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Stone vessels from Tell el-Farkha

In 2001-2006 there were a few dozens of stone vessels discovered in Tell el-Farkha¹. The most interesting are those found in closed sets (graves and structures) on the Eastern Kom (grave 9 and 50 as well as structure 45) and those related to the Early Dynastic votive deposit from the Western Kom (structure 211). The analyzed material allows to draw mainly chronological conclusions based on stratigraphy, pottery material and analogies to other Egyptian sites.

The structures in question are preliminarily dated to the period of Dynasty I.

GRAVE 9

DATE: beginning of Dynasty I - Narmer

In this grave there were two stone vessels: 1 bowl of basalt (E06/61) and 1 bowl of alabastre (E06/62), 27 pottery vessels (3 jars, 4 medium-sized jars, 4 small jars with flat body, 9 cylindrical jars, 6 bowls, 1 miniature vessel), 2 geometric palettes of schist (E06/66; E06/67), 1 bone spoon (E06/63), 53 beads of carnelian found on the deceased's right hand and by the left hip (E06/78), a bead of faience (E06/78), 1 fragment of a pottery miniature vessel and a piece of ochre.

E/06/61

Measurements: H: 8.2 cm; RoD: 14.5 cm; BtD: 4.0 cm

A vessel in a bowl form. The angle between walls and the bottom's surface is slightly obtuse. The rim is straight with a sharp edge. The notch between the wall and the bottom surface is slightly rounded. The bottom is flat and squat. Material: basalt.

E/06/62

Measurements: H: 6.2cm; BD: 14.5; RiD:-; RoD: 14.6cm; BtD: 5.5 cm

A vessel in a bowl form. The angle between walls and the bottom's surface is medium obtuse. Massive, thick walls and a squat bottom.

The analysis of stone vessels from grave 9 allows to date the burial with a great probability to the beginning of Dynasty I, till the reign of Djer. Forms of this type were popular during the late predynastic period till the end of Dynasty I. Their examples are numerous vessels found in Mastaba 3471 in Saqqara² and in graves from the necropolis in Zawiyet el-Aryan³. At the same time, attention should be drawn to the fact that in the grave in question there was a pottery vessel with Narmer's serekh discovered – the first ruler of Dynasty I. Such an object that so precisely dates the whole set may suggest that the burial should be dated to the reign of Narmer. The vessels were placed one on the other just by the deceased's face.

GRAVE 50

DATE: end of I Dynasty: Semerchet – Qa'a

In grave 50 there were 11 stone vessels, all together, of alabastre and sandstone (1 large plate – E06/48 – and 1 cylindrical jar – E06/46, 2 small cylindrical jars (E06/40; E06/45), 1 bowl – E06/47, 2 spindle-shaped miniature vessels – E06/41; E06/42; 3 miniature jars with straight shoulders – E06/36; E06/37; E06/39; 1 small jar – E06/43), 1 fragment of a basalt bowl (E06/75), 37 pottery vessels (35 small jars, 2 bowls), 1 decorated seal impression, 1 fragment of a seal impression (E06/59), 1 bead of faience (E06/23), 1 fragment of a rattle (E06/16), 1 fragment of a faience object (E06/17), 1 pottery counter (E06/57) and a deposit of 5 pottery models of granaries (E06/31; E06/32; E06/33; E06/34; E06/35)

¹ Basic Measurements:

H vessel's height from the bottom's outer surface to the rim's edge

BD body diameter – maximum body diameter

RiD rim's inner diameter – diameter of the inner rim's edge

RoD rim's outer diameter – diameter of the outer rim's edge

BtD bottom's diameter – diameter of the outer bottom's surface

² W. B. Emery, *The Great Tombs of the First Dynasty I*, 1949 pp. 64-69

³ D. Dunham, *Zawiyet el-Aryan – The cemeteries adjacent to the Layer Pyramid*, pp. 6-11

Vessel E/06/48

Measurements: H: 4.8cm; BD: -; RiD: -; RoD: 40cm; BtD: 10.2 cm

An open form. A vessel in form of a very large bowl. The angle between walls and the bottom's surface is very obtuse. Walls are straight, the rim is also straight with flat edge. By the bottom where the walls touch the bottom's edge there is a sharp bent. The bottom is flat and slightly squat.

Analogous are stone vessels from Mastaba 3500 in Saqqara dated to the reign of Qa'a⁴. Another example can be a plate-shaped vessel from the excavations in El Qara. Presently the object is stored in the Brooklyn Museum collection. Its height is 5.7cm and the width of the rim line is over 39 cm. The vessel was made of calcite-alabastre and is dated to the period before Dynasty II.⁵

Vessel E/06/47

Measurements: H: 4.8cm; BD: -; RiD: 20.2; RoD: 21.2cm; BtD: 5.0 cm

An open form. A vessel in form of a bowl. The angle between walls and the bottom's surface is very obtuse. Walls are straight and so the rim with rounded edge. By the bottom where the walls touch the bottom's edge there is a clearly visible bent that also forms a small base. The bottom is flat and slightly squat.

Analogous are vessels found in Mastabas: 3500⁶, 3504, 3120 and 3121⁷ in Saqqara. The vessel from the group in question corresponds to group S3 in Emery's classification. The form is popular during the reign of Dynasty I, periods of Hor-Aha and Den in particular. Their production tradition was continued to the very end of Dynasty II⁸.

Vessel E/06/41

Measurements: H: 6.5cm; BD: 4.8cm; RiD: 2.4cm; RoD: 3.5cm; BtD: 2.0cm

E/06/43

(fragment)

A closed form. Vessels with a medium wide body, a very oblique neck and a slightly separated shoulders. Walls in the upper part of the body are the most protruding and then they slightly narrow falling down to the bottom. The neck is squat. The rim's edge is slightly rounded. The whole vessel's shape is archwisely curved. The bottom is flat or slightly rounded.

Analogies for the vessels (E/06/41 and E/06/43) are numerous examples discovered in graves 452, 856, 926 dated to Dynasty I in Abu Roash. The graves themselves are similarly dated to Dynasty I⁹.

E/06/42

Measurements: H: 8,1cm; BD: 4,5cm; RiD: 3,0cm; RoD: 3,6cm; BtD: 2,0cm

A closed form. Vessels of this type are in contrast to the previously distinguished ones. They have a narrow body with a slightly convex outline. Walls are slightly bent outwards. A hardly marked notch cuts the rim out of the shoulders. The outer rim's outline is convex in shape. The rim is slightly rolled and its edge is rounded. The bottom is flat and squat.

Analogies are vessels from Early Dynastic graves in Tell el-Fara'on¹⁰ and Minshat Abu Omar, where a fragment of an identical vessel was found in a richly furnished, male burial dated to Dynasty I.¹¹

E06/39

Measurements: H: 6.2cm; BD: 10.2cm; RiD: 4.3cm; RoD: 6.2cm; BtD: 3.0cm

A closed form. A middle-sized and very squat vessel. Broad shoulders which walls slightly bent inwards and up to the neck. Its walls are slightly concave, the rim is widen to the inside and has a sharp edge. The bottom is flat and squat.

⁴ W. B. Emery, *The Great Tombs of the First Dynasty I*, 1949 pp. 70-80

⁵ W. Needler, *Predynastic and archaic Egypt in the Brooklyn Museum*, 1984 p. 250

⁶ W. B. Emery, *The Great Tombs of the First Dynasty III*, 1959, pp. 101 - 108

⁷ W. B. Emery, *The Great Tombs of the First Dynasty I*, 1949, pp. 116 - 140

⁸ W. B. Emery, *The Great Tombs of the First Dynasty I*, 1949, p. 140

⁹ A. Klasens, *The excavations of the Leiden Museum of Antiquities at Abu-Roash. Report of the third season, 1959, part I, XLI*, 1960 pp. 69-94

¹⁰ I. A. Mostafa, *Some object rating from the Archaic period found at Tell Fara'on-Imet, GM, v. II*, 1988 pp.

¹¹ *Minshat Abu Omar II. Ein vor- und frühgeschichtlicher Friedhof in Delta. Gräber 115-204*, pp. 124-128

Analogous is a vessel found in Wardan, in a grave dated to Dynasties I-II. Next to stone vessels there were also a few pottery ones.¹²

E/06/36

Measurements: H: 5.1cm; BD: 9.9cm; RiD: 4.0cm; RoD: 5.8cm; BtD: 3.0cm

E/06/37

Measurements: H: 5.1cm; BD: 11cm; RiD: 4.0cm; RoD: 6.2cm; BtD: 3.0cm

A closed form. Small-sized and squat vessels. They have broad shoulders with walls slightly diagonally bent inwards to the neck. Its walls are also slightly concave. The rim is wider from the inside with a rounded edge. The bottom is flat.

In 1965-83 excavations on the site of Tell el-Fara'on there was a pre- and Early Dynastic cemetery uncovered, where a significant amount of stone objects comes from. In one of the graves the deceased was surrounded with nothing but calcite vessels and two of them can be analogous to the vessels from Tell el-Farkha¹³. Examples are known also from other sites: Tell Basta¹⁴, Tarkhan¹⁵ enabling to date the Tell el-Farkha's vessels to the reign of the next to last ruler of Dynasty I - Semerkhet.

The typological analysis of stone vessels found in grave 50 together with numerous examples known from the Delta area and from Upper Egypt allows to state that the burial should be dated to the reign of the last two rulers of Dynasty I – Semerkhet or Qa'a.

The majority of vessels was made of calcite-alabastre and sandstone, both rather soft and easy-to-model raw materials. Their particular popularity coincides with Dynasty I. The vessels from grave 50 do not diverge from certain standards on account of their shape and form from vessels discovered on many sites in the Delta or Upper Egypt (PRZYPIS). They may confirm the existence of a cultural unification or a trend for this type of containers. The number of discovered stone vessels in relation to other objects, i.e. pottery forms, certifies only the high status of the former ones. Perhaps, it is not a coincidence that they all were deposited in just one grave. Vessels in closed sets are often found in places completely separated from other objects. Anyway, it is similar in graves from Minshat Abu Omar¹⁶. It also happens very often that stone vessels are deposited just by the deceased, close the head and the face in particular, while other offerings are far from the body or concentrated by its lower part.

STRUCTURE 45

DATE: 2nd half of Dynasty I

In the structure, the majority is formed by closed forms. 3 examples represent jars (10N1; 11N2, 17N8), further 3 are small, squat vessels with shoulders bent outside (13N4; 16N7; 14N5), 1 small bowl (15N6) and 1 jar of Palestinian tradition (12N3).

E/05/10N1

Measurements: H: 14cm; BD: 10,8cm; RiD: 4,7cm; RoD: 6,4cm; BtD: 5,3cm

A closed form in a jar shape made of calcite-alabastre. The vessel has a squat neck with walls slightly concave to the rim's inside. The upper rim's surface bends to the outer edge with a wide angle. The lower rim's outer edge has a sharp notch. In the upper part the vessel has a protruding body then the walls diagonally fall to the massive and flat bottom. The vessel is well preserved. The rim is slightly jagged. In the inside, there are traces of processing visible – rubbing and stroking. On the surface, there are also visible some black spots – rests of some organic substance.

Analogies are vessels recently discovered in Tell el Ibrahim Awad. In a grave dated to the Early Dynastic period, there were a few pottery forms and small vessels in the type in question made of

¹² K. Kroeper, Settlement in the Nile Delta to the end of the Old Kingdom – according to contemporary archaeological evidence (an unpublished doctoral thesis) pp. 242 - 243

¹³ I. A. Mostafa, Some Objects Dating from the Archaic Period Found at Tell el-Fara'on-Imet, GM 102 (1988), pp. 75-76

¹⁴ K. Kroeper, D. Wildung, Minshat Abu Omar. Müncher Ostdelta Expedition. Vorbericht 1978-1984

¹⁵ W. M. F. Petrie, Tarkhan I and Memphis V 1913

¹⁶ K. Kroeper D. Wildung, Minshat Abu Omar II. Ein vor- und frühgeschichtlicher Friedhof in Delta. Gräber 115-204, pp. 3-234

calcite-alabastre¹⁷. Further examples come from Tarkhan¹⁸. In three grave, there were vessels in similar forms and shapes. They are dated to the Early Dynastic period, the reigns of Den, Andjib or Semerkhet in particular¹⁹.

E/05/11N2

Measurements: H: 8.4cm; BD: 5.6cm; RiD: 1.8cm; RoD: 3.4cm; BtD: 2.2cm

A closed form in a jar type made of calcite-alabastre. A vessel with a medium wide body, very squat neck and slightly separated shoulders. Walls in the upper part of the body are the most protruding, then slightly narrowing they fall to the bottom. The neck is squat. The rim's edge is softly rounded. The vessel's outline is archwisely bent, the bottom is flat. The vessel is well preserved. It is unfinished from the inside off. On the surface, there are black spots visible, interpreted as rests of some organic substance.

In royal tombs in Abydos, there were identical vessels but all with damaged rims. They were discovered in the Mastabas of the last two kings, Semerkhet and Qa'a²⁰. The further ones were found in Tarkhan in grave 162 and dated to Dynasty I. Petrie assigned the type to class 78h²¹.

E/05/17N8

Measurements: H: 9.8cm; BD: 5.7cm; RiD: 3.4cm; RoD: 4.4cm; BtD: 2.7cm

A closed form in a jar type made of calcite-alabastre. The vessel has a narrow body with a slightly convex outline. Walls are slightly bent outwards. A small notch cuts the rim off the shoulders. The outer side has a convex outline. The rim is slightly rolled, its edge rounded. The bottom is flat and squat. The vessel is well preserved. On its surface, there are black spots visible, interpreted as rests of some organic substance.

Analogies are vessels from the site of Tell Ibrahim Awad. In a burial from layer X dated to Dynasty I were found a few pottery and 6 calcite vessels, two of which are identical to vessels 17N8 from Tell el-Farkha²².

E/05/13N4

Measurements: H: 11.5cm; BD: 13.5cm; RiD: 3.3cm; RoD: 6.6cm; BtD: 5cm

A closed form made of calcite-alabastre. It has a very broad upper part of the body. Its outline is trapezoid. Shoulders are clearly marked and visibly moved outwards. The rim is obliquely widened outwards, with a rounded or slightly sharpened edge. The edge itself is bent along the straight angle. Between the rim and the shoulders, there is a small notch. The bottom is flat and squat. The vessel is preserved in two parts. It is probable that this state represents an attempt of repair of the upper or lower part of the vessel. Both parts are made of the same material. On the vessel's surface there are black spots visible, interpreted as rests of some organic substance.

Analogies are vessels found in graves 315, 684 and 908 on the necropolis in Sedment. One vessel from grave 315 (Dynasty I) is incomplete. However, its state of preservation enables to catch its general shape²³. Vessels from graves 684 and 908 are far better preserved. Graves 684 and 908 are dated to Dynasty II²⁴. In B. Aston's opinion, forms of this type were very popular during Dynasty I – VI²⁵.

E/05/16N7

Measurements: H: 8.5cm; BD: 12.6cm; RiD: 3.7cm; RoD: 6.4cm; BtD: 6.3cm

¹⁷ E. C. M. van den Brink, *Transitional Late Predynastic – Early Dynastic Settlement in the Northeastern Nile Delta, Egypt*, MDAIK 45 1989, pp. 55-73

¹⁸ W. M. F. Petrie, *Tarkhan I and Memphis V* 1913 tabl. XLIV

¹⁹ B. G. Aston, *Ancient Egyptian stone vessels: materials and forms*, Heidelberg Orientverlag, 1994, p. 100

²⁰ W. M. F. Petrie, *Diospolis Parva. The cemeteries of Abadiyeh and Hou* 1901, tabl. LI

²¹ W. M. F. Petrie, *Tarkhan I and Memphis V* 1913 p. 3; tabl. XLIV

²² E. C. M. van den Brink, *Transitional Late Predynastic – Early Dynastic Settlement in the Northeastern Nile Delta, Egypt*, MDAIK 45 1989, pp. 65-66

²³ W.M.F Petrie , G. Brunton, *Sedment I*, London 1924, tabl. III:38

²⁴ W.M.F Petrie , G. Brunton, *Sedment I*, London 1924, p. 75 tabl. V:71

²⁵ B. G. Aston, *Ancient Egyptian stone vessels: materials and forms*, Heidelberg Orientverlag 1994, p. 123

A closed form made of calcite-alabastre. It has a very broad upper part of the body. Its shape is trapezoid. Shoulders are clearly marked and slightly go diagonally to the rounded body. The neck is visibly separated from the rim and the body has its walls slightly concave. The rim is widened on the outside and has a rounded edge. The bottom is flat and medium squat. The vessel is well preserved. On the surface, there are black spots visible, interpreted as rests of some organic substance.

Analogous is a vessel found in Mastaba 3504 from Saqqara. The burial is dated to the reign of Djoser - Dynasty I²⁶. In one of chambers labeled GG were discovered: a dozen or so of fragments of bones, flint tools, vessels of pottery and also of breccia. W. Emery assigned it to group G13 – “barrel-shaped” and squat vessels²⁷.

E/05/14N5

Measurements: H: 7cm; BD: 15.3cm; RiD: 3.8cm; RoD: 6cm; BtD: -

A closed form made of sandstone. A small-sized and very squat vessel. Shoulders are broad, massive and the body is rounded. The neck's walls are slightly concave, the rim is widened outwards with a rounded edge. The bottom is also rounded. The vessel is badly preserved. The rim is partially damaged.

Analogous is a calcite vessel found in a female grave from the necropolis in Minshat Abu Omar. In the grave dated to Dynasty I, there were 7 calcite vessels²⁸. One of them is identical to the vessels from Tell el-Farkha. It is squat with clearly separated shoulders. In this case, the bottom is flat.

E/05/12N3

Measurements: H: 7.2cm; BD: 6cm; RiD: 2.9cm; RoD: 3.5cm; BtD: 3.5cm

A closed form made of calcite-alabastre. The vessel has its walls archwisely bent and on their central part there are *wavy handles*. The neck is slightly squat with straight walls. The rim is widened obliquely outwards and has a rounded edge. The bottom is flat and squat.

From the Delta area, there is a very limited amount of stone vessels known, that can be analogous for the form in question. One of them is a small-sized vessel made of basalt discovered on the site of Tell el Daba'a in a grave dated to Dynasty I. Beneath the rim, it is surrounded by *wavy handles*²⁹. The shape and some details such as the handles' type are borrowings from culturally strange regions. The fusion of vessel production traditions from Palestine and the Delta are the result of mutual contacts. An inspiration were also vessels of Levantine tradition³⁰.

E/05/15N6

Measurements: H: 4.5cm; BD: 5.1cm; RiD: 3.6cm; RoD: 4.4cm; BtD: 3cm

A closed form in shape of a beaker, made of calcite-alabastre. The rim is straight with slightly rounded edge. The vessel's walls are archwisely bent outwards. The bottom is flat and medium squat. The vessel is composed of a few fragments that in their shape resemble flat discs.

Analogous are fragments of a vessel found in grave 81 from Tarkhan dated to the beginning of Dynasty 0. The burial itself was very well preserved and the vessel was deposited by the deceased's face. According to Petrie's classification, forms of this type belong to group 26d³¹.

Another examples are vessels discovered in two burials dated to Dynasty I (1571 and 3053) from Naga ed-Der. In both cases, the vessels were made of calcite-alabastre. According to Reisner's classification, they belong to group XX³².

The discovered group comprises of 8 vessels made of calcite-alabastre and 1 of sandstone. All of them were placed in an upside-down position, very tightly adhering themselves. The set's arrangement suggests that the vessels were primarily deposited in a basket or a plaiting. Small amounts of organic traces were found *in situ* and seem to confirm the theory. All the vessels are of small size.

²⁶ K. M. Ciałowicz, *Początki cywilizacji egipskiej*, 1999 p. 273

²⁷ W. B. Emery, *The Great Tombs of the First Dynasty I*, 1949, p. 135

²⁸ K. Kroeper D. Wildung, *Minshat Abu Omar II. Ein vor- und frühgeschichtlicher Friedhof in Delta. Gräber 115-204*, pp. 109-113

²⁹ E. C. M. van den Brink, E. Braun, *South Levantine influences on Egyptian stone and pottery production: some rare examples*, in press

³⁰ E. C. M. van den Brink, E. Braun, *South Levantine influences on Egyptian stone and pottery production: some rare examples*, in press

³¹ W. M. F. Petrie, *Tarkhan I and Memphis V* 1913 pp. 8-9

³² G.A. Reisner, *The Early Dynastic Cemeteries of Naga-ed-Der, Part I* 1908, pp. 43-100

Forms of this type are typical for the period of Dynasty I. They are common for many sites in Upper and Lower Egypt. Vessel 10N1 – in form of a barrel-shaped jar was particularly popular from the reign of Den to Qa'a, the last ruler of Dynasty I. Vessel 11N2 was at the height of its popularity from the reign of Andjib to Qa'a. Vessels like 13N4 appear mainly in the 2nd half of Dynasty I. Other vessels (16N7; 14N5; 15N6 and 12N3) on account of their relatively rare occurrence of their forms and shapes are quite difficult to date. Nevertheless, they may be surely assigned to the period of Dynasty I. Vessel 12N3 is very interesting and of doubtlessly Levantine tradition³³. The made of calcite jar has in the central part of the body two, completely preserved *wavy handles*. Vessels of Palestinian tradition are quite commonly registered in the Delta area and Palestine, though. Particularly popular were pottery vessels in forms similar to our object. Stone vessels shaped as the vessel from Tell el-Farkha belong to the minority, what may be a proof that we deal with a unique discovery. This type of vessels should be dated to Naqada IIIa2, with its popularity height during Dynasty I. The analysis of the stone vessels from structure 45 enables – with a great probability – to date this structure to the 2nd half of Dynasty I.

STRUCTURE 211

DATE: Dynasty I

Further stone vessels were found within structure 211, delimited inside a rectangular room surrounded with a wall of sun-dried-bricks. The room's filling consisted of homogenous, little cohesive cultural layer where many fragments of pottery vessels were discovered, as well as two stone vessels (W06/01 and W06/02) and a pottery jar with a deposit of 62 bone and stone objects, among them also miniature vessels.

W/06/01

Measurements: H: 7.6cm; BD: -; RiD: -; RoD: 17.5cm; BtD: 6.5 cm

An open form. A bowl. The angle between walls and the bottom's surface is middle obtuse. The walls are thin and the bottom is not squat. The vessel is made of basalt.

Analogous is a vessel from a grave from the site of el-Ma'mariya, dated to Dynasty I. It is made of limestone. Its height is less than 8 cm and its width 22.2 cm³⁴. Needler assigns the vessel from el-Ma'mariya to group S20 in Emery's classification³⁵.

W/O6/02

Measurements: H: 10.1cm; BD: 9.2cm; RiD: 5.8cm; RoD: 7.5cm; BtD: 3.5cm

A closed form. A vessel in a beaker form with a straight rim and flat edge. The rim's diameter is smaller than the maximum body diameter. Walls are archwisely bent outwards. The lower walls' edge is sharply curved – it goes to the flat and slightly squat bottom.

Analogous is a vessel of an unknown origin, dated to Dynasty I. Like the vessel from Tell el-Farkha, it has archwisely bent walls. The rim's edge is rounded, the bottom is also flat. The vessel is made of limestone. El-Khouli assigns this type to class XXXI, according to his classification, that is vessels in a beaker form with archwisely bent walls and a flat bottom³⁶.

Miniature vessels:

WD06/1

Measurements: H: 2.4; BD on the handles level: 1.5 cm; RoD: 1.4cm; BtD: 0.8 cm

A closed form in a jar shape. A miniature stone vessel made of calcite-alabastre. In the upper part of the body, there are two *wavy handles*. The vessel is complete and well preserved.

Analogous is a vessel from a grave found in Beni Amir. The tomb is dated to the period of Nagada II d2-IIIa2. The vessel is made of black porphyry. Its form is identical to the vessel from the Tell el-Farkha deposit. It has two *wavy handles*. The rim is rolled, the vessel's walls narrow to the flat bottom.

³³ E. C. M. van den Brink, E. Braun, South Levantine influences on Egyptian stone and pottery production: some rare examples, in press

³⁴ W. Needler, Predynastic and archaic Egypt in the Brooklyn Museum, 1984 pp. 106-107, fig. 16:139

³⁵ W. Needler, Predynastic and archaic Egypt in the Brooklyn Museum, 1984 p. 107

³⁶ A. A. R. H. el-Khouli, Egyptian stone vessels in predynastic period to dynasty III, 1978, pp. 652, tabl. 118:5064

The vessel itself is of insignificant measurements³⁷. Another example comes from the site of Abu Zaidan. The vessel is dated to the period of Naqada II-III. It is made of serpentinite. Lack of any data on the context of its discovery. The only information is that it comes from a grave³⁸.

WD06/2

Measurements: H: 3.2; BD on the handles level: 2 cm; RoD: 1.8cm; BtD: 1 cm

A closed form in a jar shape. A miniature stone vessel made probably of basalt. In the upper part of the body, there are two *lug handles*. The rim is rounded, the bottom is flat.

Analogous may be a vessel of an unknown origin, dated to the Gerzean period – Early Dynastic. The vessels also in a jar form has two visible *lug handles* in the upper part of the body. The vessel is of significant measurements. Its bottom is flat and squat³⁹.

WD06/3

Measurements: H: 1.6; BD-; RoD: 4.8 cm; BtD: 1.5 cm

An open form in a bowl shape. A miniature vessel made of porphyry. Well preserved. In the inside, there are traces of processing visible. On the outside, the walls are smooth. The bottom is flat.

WD06/4

Measurements: H: 5.2; BD-; RoD: 1.5cm; BtD: -

A closed form. The vessel is made in form of a canteen with vertical handles. In the inside, there are traces of processing visible. The bottom is rounded.

WD06/9

Measurements: H: 3.2cm; BD 2.1cm; RoD: none; BtD: 1.3cm

A vessel made of alabastre. The very weak state of preservation and lack of a part of the rim disables the identification of the shape and form, although with some probability it may be assumed that it is a vessel in a jar form.

WD06/12

Measurements: H: 1.9cm; BD-; RoD: 1.9cm; BtD:-

A vessel made of calcite-alabastre. The very weak state of preservation disables the identification of its form. The bottom is pointed.

WD06/13

Measurements: H: 2.8cm; BD 2.6cm; RoD: 2.0cm; BtD: 0.8cm

A closed form in a jar shape. A vessel made of calcite-alabastre. Badly preserved. In the inside, there are traces of processing visible. The rim is rounded (?), the bottom is flat.

The vessels found in Tell el-Farkha are in forms typical for many sites in Lower and Upper Egypt. In the period in question, they were commonly used, that is why the small amount of findings on the site is quite surprising. A few dozens of completely preserved items and the same number of fragments is not much when compared with objects coming from neighbouring sites. It may a result of lack of needs for products of this type caused by probably low wealth level of people living in the area. This state may reflect, however, lack of qualified craftsmen, too or use for objects of this type. On the other hand, among numerous standard forms, there are also some unique items. Perhaps, it is the state of research or the still too small excavated area that disable some more precise research or analyses.

³⁷ M. A. el-Moneim, Late Predynastic – Early Dynastic mound of Beni Amir (Eastern Delta), [w:] Krzyżaniak L., Kroeper K., Kobusiewicz M., (ed.) Interregional Contacts in the Later Prehistory of Northeastern Africa, Poznań 1996, pp. 58-79

³⁸ W. Needler, Predynastic and archaic Egypt in the Brooklyn Museum, 1984

³⁹ J. Payne, An Early Amethyst Vase, JEA vol. 60, 1974