischer Zeit am Beispiel von Syene*, pp. 264-265, T419.
- 37.** 20-3-3-13/K8. Cooking pot, RS, ø 12cm. Beige slipped exterior and interior: 2.5YR6/6; ASW-NILE_03, Fabric: 2.5YR6/8. Dating: early 3rd century BC. Parallels: HARLAUT/HAYES, *Pottery in Hellenistic Alexandria*, p. 240, pl. 4, C13.
- 38.** 20-3-3-14/K2. Cooking pot, RS, ø 13cm. Beige slipped exterior and interior: 10R6/6; ASW-NILE_03, Fabric: 10R6/6. Dating: mid. 1st century BC. Parallels: HERBERT/BERLIN, *Coptos (Qift) in Upper Egypt*, Fig. 70, H3.42.
- 39.** 20-3-3-12/K5. Storage jar (similar) GK 324, RS, ø 20cm. Beige slipped exterior: 2.5YR5/6; interior: 5YR6/1; ASW-NILE_02; Fabric: 2.5YR5/6. Dating: 1st century BC. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 26, Abb. 2.12, 83; REMBART, *Kulturelle Identitäten Oberägyptens in ptolemäisch-römischer Zeit am Beispiel von Syene*, pp. 245-246, T380.
- 40.** 20-3-3-13/K10. Storage jar, RS, ø 16cm. Beige slipped exterior: 2.5YR6/3, decorated with black stripes; interior: 2.5YR6/2; ASW-NILE_02; Fabric: 2.5YR5/6. Dating: 1st century BC. Parallels: LADSTÄTTER, in LADSTÄTTER/SCHEIBELREITER (eds.), *Städtisches Wohnen im östlichen Mittelmeerraum*, p. 458, 8.
- 41.** 20-3-3-12/K6. Amphora AE 1, BS, ø 4,5cm, uncoated. Exterior and rim interior: 10R5/8; ASW-NILE_02; Fabric: 2.5YR6/8. Dating: 2nd-1st century BC. Parallels: LAWALL, *Egyptian and imported transport amphoras*, p. 168, Fig. 102, 21.

Context 4 (Stratum J/1)

The pottery from Context 4 (layers in Street 6) includes, besides occasional fragments of Hellenistic flasks (Fig. 25, 47) and the typical *Echinus* bowls, some shapes that are characteristic of the Augustan Period such as table wares, all of them local imitations of western Mediterranean or Italic originals. They are represented by thin-walled bowls (Fig. 25, 44-45). The little beaker (Fig. 25, 46) shows some similarities to barbotine vessels from the early 1st century AD, but, due to the small size of the fragment, no further information can be given. The absence of older angled rim cooking pots is noteworthy. These pots are replaced here by deep cooking bowls with folded rims (Fig. 25, 48-49). No parallels have been found thus far for the large storage bowl (Fig. 25, 50). The fabric of the uncoated vessel is Nile silt with organic inclusions (Vienna System Nile C). The slope towards the base is not preserved, so nothing can be said about the size of the vessel or the design of the base. Perhaps the shape is inspired by pharaonic models. Fig. 25, 51 shows a locally produced lamp with a round body, flat base and without a handle. The nozzle is very short and rounded. The filling hole is slightly recessed and attached into the discus. The decoration on the discus is probably a figurative motif. The

condition of the lamp is too poor for any further analysis of the decoration. This type of lamp (Loeschke Type VIII) was in use from the middle of the 1st century AD onwards.

Based on the pottery, the construction of House 8 (layer 19-3-22-7 is the foundation trench of the house) can be dated to the Augustan Period. Street 5 was in use at least until the middle of the 1st century AD.

Catalogue: Fig. 25

42. 19-3-22-7/K2. Bowl GT 600, RS, ø 12cm. Red slipped exterior and interior: 2.5YR5/6; ASW-PC_02, Fabric: 2.5YR5/8. Dating: *supra* (Nr. 5). Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 24, Abb. 2.10, 59.

43. 19-3-22-4/K1. Bowl GT 600, RS, ø 12cm. Red slipped exterior and interior: 2.5YR6/4; ASW-PC_02, Fabric: 2.5YR7/6. Dating and parallels: *supra* (Nr. 5); MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 52, Abb. 3.9, 41.

44. 19-3-22-7/K4. Bowl GT 302, RS, ø 14cm. Red slipped exterior: 2.5YR5/8; interior: 2.5YR7/6; ASW-PC_02, Fabric: 2.5YR7/6. Dating: early 1st century AD. Parallels: GEMPELER, *Elephantine X, Die Keramik römischer und frühharabischer Zeit*, AV 43 (Mainz 1992), Abb. 33, 5-9.

45. 19-3-22-7/K3. Bowl (similar) Marabini 49, RS, ø 14cm. Red slipped exterior and interior: 2.5YR6/4; ASW-PC_02, Fabric: 2.5YR7/6. Dating: early 1st-first half 1st century AD. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 35, Abb. 2.21, 201.

46. 19-3-22-6/K1. Beaker, similar in overall shape to beaker with barbotine decoration, RS, ø 8cm, uncoated. Exterior and interior: 2.5YR7/4; ASW-PC_01, Fabric: 2.5YR7/4. Dating: early 1st century AD. Parallels: M.D. RODZIEWICZ, *Elephantine XXVII. Early Roman Industries on Elephantine*, AV 107, pl. 65, 1059.

47. 19-3-22-7/K5. Flask or costrel, RS, ø 6cm, uncoated. Exterior and interior: 2.5YR5/1; ASW-NILE_02, Fabric: 2.5YR5/1. Dating: 3rd-1st century BC. Parallels: (similar) J.E. GATES, *Traveling the Desert Edge: The Ptolemaic Roadways and Regional Economy of Egypt's Eastern Desert in the Fourth through First Centuries BCE*, unpublished Phd (Michigan 2006), p. 323, Fig. 87, MI-8-034.

48. 19-3-22-6/K3. Cooking bowl GK 201/GK 315, RS, ø 18cm, uncoated. Exterior and interior: 2.5YR7/4; ASW-NILE_03, Fabric: 2.5YR7/4. Dating: 1st-2nd century AD. Parallels: (similar) MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 97, Abb. 4.13, 204; REMBART, *Kulturelle Identitäten Oberägyptens in ptolemäisch-römischer Zeit am Beispiel von Syene*, p. 295, T481-482.

49. 19-3-22-6/K4. Storage bowl, RS, ø 24cm, uncoated. Exterior and interior: 2.5YR6/4; ASW-NILE_03, Fabric: 2.5YR6/6. Dating: early 1st century AD. Parallels: (similar) MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 27, Abb. 2.13, 89.

50. 19-3-22-6/K5. Storage bowl, RS, ø 24cm, uncoated. Exterior and interior: 2.5YR6/6; ASW-NILE_04, Fabric: 2.5YR6/6. Dating: undated. Parallels: (similar) ASTON, *Elephantine XIX*, Nr. 2780.

51. 19-3-22-3/1. Lamp Loeschke Type VIII, moulded, fragmented and complete abraded. Dim.: 8 x 4 x 2,3cm. Uncoated. Exterior and interior: 2.4YR6/6; ASW-PC_03, Fabric: 2.5YR6/8. Dating: mid. 1st century AD. Parallels: RODZIEWICZ, *Elephantine XXVII*, pl. 47, 750; REMBART, *Kulturelle Identitäten Oberägyptens in ptolemäisch-römischer Zeit am Beispiel von Syene*, Taf. 47, T722, Typ 10.

Context 5 (Stratum J/1)

This context includes just one diagnostic sherd, a fragment of a storage bowl (Fig. 26, 52) that dates to the middle - end of the 1st century AD. The remaining material is mostly Ptolemaic forms, such as Egyptian amphoras, incurved bowls and some thin-walled Augustan ware.

Catalogue: Fig. 26

52. 19-3-34-2/K1. Storage bowl, RS, ø 26cm, uncoated. Exterior and interior: 2.5YR7/3; ASW-NILE_02, Fabric: 2.5YR5/6. Dating and parallels: *supra* (Nr. 3); HERBERT/BERLIN, *Coptos (Qift) in Upper Egypt*, Fig. 67, H3.23.

Context 6 (Stratum J/1)

The material from House 17/Room 5 is composed of table ware, cooking pots and jars (Fig. 27, 64). The repertoire is similar to Context 3, which is stratigraphically directly under Context 6. The incurved, red slip bowls (Fig. 27, 53-54) represent a further development of the bowl (Fig. 24, 28) from the beginning of the 1st century AD. However, the folded rim is slightly shortened when compared to

the earlier example. Eastern originals are represented by the Eastern Sigillata B dish, Atlante type 3 (Fig. 27, 56). Western Mediterranean versions of Italian originals continued to be reproduced in local clay like the thin-walled bowl (Fig. 27, 55). The cooking pots (Fig. 27, 60-61) follow earlier models (Fig. 24, 36), and appear in large numbers. The cooking pot (Fig. 27, 62) with a high and angled rim is still in Hellenistic tradition and dates to the late Ptolemaic period.⁷¹ Context 6 shows that new types of bowls, storage jars and cooking vessels appear from the early and mid-1st century AD onwards. These include the cooking bowl (Fig. 27, 59) and the storage bowl (Fig. 27, 66) with ledge rim. These forms are usually made of local Aswan Clay. A painted jar with short neck (Fig. 27, 63) with parallels from Elephantine can be dated to the 1st century AD. The same applies to a storage jar with wide-open mouth and flat rim (Fig. 27, 65). Of special significance for Context 6 are locally produced flat dishes (Fig. 27, 57-58) that follow shapes of the Late Ptolemaic period.⁷² Based on the pottery, Context 6 can be dated to the middle of the 1st century AD.

Catalogue: Fig. 27

- 53.** 20-3-3-5/K1. Bowl GT 501a, RS, ø 16cm. Red slipped exterior and interior: 2.5YR5/6; ASW-PC_02, Fabric: 2.5YR6/6. Dating: early 1st century AD. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 25, Abb. 2.11, 68.
- 54.** 20-3-3-4/K1. Bowl GT 501a, RS, ø 12cm. Red slipped exterior and interior: 2.5YR7/2; ASW-PC_02, Fabric: 2.5YR6/4. Dating: early 1st century AD. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 91, Abb. 4.7, 46.
- 55.** 20-3-3-2/K2. Bowl or beaker (similar) Marabini 35, RS, ø 16cm. Red slipped exterior and interior: 5YR6/6; ASW-PC_02, Fabric: 5YR5/6. Dating: late 1st century BC. Parallels: S. ÉLAIGNE, *La vaisselle fine de l'habitat alexandrine: contribution à la connaissance de la mobilité des techniques et des produits céramiques en Méditerranée du IIe siècle av. J.-C. à l'époque claudienne*, (Cairo 2012), Fig. 16, 1278/58; (similar) RODZIEWICZ, *Elephantine XXVII*, pl. 69, 1092.
- 56.** 20-3-3-2/K1. Dish, ESB, Atlante 3, complete, ø 14cm. Red slipped exterior and rim interior: 10R5/8, Fabric: 2.5YR6/8. Dating: Augustan. Parallels: J.W. HAYES, *Sigillate orientali*, in: *Atlante delle forme ceramiche II. Ceramica fine roman an el Bacino Mediterraneo*, *Enciclopedia dell'Arte Antica Classica e Orientale* (Rome 1985), Form 3.
- 57.** 20-3-3-10/K1. Dish GT 202Var., RS, ø 22cm. Red slipped exterior and interior: 2.5YR6/6; ASW-PC_02, Fabric: 2.5YR6/8. Dating: mid. 1st century AD. Parallels: BALLETT/POLUDNIKIEWICZ, *Tebtynis V*, p. 250, pl. 12, 153; MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 23, Abb. 2.9, 49.
- 58.** 20-3-3-5/K3. Dish GT 202Var., RS, ø 23cm. Red slipped exterior and interior: 10R5/6; ASW-PC_02, Fabric: 2.5YR5/8. Dating: mid. 1st century AD. Parallels: TOMBER, *Mons Claudianus*, p. 120, Fig. 1.46, 73-659; MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 249, Abb. 7.4.-1.
- 59.** 20-3-3-4/K4. Cooking bowl GK 201/203, RS, ø 22cm. Slightly cream slipped exterior: 10R6/4; interior: 2.5YR6/4; ASW-PC_01, Fabric: 10R6/6. Dating: early 1st century AD. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 39, Abb. 2.25, 279.
- 60.** 20-3-3-11/K3. Cooking pot, RS, ø 12cm, uncoated. Exterior: Gley 1 4/N; interior: 10R6/2; ASW-NILE_03, Fabric: 10R5/6. Dating and parallels: *supra* (Nr. 36).
- 61.** 20-3-3-2/K3. Cooking pot GK 407A, RS, ø 12cm. Beige slipped exterior and rim interior: 5YR6/4; ASW-NILE_03, Fabric: 2.5YR5/8. Dating: early 1st century AD. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 21, Abb. 2.7, 16.
- 62.** 20-3-3-4/K6. Cooking pot GK 408, RS, ø 11cm. Beige slipped exterior and rim interior: 7.5YR7/4; ASW-NILE_03, Fabric: 2.5YR7/4. Dating: late 1st century BC-early 1st century AD. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 90, Abb. 4.6, 20.
- 63.** 20-3-3-4/K8. Jar, RS, ø 10cm. Beige slipped exterior and rim interior: 2.5YR6/4, black slipped on the rim and shoulder; ASW-NILE_02, Fabric: 2.5YR7/4. Dating: 1st century AD. Parallels: RODZIEWICZ, *Elephantine XXVII*, pl. 82, 1385; (similar) MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 94, Abb. 4.10, 135.
- 64.** 20-3-3-7/K1. Storage jar, RS, ø 14cm. Beige slipped exterior: 5YR6/6; interior: 5YR5/6; ASW-NILE_02; Fabric: 10R6/6. Dating and parallels: *supra* (Nr. 39).
- 65.** 20-3-3-8/K1. Storage jar, RS, ø 40cm. Red slipped exterior and interior: 2.5YR6/4; ASW-PC_02, Fabric: 2.5YR5/6. Dating: early 1st century AD. Parallels: (similar) MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 63, Abb.

⁷¹ HERBERT/BERLIN, *Coptos (Qift) in Upper Egypt*, p. 104, Fig. 81, R1.20.

⁷² LICITRA, in DAVID (ed.), *Céramiques ptolémaïques de la Région Thébaine*, p. 114, Fig. 29, 152.

3.20, 118; (similar) REMBART, *Kulturelle Identitäten Oberägyptens in ptolemäisch-römischer Zeit am Beispiel von Syene*, pp. 243-244, T 377.

66. 20-3-3-4/K7. Storage bowl (similar) GK 303b, RS, ø 32cm. Red slipped exterior and interior: 10R6/6; ASW-PC_02, Fabric: 2.5YR6/6. Dating: early 1st century AD. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 27, Abb. 2.13, 91.

Context 7 (later Stratum J/1)

This context was stratigraphically directly on top of Context 6 and represents the later phase of House 17/Room 5. It comprised mostly the same types of vessels as Context 6, such as the flat dish (Fig. 28, 67), the cooking pots (Fig. 28, 68-69) and the black painted jar (Fig. 28, 70). The context is thus of similar date to Context 6.

Catalogue: Fig. 28

67. 19-3-36-14/K2. Dish GT 202Var., RS, ø 28cm. Red slipped exterior and interior: 2.5YR6/6; ASW-PC_02, Fabric: 5YR7/6. Dating and parallels: *supra* (Nr. 57).

68. 19-3-36-14/K4. Cooking pot, RS, ø 12cm, uncoated. Exterior and interior: 5YR6/3; ASW-NILE_03, Fabric: 5YR6/8. Dating and parallels: *supra* (Nr. 36).

69. 19-3-36-12/K2. Cooking pot, RS, ø 14cm, uncoated. Exterior and interior: 2.5YR6/3; ASW-NILE_02, Fabric: 2.5YR5/6. Dating and parallels: *supra* (Nr. 61).

70. 19-3-36-12/K1. Jar, RS, ø 12cm. Beige slipped exterior and interior: 2.5YR5/3, black slipped on the rim; ASW-NILE_02, Fabric: 2.5YR5/8. Dating: 1st century AD. Parallels: (similar) RODZIEWICZ, *Elephantine XXVII*, pl. 82, 1382.

Context 8 (Stratum J/1-H)

Here the only diagnostic piece, a complete bowl (Fig. 29, 71), is of mid-1st century date. The remaining fragments are composed of bowls and other domestic red slip ware, such as Egyptian amphoras, incurved bowls of Hellenistic tradition and some thin-walled ware, generally of Roman Imperial date.

Catalogue: Fig. 29

71. 20-3-4-7/1/K1. Bowl, complete, ø 10cm. Red slipped exterior and rim interior: 2.5YR6/4; ASW-PC_02, Fabric: 2.5YR6/6. Dating: mid. 1st century AD. Parallels: M. STESKAL/P. ROSE, *Research on Roman Nag el-Tawil in Upper Egypt. Field-Work 2011/2012*, *ÖJh* 81, 2012, p. 303, Pl. 1, 5.

Context 9 (Stratum H)

This context contains material from the infill over vaults in Room 2 of House 28. This material was deposited on top of the vault to create a flat surface for the floor on top. It provides thus a *terminus ante quem* for the construction of House 28.⁷³ Among a huge variety of shapes, some new types and complete vessels merit special mention. The repertoire and state of preservation resembles that of dump material with a high proportion of residual pieces. Deep bowls (Fig. 30, 72-73) do not occur in earlier contexts. Examples from Syene date to the late 1st century AD. The large dish with incurved rim (Fig. 30, 74) is also found in Contexts 10 (Fig. 31, 84) and 11 (Fig. 32, 104) although the shape of the rim itself differs. A little beaker (Fig. 30, 75) with a grooved rim, is dated to the late 1st century AD in other contexts in Syene. A series of jugs (Fig. 30, 76) begins to appear in this context and is very popular thereafter. The rim shape is trefoil and the type is usually made from Aswan Clay covered with red slip.

⁷³ MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 7.

These vessels appear in Roman period contexts all over Aswan and are thus well represented in contexts 10 and 11 (Fig. 31, 90; Fig. 32, 108). Besides the residual cooking bowls from the early and mid- 1st century AD (Fig. 30, 77-78), a new type of cooking pot (Fig. 30, 79) with an everted rim appears. Two peculiar storage bowls occurred in this context. The first has as an restricted shape and has a thickened and rounded rim (Fig. 30, 80). The vessel is made from local Aswan Clay and is covered on both surfaces with red slip. The vessel is decorated on the rim with three black vertical lines on a beige background. Some parallels for the type appear in contexts dated to the early/middle 2nd century AD. The shape of the vessel is similar to GEMPELER type K 511⁷⁴ but its rim is squarer in shape. The piece presented here may well be the predecessor of this type. The second vessel is a large storage jar with rounded rim (Fig. 30, 81). The rim is decorated with two black vertical stripes and a dot. From the decorative elements it can be dated from the end of the 2nd to the early 3rd century AD.⁷⁵ This also provides a *terminus post quem* for the construction of House 28. Only two amphora sherds were found in this context. Both fragments (Fig. 30, 82 and 83) belong to the amphora type 3 of local Nile silt and appear from the early 2nd century AD onwards.⁷⁶ Following DIXNEUF, the second fragment (Fig. 30, 83) corresponds to AE 3-1.5 Var. B, with numerous parallels in Bouto.⁷⁷ This type is also attested in Syene from the end of 2nd until the 3rd century AD. This corresponds with "Stufe E" of MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER.⁷⁸ The composition of the material gives a *terminus* for the filling over the vault to the end of the 2nd or beginning of the 3rd century AD.

Catalogue: Fig. 30

72. 19-3-33-5/K1. Bowl GT 607a, complete, ø 12cm. Red slipped exterior and interior: 5YR7/6; ASW-PC_02, Fabric: 2.5YR7/4. Dating: late 1st century AD. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 51, Abb. 3.8, 24.

73. 19-3-35-2/K4. Bowl GT 607a, RS, ø 9cm. Red slipped exterior and interior: 5YR7/4; ASW-PC_02, Fabric: 5YR7/4. Dating: late 1st century AD. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 51, Abb. 3.8, 26.

74. 19-3-35-3/K2. Dish GT 100a, RS, ø 21cm, uncoated. Exterior and interior: 5YR7/6; ASW-PC_02, Fabric: 2.5YR7/8. Dating: late 1st century AD. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 51, Abb. 3.8, 31.

75. 19-3-35-2/K2. Beaker GT 605, RS, ø 8cm, uncoated. Exterior and interior: 7.5YR8/3; ASW-PC_01, Fabric: 7.5YR7/3. Dating: late 1st century AD. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 39, Abb. 2.25, 289.

76. 19-3-35-3/K1. Trefoil juglet GT 804, RS, ø 5cm. Red slipped exterior: 2.5YR7/4; interior: 2.5YR7/4; ASW-PC_02, Fabric: 2.5YR7/4. Dating: late 1st century AD. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 99, Abb. 4.15, 250; REMBART, *Kulturelle Identitäten Oberägyptens in ptolemäisch-römischer Zeit am Beispiel von Syene*, p. 330, T 554.

77. 19-3-35-2/K6. Cooking bowl GK 203, RS, ø 20cm, uncoated. Exterior and interior: 5YR5/6; ASW-NILE_03, Fabric: 5YR6/4. Dating: mid. 1st century AD. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 38, Abb. 2.24, 257.

78. 19-3-33-5/K2. Cooking bowl GK 201D, RS, ø 22cm, uncoated. Exterior and interior: 2.5YR6/6; ASW-NILE_03, Fabric: 2.5YR7/4. Dating: early/mid. 1st century AD, Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 90, Abb. 4.6, 12.

79. 19-3-35-2/K5. Cooking pot GK 409/410, RS, ø 16cm, uncoated. Exterior and interior: 2.5YR6/2; ASW-NILE_03, Fabric: 2.5YR5/6. Dating: mid/late 1st century AD. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 57, Fig. 3.14, 82.

⁷⁴ GEMPELER, *Elephantine X*, Abb. 114, 6.

⁷⁵ Concerning this type of decoration cf. GEMPELER, *Elephantine X*, pp. 28-29; MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, pp. 258-259.

⁷⁶ TOMBER, *Mons Claudianus*, pp. 148-149, Fig. 1.58, type 12.

⁷⁷ D. DIXNEUF, *Amphores égyptiennes. Production, typologie, contenu et diffusion (III siècle avant J.-C.-IXe siècle après J.-C.)*, *Études Alexandrines* 22 (Alexandria 2011) p. 326, Fig. 92, 129.

⁷⁸ MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, Typentafel 22 (Stufe E).

- 80.** 19-3-33-5/K4. Storage bowl, RS, ø 20cm. Red slipped exterior and interior: 2.5YR6/6, black stripes on a cream background on the rim; ASW-PC_02, Fabric: 5YR6/6. Dating: early 2nd-mid/end 2nd century AD. Parallels: (similar) TOMBER, *Mons Claudianus*, p. 93, Fig. 1.35, 82-460; REMBART, *Kulturelle Identitäten Oberägyptens in ptolemäisch-römischer Zeit am Beispiel von Syene*, p. 75, T 39.
- 81.** 19-3-35-3/K3. Storage bowl (similar) GK 301, RS, ø 36cm, uncoated. Exterior and interior: 2.5YR6/6, black dot and two vertical stripes on the rim; ASW-PC_02, Fabric: 2.5YR5/6. Dating: late 1st century AD. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 93, Fig. 4.9, 112.
- 82.** 19-3-35-2/K7. Amphora AE 3, RS, ø 12cm, uncoated. Exterior and interior: 5YR6/4; ASW-NILE_01, Fabric: 2.5YR6/6. Dating: late 1st century AD. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 95, Fig. 4.11, 177.
- 83.** 19-3-33-5/K3. Amphora AE 3-1.5 Var. B, RS, ø 12cm, uncoated. Exterior and interior: 2.5YR7/4; ASW-NILE_01, Fabric: 5YR6/6. Dating: early 2nd- 3rd century AD. Parallels: TOMBER, *Mons Claudianus*, p. 149, Fig. 1.58, Type 12; MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 160, Fig. 5.31, 43.

Context 10 (Stratum H)

This material belongs to the mud floors of Rooms 1 and 2. The joins between 19-3-33-9, 19-3-36-9 and 19-3-36-10 indicate the contemporaneous use of both rooms of the house. In Room 2 the floor marks the period of use of the cellar before the deposit. In Room 1, the floor belongs to the very first use of the room prior to the deposit of levelling layers in order to elevate the level of the stone pavement that marks the latest preserved floor of House 28. The material is composed of table ware of Early Roman times (Fig. 31, 84-85). A fragment of a black decorated flask with a high neck and single rim (Fig. 31, 86) has parallels in Coptos⁷⁹, Elephantine⁸⁰ and Tebtynis, albeit in larger and better preserved versions.⁸¹ Also, the typical bowl and cooking ware of the Early and Middle Imperial Periods are represented (Fig. 31, 87-88).

The amphoras consist of red slipped vessels of GEMPELER type K 703⁸² (Fig. 31, 89) that are typically dated to the Early and Middle Imperial periods. A complete lamp (Fig. 11, 90) was found at the bottom of the deposit lying on a mud surface in Room 2. This type of lamp is commonly dated the late 1st and 2nd century AD but was here was probably in use slightly longer.

Catalogue: Fig. 31

- 84.** 19-3-36-10/K3. Dish GT 100a, complete, ø 30cm. Red slipped exterior and interior: 2.5YR6/6; ASW-PC_02, Fabric: 2.5YR7/6. Dating: late 1st century AD. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 51, Fig. 3.8, 30-31.
- 85.** 19-3-36-9/K3. Dish or skillet G S-14, RS, ø 28cm. Red slipped exterior and interior: 2.5YR6/6; ASW-PC_02, Fabric: 2.5YR8/4. Dating: late 1st century AD. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 56, Fig. 3.13, 72; D. KATZJÄGER, *Spätantike Alltagskultur auf Elephantine, Oberägypten. Typochronologie, Funktion und kulturelle Diversität der keramischen Funde aus den Wohnhäusern um den Chnumtempel, unpublished PhDlizierte Dissertation*, (Salzburg 2017), p. 307, KA 46-47.
- 86.** 19-3-36-9/K4. Flask, RS, ø 8cm. White slipped exterior: 7.5YR8/3, black painted on the rim and shoulder; interior: 2.5YR7/3; ASW-MIX_01, Fabric: 5YR8/3. Dating: late 1st-early 2nd century AD. Parallels: TOMBER, *Mons Claudianus*, p. 73, Fig. 1.27, 6-324; MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 50, Abb. 3.7, 12-14.
- 87.** 19-3-36-10/K1. Storage or cooking bowl GT 302, RS, ø 32cm. Red slipped exterior: 2.5YR6/4; interior: 2.5YR8/3; ASW-PC_02, Fabric: 2.5YR7/4. Dating: early/mid. 1st century AD. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 24, Abb. 2.10, 53.
- 88.** 19-3-36-10/K4. Cooking pot GK 210, RS, ø 16cm, uncoated. Exterior and interior: 2.5YR6/1; ASW-NILE_03, Fabric: 2.5YR5/8. Dating: early 1st century AD. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, Abb. p. 38, 2.24, 260.

⁷⁹ HERBERT/BERLIN, *Coptos (Qift) in Upper Egypt*, p. 103, Fig. 80, R1.17; p. 106 (here called a goblet).

⁸⁰ RODZIEWICZ, *Elephantine XXVII*, pl. 97, 1572.

⁸¹ BALLET/POŁUDNIKIEWICZ, *Tebtynis V*, p. 304, pl. 66, 640.

⁸² GEMPELER, *Elephantine X*, Abb. 120, 5.

89. 19-3-36-9/K8. Amphora GK 703, RS, ø 14cm. Red slipped exterior: 2.5YR7/6; interior: 2.5YR7/6; ASW-PC_02, Fabric: 2.5YR7/6. Dating: early 1st century AD. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 29, Abb. 2.15, 125.

90. 19-3-33-9/1. Lamp, complete, wheel-made, ø 7 cm, H.:2 cm. Uncoated. Exterior and interior: 2.4YR4/6; ASW-PC_03, Fabric: 2.5YR6/6. Dating: 1st-2nd century AD. Parallels: H. JARITZ/M. RODZIEWICZ, *Syene – Review of the Urban Remains and its Pottery, MDAIK 50*, 1994, p. 136, Fig. 7, 64; RODZIEWICZ, *Elephantine XXVII*, pl. 47, 753; MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 109, Abb. 4.25, 420.

Context 11 (Stratum H)

This context, the infill of Room 1 that was probably deposited in order to reach the significantly higher level of the latest preserved floor of House 28, comprises similar material to Context 9, including a wide spectrum of residual pottery dating to the late 1st and 2nd century AD. Among the residual material are fragments of a variety of beaker types with (Fig. 32, 92) and without barbotine decoration (Fig. 32, 91; 93-94) as well as a complete miniature bowl (Fig. 32, 98). Also, the typical cooking ware of the Early and Middle Imperial Periods is represented (Fig. 32, 96). The amphoras consist of red slip vessels of GEMPELER type K 703⁸³ (Fig. 32, 97) that are typically dated to the Early and Middle Imperial periods. The chronologically diverse material gives an inconsistent *terminus* for the filling of Room 1 to the 2nd century AD or later.

Catalogue: Fig. 32

91. 19-3-36-8/K1. Beaker GT 605, RS, ø 12cm. Red slipped exterior; 2.5YR8/4; interior: 2.5YR6/4; ASW-PC_02, Fabric: 2.5YR7/6. Dating: late 1st century AD. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 40, Fig. 2.26, 304.

92. 19-3-36-8/K6. Beaker or jug, WS. Red slipped exterior; 2.5YR6/3, barbotine decoration; interior: 2.5YR6/1; ASW-PC_01, Fabric: 7.5YR7/4. Dating: late 1st-early 2nd century AD. Parallels: TOMBER, *Mons Claudianus*, p. 30, Fig. 1.7, Type 16; RODZIEWICZ, *Elephantine XXVII*, pl. 65, 1051-1060.

93. 19-3-36-8/K7. Beaker, BS, uncoated. Exterior and interior: 7.5YR8/4; ASW-PC_01, Fabric: 7.5YR8/3. Dating: mid. 1st century AD. Parallels: TOMBER, *Mons Claudianus*, p. 43, Fig. 1.13, 54-146.

94. 19-3-36-6/K2. Beaker GT 605, RS, ø 16cm, uncoated. Exterior and interior: 5YR8/4; ASW-PC_02, Fabric: 2.5YR7/4. Dating: early 2nd century AD. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 39, Abb. 2.25, 289.

95. 19-3-36-8/K2. Trefoil juglet GT 804, RS, ø 8cm. Red slipped exterior: 2.5YR5/1; interior: 2.5YR6/3; ASW-PC_02, Fabric: 2.5YR7/4. Dating and parallels: *supra* (Nr. 76).

96. 19-3-36-5/K1. Cooking bowl GK 201/203, RS, ø 18cm, uncoated. Exterior and interior: 7.5YR7/3; ASW-PC_01, Fabric: 7.5YR6/6. Dating: late 1st-early 2nd century AD. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 57, Abb. 3.14, 80.

97. 19-3-36-5/K3. Amphora GK 703, RS, ø 10cm. Red slipped exterior: 2.5YR6/6; interior: 5YR7/6; ASW-PC_02, Fabric: 2.5YR7/6. Dating: late 1st century AD. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, Abb. p. 38, 2.24, 265.

98. 19-3-36-8/K3. Miniature bowl, complete, ø 9cm. Red slipped exterior and interior: 2.5YR7/4; ASW-PC_02, Fabric: 2.5YR7/4. Dating: late 1st-early 2nd century AD. Parallels: RODZIEWICZ, *Elephantine XXVII*, pl. 92, 1503-1506; MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 62, Abb. 3.19, 107.

Context 12 (late Stratum H)

The last context of Stratum H, the infill of the small vaulted cellar in House 28/Room 2 is characterized by a huge variety of shapes, including complete vessels and new types. Of course, the occurrence of older material of the early/mid. 1st century AD to the 2nd century AD is not surprising, considering the redeposited nature of the fill. Among this residual material, a small carinated bowl (Fig. 33, 99) that follows faience models⁸⁴ and early Roman dishes of GEMPELER type T 202Var are worth

⁸³ GEMPELER, *Elephantine X*, Abb. 120, 5.

⁸⁴ TOMBER, *Mons Claudianus*, p. 73, Fig. 1.27, 6-324.

mentioning (Fig. 33, 104).⁸⁵ There are numerous bowls decorated with painted single lines (Fig. 33, 100) or dots (Fig. 33, 101), following decoration styles common in the middle to end of the 2nd century AD.⁸⁶ The cooking vessels are mostly composed of shapes that do not appear in earlier contexts, as for instance the round shaped bowl with a ledge rim (Fig. 33, 112). In this case, an applied thumbed strip is joined to the rim like a slightly flattened handle.⁸⁷ No parallels for this bowl can be found thus far. The vessel has similarities with the GEMPELER type K 203b,⁸⁸ but shows two lines on the top of the rim and a more rounded body. Neither can close parallels to the cooking bowl (Fig. 33, 113) be found. The vessel resembles GEMPELER type K 214⁸⁹. Some other small cooking bowls are characterized by a short ledge rim and shallow body shape (Fig. 33, 114-116). They belong to the typical repertoire of cooking wares of the 3rd century AD. Additionally, some globular cooking bowls with elongated ledge rims (Fig. 33, 116) and ribbed bodies (Fig. 34, 118) are attested. The deep globular cooking pot (Fig. 34, 119) does not appear in earlier contexts. It shows a short, inset ledge rim, similar to Fig. 31, 94 but with a stepped neck. This is a development of the late 2nd or the beginning of the 3rd century AD.

The layers 19-3-33-6 and 20-3-4-3 contain some complete vessels and some fragments can be reconstructed to complete shapes. The vessels were in poor condition, and the surface was often completely abraded. This probably indicates multiple relocation processes. The two handled jar with an everted, grooved rim (Fig. 34, 120) showed a completely abraded surface. The vessel has parallels at Mons Claudianus⁹⁰ and Elephantine⁹¹ that are of Trajanic date. Another complete vessel, a globular one-handle jug (Fig. 33, 110) is characterized by a ribbed body with a smooth lower part. The long neck slopes slightly inwards and ends in a rounded lip. Comparisons for this type are rare. Similar vessels of the Early and Middle Imperial periods have a spout⁹² that is missing here. As with the rest of the material, only a rough date in the 2nd and 3rd century AD can be proposed. A large complete ringstand made of Aswan clay is red slipped on the outside (Fig. 35, 129). The surface shows a hand-shaped wavy decorative band and was subjected to heat as is indicated by traces of soot. With just one Egyptian example from Elephantine, on which the wavy band decoration is missing,⁹³ this type seems to be very rare. The stand apparently results from small-scale local production. The only close parallels can be found in Hellenistic contexts from the Levant.⁹⁴

Other noteworthy pieces are a complete small flat bowl or lid (Fig. 33, 102), another bowl with straight body and slightly elevated rim (Fig. 33, 103) and a small open juglet with flat base, straight

⁸⁵ GEMPELER, *Elephantine X*, Abb. 7, 9-10.

⁸⁶ *Cf. supra*, n. 76.

⁸⁷ RODZIEWICZ, *Elephantine XXVII*, pl. 70, 1151.

⁸⁸ GEMPELER, *Elephantine X*, Abb. 84, 18-19.

⁸⁹ *Ibid.*, Abb. 85, 15.

⁹⁰ TOMBER, *Mons Claudianus*, pp. 75-76, Fig. 1.28, 23-346.

⁹¹ GEMPELER, *Elephantine X*, Abb. 100, 10.

⁹² MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 270.

⁹³ RODZIEWICZ, *Elephantine XXVII*, pl. 92, 1513.

⁹⁴ A. BERLIN, 'Hellenistic Period', in S. GITIN (ed.), *The Ancient Pottery of Israel and its Neighbors from the Iron Age through the Hellenistic Period, Volume 2* (Jerusalem 2015), p. 669, Pl. 6.1.21, 9; D. REGEV, 'Typology of the Persian and Hellenistic Pottery Forms at Maresha – Subterranean Complexes 70, 21, 58', in A. KLONER (ed.), *Maresha Excavations Final Report I. Subterranean Complexes 21, 44, 70. Israel Antiquities Authority 17, 2003*, p. 183, Form 97.

walls, a spout and without a handle (Fig. 33, 107). The spouted juglets, which are mentioned in ADAMS as feeder cups are known from Nubia during the Meroitic Period⁹⁵. The vessel resembles our modern creamer or measuring beaker. Among the residual pieces are the ribbed rim fragment from a jug (Fig. 33, 111) dating to the 1st and 2nd century AD and a handled juglet (Fig. 33, 108) made of Aswan clay that goes back to early Hellenistic forms of unguentaria.⁹⁶

Among the jars, several residual Hellenistic and Early Roman forms, such as the fragment (Fig. 34, 121) dating to the 3rd century BC and the large storage jar (Fig. 34, 123) from the Early Roman period are worth mentioning. One jar fragment is made from Nile silt (Fig. 34, 122) and is characterized by a thickened rim. It seems to be a smaller version of jars attested in Coptos.⁹⁷

The storage bowls include vessels of the 2nd and 3rd century AD, decorated with painted black dots on the rim (Fig. 34, 127) and little bowls that do not appear in earlier contexts. These vessels include bowls of GEMPELER type K 411⁹⁸. This necked bowl is characterized by an upright or slightly everted single (Fig. 34, 124) or double-lip rim (Fig. 34, 125-126). The jar (Fig. 34, 125) is decorated with pairs of three black strokes on the rim and two black dots on the body surface. The type is very common and appears in contexts of the middle to the end of the 2nd and 3rd century AD, as for example at Mons Claudianus, where they date to the Antonine-Severan period.⁹⁹ In Syene, the type appears in contexts of the second half of the 2nd century AD¹⁰⁰ and the late 3rd century AD.¹⁰¹ A proposed dating of the type to the end of the 1st century AD seems problematic as it is based on residual material deposited in a supposedly later dump.¹⁰² The final bowl in this context (Fig. 35, 128) is unique in the pottery repertoire of Syene. It has a round body with a slightly everted rim that is folded back onto the inside where it forms a lid fold. The lower body is not preserved. The outer surface of the bowl is decorated with black dots painted over larger white dots. The vessel has a parallel on Elephantine (GEMPELER type K 309¹⁰³) and another in Area 1 in Syene.¹⁰⁴ The decorative style is traditionally dated to Late Antiquity.¹⁰⁵ MARTIN-KILCHER suggests a 5th century AD date for this peculiar type of decoration.¹⁰⁶ Such a late date seems impossible for our context, as all the other evidence points to a late 3rd century AD date for this deposit. It has thus either to be assumed that this type of decoration begins earlier, which, lacking any other evidence, is unlikely, or the fragment is intrusive and came into the context via animal activity or other natural influences.

⁹⁵ W. Y. ADAMS, *Ceramic Industries of Medieval Nubia, Part I. Memoirs of the UNESCO Archaeological Survey of Sudanese Nubia, Volume 1* (Kentucky 1986), p. 100; p. 146, Fig. 57, 1-6.

⁹⁶ BERLIN, *Naukratis-Kom Hadid*, p. 117, Fig. 2.34, 25.

⁹⁷ HERBERT/BERLIN, *Coptos (Qift) in Upper Egypt*, p. 121, Fig. 96, R3.26-27.

⁹⁸ GEMPELER, *Elephantine X*, Abb. 101, 18-20; Abb. 102, 1-5.

⁹⁹ TOMBER, *Mons Claudianus*, pp. 75-76, Fig. 1.28, 23-346.

¹⁰⁰ HEPÄ, in *Report on the 18th Season*, Fig. 30, 14.

¹⁰¹ MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 269.

¹⁰² RODZIEWICZ, *Elephantine XXVII*, pl. 76, 1288-1302; REMBART, *Kulturelle Identitäten Oberägyptens in ptolemäisch-römischer Zeit am Beispiel von Syene*, pp. 230-231, T 347-T 348.

¹⁰³ GEMPELER, *Elephantine X*, Abb. 101, 18-20; Abb. 102, 1-5.

¹⁰⁴ MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 95, Abb. 4.11, 157.

¹⁰⁵ GEMPELER, *Elephantine X*, pp. 30-31; Abb. 102, 1-5; KATZJÄGER, *Spätantike Alltagskultur auf Elephantine, Oberägypten*, pp. 57-58.

¹⁰⁶ MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, pp. 258-259.

The amphoras (Fig. 35, 130-131) from this context are predominantly Egyptian Amphora Type 3, made of Nile silt (DIXNEUF AE 3-1.1¹⁰⁷).

Based on the pottery, the construction of the small vaulted cellar in Room 2 can be dated to the beginning of 3rd century AD. Dumping seems to have started at the end of the 3rd century AD.

Catalogue: Figs. 33-35

99. 20-3-4-5/K2. Bowl, RS, ø 10cm. Red slipped exterior and interior: 2.5YR6/6; ASW-PC_02, Fabric: 2.5YR6/6. Dating: mid. 1st- 2nd century AD. Parallels: RODZIEWICZ, *Elephantine XXVII*, pl. 70, 1153-1156; STESKAL/ROSE, *Roman Nag el-Tawil in Upper Egypt*, p. 305, Pl. 3, 22.

100. 19-3-33-6/K2. Bowl GT 603, RS, ø 12cm. Red slipped exterior and interior: 2.5YR5/6, black dots on the body; ASW-PC_02, Fabric: 2.5YR6/6. Dating: late 1st century AD. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 104, Abb. 4.20, 346.

101. 19-3-33-6/K1. Bowl GT 603, complete, ø 12cm. Red slipped exterior and interior: 2.5YR5/6, black stripe on the body; ASW-PC_02, Fabric: 2.5YR7/6. Dating and parallels: *supra* (Nr. 99).

102. 19-3-33-6/1/K1. Bowl or rim, complete, ø 9cm, uncoated. Exterior and interior: 5YR5/6; ASW-PC_03, Fabric: 5YR6/4. Dating: late 1st century AD. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 93, Abb. 4.9, 115.

103. 19-3-33-6/4/K1. Bowl GT 304a, complete, ø 8cm. Red slipped exterior and interior: 5YR6/6; ASW-PC_02, Fabric: 2.5YR6/6. Dating: mid. 1st-late 2nd century AD. Parallels: REMBART, *Kulturelle Identitäten Oberägyptens in ptolemäisch-römischer Zeit am Beispiel von Syene*, pp. 94-95, T 73.

104. 19-3-33-8/K1. Dish GT 202Var., RS, ø 20cm, uncoated. Exterior and interior: 2.5YR5/6; ASW-PC_02, Fabric: 2.5YR6/3. Dating: early 1st century AD. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 23, Abb. 2.9, 49.

105. 20-3-4-2/K1. Dish GT 100a, RS, ø 28cm. Red slipped exterior and interior: 2.5YR6/6; ASW-PC_02, Fabric: 2.5YR6/4. Dating: late 1st century AD. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 51, Abb. 3.8, 32.

106. 19-3-33-6/8/K1. Beaker GT 604c, complete, ø 28cm. Red slipped exterior: 2.5YR6/6; interior: 2.5YR6/6; ASW-PC_02, Fabric: 2.5YR5/4. Dating: late 2nd-early 3rd century AD. Parallels: GEMPELER, *Elephantine X*, Abb. 70, 15.

107. 20-3-4-5/K1. Juglet, complete, ø 8cm. Red slipped exterior and interior: 2.5YR6/6; ASW-PC_02, Fabric: 2.5YR7/4. Dating: Parallels: (similar) MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 62, Abb. 3.19, 111.

108. 19-3-33-6/11/K1. Juglet GT 835, BS, ø 3,5cm, uncoated. Exterior and interior: 10YR4/1; ASW-PC_01, Fabric: 5YR4/1. Dating: late 2nd century AD (after the context). Parallels: GEMPELER, *Elephantine X*, Abb. 80, 2; MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 109, Abb. 4.25, 419.

109. 20-3-4-4/K1. Trefoil juglet GT 804, RS, ø 4cm. Red slipped exterior: 2.5YR6/6; interior: 2.5YR6/4; ASW-PC_02, Fabric: 2.5YR5/6. Dating: Parallels: Dating and parallels: *supra* (Nr. 76).

110. 20-3-4-3/3/K1. Jug (similar) GT 854, complete, ø 9cm. Red slipped exterior: 2.5YR5/6; interior: 2.5YR5/6; ASW-PC_02, Fabric: 2.5YR6/4. Dating: 3rd century AD? Parallels: GEMPELER, *Elephantine X*, Abb. 81,8; (similar) MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 119, Abb. 4.35, 578.

111. 19-3-33-7/K1. Jug, RS, ø 11cm. Red slipped exterior and interior: 2.5YR6/6; ASW-PC_02, Fabric: 2.5YR7/6. Dating: 1st-2nd century AD. Parallels: REMBART, *Kulturelle Identitäten Oberägyptens in ptolemäisch-römischer Zeit am Beispiel von Syene*, p. 339, T 571.

112. 19-3-33-2/K7. Cooking bowl, RS, ø 14cm, uncoated. Exterior and interior: 2YR6/4; ASW-PC_01, Fabric: 2.5YR6/4. Dating: 3rd-4th century AD; Parallels: (similar) GEMPELER, *Elephantine X*, Abb. 113, 4; RODZIEWICZ, *Elephantine XXVII*, pl. 57, 917.

113. 19-3-33-6/K14. Cooking bowl (similar) GK 214, RS, ø 16cm. Red slipped exterior and interior: 2YR6/4; ASW-PC_02, Fabric: 2.5YR7/4. Dating: mid. 2nd or early 3rd century AD. Parallels: (similar) GEMPELER, *Elephantine X*, Abb. 85, 15; (similar) TOMBER, *Mons Claudianus*, p. 112, Fig. 1.43, 44.

114. 19-3-33-6/K13. Cooking bowl GK 201c, RS, ø 18cm, uncoated. Exterior and interior: 2YR7/4; ASW-PC_01, Fabric: 2.5YR6/4. Dating: mid. 3rd century AD. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 107, Abb. 4.23, 375.

115. 20-3-4-5/K3. Cooking bowl, GK 201c, RS, ø 16cm, uncoated. Exterior and interior: 5YR7/4; ASW-PC_01, Fabric: 5YR7/4. Dating: early 3rd century AD. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 168, Abb. 5.39, 187.

116. 19-3-33-6/K12. Cooking bowl GK 201c, RS, ø 16cm, uncoated. Exterior and interior: 5YR7/6; ASW-PC_02, Fabric: 2.5YR7/4. Dating: early 3rd century AD. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 109, Abb. 4.25, 408.

¹⁰⁷ DIXNEUF, *Amphores égyptiennes*, p. 319, Fig. 83.

- 117.** 20-3-4-5/K4. Cooking bowl GK 201, RS, ø 16cm, uncoated. Exterior and interior: 5YR7/4; ASW-PC_01, Fabric: 5YR6/4. Dating: late 2nd-early 3rd century AD. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 102, Abb. 4.18, 291.
- 118.** 19-3-33-3/K6 Cooking bowl GK 332, RS, ø 20cm, uncoated. Exterior and interior: 5YR6/3; ASW-PC_01, Fabric: 5YR4/4. Dating: mid. 2nd-early 3rd century AD. Parallels: TOMBER, *Mons Claudianus*, p. 117, Fig. 1.45, 66; (similar) MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 107, Abb. 4.23, 376.
- 119.** 19-3-33-7/K2. Cooking pot GK 410, RS, ø 12cm, uncoated. Exterior and interior: 2.5YR4/4; ASW-PC_02, Fabric: 2.5YR5/6. Dating: mid. 2nd-early 3rd century AD. Parallels: GEMPELER, *Elephantine X*, Abb. 101, 15; TOMBER, *Mons Claudianus*, p. 84, Fig. 1.31, 49.
- 120.** 20-3-4-3/4/K1. Jar (similar) GK 405, complete, ø 13cm. Red slipped exterior: 5YR7/6; interior: 5YR7/6; ASW-PC_01, Fabric: 5YR7/6. Dating: early 2nd century AD. Parallels: (similar) RODZIEWICZ, *Elephantine XXVII*, pl.81, 1369; (similar) TOMBER, *Mons Claudianus*, p. 76, Fig. 1.28, 23.
- 121.** 19-3-33-6/K15. Jar, RS, ø 10cm. Cream slipped exterior: 2.5YR5/1; interior: 2.5YR7/4; ASW-NILE_02, Fabric: 2.5YR7/6. Dating: 3rd century BC. Parallels: C.R. GILL, *Dakhleh Oasis and the Western Desert of Egypt under the Ptolemies, Dakhleh Oasis Project Monograph 17*, (Oxford 2016), pp. 80-81, Fig. 3.49, Form 64; MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 99, Abb. 4.15, 249.
- 122.** 19-3-33-6/K8. Jar (similar) GK 437, RS, ø 14cm. Red slipped exterior: 2.5YR6/6; interior: 2.5YR5/1; ASW-NILE_02, Fabric: 2.5YR7/4. Dating: late 3rd century AD or earlier? Parallels: (similar) GEMPELER, *Elephantine X*, Abb. 106, 5-6.
- 123.** 19-3-33-6/K9. Storage jar, RS, ø 46cm, uncoated. Exterior and interior: 2.5YR6/4; ASW-NILE_02, Fabric: 2.5YR6/6. Dating: mid. 1st century AD. Parallels: TOMBER, *Mons Claudianus*, p. 91, Fig. 1.34, 78.
- 124.** 19-3-33-1/K1. Storage bowl GK 411, RS, ø 16cm. Red slipped exterior and interior: 2.5YR6/3; ASW-PC_02, Fabric: 2.5YR7/4. Dating: late 2nd-late 3rd century AD. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 107, Abb. 4.23, 382.
- 125.** 19-3-33-6/K4. Storage bowl GK 411, RS, ø 20cm. Red slipped exterior and interior: 2.5YR6/6, black stripes on the body and rim; ASW-PC_02, Fabric: 2.5YR7/4. Dating: late 2nd-late 3rd century AD. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 108, Abb. 4.24, 394.
- 126.** 19-3-33-2/K2. Storage bowl GK 411, RS, ø 18cm. Red slipped exterior and interior: 2.5YR5/1; ASW-PC_02, Fabric: 2.5YR5/3. Dating: late 2nd-late 3rd century AD. Parallels: TOMBER, *Mons Claudianus*, p. 93, Fig. 1.35, 89-476; MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 107, Abb. 4.23, 382.
- 127.** 19-3-33-7/K3. Storage bowl, RS, ø 40cm, uncoated. Exterior and interior: 2.5YR5/6, violet dots on the rim; ASW-NILE_02, Fabric: 2.5YR5/6. Dating: 2nd-3rd century AD. Parallels: (similar) RODZIEWICZ, *Elephantine XXVII*, pl. 100, 1599; MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 65, Abb. 5.36, 129.
- 128.** 19-3-33-3/K7. Storage bowl GK 309, RS, ø 36cm. Red slipped exterior and interior: 2.5YR6/6, white and black dots on the body; ASW-PC_02, Fabric: 2.5YR6/4. Dating: late 3rd century AD. Parallels: GEMPELER, *Elephantine X*, Abb. 89, 8.
- 129.** 20-3-4-3/2/K1. Ring-stand, complete, ø 26cm. Red slipped exterior: 2.5YR6/6; interior: 2.5YR7/6; ASW-PC_02, Fabric: 2.5YR6/6. Dating: undated. Parallels: (similar) RODZIEWICZ, *Elephantine XXVII*, pl. 92, 1513.
- 130.** 19-3-33-6/K19. Amphora AE 3, RS, ø 10cm, uncoated. Exterior and interior: 5YR5/3; ASW-PC_04, Fabric: 5YR5/4. Dating: mid. 1st-early 3rd century AD. Parallels: TOMBER, *Mons Claudianus*, p. 145, Fig. 1.56, 2-840; MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 104, Abb. 4.20, 334.
- 131.** 19-3-33-6/K20. Amphora, BS, ø 3cm, uncoated. Exterior and interior: 7.5YR5/3; ASW-NILE_03, Fabric: 7.5YR6/4. Dating: early 2nd century AD. Parallels: LAWALL, *Egyptian and imported transport amphoras*, p. 176, Fig. 105, 37.

Conclusion

The material presented above shows the absolute chronology of the settlement layers in Area 3 (Strata K - H). Based on published pottery assemblages from other parts of Syene¹⁰⁸, the development of the architectural structures and the changes in the cityscape can be put in a historically-referenced context (Fig. 20).

Context 1 (Stratum K-L) dates from the middle to early 2nd century BC. Stratum K (Context 2) is of a similar date and Stratum J/2, (Context 3) starts in the late 2nd century and ends in the Late Ptolemaic period. The complex architectural setting of Stratum J/1 is represented by contexts 4, 5 and 6

¹⁰⁸ MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, pp. 244-246.

from the first phase, which can be dated from the Augustan period until the middle of the 1st century AD. The material from the second phase of Stratum J/1 in contexts 7 and 8 is inconsistent and mixed with older pottery such as that found in Context 6. Houses 16 and 17 were certainly in use during the Flavian and Trajanic periods, as the construction of House 28, with Context 10 in Room 1 can be dated to the beginning of the 3rd century AD.

The time of construction of the vaulted cellar under Room 2 is given by the material from the layers over the vault (Context 9) with a date at the end of the 2nd or beginning of the 3rd century AD. The abandonment of Room 2 began during the 3rd century AD. The last sequence of dumping inside the vaulted room can be dated to the end of the 3rd or even to the early 4th century AD. The typical forms of the outgoing 4th century AD (MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER'S 'Stufe G') are completely missing here.¹⁰⁹

The date of construction of House 28 is further confirmed by an ostrakon found under wall W3-416. The ostrakon (16-3-44-1/1) is dated to the earlier 3rd century and gives thus a perfect *terminus post quem*.¹¹⁰

The results of this study have significantly changed the chronological sequence of architectural structures in Area 3 as becomes evident when comparing the plan published in this report (Fig. 11) with previous versions.¹¹¹ It is clear that House 28 was constructed when the Temple of Domitian had already been standing for some time. The temple most probably was constructed in the later phases of Stratum J/1. Also, House 8 has to be moved from Stratum H to Stratum J/1. Finally, the earlier dating of the beginning of Stratum J/1 to the Late Ptolemaic period had to be changed to the Early Imperial period.

(M. Hepa and W. Müller)

6 Report on the ostraca found in seasons 16 to 19

In the last seasons the discovery of ostraca has decreased in comparison with the pace of previous seasons in Areas 2 and 88. In total, since 2016 to 2019 only 29 pieces have been recovered from Areas 3, 90, 92, 93, and 94. Many of them contain only faint traces of ink, but they are not without some interest. Moreover, among them, two documents can be highlighted, since they contain substantial texts: a Greek letter from the Roman period in Area 3 and the end of a document in Coptic in Area 94.

Areas 90, 92, 93 and 94

Area 90 yielded a fragment of a letter in Coptic written on the edge of a plate (16-90-01-02/1). We can read the name of the sender, Johannes, but following the greeting formula on the outer surface

¹⁰⁹ *Ibid.*, pp. 251-252.

¹¹⁰ *Cf.* this report, *infra*, p. 33.

¹¹¹ *Cf. Nineteenth Season*, fig. 11.

of the plate, the text is very fragmentary. On the verso, written on the inner surface of the plate, we read the word **ΒΛΧΕ**, ‘ostrakon’, probably referring to the delivery of the letter itself.¹¹²

Area 92 only yielded a few fragments of amphorae with inscriptions, probably referring to the contents or ownership of the said vessels.¹¹³ They are not strictly ostraca, in that they are not reused pieces of pottery for documents, but fragments of complete vessels that broke when discarded, and they happen to carry the inscription which identified the owner or the contents of the vessel. This also coincides with the fact that the pottery from Late Antiquity found in this area comes from later dumping activity. These vessels can be dated to the 6th -7th cent. The dump materials date to up to the beginning of the 7th cent., on the basis of the study of the pottery.¹¹⁴ Of the names that can be read, there is on 16-92-28-01/1 Ηραρία, probably for Ἰλαρία (Hilaria, TM name 9639), with a common confusion of lambda and rho. The fragment 16-92-28-01/1b bears the name Βίκτωρ, Victor (TM Name 8930), a very popular name in Christian times, written on the body of the amphora. On 16-92-03-08/5 one can read πρὸς [meaning ‘to’, as in ‘deliver to’, indicating the addressee, who is unfortunately lost. Other two fragments present the same type of statement.

In 2017, a few fragments of plates were found in Area 93, with inscriptions on the rims. Two of them (17-93-16-06/1 a and b) feature only a date, and the same one on both of them (4th of Phamenoth of the fourth indiction). It is not clear what they were used for, but perhaps they were some kind of labels for sacks or vessels with produce.

In 2018, Area 94 yielded only two pieces. One of them contains traces of an inscription on the body of an amphora like the ones found in area 92. However, 18-94-03-03/1 contains the lower part of a document referring to a payment of rent. It can be dated paleographically to the 8th or 9th centuries. Since this part of town was abandoned and resettled only at the end of the Roman period or already in the Muslim period, this document can belong to that later resettlement of the area.¹¹⁵

Area 3

In 2016 a tax receipt bearing the name of two tax collectors, Aurelius Balbillus (?) and Julius Herakleides, was found under a wall (16-3-44-1/1). It can be dated paleographically to the end of the

¹¹² It is a common phenomenon to mention the ostrakon on which the letter is written. In some cases, we find apologies for using ostraca. On the use of the *ostrakon* cf. A. BÜLOW-JACOBESSEN, ‘Writing Materials in the Ancient World’, in R.S. BAGNALL (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Papyrology*, (Oxford 2009), pp. 3-29, esp. pp. 14-16; H. CUVIGNY ET AL., *La route de Myos Hormos: L’armée romaine dans le desert oriental d’Égypte. Praesidia du desert de Bérénice*, *Bulletin del’Institut Français d’Archéologie Orientale* 48, 2 (2003), pp. 470-473. See also O.Crum 129, where a woman apologizes for writing on an *ostrakon* saying «excuse me that I cannot find papyrus, as I am in the country».

¹¹³ We have plenty of these kinds of inscriptions from many areas. On amphora dipinti, cf. J. L. FOURNET, ‘La ‘dipintologie’ grecque: une nouvelle discipline auxiliaire de la papyrologie?’, in P. SCHUBERT (ed.), *Actes du 26e Congrès international de Actes du 26e Congrès international de papyrologie*, (Genève 2012), pp. 249-258.

¹¹⁴ Cf. M. HEPA in *Seventeenth Season*, p. 27, dates the dumping up to the beginning of the 7th cent.

¹¹⁵ MÜLLER, in *Eighteenth Season*, p. 15.

2nd or beginning of the 3rd century. I am more inclined to the beginning of the 3rd century, since the name Aurelius became especially common with the Constitutio Antoniniana in 212.¹¹⁶ Most of the tax receipts and tax collectors known from Syene are earlier than this (the greater part from the second cent. CE).¹¹⁷ Consequently, there is no parallel for these names.

In 2018 a fragment of a Ptolemaic account (18-3-36-10/3a) was found, containing names of workers and probably their pay. The following year, 2019, a complete document was found in area 3 (19-3-7-1/1) but only on the surface and without a context. It is a complete letter preserving all margins, but its condition is very delicate. The pottery is very brittle and the surface layers on which the writing occurs are flaking away in some parts. In 2019 we made a preliminary cleaning of the artefact to remove sand and dust and stabilized it in a cardboard box on foam. It was also photographed and completely documented. Once again, we have in this document a testimony to the military presence in Aswan. This 1st or 2nd century CE letter records deliveries of groceries and other products, as usual in this type of private correspondence. It even includes a Latin loanword, typical of the military environment:¹¹⁸

Marinus to his brother Pachnouti, greetings. I do the reverence for you before the Lady Isis. You would do well if you take my wheat from the army camp, and sell it, and send me a chous of oil, and the remainder of the money send it up, together with the cibarium (ration), and the account of the money you have, send it to me, in order that I buy carpets ... [Our?] sister greets you and [your wife?]

(Sofia Torallas-Tovar)

¹¹⁶ J. G. KEENAN, 'The Names Flavius and Aurelius as Status Designations in Later Roman Egypt', *ZPE* 11 (1973), pp. 33-63, esp. pp. 40-41.

¹¹⁷ For lists of tax collectors, cf. K.A. WÖRPER, 'Esattori di tribute e loro assistenti a Syene/Elephantine', in C. GALLAZZI ET AL, *Ostraka greci del Museo Egizio del Cairo* (Florence 1986), pp. 131-146, and K.A. WÖRPER, 'Table of important Syene tax collectors', in *idem*, *The Bankes Ostraka from a Box at Kingston Lacy: the Greek Texts* (Messina 2016), p. 80-87.

¹¹⁸ Cf. M. HEPÄ, S. TORALLAS TOVAR, 'On the Southern Frontier: Latin ostraca from Aswan', in R. AST (ed.), *Uniformity and Regionalism in Latin Writing Culture in the First Millennium of the Common Era*, forthcoming.

Figures



Fig. 1: The new work and storage building in Area 2 (Birket Damas)



Fig. 2: Collections of stone objects temporarily stored next to the Isis Temple, which were removed to enable further measures to develop the area

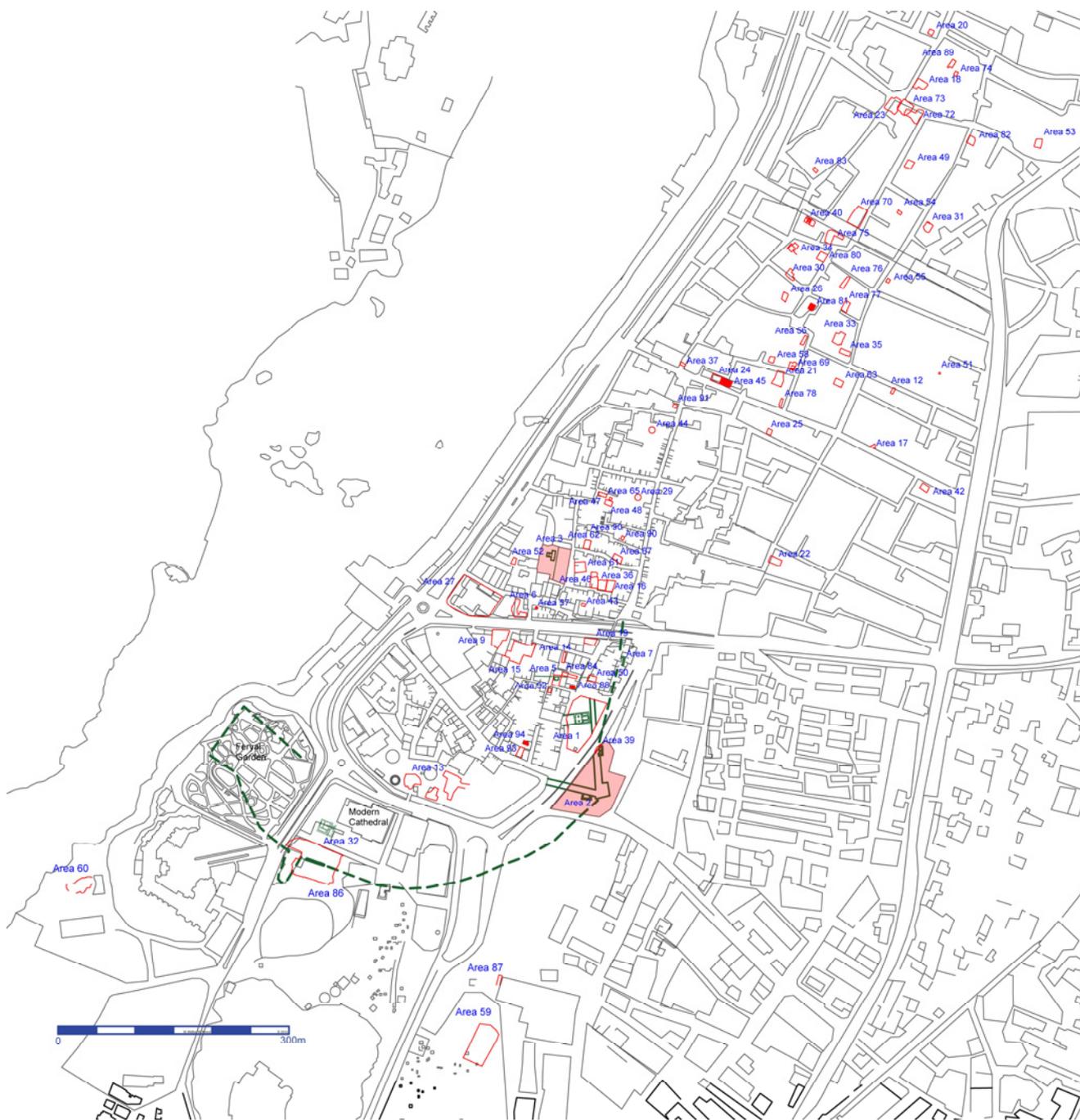


Fig. 3: Map of areas excavated by the Swiss-Egyptian Mission.



Fig. 4: Area 3: Investigated areas.



Fig. 5: Area 3: Overview from the west. Photo by B. MORA RIUDAVETS.

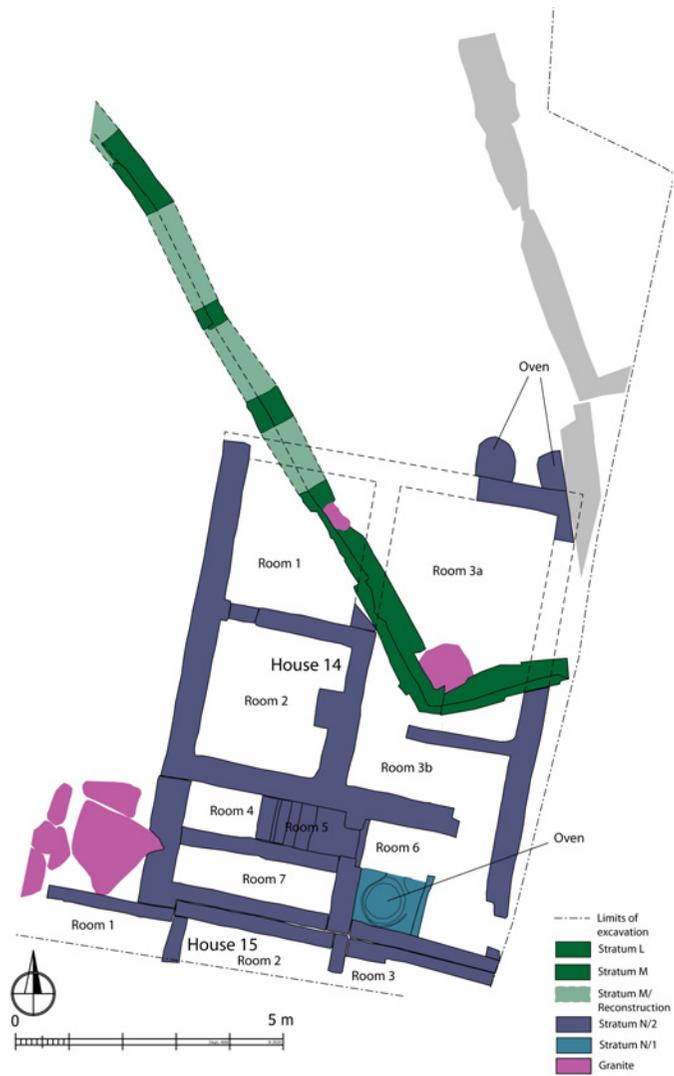


Fig. 6: Plan of Area 3 during Stratum N.



Fig. 7: Area 3: View of W3-431 covering the south-eastern part of House 14 from the west.



Fig. 8: Area 3: View of the south-eastern part of House 14 after the removal of later structures from the west.



Fig. 9: Area 3: Section of the door into Room 6 with renewed thresholds

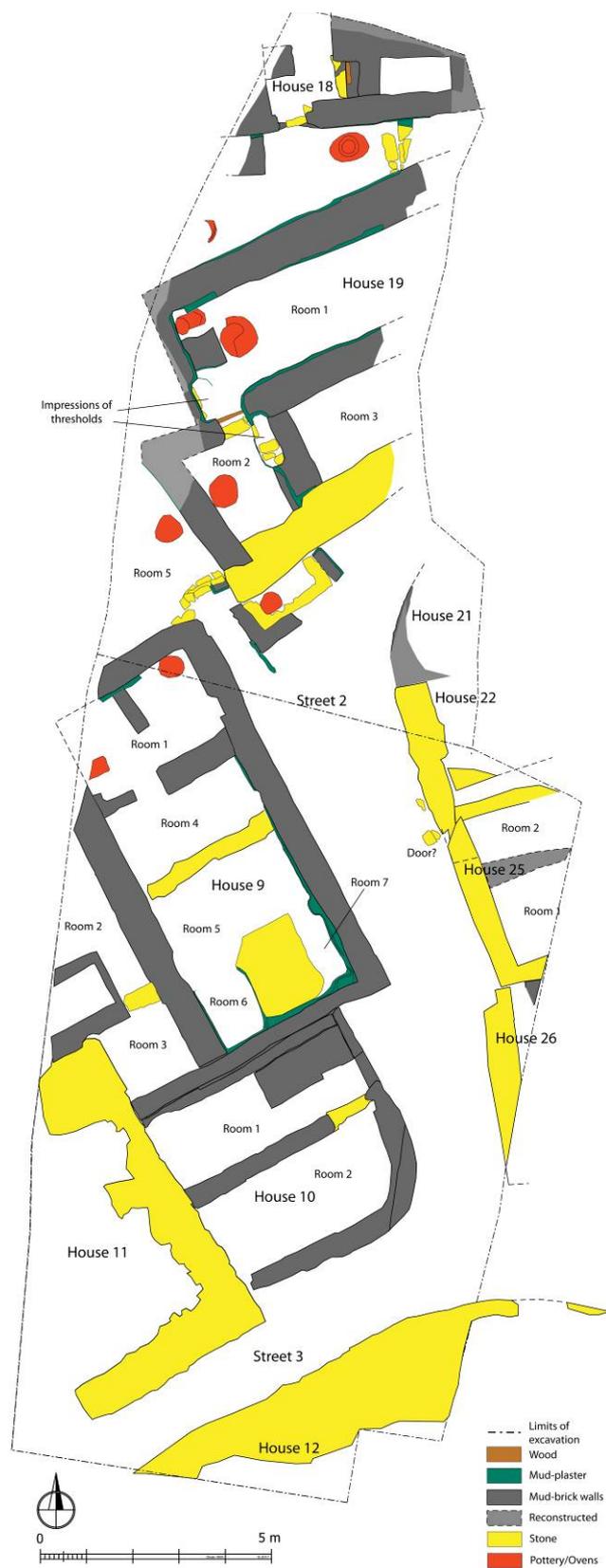


Fig. 10: Plan of Stratum L/3 in Area 3



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

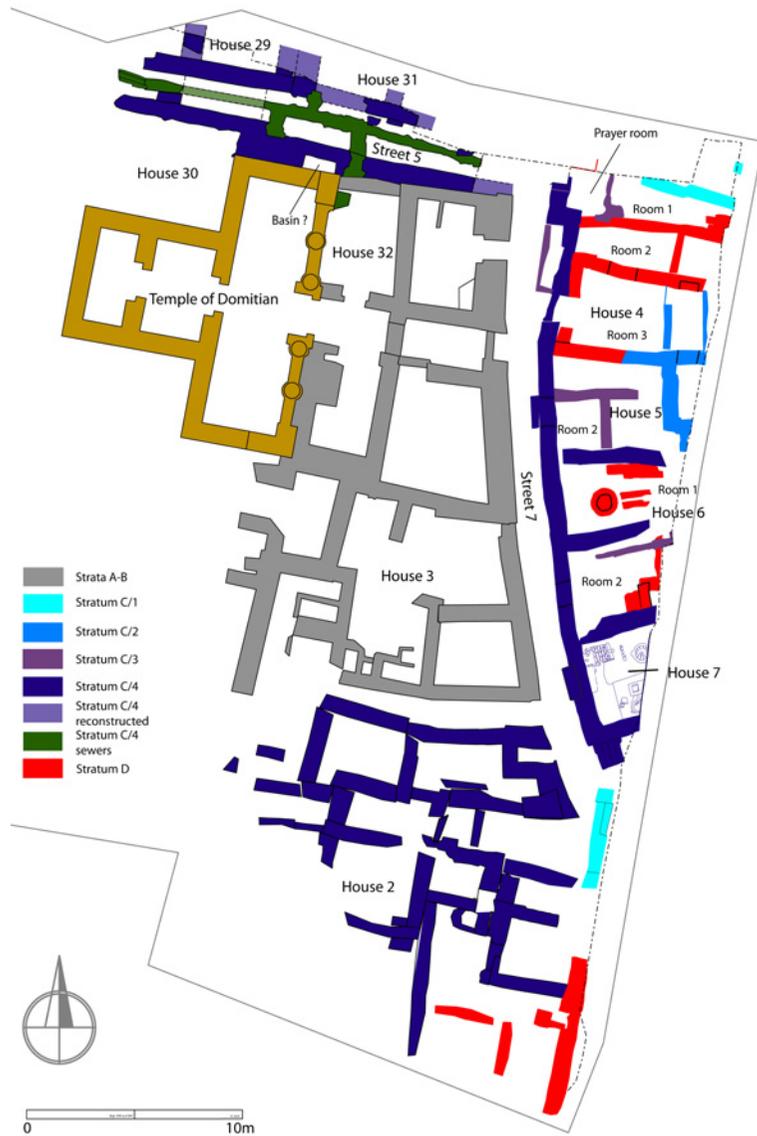


Fig. 13: Plan of Area 3 in Strata C-D



Fig. 12: Area 3: Overview from the west with Houses 16, 17 and 28



Fig. 14: Area 3: Overview of Street 5 from the north
Photo by B. MORA RIUDAVETS



Fig. 15: Area 3: Detail of the system of sewers in Street 5.



Fig. 16: Detail of sewers around the Temple of Domitian.



Fig. 17: Detail of sewers at the western end of Street 5.



Fig. 18: Area 3: Detail of the vault in House28/Room 2.



Fig. 19: Area 3: Detail of the infill of the vault in House 28/Room 2.

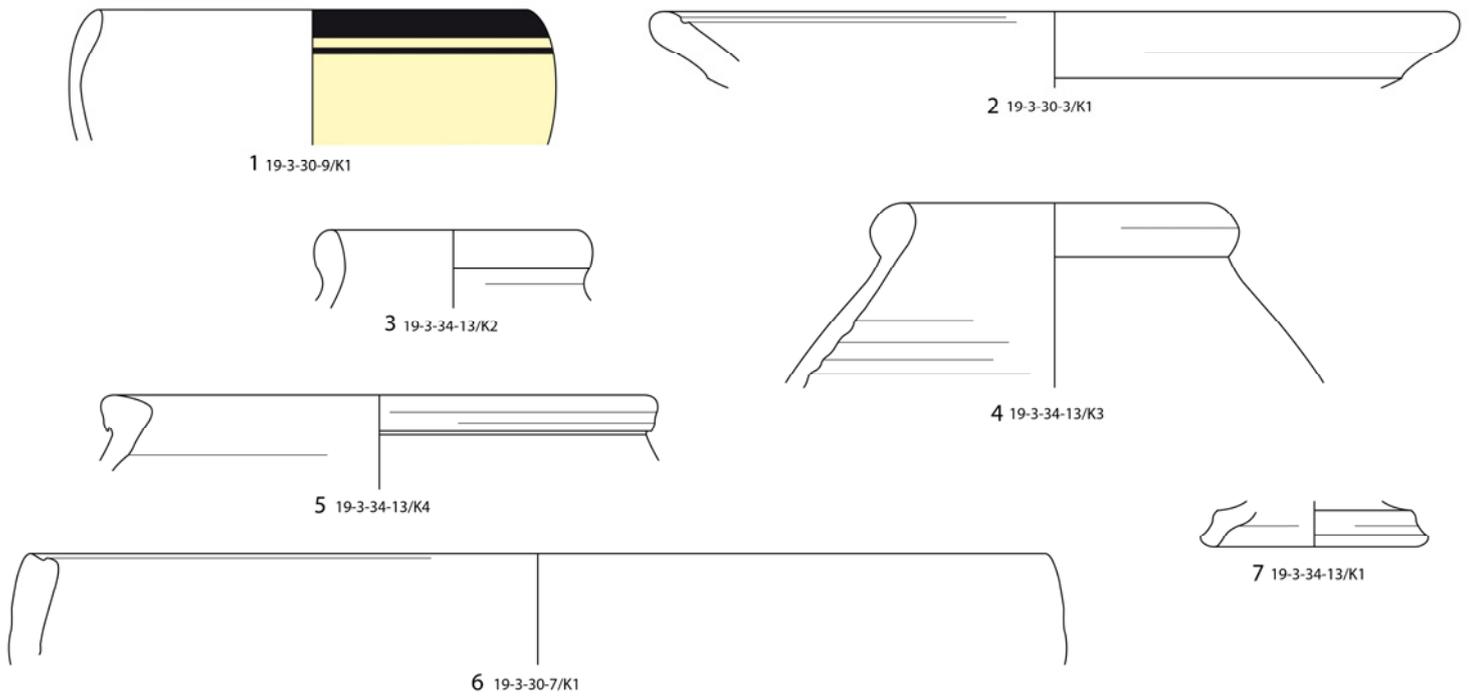


Fig. 21: Area 3: Pottery of Context 1 (Stratum L-K). Scale 1:3

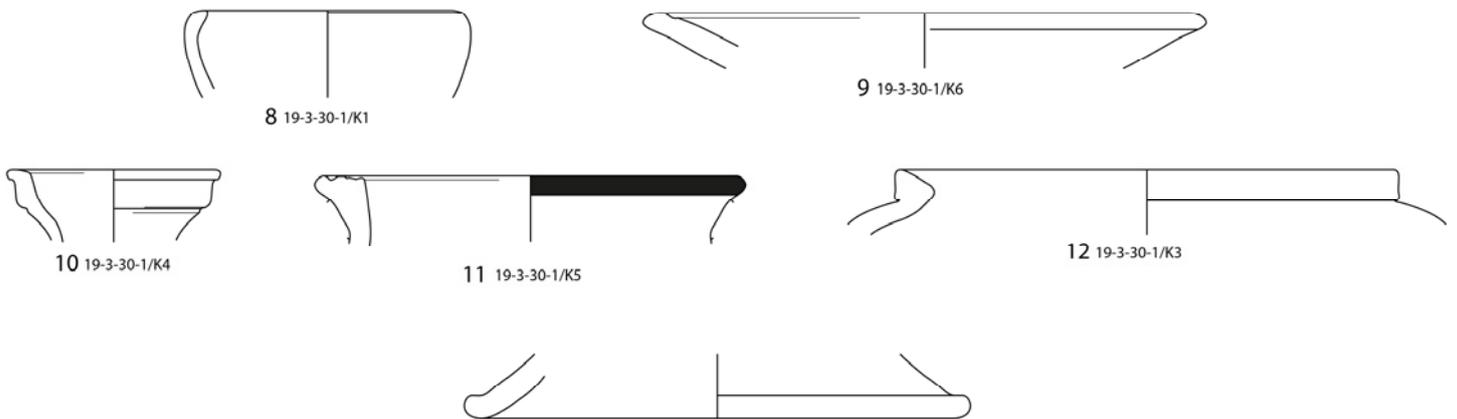


Fig. 22: Area 3: Pottery of Context 2 (Stratum K). Scale 1:3

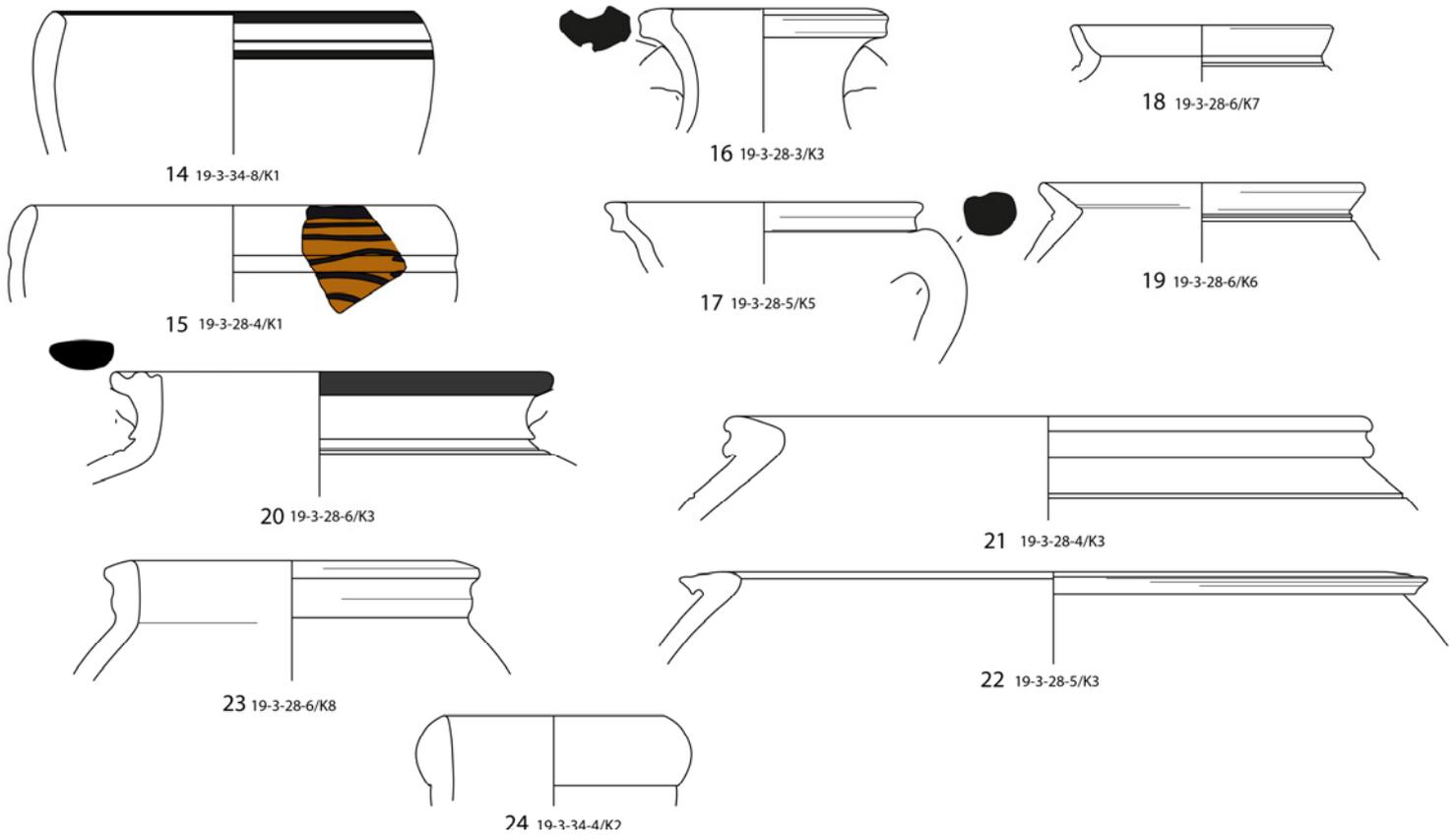


Fig. 23: Area 3: Pottery Context 3 (Stratum J/2). Scale 1:3

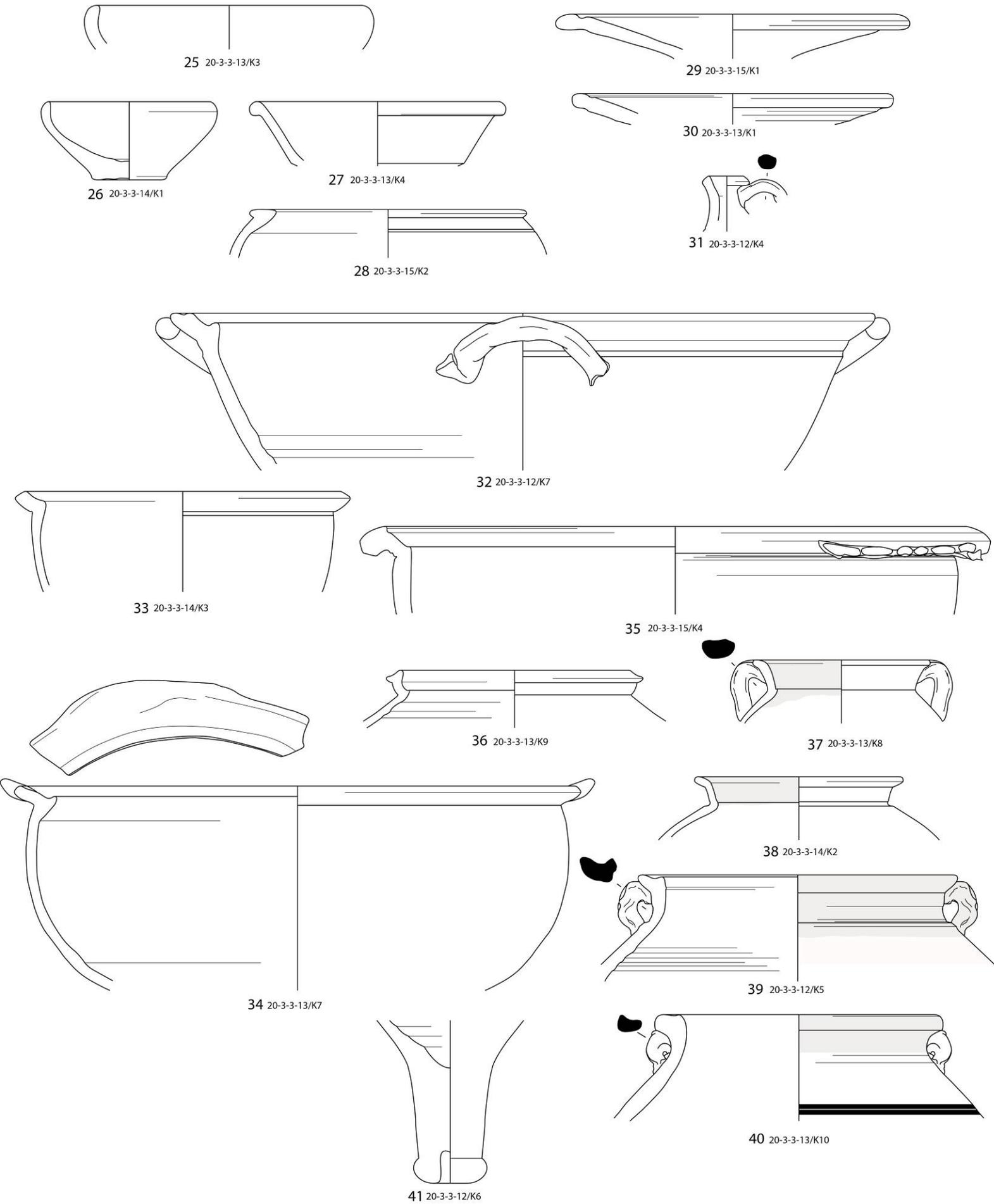


Fig. 24: Area 3: Pottery Context 3 (Stratum J/2). Scale 1:3.

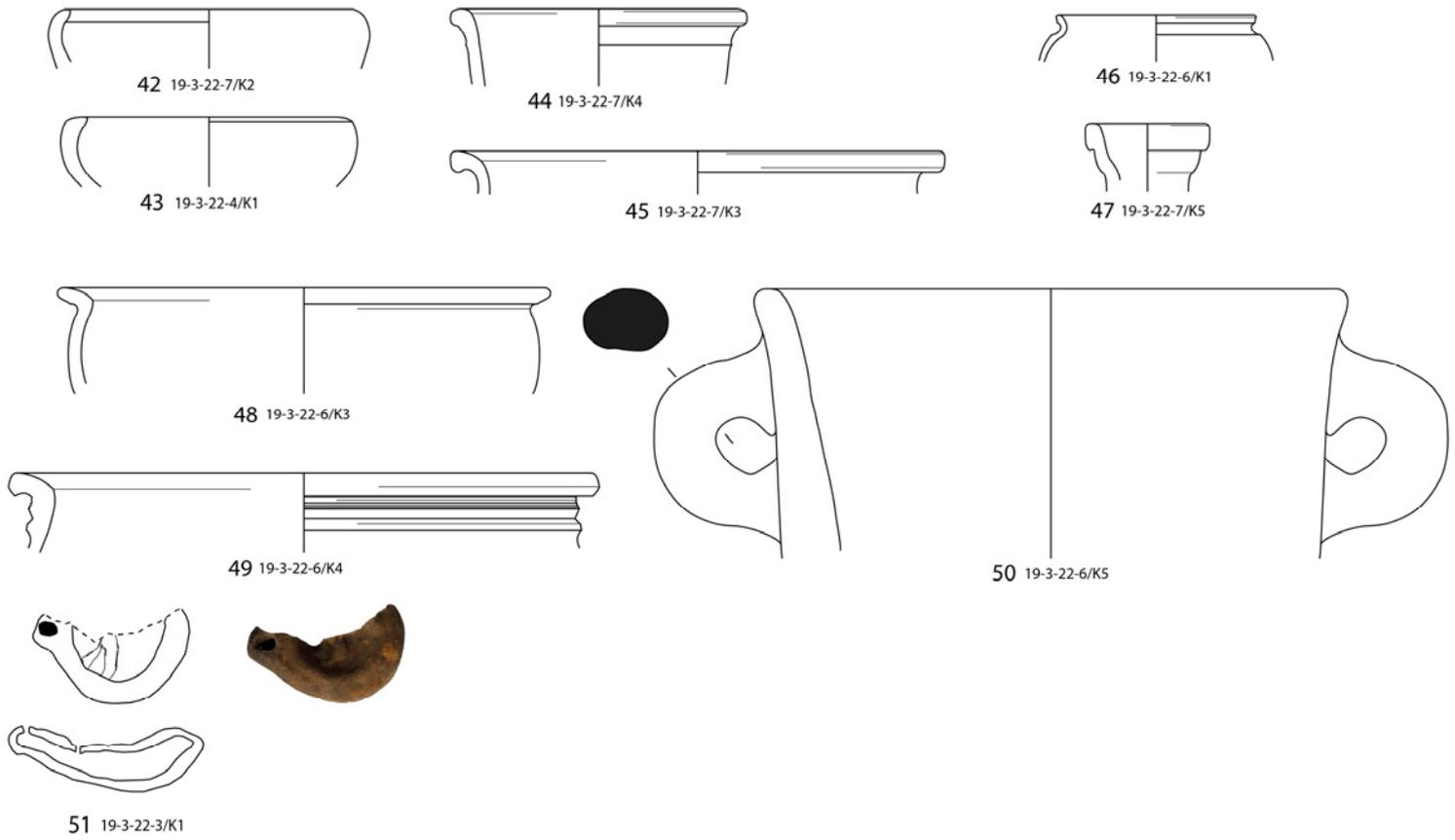


Fig. 25: Area 3: Pottery of Context 4 (Stratum J/1). Scale 1:3.

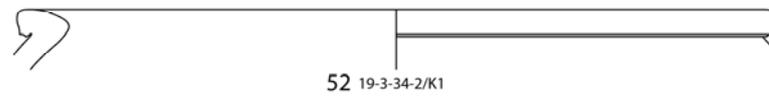


Fig. 26: Area 3: Pottery of Context 5 (Stratum J/1). Scale 1:3.

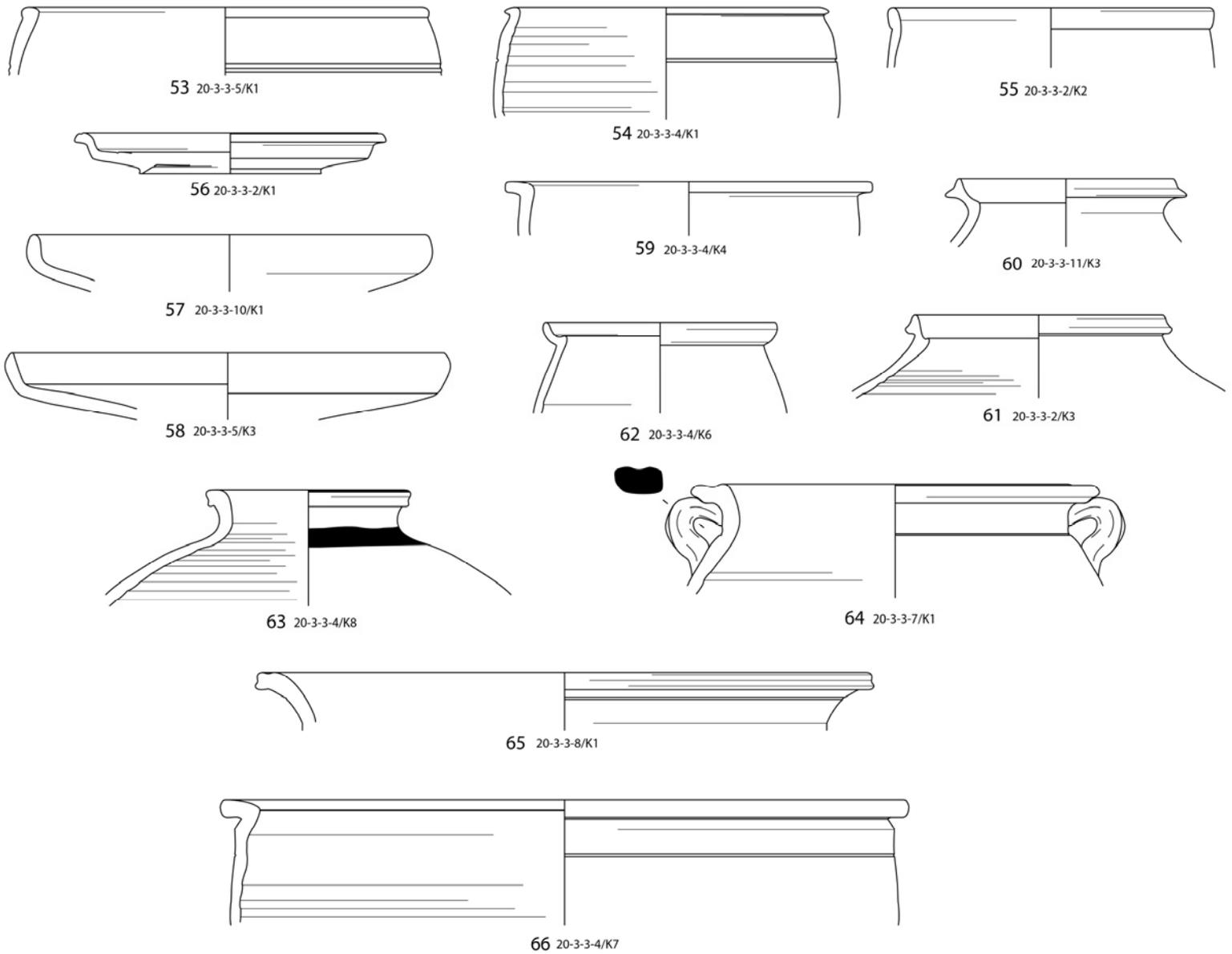


Fig. 27: Area 3: Pottery of Context 6 (Stratum J/1). Scale 1:3.

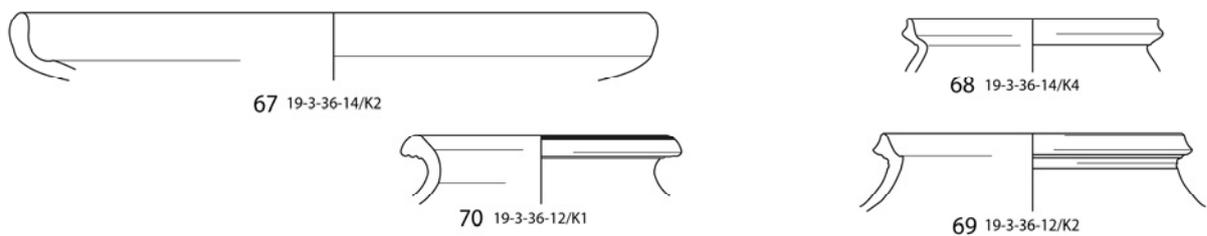
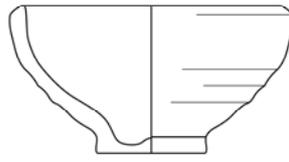
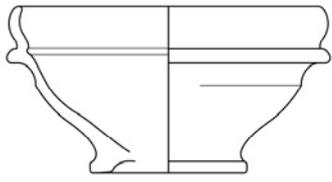


Fig. 28: Area 3: Pottery of Context 7 (Stratum J/1). Scale 1:3.

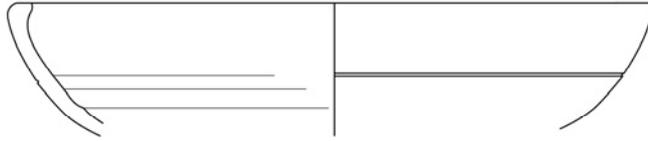


71 20-3-4-7/1/K1

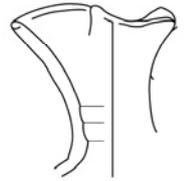
Fig. 29: Area 3: Pottery of Context 8 (Stratum J/1-H). Scale 1:3.



72 19-3-33-5/K1



74 19-3-35-3/K2



76 19-3-35-3/K1



73 19-3-35-2/K4



75 19-3-35-2/K2



77 19-3-35-2/K6



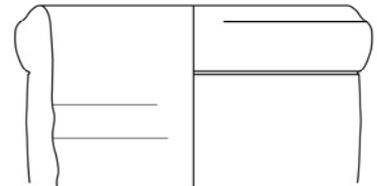
79 19-3-35-2/K5



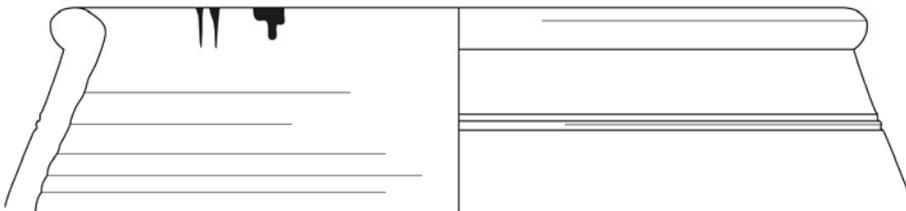
78 19-3-33-5/K2



80 19-3-33-5/K4



82 19-3-35-2/K7



81 19-3-35-3/K3



83 19-3-33-5/K3

Fig. 30: Area 3: Pottery of Context 9 (Stratum H). Scale 1:3.

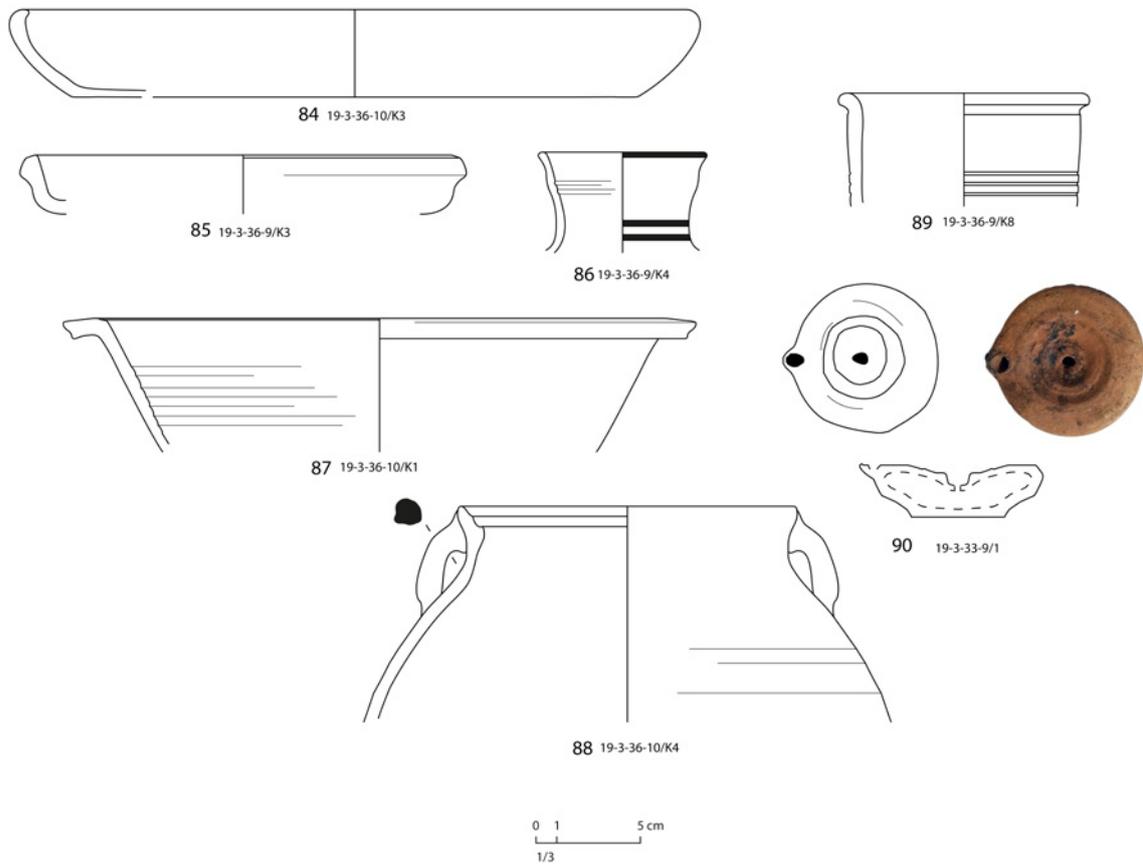


Fig. 31: Area 3: Pottery of Context 10 (Stratum H).

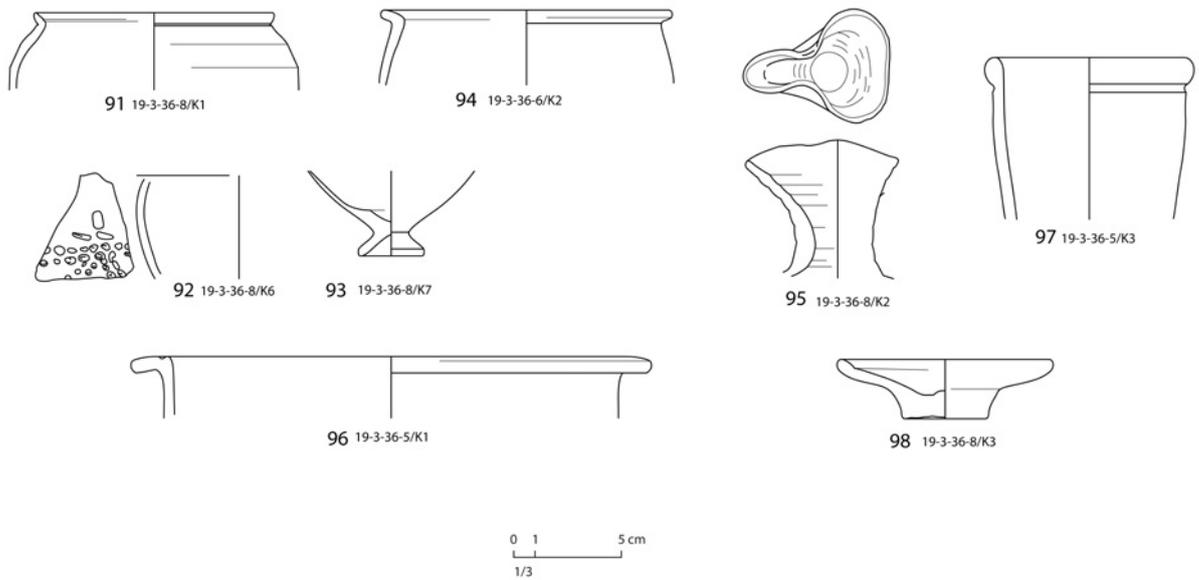


Fig. 32: Area 3: Pottery of Context 11 (Stratum H).

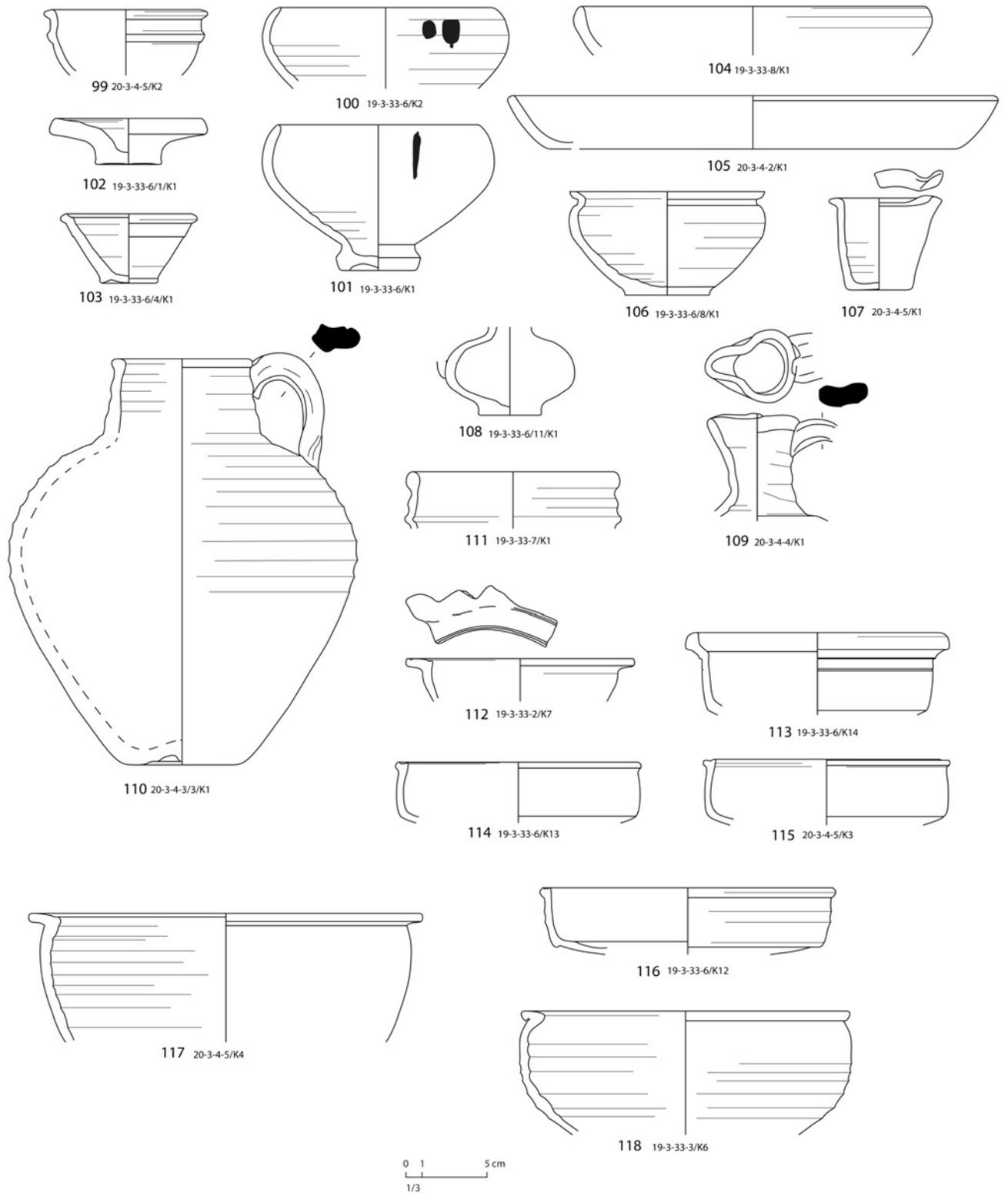


Fig. 33: Area 3: Pottery of Context 12 (Stratum H).

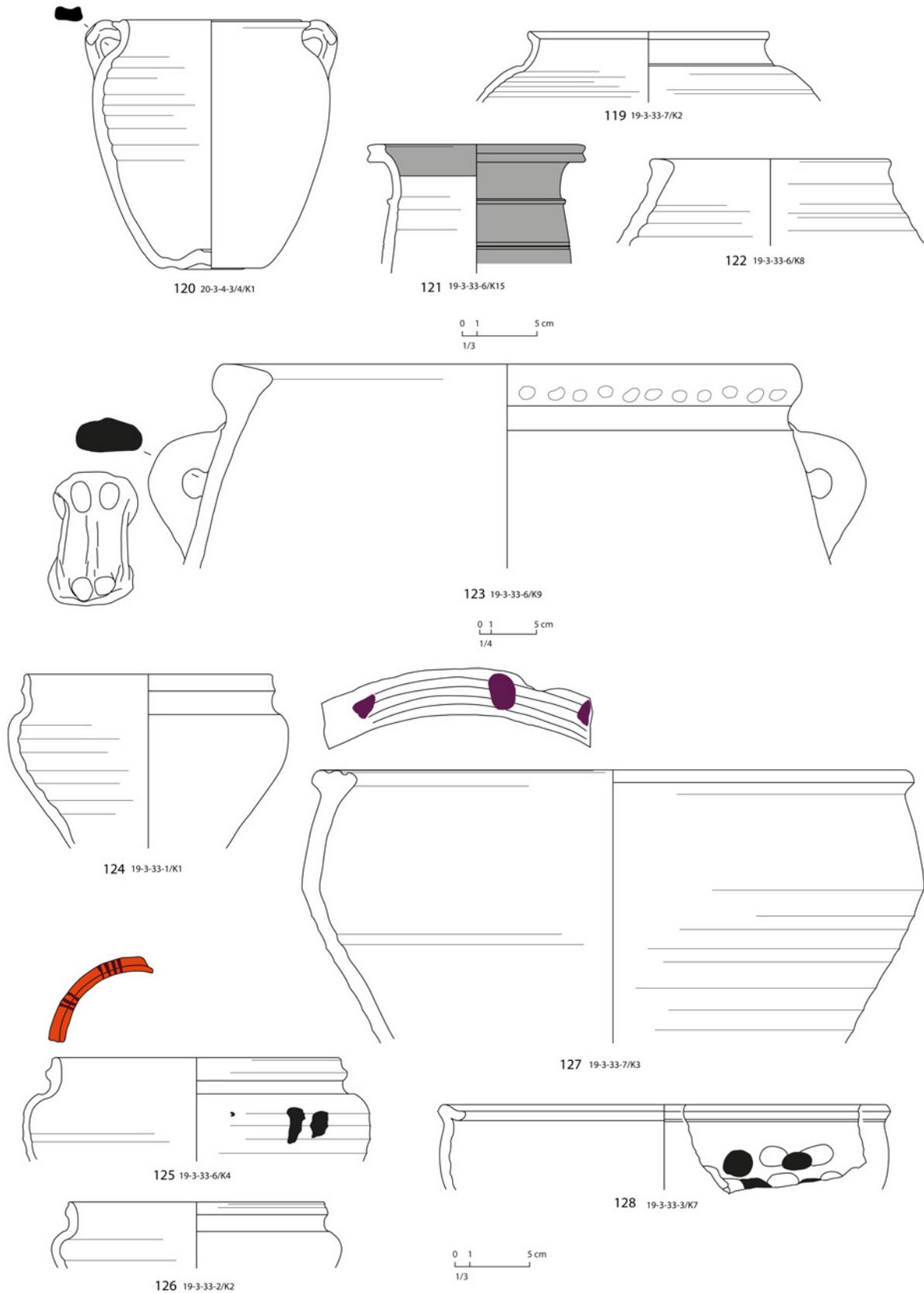


Fig. 34: Area 3: Pottery of Context 12 (Stratum H)

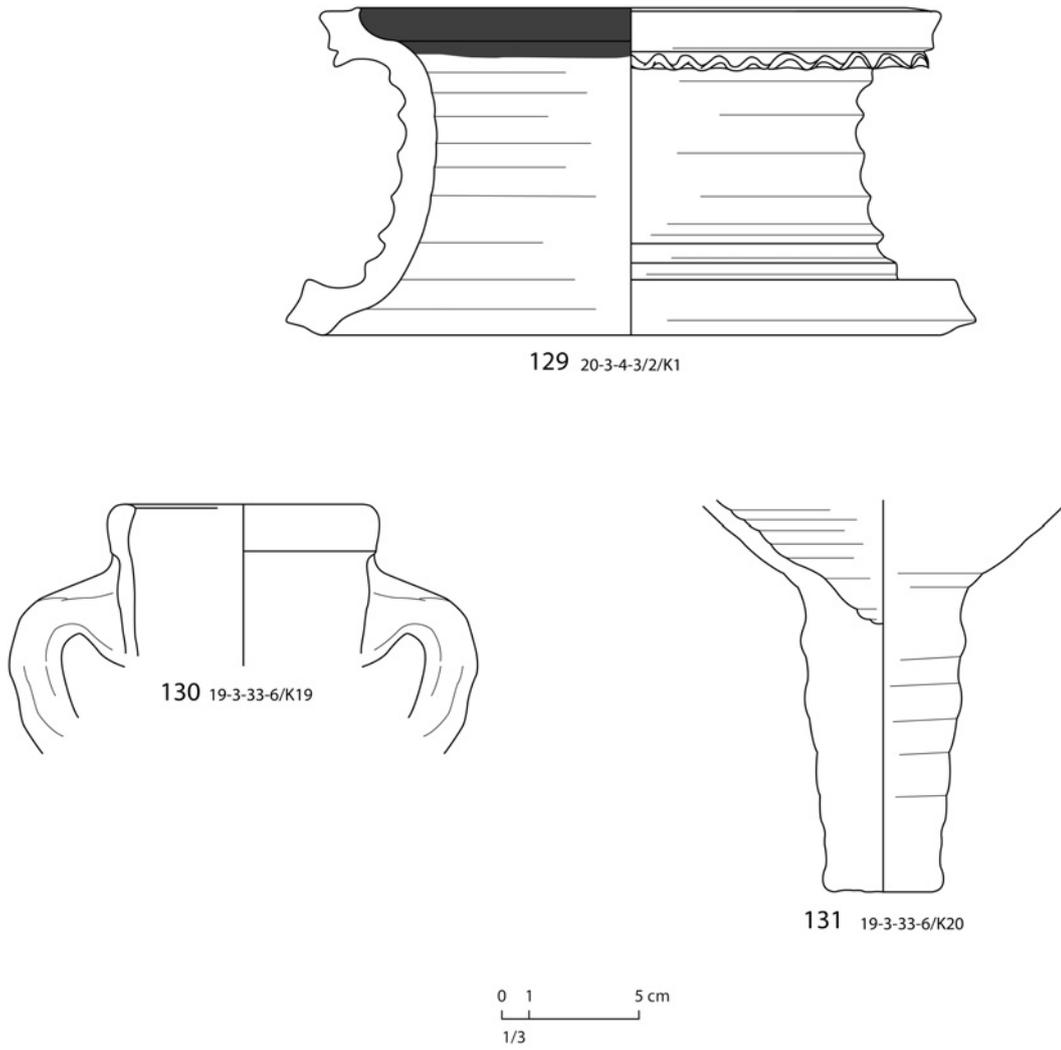


Fig. 35: Area 3: Pottery of Context 12 (Stratum H). Scale 1:3.