

## **The Brooklyn Museum's 2016 Season of Fieldwork at the Precinct of the Goddess Mut at South Karnak**

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### *Abstract*

Excavations took place in two squares west of the Taharqa Gate. The first, closer to the gate, linked two previously excavated sections of the Dynasty 25 paving leading west from the gate. The second, near the precinct's west enclosure wall, attempted to find the western extent of paving, but was unsuccessful in achieving that goal. A new inventory of the site's Sakhmet statues was carried out to bring the catalogue done in 2001 up to date. As to restoration, a section of the face of the north enclosure wall was rebuilt to protect sculptures in front of it from drifting dirt.

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The archaeological expedition to the Precinct of Mut at South Karnak is a project of the Brooklyn Museum conducted under the auspices of the American Research Center in Egypt and with the permission of the Ministry of Antiquities.<sup>1</sup> The 2016 season took place January 13-February 22, 2016. It was primarily a study season with limited excavation.

Fig. 1 is a plan showing in general the area where the expedition worked in 2016; that work is described below.

### ***Excavation west of the Taharqa Gate***

When the final enclosure wall of the precinct was built in the late 4<sup>th</sup> century BC, the Taharqa Gate was no longer needed and was at least partially blocked. The Mut Expedition's

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<sup>1</sup> The Expedition acknowledges with gratitude the cooperation and assistance of officials of the the Ministry of Antiquities, in particular Mahmoud El-Damaty, Minister of Antiquities; Mr. Hany Abu Elazm, Director of Foreign Missions Affairs and Permanent Committees; Dr. Sultan Eid, Director General for Upper Egypt; Mohamed Abdel Aziz, Director for Karnak; Amin Amar, Assistant General Director for Karnak; Ahmed Araby, Chief Inspector, Mut Precinct (until Feb. 9); Ahmed El-Leity, Chief Inspector, Mut Precinct (Feb. 10 onward); and Yassir Mohamed Abdu, the MOA Inspector assigned to the Expedition.

The staff for this season were Richard A. Fazzini, Egyptologist and Director; Mary E. McKercher, Assistant Director, archaeologist and photographer; Jacobus van Dijk, Egyptologist, epigrapher and object registrar; Julia C. Harvey, pottery analyst; and Dr. W. Benson Harer, archaeologist. Funding for the 2016 season was provided by R. Fazzini and M. McKercher.

excavations have revealed that the land to its west was filled in and leveled, probably in the early Ptolemaic Period, so that houses could be constructed west of the gate, within the protection of the new enclosure walls.<sup>2</sup>

A wide mud brick wall, built on the landfill, served as the south boundary of this area and is perpendicular to the face of the Taharqa Gate (fig. 2). This wall runs west for the full length of the area we have excavated and presumably continues beyond the limits of our excavation. It is preserved to a height of 13 courses or more. The Dynasty 25 paving lies 100-110 cm below the bottom of this wall.

Between 2010 and 2013, the expedition uncovered two areas of the 25<sup>th</sup> Dynasty paving west of the gate, separated by an unexcavated area.<sup>3</sup> These excavations revealed that the paving turns southward a short distance from the gate, running under the later, Ptolemaic wall. In 2016 the remaining area was cleared, exposing the paving for a distance of 22 m. Fig. 3 shows the area at the start and end of the season and fig. 4 is a plan of the paving running west from the gate as revealed by 2016.

As in the previously excavated squares, the area excavated in 2016 was devoid of architectural features for the width of the excavation (c. 3 meters), with the exception of a patch of sandstone on baked brick that may have been a step or shallow stairway at the east end of the square (fig. 5). The feature was just below the preserved top of the Ptolemaic wall against which it was built. A better-built 3-step stair had been uncovered in earlier seasons at the extreme SW corner of the area, but founded on a lower surface. The top step of the western stairway, at least, is level with the preserved top of the mud brick wall.

As with the squares to the east and west, in the 2016 excavation the earth between the top and bottom of the mud brick wall consisted of fairly heavy concentrations of pottery, all Ptolemaic in date. At the bottom of the wall the expedition uncovered a low barrier of grey clay

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<sup>2</sup> See R. Fazzini, "Report on the 1983 Season of Excavation at the Precinct of the Goddess Mut", *ASAE* 70 (1985), pp. 303-305 and the reports on the Brooklyn Museum's 2009-2013 seasons of fieldwork at the Mut Precinct (in English and Arabic) at <https://www.brooklynmuseum.org/features/mut>.

<sup>3</sup> See reports on the 2010-2013 seasons: <https://www.brooklynmuseum.org/features/mut>.

running parallel to the wall and filled with pottery and several oyster shells. Similar features were found in 2010 and 2011 in the squares to the east and west respectively (fig. 6a-c).<sup>4</sup>

Below the surface on which the grey clay barriers were built was a heavy concentration of debris made up of decayed dark grey/black brick that extended north for c. 1.5 m. Just above the paving, the bricky debris ends in a rough row of small blocks. There is a clear demarcation between the mound of bricky debris and the earth to its north. When the expedition removed the easternmost part of the Ptolemaic mud brick boundary wall in 2010, it uncovered two stubs of wall made of the same grey/black brick.<sup>5</sup> It seems obvious, now, that whatever this building was, it was completely demolished and its remains spread out as part of the landfill on which the Ptolemaic wall was built.

### ***Excavation at the west enclosure wall***

One goal of the 2016 season was to attempt to find the western limit of the 25<sup>th</sup> Dynasty paving. While we know that the Taharqa Gate opened a processional road leading to Temple A, which was a mammisi by Dynasty 25, we don't know where it led from. To try to answer that question, we determined the probable line of the Dynasty 25 paving and laid out a 5 x 5 m. square bracketing that line 26.1 m west of the west limit of our earlier excavations, near the precinct's west enclosure wall. The square was excavated to a depth of 3.5 m without reaching any paving or stonework. The square contained 3 unrelated walls. From latest to earliest they are:

- A mud brick wall running diagonally NE-SW across the northwest corner of the square (Wall A). Seven courses are preserved although the top 4 courses were cut by later pitting. The wall was built directly on a stratum of pottery about 35 cm deep that produced a number of whole pots (see pottery discussion below). A trench that runs the full length of the square at c. 50 cm from the west baulk cuts the west end of this wall and the pottery dump (fig. 7).
- A mud brick wall whose west face was precisely on the line of the square's east baulk (Wall B). It is parallel to the face of the enclosure wall 7.6 cm to the west. The wall begins 40 cm from the square's northeast corner and continues into the south baulk. At the north end 14

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<sup>4</sup> R. Fazzini, *The Brooklyn Museum's 2010 Season of Fieldwork at the Precinct of the Goddess Mut at South Karnak*, pp. 6-7 and fig. 18; idem, *The Brooklyn Museum's 2011 Season of Fieldwork at the Precinct of Mut at South Karnak*, p.3 and fig. 11. Both online at <https://www.brooklynmuseum.org/features/mut>

<sup>5</sup> R. Fazzini, *The 2010 Season*, pp. 5-6 and figs. 6, 7, 15. Online at <https://www.brooklynmuseum.org/features/mut>

courses are preserved, but at the south end only 9 courses remain. Its bottom is uneven as the bricks were laid to accommodate uneven ground (figs. 7, 11).

- A north-south mud brick wall (Wall C) c. 275 cm west of wall B; its top course is c. 55 cm below the bottom of wall B (fig. 8). This wall runs c. 275 cm north from the south baulk. Its southern section was cut by later pitting and only 3.5 courses remain. Of the wall running west from the north end, only a single course was preserved.

The whole square was extensively pitted, making it difficult to sort out the stratigraphy. In fact, it seems to have served as the village dump for the precinct for many years. Fig. 9 shows the ashy debris sloping down from the top of Wall B, the ash deposits in the northern part of the square running over and cutting wall A.<sup>6</sup> These upper ash levels contained a mixture of Ptolemaic and early Roman pottery (see below), so some dumping continued, at least sporadically, into at least the late 1<sup>st</sup> century BC.

The bottom of wall C is c. 65 cm above the lowest level we reached, a stratum that contained no ash, although it is overlaid with a thin layer of burning at the east baulk and in the SE corner of the square. At its highest, 6 courses of well-laid brick were preserved. At the north end, where the bricks were laid over the edge of a large pit, the wall is only 2-4 courses tall (fig. 10). The pit runs diagonally NE-SW from the NE corner of the square (fig. 8). It is shallow the east baulk, but was almost a meter deep in the west at the point at which we stopped digging and was full of pottery.

At the 5<sup>th</sup> course from the bottom of Wall C (i.e., above the pit in the NE part of the square) a fairly uniform surface covered most of the square. The exception was along the south baulk where we were still in the pitting that cut the south part of wall C (see below). This surface served as the base on which a fairly thick, pinkish plaster floor was laid. It ran almost the full length of the east baulk, but was extensively cut both to the north and to the south, the southern pit being the one that cut wall C. The plaster surface was in turn covered by a fairly thick stratum of bricky debris along its east side. Although it, too was cut by pitting, it seems likely that this debris is the same as the debris representing the collapse of a section of wall C (all visible in fig. 11).

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<sup>6</sup> At the level of the 3<sup>rd</sup> course (from the bottom) of wall A, an ancient animal hole cuts the ashy debris and runs into the north baulk. It is the hole in the baulk visible in many of the photographs of this area.

As is evident in fig. 11, Wall B was built directly on this bricky debris. In the center of wall B, a thin layer of ash lies atop the bricky debris on which the wall is built.

As already mentioned, the western part of the square was covered with a mound of pottery at least 35 cm deep that produced several whole pots. Its eastern edge runs diagonally northeast-southwest from just east of the animal hole in the north baulk. At its south end it is cut by an area of ash that is part of the same pitting that affected the southern end of wall C (fig. 12). There is a clear demarcation between the pottery mound and the area east of it (fig. 7). The composition of the pottery mound differs from the area to its south and east as it contains only pottery and soil, with very little ash. It is probably somewhat earlier than the material to the east, which clearly cuts through the western mound and, indeed, through most of the lower strata as well. However, all the pottery (except in the topmost ash levels) is Ptolemaic, ranging from perhaps the 3<sup>rd</sup> century to the mid- to late-2<sup>nd</sup> century BC. The pottery and ostraca are discussed below.

We propose the following sequence for the development of this small area. Wall B is constructed on the ruins of wall C and the plaster floor, possibly in the early Ptolemaic Period. By the 3<sup>rd</sup>/early 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC, the area to its west was being used as a dump (by the inhabitants of the Ptolemaic houses that were built within the precinct?) that may once have covered the whole space between wall B and the enclosure wall. However, the trench along the west side of the square and the pitting to the east make that impossible to determine. Wall A was built on top of this earlier dump.

By the mid- to late-2<sup>nd</sup> century BC, the structure of which wall A was a part was in ruins. Large garbage pits were dug between wall B and the enclosure wall and were filled with ash and household trash. The northern and southern pits were quite deep, the southern one cutting through several courses of wall C, but in the center and along wall B the pitting was shallower, merely cutting down to the level of the plaster surface. Once the pits were filled(?), garbage, much of it full of ash, continued to be thrown over wall B until the area was filled to the preserved top of that wall.

### **Ostraca** (figs. 13, 14)

The season produced 23 Demotic and 6 Greek ostraca. Of the Greek ostraca, all but one (27M.6) came from the eastern (=later) part of the western square. Dr. Klaas A. Worp, Professor Emeritus at Leiden University, kindly examined the Greek ostraca for us; his report is included

with this article. Ostrakon 27M.35 is dated to 105-104 BC (see below); ostrakon 27M.27 may refer to a year 40+ but that is uncertain; and ostrakon 27M.53 (actually a dipinto on the shoulder of an amphora) may be early Roman. The rest are undated.

The demotic ostraca are being readied for publication by Ms. Marina Escolano-Poveda, a doctoral candidate at Johns Hopkins University, who has conducted a brief, preliminary analysis. Only 10 of the ostraca are of identifiable types so far, including 4 accounts, 3 temple oaths, an agreement concerning a field, a report/complaint, and a receipt of payment, perhaps of salary. Only one (27M.7) is dated, to year 6 or 10 of an unidentified king. Palaeographically, however, Ms. Escolano-Poveda feels that all the ostraca are late Ptolemaic in date. This accords with the firmly dated Greek ostrakon and the pottery record (see below).

### Small finds

All the illustrations of the small finds are to the same scale.

#### *Eastern Square* (fig. 15)

Aside from oyster shells (unregistered), there were few small finds in the debris making up the landfill. Beside the possible stairway at the face of the Ptolemaic wall we found a bronze figure of Osiris (27M.5; fig. 15a).<sup>7</sup> The tang below its feet and the flat, curved back suggest it was once attached to a piece of furniture or other object.

From the upper levels came part of a hollow terracotta figure of a horse and rider (27M.2; fig. 15b),<sup>8</sup> the right side of the horse with the rider's leg and a saddle cloth being preserved. The saddle cloth has traces of red paint, and the square within it is white-slipped. While horses and riders are fairly common,<sup>9</sup> this particular version, with an elaborate saddle cloth and a bare-legged rider is less so. The closest examples with bare leg and elaborate saddle cloth that we have found are Boutantin's "Macédoniens", dated to the Hellenistic Period.<sup>10</sup>

Just above the paving we found part of the torso of a female fertility figure with her right hand touching her breast, a deeply impressed navel and a triangular pubic area with incised dots

<sup>7</sup> H: 9.5 cm (including tang); W. at elbows: 2.3 cm.

<sup>8</sup> H: 7.0 cm; W: 8.6 cm.

<sup>9</sup> See, recently, C. Boutantin, *Terres cuites et culte domestique: Bestiaire de l'Égypte gréco-romaine* (Leiden and Boston, 2014), pp. 162-216, esp. pp. 166-85.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 203-204, #29-32.

(27M.78; fig. 15c). Since similar figures are dated by Waraksa to the Third Intermediate Period-Late Period (Dynasties 21-26),<sup>11</sup> it's possible that this particular figure was deposited early in the build-up of earth on the paving.

We found only three decorated blocks in this area, one preserving only two hieroglyphs (not illustrated). From the upper level came a fragment of sunk relief inscription with part of the name of Mut (27M.WB.1; fig. 15d), and from just above the pavement a small raised relief showing Mut behind Amun (27M.WB.3; fig. 15e) that is probably 25<sup>th</sup> Dynasty in date.

### ***Western Square*** (figs. 16-17)

The material in the western square consisted almost entirely of domestic pottery, which confirms our supposition that the area was used to dispose of domestic trash by those living in the houses in the northwest quadrant of the precinct. The few objects of interest (other than ostraca) are described below. There were no bones, no glass, only 2 decayed and illegible coins, no lamps, and only two stone objects. There were many small fragments of faience, but only one identifiable, although broken, faience object: a musician playing a harp resting on his oversized penis (27M.72; fig. 16a),<sup>12</sup> from the pit that cuts the plaster floor in the NE corner of the square. From the same debris came an unidentifiable (to us) piece of a terracotta object (27M.46; fig. 16b<sup>13</sup>). The horizontal element is solid and the vertical element, decorated with what appears to be a ram's fleece, is hollow. We also found evidence of metalworking in the form of the spout of a crucible (27M.91; fig 16c)<sup>14</sup> and a piece of a crucible with copper slag adhered to it (not illustrated).

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<sup>11</sup> H: 4.3 cm; W: 6.2 cm; Th: 2.5 cm. See E. Waraksa, *Female Figurines from the Mut Precinct: Context and Ritual Function* (Göttingen, 2009) for a discussion of these figures, the latest of which she dates to Dynasty 26. 27M.78 most closely resembles her Type 3, specifically examples 13 and 14: pp. 186-87.

<sup>12</sup> H: 4.2 cm; W: 1.8 cm; D: 2.8 cm. Male figures playing a harp resting on an outsized penises are common in the Ptolemaic Period in terracotta as well as faience. See, e.g., L. Manniche, *Music and Musicians in Ancient Egypt* (London, 1991), p. 114. Such figures also occur in stone (e.g., Brooklyn Museum, acc. no. 58.34, illustrated in Manniche, *Music and Musicians*, pl. 1). For terracotta examples, see, e.g., D. Bailey, *Catalogue of the Terracottas in the British Museum*, vol. IV, *Ptolemaic and Roman Terracottas from Egypt* (London, 2008), 77-78 and pl. 43.

<sup>13</sup> H: 5.6 cm; w: 3.1 cm; l: 7.8 cm.

<sup>14</sup> L: 9.2 cm; W: 4.7 cm.

From lower in the same debris came the rear half of a hollow terracotta figure of a recumbent animal, possibly a bovine (27M.79; fig 16d).<sup>15</sup> In the western part of the square, near the intersection of the earlier pottery dump and the later pitting, we found the left torso of a hollow-cast terracotta figure of Harpocrates holding a pot and wearing an elaborately pleated yellow robe that covers him from shoulder to wrist (27M.57; fig. 16e).<sup>16</sup> He holds the pot, as usual, in his left hand, his right hand rests on his chest above the pot, and the sleeve of a tunic is discernible on his right arm. The head and neck are missing and the surface is quite worn so it is hard to say whether the forefinger of his right hand was raised to his mouth.

In the southwest part of the square, in the upper part of the ashy pit cutting the western pottery mound we found the heads and necks of two pottery horses (27M.45, 27M.69; fig. 17a-b)<sup>17</sup> that are more carefully modeled than many of the crudely-made equines so commonly found. They have long, straight necks broadening at the shoulders and heads created by bending a narrow strip of clay over the front of the neck. The eyes and snouts are modeled, with the ears and a headband applied separately. The mane of 27M.69 has traces of red paint but the mane of the other horse is too broken to determine if it was also painted. Given their similarity, they may perhaps have been made by the same hand, although they were found several days apart at different depths.

The bottom of the stratum on which wall C was built (the lowest level we reached) produced a limestone bust of a woman in a tripartite wig that seems to be complete as it has a smooth bottom (27M.88; fig. 17c).<sup>18</sup> Unfortunately her face has been completely worn away, so it is difficult to tell if she is a sculptor's model or an earlier ancestor bust that would be intrusive in

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<sup>15</sup>H: 6.2 cm; L: 9.2 cm; W: 7.7 cm

<sup>16</sup> H: 5.0 cm; W: 3.8 cm. We have not been able to find an exact parallel for the position of the pot on this figure. In most similar figures, rather than being clutched to the chest and held upright as here, the pot is held somewhat to the side and is tilted. See, e.g., British Museum EA27507 (3<sup>rd</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> century BC) or EA37560 (2<sup>nd</sup>-1<sup>st</sup> century BC), illustrated at [www.britishmuseum.org/research/collection\\_online](http://www.britishmuseum.org/research/collection_online). The closest parallels for the elaborate robe that we have found are L. Török, *Hellenistic and Roman Terracottas from Egypt* (Rome, 1995) no. 65, 66. On p. 65-66 he suggests a Late Hellenistic (2<sup>nd</sup>-early 1<sup>st</sup> century BC) date for both.

<sup>17</sup> 27M.45: H: 15.5 cm; w: 6.0 cm; D: 8.7 cm. 27M.69: H: 8.9 cm; W: 3.4 cm; D. 5.8 cm.

<sup>18</sup> H: 8.0 cm; W: 7.5 cm; D: 6.2 cm



this context.<sup>19</sup> And from the same level came a small faience disk with a bust of Bes on one side and a *wadjet*-eye on the other (27M.87; fig. 17d);<sup>20</sup> it is not pierced so may be a gaming piece.

The other stone object was an architectural element in the form of a frontal lion's head with a double mane (27M.WB.4; fig. 17e).<sup>21</sup> Its bottom is smoothed, and there is a channel cut into both sides of the mane, of which the one on the left side is more completely preserved. It was found at the edge of the earlier pottery dump, so it is unclear whether it belongs with that material or with the later pitting.

### **Pottery**<sup>22</sup> (figs. 18-30)

The pottery from the square nearest the Taharqa Gate is so similar to the other pottery from the adjoining squares<sup>23</sup> that no comments will be made on it here. The comments below deal only with the pottery from the western square. Except for the general shots, all the pottery is illustrated at the same scale.

The upper levels of ash (just below the modern surface) in the western square contained a mix of Ptolemaic and early Roman pottery (fig. 18), including the possibly early Roman ostrakon (27M.53, which is actually a dipinto or docket on the shoulder of an amphora). The make-up of the rest of the pottery from the western square is remarkably uniform whether from the upper levels of the pottery dump in the west half of the square or the lowest level we reached. Indeed, in several cases we found pieces from the same or very similar pots separated by a considerable

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<sup>19</sup> For a study of ancestor busts see J. Keith *et al.*, *Anthropoid Busts of Deir el Medineh and Other Sites and Collections : Analyses, Catalogue, Appendices* (Cairo, 2011).

<sup>20</sup> Diam: 1.8 cm; D: 0.4 cm. The association of Bes and the *wadjet*-eye is not uncommon and was noted by J. Romano in *The Bes-Image in Pharaonic Egypt* (PhD Diss., New York University, 1989), vol. 1, p. 71, note 148, which speaks of a headrest with Bes-image holding a *wadjet*-eye. On p. 197 he also mentions a Dynasty XXX Bes-image with a *wadjet*-eye on his chest. As Romano points out (pp. 14, 20), the iconography of Bes-images changed little after Dynasty XXVI, so dating such objects can be difficult.

<sup>21</sup> H: 9.7 cm; W: 12.4 cm; D: 9.5 cm.

<sup>22</sup> We express our thanks to David Aston who kindly agreed to have a look at a selection of photographs of this year's pottery. His expertise and his willingness to give up some of his precious free time in Luxor are much appreciated and contributed greatly to our understanding of this year's work.

<sup>23</sup> See R. Fazzini, *The Brooklyn Museum's 2011 season*, pp. 9-12 and figs. 26-34.

distance both horizontally and vertically. Figs. 19-20 show groupings of diagnostic sherds from several levels. The common elements are described below, followed by a discussion of some specific pieces.

## General

*Amphorae*: We found a number of rims and necks with handles attaching just below the rim and at the join of neck and shoulder, handles alone, and numerous short, cylindrical toes with a hole in the bottom, such as the examples in fig. 21a (not from the same amphora); many can be seen in figs. 19-20. Most are of marl, but some seem to be silt. This type of amphora is known from many sites. At Coptos it is Lawall's Type 1 transport amphora that first appears in Hellenistic 2 Assemblage (early 3<sup>rd</sup>-mid-2<sup>nd</sup> century BC) but is more common in the Hellenistic 3 Assemblage (mid-2<sup>nd</sup> - mid-1<sup>st</sup> century BC), the 2<sup>nd</sup> century being its *floruit*.<sup>24</sup> Parallels have been also been found, among other places, at Karnak<sup>25</sup>, Tôd<sup>26</sup>, the Valley of the Queens<sup>27</sup>. It is D. Dixneuf's AE amphora 2-4, which she says is characteristic of Upper Egypt and probably dates from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC.<sup>28</sup> However, at Elephantine, it is Gempeler's form K754 with a context of the

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<sup>24</sup> M. Lawall, "Egyptian and imported transport amphorae", in S.C. Herbert, A. Berlin *et al.*, *Excavations at Coptos (Qift) in Upper Egypt, 1987-1992* (= *Journal of Roman Archaeology*, Supplementary Series Number 53) (Portsmouth, Rhode Island, 2003), pp. 165-169, esp. fig. 101, nos. 7, 9, 10.

<sup>25</sup> J. Lauffray, *La chapelle d'Achôris à Karnak: 1. Les fouilles, l'architecture, le mobilier et l'anastylose* (Paris, 1995), p. 109 and fig. 54.147 (2<sup>nd</sup> century BC); and *idem*, "Maisons et ostraca ptolémaïques à l'est du Lac Sacré," *Cahiers de Karnak X* (Paris, 1995), p. 328, fig. 23.

<sup>26</sup> G. Pierrat-Bonnefois, "La céramique dynastique et ptolémaïque des fouilles du Louvre à Tôd, 1989-1991", *CCE* 6 (Cairo, 2000), fig. 224, 226, from "remblai n° 1" (p. 328, tp. Ptolemy IV [221-203 BC]).

<sup>27</sup> G. Lecuyot, "Amphores provenant de Thèbes-Ouest de la Basse Époque à l'époque copte", in S. Marchand and A. Marangou (eds.), *Amphores d'Égypte de la basse époque à l'époque arabe*, *CCE* 8, vol. 1 (2007), p. 374, fig. 7: Egyptian amphora foot from Dendara, "milieu III<sup>e</sup> siècle av. J.-C."; pp. 378 and 383, fig. 1.3 (Ptolemaic or early Roman).

<sup>28</sup> D. Dixneuf, *Amphores égyptiennes: Production, typologie, contenu et diffusion (III<sup>e</sup> siècle avant J.-C. - IX<sup>e</sup> siècle après J.-C.)* (Alexandria, 2011), p. 95 and fig. 73-76.

2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC to possibly the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD,<sup>29</sup> so it is obviously a long-lived form.

*Cooking pots:* Sherds from **two-handled bichrome cooking pots** of a thin, dark fabric with an orange slip on the interior of the neck and over the rim, sometimes to the shoulder, and an interior ledge on the rim to hold a lid (fig. 21b, left) were common. Very similar vessels were found at Coptos, where they begin in the Hellenistic 3 assemblage (mid-2<sup>nd</sup> - mid-1<sup>st</sup> centuries BC).<sup>30</sup> They are also known from Karnak (late Ptolemaic-early Roman),<sup>31</sup> and at Elephantine (K407, dated from early Augustan to perhaps the first half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD).<sup>32</sup> In the upper ashy level at the south end of the square we found a whole vessel (27M.61 – fig. 21b, right)<sup>33</sup> that was very similar to the bichrome ware except that it is unslipped. We also have examples of cooking pots with horizontal handles known from the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC but lasting into the early 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC (figs. 19, bottom; and 20, 2<sup>nd</sup> from top).<sup>34</sup>

There were also many examples of **handmade kitchenware**, including round lids with raised handles indented on both sides (e.g., fig. 21c), baking trays, and parts of what are probably handmade pithoi or storage bins (fig. 21d). Again, these are common in the Ptolemaic Period.

*Large wide-necked storage jars (Dinoi)*, made of marl clay with flat, everted rims and rounded (sometimes carinated) shoulders and small handles. They sometimes have a thin white slip outside and a red slip inside that was often swiped over the rim and shoulder (fig. 22a-b). The shape is very much like Gempeler's K300<sup>35</sup>, which he dates to late Ptolemaic-Augustan (i.e. late

<sup>29</sup> R.D. Gempeler, *Elephantine X: Die Keramik römischer bis früh-arabischer Zeit*, AVDAIK 43 (Mainz am Rhein, 1992), p. 197 and pl. 127.9-10.

<sup>30</sup> Herbert and Berlin, *Coptos*, pp. 84-85 and fig. 70, H3.40, H3.42.

<sup>31</sup> Lauffray, *Achôris*, p. 97 and fig. 46.166.

<sup>32</sup> Gempeler, *Elephantine X*, p. 168 and pl. 101.2-8.

<sup>33</sup> H. 16.7 cm; diam: 18.5 cm; diam of rim: 13.0 cm; diam of mouth: 9.5 cm.

<sup>34</sup> C. Defernez, "Analyse du mobilier céramique de l'agglomération", in D. Valbelle (ed.), *Tell el-Herr: les niveaux hellénistiques et du Haut-Empire* (Paris, 2007), p. 158.

<sup>35</sup> Gempeler, *Elephantine X*, p. 154 and pl. 88.1. He describes the vessel as having a red slip overall, not just inside and on the rim.

1<sup>st</sup> century BC-early 1<sup>st</sup> century AD). Similar vessels are known from Coptos<sup>36</sup>, Karnak<sup>37</sup>, Tôd,<sup>38</sup> all dating to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC, although the red wash over the rim of the pots from the Mut Precinct seems somewhat uncommon.

We also found four fragments of similar vessels but with a groove and applied knobs of clay on the top of the rim. One had a rounded shoulder (fig. 22c), the other a more sharply carinated shoulder, vestigial handles and a red wash over the rim (fig. 22d). The jar of fig. 22c came from the upper portion of the ashy debris in the southwest corner of the square, where it cuts the pottery mound; the other is from the eastern part of the square, deep in the ash layers. The closest parallel we have been able to find for the decoration is two kraters from Tebtynis illustrated by Ballet and Południkiewicz and dating to the late 2<sup>nd</sup>-early 1<sup>st</sup> century BC.<sup>39</sup> Admittedly, the resemblance lies only in the presence of applied knobs of clay; the fabric is Nile silt.

*Black ware* bowls and plates were found in practically every basket of pottery, mainly pieces of bowls with incurved rims (see figs. 18-20). However there were also several pieces of plates of various sizes, including a whole plate with a well in the center (27M.86 - a variant of a fish

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<sup>36</sup> Herbert and Berlin, *Coptos*, p. 67, fig. 46, no. H2.25 (described as having a “dirty white slip on exterior” but no interior slip), but lacking the groove below the rim; 88, fig. 67, no. H3.22, with groove, but with slightly different rim and no red slip.

<sup>37</sup> C. Grataloup, *La céramique tardive (Ptolémaïque, Romaine et Copte) du Temple d'Amon-Re à Karnak* (PhD Diss., Université Lyon II, 1989), vol. II, pl. 153.293 (described as Ptolemaic: vol. 1, p. 116), although her example lacks the groove below the rim and has larger handle. See also Lauffray, *Karnak X*, p. 309, fig. 4 (5<sup>th</sup> from the top) and p. 310, fig. 5 (LS 1154, with no groove below the rim), although no information about the fabric is given. Both are from favissa 2, dating to the reign of Ptolemy VIII.

<sup>38</sup> Pierrat-Bonnefois, *CCE* 6, pp. 308-9 and figs. 98-99 (silos: mid-2<sup>nd</sup> century BC); and p. 325 with fig. 289 (“remblai n° 2”: 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC [p. 328]). Similar vessels, but of Nile silt, are shown in figs. 260-67. Fig. 99 has small vertical handles like some examples found at Mut this year.

<sup>39</sup> P. Ballet, A. Południkiewicz, *La Céramique des Époques Hellénistique et Impériale – Campagnes 1988-1993, Tebtynis V* (Cairo, 2012), p. 98 and figs. 378-79.

plate?<sup>40</sup>) and a similar plate but without the well (27M.73<sup>41</sup>); both are ring-polished both inside and outside. Both are shown in fig. 23. While black ware is known from the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC to the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD, its *floruit* seems to be the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC,<sup>42</sup> which fits with the dating of the rest of the ceramic material from this square. The closest parallel to 27M.86 is from the Ptolemaic baths at Karnak, where KB45 is very similar in form to the Mut example but is red slipped and painted.<sup>43</sup>

*Flat plates with ring bases and beveled rims*, usually with a groove along the rim's inside edge. All are of Nile silt, but the surface treatment varies. Some are uncoated, but we found 2 fragments with a thin white wash on the inner surface that extended irregularly over the exterior (fig. 22e-f).<sup>44</sup> This is not uncommon, and is perhaps in an attempt to imitate finer, marl wares.<sup>45</sup> Other examples (e.g., fig. 34g) had a ring-polished red slip inside but were uncoated outside. A complete plate (27M.93<sup>46</sup> – fig. 23a), from a pit in the lowest level we reached, was white washed on the inside with a thicker red slip around the rim and blotches on the inner surface; the exterior was uncoated. A fragment of a similarly-decorated plate, but with a broader ring base, (fig. 22h) came from the same level. This mix of red and white slip is noted by Pierrat-Bonnefois on a jar

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<sup>40</sup> H.: 5.8 cm; diam: 23.5 cm. Cf. Ballet and Południkiewicz, *Tebtynis* V, p. 63-4, where they mention a version “à lèvre interne”, illustrated in fig. 198-99. However, the example in fig. 198 has a red slip rather than being of black ware.

<sup>41</sup> H. 4.3 cm; diam.: 18.8 cm

<sup>42</sup> See A. Masson, “Persian and Ptolemaic Ceramics from Karnak: Change and Continuity,” in *CCE* 9 (2011), p. 279, fn. 76 for references to discussions of this fabric. See also, C. Grataloup, “Karnak. Temple d’Amon-Rê, 1990,” in *BCE* XV (1991), 22-23.

<sup>43</sup> M. Boraik, M. Naguib, “Ceramic Material from the Area of the Ptolemaic Baths Excavations in Front of Karnak Temples (Op. 176)”, *Karnak* 14 (2013), KB45: pp. 93 (Phase 2, late Ptolemaic Period), 144 (ill.)

<sup>44</sup> Cf. D. Aston, *Elephantine XIX: Pottery from the Late New Kingdom to the Early Ptolemaic Period*, AVDAIK 95 (Mainz am Rhein, 1999), pl. 346 (Nile C variant 1 with cream/pink slip) and pl. 119.3089, from Phase VII late 3<sup>rd</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> century BC).

<sup>45</sup> Pierrat-Bonnefois, *CCE* 6, p. 327.

<sup>46</sup> H: 6.5 cm; diam: 25.5 cm; diam. of base: 9.5 cm.

from “remblai n° 2” (2<sup>nd</sup> century BC) at Tôd,<sup>47</sup> but is otherwise unfamiliar to us at Mut. And finally, there were the two black ware plates mentioned above. The rim shape and base of the second plate (27M.73)<sup>48</sup> closely resemble those of 27M.98, although the former is from a later phase of the pitting.

These plates copy Greek originals and are known from many sites in Egypt from about the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC.<sup>49</sup> C. Defernez provides a useful analysis of the evolution and distribution of these plates in her discussion of the ceramic material from the “agglomération” at Tell el-Herr, noting that they appear in the mid- to late 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC at Naukratis, for example, but are most common in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC and down into the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC.<sup>50</sup>

*Large storage jars (zirs) with floral decoration on the shoulders.* While we found no complete examples in 2016, we found fragments in all levels, all seeming to be from the common 4-handled jars with the handles placed directly under the short rims. The floral decoration is painted in black/purple over a white slip. This decoration is G. Schreiber’s Floral Style A, which begins in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC and continues (though becoming less common) well into the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC.<sup>51</sup>

*Bowls/cups of various shapes and sizes* (fig. 24a shows a sample from a single level), including a hemispherical bowl with a groove below the rim (fig. 24e) and shallow and deeper bowls with incurved rims (echinus bowls) and ring bases (fig. 24b-d) or string-cut bases (fig. 25 a-c), and a few bowls with flaring but straight sides such as the one shown in fig. 25d (27M.60),<sup>52</sup> found with the whole cooking pot (27M.61) mentioned above.

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<sup>47</sup> Pierrat-Bonnefois, *CCE* 6, p. 324 and fig. 269

<sup>48</sup> H: 4.3 cm; diam: 18.8 cm; diam of base: 6.5 cm.

<sup>49</sup> E.g., Ballet and Południkiewicz, *Tebtynis* V, pp. 58-64 and pls. 13-15. At Tebtynis they are known until the Roman Period, but are most common in the 3<sup>rd</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> centuries BC.

<sup>50</sup> Defernez, in *Tell el-Herr*, p. 153.

<sup>51</sup> G. Schreiber, *Late Dynastic and Ptolemaic Painted Pottery from Thebes (4<sup>th</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> B.C.)* Dissertationes Pannonicae Ser. III, Vol. 6 (Budapest, 2003), pp. 46-50.

<sup>52</sup> H: 8 cm; diam. at rim: 18 cm. Cf. Boraik and Naguib, *Karnak* 14, KB 22.

The echinus bowls are ubiquitous throughout Egypt in the Ptolemaic Period. Very close parallels to the material discussed here were found in the Ptolemaic baths at Karnak, all from the baths' Phase 2,<sup>53</sup> which, if we read correctly, is the period between the abandonment of the baths and the construction and subsequent abandonment of structures above the baths in the later 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC.<sup>54</sup>

Slightly less common are bowls with flaring sides, everted rims, low but sharp carination and ring bases such as those illustrated in fig. 26. Like the echinus bowls, these, too, copy Greek originals<sup>55</sup> and are known from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries BC. Very often, as at Tebtynis<sup>56</sup>, they are of black ware, but according to Grataloup,<sup>57</sup> at Karnak, the silt versions with red slips overall seem to appear in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC and disappear by the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD. Indeed, many of the published examples of bowls of this shape seem to be of silt ware.<sup>58</sup> While two of the fragmentary examples found this year (fig. 26a-b) are of silt (one with red slip inside and a string-cut base; the other red slipped inside and outside with a ring base), three were of marl with a red slip inside and uncoated outside (fig. 26c-e). We know of this surface treatment both at Elephantine, on an example from Phase VII (late 3<sup>rd</sup> -2<sup>nd</sup> century BC),<sup>59</sup> and at Tebtynis on a 2<sup>nd</sup>

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<sup>53</sup> To cite just a few examples, Boraik and Naguib, *Karnak* 14, KB18- 20 (shallow, KB 19 with ring-polished red slip inside and over the rim); KB 21, KB 27 (incurved rim), KB 22 (flaring sides), all with string-cut bases; KB35 (hemispherical, ring base, red slipped inside and over the upper part of the outside); KB49 (straight sides, with groove under rim, low rounded carination, ring base); KB108 (marl, tall sides, slightly incurved rim, tall, flaring ring base).

<sup>54</sup> M. Boraik, S. el-Masekh, A.M. Guimier-Sorbets, B. Redon, "Ptolemaic Baths in Front of Karnak Temples, Recent Discoveries (Season 2009-2010)", *Karnak* 14, p. 47; Boraik and Naguib, *Karnak* 14, p. 79.

<sup>55</sup> See Defernez, in *Tell el-Herr*, p. 150, where she states that this type of bowl is introduced at Tell el-Herr in the 1<sup>st</sup> decades of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC, copying Greek models of the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC. Ballet and Południkiewicz, *Tebtynis* V, p. 45 agree.

<sup>56</sup> Ballet and Południkiewicz, *Tebtynis* V, p. 45.

<sup>57</sup> C. Grataloup, *BCE* 15 (1990), p. 26

<sup>58</sup> E.g., Aston, *Elephantine* XIX, pl. 118.3080 (Nile C variant 1, red slipped in, uncoated out), Phase VII (late 3<sup>rd</sup> -2<sup>nd</sup> century BC); Defernez, in *Tell el-Herr*, fig. 109, cat. 5-7 and pp. 167-68 (all whole or partially slipped).

<sup>59</sup> Aston, *Elephantine* XIX, pl. 118.3080, cited above.

century BC example.<sup>60</sup> Two similar bowls, with no ware information were found in the excavations at the Achoris chapel, dated by coins to the early 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC.<sup>61</sup>

Many of the bowls, particularly those of marl, are red-slipped on the inside and over the upper part of the outside. The slip is sometimes burnished and sometimes mat. This type of surface treatment is known in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC, probably being a precursor of the “color-coated ware” that begins in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC and is known at several sites in the 2<sup>nd</sup>-1<sup>st</sup> centuries BC.<sup>62</sup> Boraik and Naguib illustrate numerous examples in their publication of the pottery from Karnak’s Ptolemaic baths.<sup>63</sup>

*Perfume flasks*, of which we found a great many fragments and a few whole flasks; a selection is illustrated in (fig. 27). These are typically Ptolemaic and are known from a number of sites.<sup>64</sup> Close parallels were found most recently in the Ptolemaic baths at Karnak, all dated to the baths’ Phase 2.<sup>65</sup>

### Specific/Special

From the very top of the earlier pottery dump in the west part of the square came **three complete vessels** (fig. 28a-c): a deep ovoid silt jar with short neck and 2 handles (27M.41; fig. 28a);<sup>66</sup> a wide-mouth marl bowl with a shallow rim, rounded, carinated shoulder and ring base

<sup>60</sup> Ballet and Południkiewicz, *Tebtynis* V, p. 47, pl. 9.112, also silt.

<sup>61</sup> Lauffray, *Achôris*, p. 75 and fig. 49.22 and .192b.

<sup>62</sup> E.g., C. Harlaut, “Productions céramiques égyptiennes d’Alexandrie à l’époque ptolémaïque,” in F. Blondé *et al.* (eds.), *Céramiques hellénistiques et romaines. Productions et diffusion en Méditerranée orientale (Chypre, Égypte et côte syro-palestinienne)*, TMO 35 (Lyon, 2002), p. 270; and Defernez in *Tell el-Herr*, pp. 156, 169-70.

<sup>63</sup> E.g., Boraik and Naguib, *Karnak* 14, KB 3, p. 84 (shallow bowl – late Ptolemaic); KB 35, p. 91 (hemispherical bowl – late Ptolemaic); KB38 and KB40, pp. 91-92 (incurved rim, high ring base – late Ptolemaic); KB107 and KB 108, p. 106 (incurved rim – Ptolemaic).

<sup>64</sup> Pierrat-Bonnefois, *CCE* 6, pl. 309 (silos: mid-2<sup>nd</sup> century BC) with fig. 101.

<sup>65</sup> Boraik and Naguib, *Karnak* 14, KB98-100 (Phase 2, late Ptolemaic): pp. 104, 157; KB 141-2, KB144-148 (Phase 2, late Ptolemaic): pp. 113-14, 168-69.

<sup>66</sup> H: c. 31 cm; diam: c. 22.56 cm; diam of rim: 11.3 cm.



(27M.43; fig. 28b);<sup>67</sup> and a wide-mouth silt vessel with a very broad rim and tall ring base (27M.42; fig. 28c).<sup>68</sup> The wide-mouth silt vessel has a white wash over the rim and upper part of the body that has dribbled down the sides of the vessel in some places. The Ptolemaic baths at Karnak provide most recent parallels for the 2-handled jar (27M.41)<sup>69</sup> and the wide-rimmed, whitewashed vessel (27M.42).<sup>70</sup>

A quasi-parallel for the marl bowl, but with a slightly different rim, is given by A. Masson who notes that it is a new shape that first appears in the Ptolemaic Period.<sup>71</sup> A date in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC or perhaps in the late 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC would seem reasonable for these vessels.

We also found two almost complete **handmade juglets** in the western pottery mound. The first (27M.33; fig. 29a),<sup>72</sup> of Nile silt, has three small knob feet and a tall neck with an everted rim. The body is modeled and the handle is solid with some sort of decoration on the top that is unfortunately broken. While we know of no parallels, it was found in the ashy layers that built up over the western pottery mound and so may date to the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC, like the pottery found with it. The second (27M.59; fig. 29b),<sup>73</sup> of a marl, was round, but the upper half has been pinched in to a roughly trefoil shape, and the rim seems to have a black slip. Its one handle was broken off. This object was found at the lowest level of the western pottery mound.

A few pieces of **other types of amphora** were also found, including what appear to be a couple of “mushroom” rims (fig. 29c) that are either Aegean or Egyptian copies that are dated within the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. Dixneuf illustrates rims that are Egyptian copies of Rhodian or Cnidian

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<sup>67</sup> H: 19.0 cm; max. diam: 22.0 cm; diam of mouth: 12.4-12.8 cm; diam of base: 9.7 cm).

<sup>68</sup> H: 25.5 cm; diam of base: 15.0 cm; diam of rim: 26.2 cm; diam of opening: 15.0-16.0 cm

<sup>69</sup> Boraik and Naguib, *Karnak* 14, KB44: pp. 92 (Phase 2, late 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC), 143.

<sup>70</sup> Boraik and Naguib, *Karnak* 14, KB 106: pp. 105-106, 159; dated to Phase 2. While the profile is not exact (the lower half of KB106 is wider), the general shape and decoration are the closest we could find to 27M. 42. Aston publishes two wide-rimmed tall jars from Phase VI (3<sup>rd</sup> century BC) (*Elephantine XIX*, pls. 113.3003 and 116.3059), but they are uncoated and slightly different shape, while the Mut example lacks the supports under the rim.

<sup>71</sup> A. Masson, “Persian and Ptolemaic Ceramics from Karnak: Change and Continuity,” *CCE* 9, p. 279 and fig. 64.

<sup>72</sup> H. to top of handle: 7.3 cm; max. diam: 5.6 cm

<sup>73</sup> H: 9.5 cm; max. diam: 10.0 cm

and dates them from the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter to the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC.<sup>74</sup> Similar rims are known from Coptos,<sup>75</sup> Tôd,<sup>76</sup> Tebtynis,<sup>77</sup> and Tell el-Herr.<sup>78</sup> The ones this season came from both the earlier western pottery dump and the lowest level reached at the end of the season.

An amphora toe, with a short peg with a ring above it (fig. 29d), found in the pit cutting the south end of wall C, looks to be from a “proto-Rhodian” amphora (or an Egyptian copy), similar to ones found at Tebtynis and elsewhere<sup>79</sup> and dating to the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC. Another amphora toe (fig. 29e) that is probably Coan of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC<sup>80</sup> was found in the deep pit on the south edge of which wall C was built.

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<sup>74</sup> Dixneuf, *Amphores égyptiennes*, p. 82-3 and fig. 52.

<sup>75</sup> Lawall, in Herbert and Berlin, *Coptos*, pp. 159, 181 and fig. 108.66

<sup>76</sup> G. Lecuyot, G. Pierrat-Bonnefois, “Corpus de la céramique de Tôd: Fouilles 1980-1983 et 1990”, *CCE* 7 (2004), Td 228, p. 201 and pl. 17.228. They date this example to 222-51 BC but note it is the silhouette of a Rhodian amphora from the mid-3<sup>rd</sup> century BC.

<sup>77</sup> Ballet and Południkiewicz, *Tebtynis V*, pp. 161-62 and pl. 76.696 (“proto-Rhodian”, 1<sup>st</sup> half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC).

<sup>78</sup> D. Dixneuf, “La céramique hellénistique de la cave,” in D. Valbelle (ed.), *Tell el-Herr*, p. 52 and fig. 32, esp cat. 20-21 (Cnidian, 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC).

<sup>79</sup> Cf. Ballet and Południkiewicz, *Tebtynis V*, p. 161 and pl. 76.700-01; Pierrat-Bonnefois, *CCE* 6, fig. 130; based on comparison with material from Syene, she suggests a date in the first half of the Ptolemaic Period, i.e., third-second century BC. See also, C. Defernez, S. Marchand, “Imitations égyptiennes de conteneurs d’origine égéenne et Levantine (VI<sup>e</sup> s.-II<sup>e</sup> s. av. J.-C.)”, in B. Mathieu, D. Meeks, M. Wissa (eds.), *L’apport de l’Égypte à l’histoire des techniques*, IFAO BdE 142 (Cairo, 2006), fig. 17d: Rhodian amphora from the mid-third century BC; S. Marchand, “Amphores de Karnak (Cfeetk, secteur du “tombeau d’Osiris”) et de Dendara (Ifao, prospections et sondages sous la basilique)”, in Marchand and Marangou (eds.), *CCE* 8, vol. 1, 374, fig. 7: Egyptian amphora foot from Dendara, “milieu III<sup>e</sup> siècle av. J.-C.”; A. Marangou and S. Marchand, “Conteneurs importés et égyptiens de Tebtynis (Fayoum) de la deuxième moitié du IV<sup>e</sup> siècle av. J.-C. au X<sup>e</sup> siècle apr. J.-C.(1994-2002), *CCE* 8, p. 258 and figs. 105, 106 (end of the first half of the third century to the second half of the third century BC): an Egyptian copy of a Rhodian amphora in marl.

<sup>80</sup> Cf. Lawall, in Herbert and Berlin, *Coptos*, p. 183 and fig. 108.71; Ballet and Południkiewicz, *Tebtynis V*, pp.163-64 and pl. 78.710.

A tall jar stand (visible in fig. 8 and fig. 29f) came from the same pit. Its upper surface is orange-slipped with a decoration of black bands of two widths radiating out from the central hole; a common object and motif in the Ptolemaic Period.<sup>81</sup>

Aside from the Demotic ostraca (potentially), the most useful ceramic find in terms of dating was a **Rhodian amphora handle** (27M.82; fig. 30a) with a round stamp with a rose in the center and the name of the manufacturer [TI]MOΞENO[Σ], dated to Grace & Empereur's Phase V (146-104 BC) according to the database of matrices of stamps of Rhodian eponyms and manufacturers of the Centre Alexandrin d'Étude des Amphores.<sup>82</sup> It was found just east of wall C at the level of the bottom of the pit cutting the southern part of that wall. The findspot of a second stamped amphora handle, also with a round stamp and rose (27M.85; fig. 30b) is a little uncertain; it may be from an area of intersection between the earlier and later pottery accumulations. The abbreviation "EΠI" is faintly visible in the upper left, but the rest of the stamp is illegible.

## Conclusions

Judging from the admittedly few firmly datable items uncovered, it would appear that the bulk of the ceramic material found in the western square, at least in the ashy eastern section, dates to the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC and perhaps into the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC, assuming that a tax receipt from 105-104 BC would not be thrown away immediately and that the early Roman ostrakon is not intrusive. This accords with Ms. Escolano-Poveda's opinion that the Demotic ostraca are late Ptolemaic.

By this time, the space between precinct's western enclosure and the (presumably) early Ptolemaic wall B may have become virtually a waste area. Indeed, the presence of the slightly earlier pottery mound in the west half of the square suggests that already in the late 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC the area was being used as a dump. The later ashy pits in the eastern part of the square may be the result of the growth of the village (or group of habitations) west of the Taharqa Gate. In the excavated section of houses there were a number of ovens and kilns, which would have

<sup>81</sup> E.g., Boraik and Naguib, *Karnak* 14, KB52 from Phase 2 (late Ptolemaic): p. 94.

<sup>82</sup> [http://www.amphoralex.org/timbres/eponymes/accueil\\_epon/affiche\\_LRF.php](http://www.amphoralex.org/timbres/eponymes/accueil_epon/affiche_LRF.php) . The two matrices that resemble the example from Mut most closely are RF-TIMOΞENOΣ-012 (inv. no. Alex ABC 0016.40) and RF-TIMOΞENOΣ-020 (inv. no. CEALEX MAR 242 [MAR12.31013.11]).

produced a considerable amount of ash over the course of a half century. Since the sacred part of the Precinct (i.e., east of the blocked Taharqa Gate) continued to function into the Roman Period, the most convenient space for the inhabitants of the village to dump their garbage would have been in the space between the two large western walls.

Why the structure of which wall A was a part was built in this area and why it is oriented at an angle to the enclosure wall and wall B is something that we will have to explore in a future season.

### **Preservation and Restoration**

In 2013 the expedition rebuilt the face of the north enclosure wall from the west wing of the Propylon to the rear of the first sphinx to protect the area from dirt falling from the enclosure wall. In 2016 we continued this project, the new wall running all the way to Chapel D (fig. 31). As in 2013, we used the same method as the ancient wall: baked brick foundations with mud brick above.

### **Study of previously excavated material**

In addition to excavation, conservation and restoration, one of the goals of the season was to continue the study of inscriptional material at the site, both excavated and *in situ*. The texts of the Mut Temple's Montuemhat Crypt were compared to the original publication by Auguste Mariette as annotated by Charles Edwin Wilbour, and the walls of the crypt were completely photographed for eventual publication.

### **Sakhmet statue inventory**

In 2001 the Brooklyn Museum expedition prepared an inventory of the Sakhmet statues at the site, assigning each a number and providing the SCA with individual data sheets for each statue or statue fragment along with plans keyed to the numbers. In the years since 2001, more Sakhmets have been discovered and some existing statues that were partially buried have been excavated. In addition, most have been put on new bases, which sometimes resulted in the re-arrangement of the statues.

In 2016, the Brooklyn Museum expedition decided to update the Sakhmet inventory to include these changes. The locations of already-noted statues were confirmed and numbers were

assigned to previously unnumbered statues. New plans were made showing the location of the statues, along with photographs keyed to the plans. When dealing with fragments, the expedition only included those that preserve a significant part of a statue (e.g., head with crown, torso, feet, base) in order to give a more accurate idea of the number of Sakhmets in the precinct. Small fragments (e.g., part of an arm or an ankle) and large, unidentifiable blocks of stone were excluded.

The result of this inventory, a set of plans and photos, was given to the Karnak Inspectorate, and a copy was added to the folder kept in the office of the Chief Inspector for the Mut Temple that contains the individual data sheets.

## New Ostraca from the Mut Precinct at Karnak

Klaas A. Worp, Prof. Em. University of Leiden

The following are provisional transcripts of six new Greek ostraca found at the Mut Precinct, South Karnak during excavations conducted by the Brooklyn Museum. I am grateful to Richard Fazzini for showing me photos of these ostraca. I wish to thank my colleagues Willy Clarysse (Leuven, Belgium) and Peter van Minnen (Cincinnati, OH, USA) who helped me with establishing the readings of some ostraca. Clarysse paid special attention to texts no. **5** and **6** while van Minnen focused on text no. **2**.

### (1) 27M.6 (fig. 13.1)

1     ]. Παῶνι νὶ λ' ρ[

]. Payni ---[

Traces of 2 or 3 more lines

Notes:

Payni is a month name but precisely what follows thereafter is quite uncertain to me.

### (2) 27M.13 (fig. 13.2)

1     Ἀμω( ) Σώτου

‘Amo(nios)\_ son of Sotas’

Traces of 2 or 3 more lines.

### (3) 27M.53 (fig. 13.3)

This “ostrakon” is actually a docket (or dipinto) inscribed on the shoulder of an amphora, part of which the Mut Expedition was able to reconstruct, as shown in fig. 13.3. It reads Ερμιου βασιλικου γρ(αμματεως) (“[of] Hermias, Royal Scribe”) with the ρ written through the Γ as indicating an abbreviation. There is a Royal Scribe of this name supposedly functioning in the Ombite nome between 78-53 BC,<sup>83</sup> but there are various problems connected with that man,<sup>84</sup> and the Ombite nome and Karnak are separated by a fairly large distance. On the other hand, I am not absolutely certain that this clumsy handwriting is definitely

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<sup>83</sup> John F. Oates, *The Ptolemaic Basilikos Grammateus*. BASP Suppl. 8 (1995) p. 69

<sup>84</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 103-04.

100% 'Roman', but labelling it 'Ptolemaic' also raises some problems, and so suggest calling it 'early Roman'.<sup>85</sup>

(4) 27M.27 (fig. 14.4)

1 Ἔτους .[ 'In the year *n.* (lost)  
2 ].πτου οκυμ[  
3 ]πτοι μοι δι[

Ll. 2-3 offer no coherent text and for that reason there remains for me little to be translated. L.3 seems to offer 'to me' (= μοι) 'through' (= δι[α?]).

Given the fact that at the top of the sherd the text features a date, one may be dealing with the remains of a tax receipt vel sim. At some moment I thought that I could read in l. 1 the remains of the numeral of the regnal year as a damaged μ[ and μ= 40, so we would be then in a 40+?th regnal year, but I see no name of a ruler preserved. As to which ruler reigned in Egypt for 40+ years, there are two options: Ptolemy II, or the Roman emperor Augustus; and in the present case the sherd's handwriting does not seem to offer a 'fool-proof' criterion to prefer one ruler to the other.

(5) 27M.35 (fig. 14.5)

1 (Ἔτους) ιγ τοῦ καὶ ι Φ. . . κβ (τέτακται) ἐπὶ τὴν  
2 ἐν Διὸς πό(λει) τῇ μεγ(άλῃ) τρά(πεζαν) . . .  
3 Πανεχ(άτης) Μαιεύριος τρις-  
4 χιλίας (γίν.) ?Γ .  
|  
└── --  
5 Γ.

Translation:

(1) Year 13 which is also (year) 10, (Month + day) = (Ph(aophi?)/Ph(amenoth?)/Ph(armouthi?)) 22 has paid on the (2) bank in Diospolis Magna for --- (3) Panechates, son of Maieyris, three (4) thousand (drachmas), in total, 3000 ... -- ,

<sup>85</sup> For the Royal Scribes of Roman Egypt, see J. Whitehorne, *Strategoi and Royal Scribes of Roman Egypt: (Str.R.Scr.2) Papyrologica Florentina 37*, revised version (Florence, 2006)

**Notes:**

1. Regnal Years 13 (Cleopatra III Euergetes) = 10 (Ptolemy X Alexander) covers the period 18.09.105-17.09.104 BCE.
2. At the end of l. 2 stood the name of the tax paid to the bank at Thebes.<sup>86</sup> For the tax concerned one might think of the ἀπομοίρα, starting with a large 'hakenalpha', but there are some problems with this. Without any doubt the tax name had been written with an abbreviation, while perhaps it was followed by ι (ἔτους) = "for the 10<sup>th</sup> year" (though one would rather expect the 13<sup>th</sup> year!).
3. The reading of the name of Maieyris is certain, it is the well-known name "beloved by Horus".
4. There is a reading problem with a sign following after the gamma in l.5.

**NB:** I have not succeeded in deciphering the numeral markers on top of the day numeral κβ (= 22) written in l. 1.

I also did not succeed in producing in l. 4 a truly correct spiritus lenis, before the capital Gamma Γ marking this as the sign for '3000').

**(6)** 27M.37 (fig. 14.6)

The text written on this relatively large ostrakon is almost completely illegible due to damage to the surface of the ostrakon. In the antepenultimate line, Dr. Willy Clarysse was able to read: τοῦ αὐτοῦ ἔτους = 'of the same year', and perhaps (γίνεται) ια = 'total 11' at the end of the line, though the latter reading is problematic.

The phrase "of the same year" and the length of the document suggest a tax receipt. However, neither Dr. Clarysse nor I recognized any of the common formulas usually found on tax receipts, which would be of paramount importance for one's understanding the full text.

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<sup>86</sup> For this institution, see R. Bogaert, *Trapezitica. Recueil de recherches sur la Banque en Égypte greco-romaine*, Papyrologica Florentina 25 (Florence, 1994), esp. pp. 253-279: "Liste Chronologique des banquiers royaux Thébains 255-84 avant J.-C.".



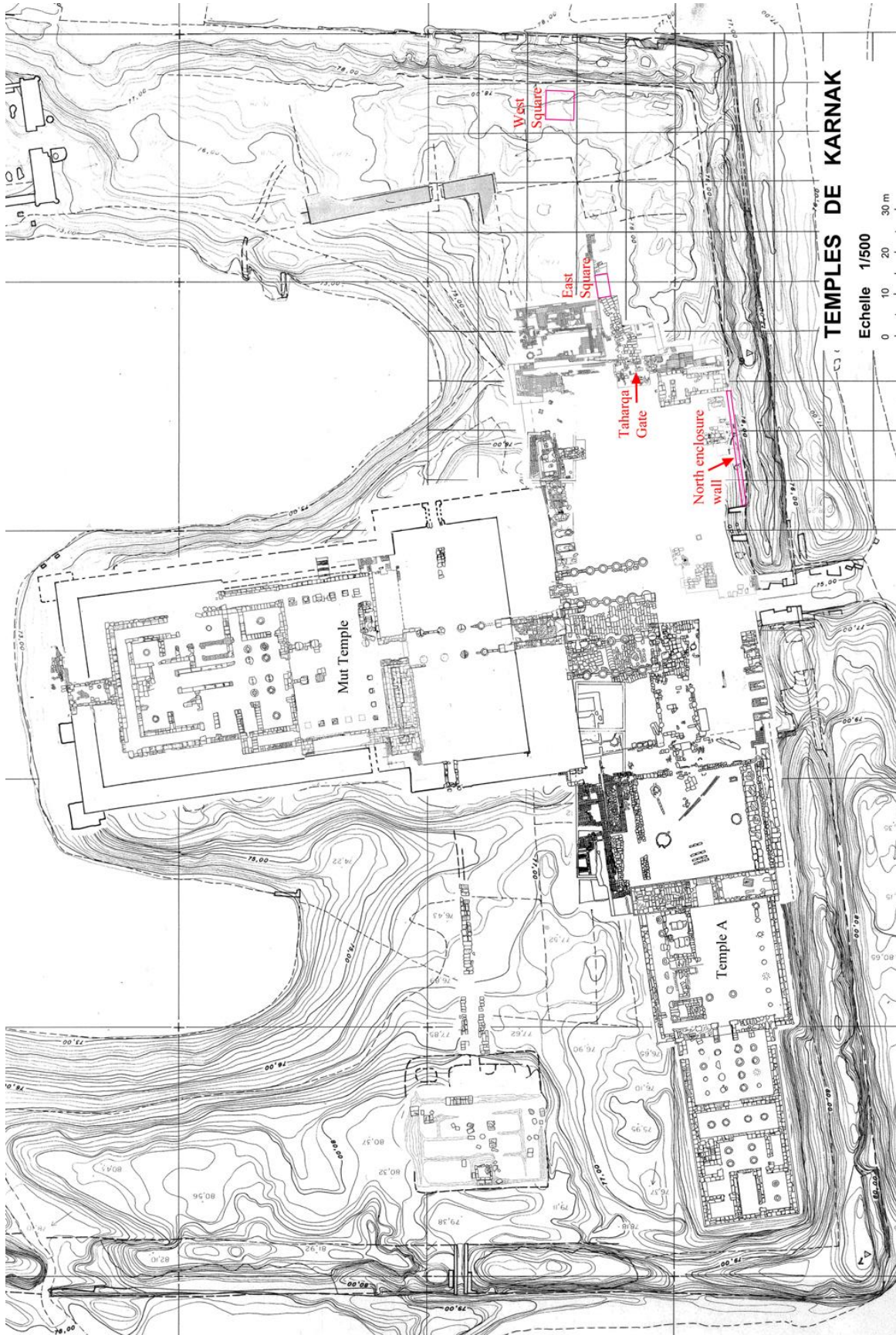


Fig. 1 Plan of northern part of the Mut Precinct showing areas where the Brooklyn Museum worked in 2016.





Fig. 2 View to the southwest of the Ptolemaic wall that runs west from the south side of the Taharqa gate, the landfill on which it stands, and the Taharqa Gate paving.



Fig. 3 Looking southeast at the unexcavated area of paving west of the Taharqa Gate (“east square” in 2016) at the start of the season (top), and a view northeast of the paving at the end of the season.

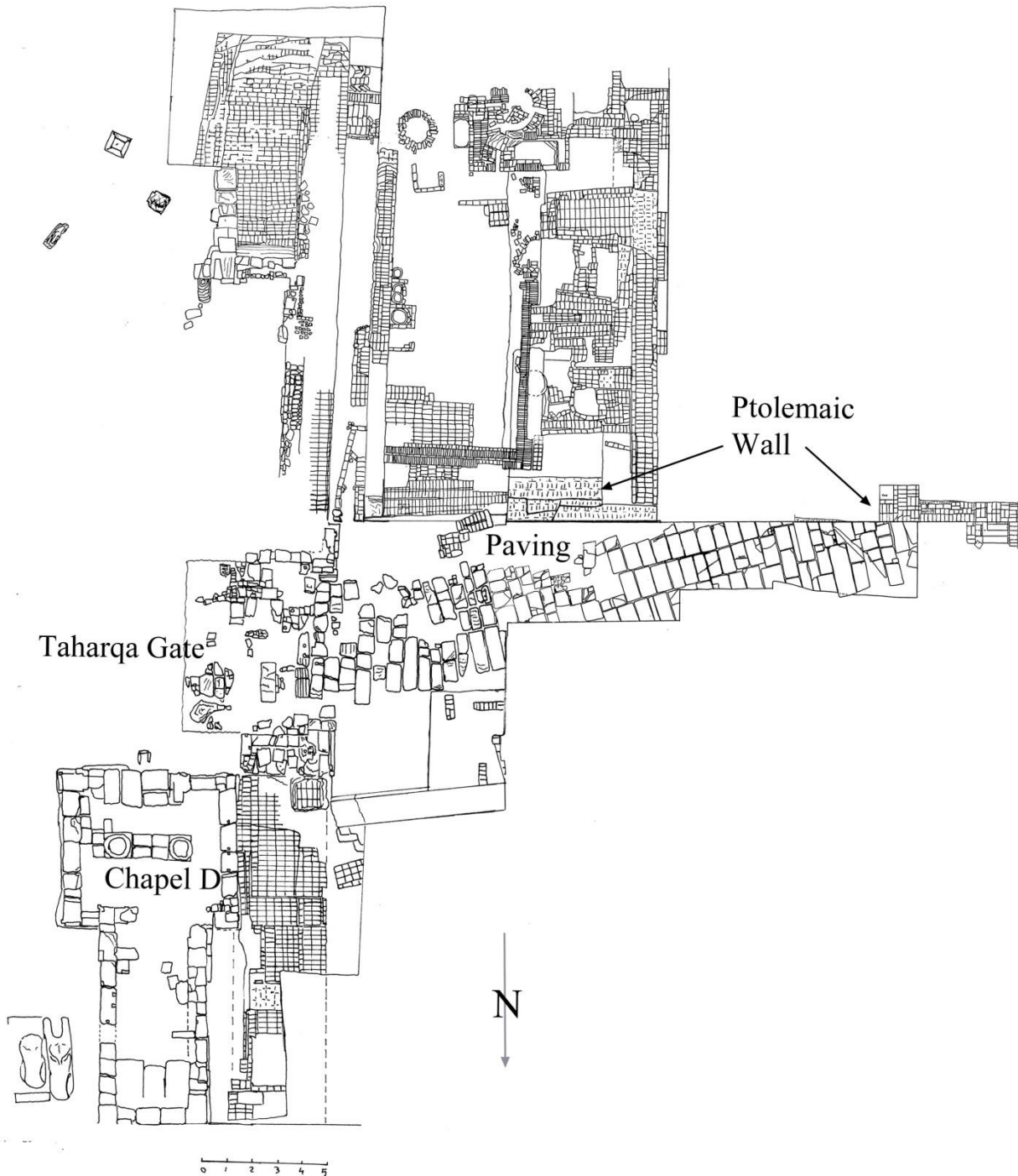


Fig. 4 Plan of the Taharqa Gate and the paving running west from it as uncovered by the end of the 2016 season.





Fig. 5 The possible shallow stairway uncovered in 2016



Fig. 6 The gray barrier north of the Ptolemaic wall, in which several oyster shells were found in 2016 (top) and the similar features found to the east in 2010 (left) and to the west in 2011 (right)



Fig. 7 View northeast of the western square showing wall A built on top of the earlier pottery mound; the demarcation between the earlier mound and later pitting; and wall B.



Fig. 8 View south of wall C showing the pit cutting the south part of the wall (the jar stand lies on the remains of the wall) and the pit at the north end on which the north part of the wall was built.





Fig. 9 The north (left) and south baulks, showing the ashy debris sloping down from wall B and cutting wall A.

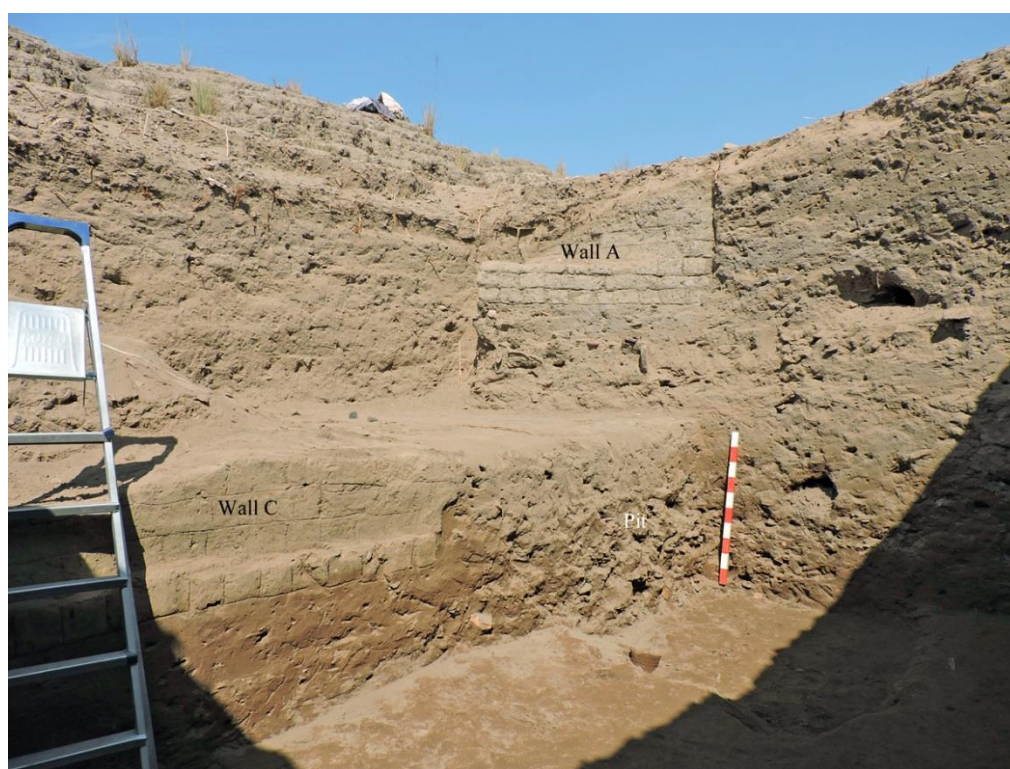


Fig. 10 Wall C, seen from the south at the end of the season, showing the north end built over yet another pottery pit.

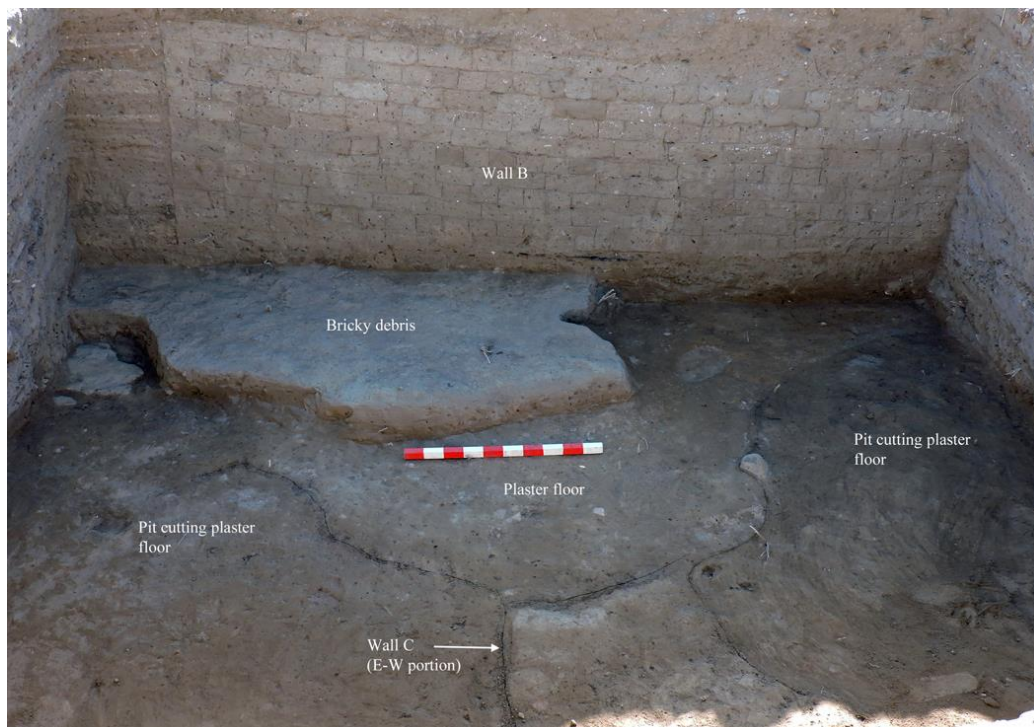


Fig. 11 View east of the plaster surface as first found and the bricky debris on which wall B was built. In the foreground is the east-west portion of wall C, obscured by collapsed brick.

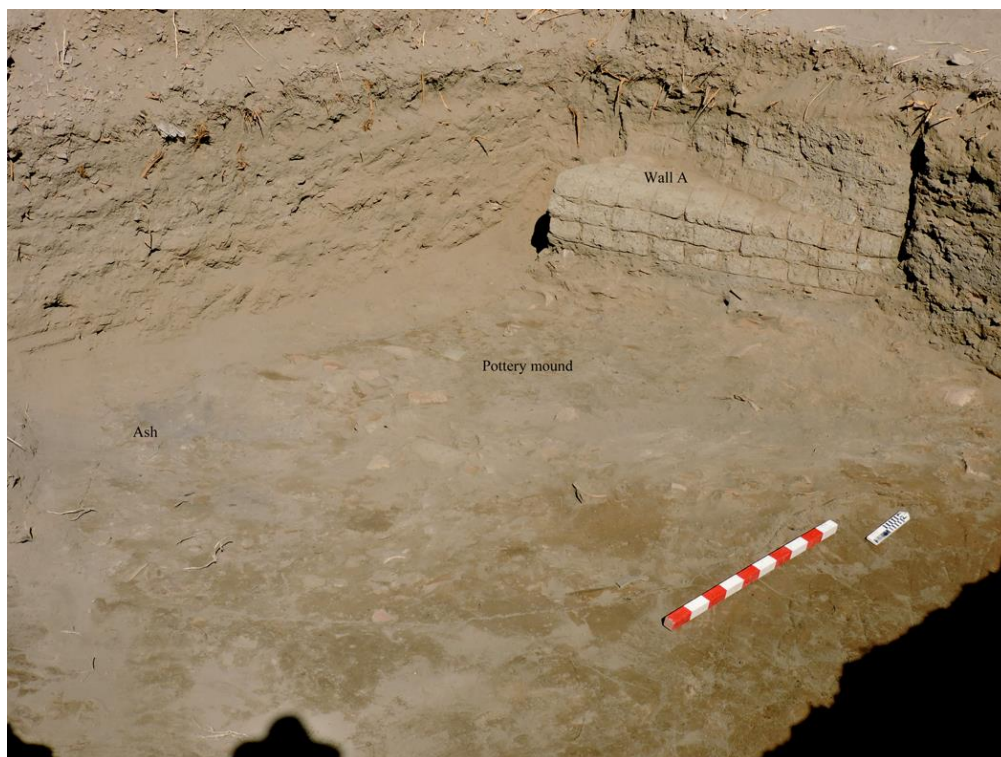


Fig. 12 The pottery mound cut by ash at the south end.



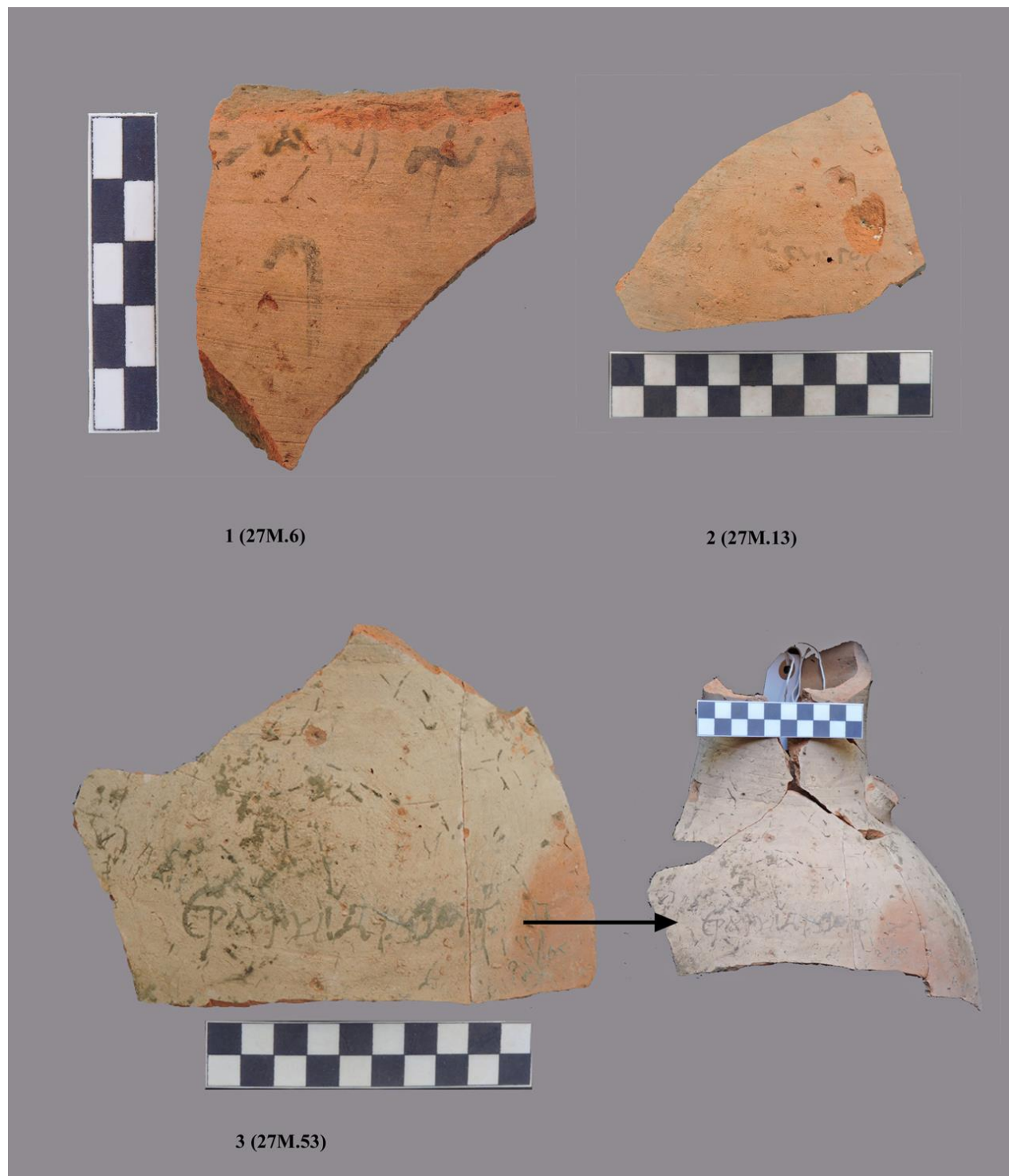


Fig. 13 Greek ostraca found this season (part 1): 1 (27M.6), 2 (27M.13), 3 (27M.53)



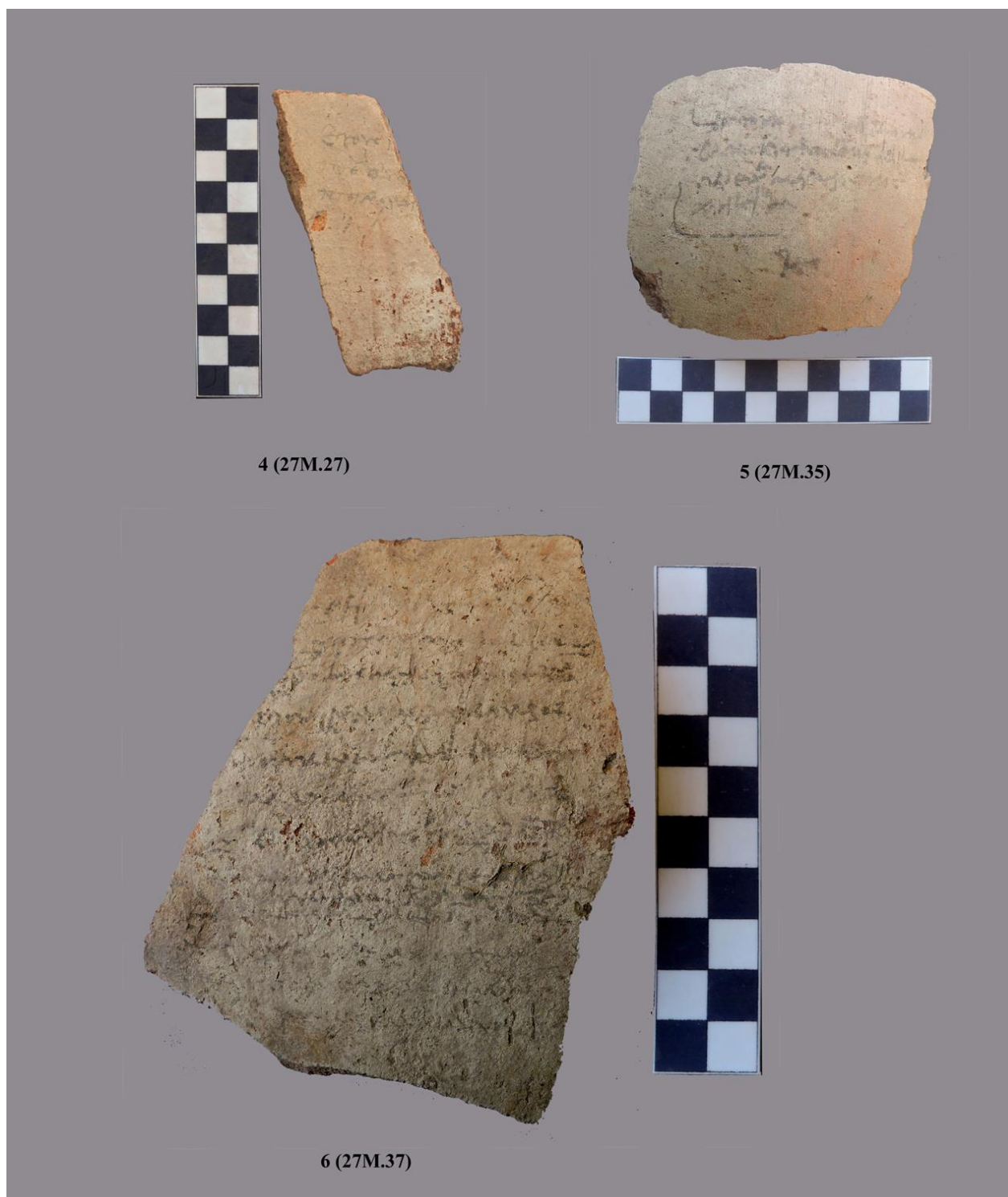


Fig. 14 Greek ostraca found this season (part 2): 4 (27M.27), 5 (27M.35), 6 (27M.37)



Fig. 15 Small finds from the eastern square: (a) bronze Osiris; (b) terracotta horseman; (c) fertility figure; (d) fragmentary inscription mentioning Mut; (e) relief of Mut behind Amun.



Fig. 16 Small finds from the western square (part 1): (a) faience erotic figure; (b) unidentifiable terracotta object; (c) crucible spout; (d) fragment of terracotta animal; (d) fragment of terracotta Harpocrates with a pot.





Fig. 17 Small finds from the western square (part 2): (a)-(b) two terracotta figures of horses; (c) limestone bust of a woman; (d) faience disk with Bes and *wadjet*-eye; (e) architectural element with head of a lion.





Fig. 18 Mixed Ptolemaic and early Roman pottery from the uppermost ash layers in the western square.





Fig. 19 Pottery from the western square: immediately above the earlier pottery mound (top); from just below the whole pots (2<sup>nd</sup>); from the area bordering/overlapping the pitting to the east (3<sup>rd</sup>); and from the junction with the grey ashy pit at the south end (bottom – note the piece of ESA in the upper left).





Fig. 20 Pottery from the western square: the ash east of the earlier pottery mound between the bottom of wall B and the plaster floor (top – note Aswan pink juglet neck and handle in the center); from the southern pit cutting the plaster floor; and from the lowest level we reached (3<sup>rd</sup> and bottom).





Fig. 21 (a) Amphora neck and toe; (b) bichrome cooking pot (left) and monochrome version; (c) part of a handmade lid with handle; (d) examples of crude cooking ware.





Fig. 22 (a)-(d): Dinoi: (a) red wash over flat rim and groove below rim; (b) red wash, indentation in outer edge of rim, but no groove on body; (c)-(d) groove and applied clay knobs on top of rim, indentation along outer edge; vestigial handles. (e)-(h): Plates: (e)-(f) white wash inside and partially outside; (g) ring-polished red slip inside; (h) whitewash and unevenly applied red slip.



(a)



(b)



(c)



Fig. 23 Flat plates with ring bases: (a) 27M.93 (whitewash and unevenly applied red slip); (b) 27M.73 (black ware); (c) 27M.86 (black ware fish plate).





Fig. 24 Bowls: (a) bowls of several types found in an upper level of ash; (b)-(d) bowls with incurved rims and ring bases; (d) hemispherical bowl with a groove below the rim.



Fig. 25 Bowls: (a)-(c) bowls with incurved rims and string-cut bases; (d) bowl with straight, flaring sides and string-cut base.



Fig. 26 Bowls with low carination: (a) silt, red slipped inside, uncoated outside; (b) silt, red slipped inside and outside; (c) marl, red slip inside and over rim, uncoated outside; (d) marl, same as (c); marl, red slipped inside(?), uncoated outside.





Fig. 27 Perfume flasks.





Fig. 28 Three complete vessels found at the top of the western pottery mound: (a) a deep ovoid silt jar with a short neck and 2 handles (27M.41); (b) a wide-mouth marl bowl with a shallow rim, rounded, carinated shoulder and ring base (27M.43); (c) a wide-mouth silt vessel with a very broad rim and tall ring base (27M. 42).



Fig. 29 (a)-(b) two handmade juglets; (c) “mushroom” amphora rim; (d) “proto-Rhodian” amphora toe; (e) Coan (or Egyptian imitation) amphora toe; (f) tall jar stand (note: profile is different scale).



Fig. 30 Stamped Rhodian amphora handles: (a) producer's name legible; (b) only EIII legible.





Fig. 31 The inner face of the north enclosure wall: (a) view east at the start of the season (top); (b) view east center) and (c) view west of the rebuilt wall at the end of the season.