Imitations in pottery of stone vessels in a protodynastic tomb from Tell Ibrahim Awad

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Summary
Publication of a group of small vessels, imitating counterparts in calcite, from a looted 2nd Dynasty tomb at Tell Ibrahim Awad in the Delta.

Résumé
Publication d'un groupe de petites céramiques, répliques en terre cuite de vases en calcite, provenant d'un tombeau de la IIe dynastie à Tell Ibrahim Awad dans le Delta.

In 1988, a partially disturbed tomb from the 2nd dynasty was found in the Protodynastic cemetery discovered a short time earlier at Tell Ibrahim Awad in the central part of the Eastern Nile Delta (Van den Brink 1992). Although not intact (the body had been removed), quite a number of objects was still present (Pl. 5).

Among these were a total number of 29 more or less complete small vessels, imitating in their form contemporary cylinder-shaped calcite vessels. To emphasize this, they were covered with a yellowish slip. Apart from these imitations, there was one medium-sized fine calcite cylinder still present in this looted tomb as well (No. B 200/160/3/31, Pl. 3).

The imitations were produced on the slow wheel, except for the hand-formed bases, and all of a Nile Clay I B 2 fabric. All have vertical or oblique scrape marks, indicative for the last pre-firing production stage.

Brief descriptions of the individual vessels:

- B 200/160/3/1 (Pl. 1):
  Almost complete vessel with a white slip in- and outside.
- 3 (Pl. 1):
  Almost complete vessel with a pale brown slip in- and outside.
- 4 (Pl. 1):
  Almost complete vessel with a pale brown slip in- and outside.
- 5 (Pl. 1):
  Almost complete vessel with a pale brown slip in- and outside.
- 6a (Pl. 4):
  Large rim fragment with a pale brown slip in- and outside.
- 6b (Pl. 4):
  Large rim fragment with a pale brown slip in- and outside.
- 6c (Pl. 4):
  Rim fragment with a pale brown slip in- and outside.
- 6d (Pl. 4):
  Large rim fragment with a pale brown slip in- and outside.
- 6e (Pl. 4):
  Rim fragment with a white slip in- and outside.
- 6f (Pl. 4):
  Small rim fragment with a pink slip in- and outside.
- 6g (Pl. 4):
  Small rim fragment with a pink slip in- and outside.
- 6h (Pl. 4):
  Small rim fragment with a pale brown slip in- and outside.
- 6i (Pl. 4):
  Small rim fragment with a pale brown slip in- and outside.
- 6j (Pl. 4):
  Base fragment with a pink slip outside.
- 6k (Pl. 4):
  Large base fragment with a pink slip in- and outside.
- 6l (Pl. 4):
  Small base fragment with a pale brown slip outside.
- 7 (Pl. 1):
  Vessel with missing fragments; a pale brown slip in- and outside; stained outside, salt crystals on the inside.
- 8 (Pl. 1):
  Almost complete vessel with a pale brown slip inside and on the rim.
- 10 (Pl. 2):
  Almost complete vessel with a white slip inside and on the rim.

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Plate 1. Pottery imitating stone vessels from the tomb.
IMITATIONS IN POTTERY OF STONE VESSELS

Plate 2. Pottery imitating stone vessels from the tomb.

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Plate 3. Pottery imitating stone vessels and one calcite vessel (no. 31) from the tomb.
Plate 4. Fragmentary pottery imitating stone vessels from the tomb.
Plate 5. The disturbed tomb from which the vessels originate.

11 (Pl. 2): Almost complete vessel with a pink slip in- and outside.
12 (Pl. 2): Vessel with missing fragments; a pale brown slip in- and outside.
14 (Pl. 2): Almost complete vessel with a pale brown slip in- and outside.
18 (Pl. 2): Vessel with missing fragments; a pink slip in- and outside.
20 (Pl. 2): Vessel with missing fragments; a pale brown slip in- and outside.
21 (Pl. 3): Vessel with missing fragments; a pale brown slip in- and outside.
23 (Pl. 3): Vessel with missing fragments; a pale brown slip in- and outside.
25 (Pl. 3): Vessel with missing fragments; a pale brown slip in- and outside.
26 (Pl. 3): Fragmented vessel with a pale brown slip in- and outside.
28 (Pl. 3): Almost complete vessel with a pale brown slip in- and outside.
31 (Pl. 3): Complete cylindrical jar with flat base; calcite with weathered surface.

Bibliography


Notes

1.- These excavations took place in 1986 and from 1988 until now under the aegis of the Netherlands Foundation for Archaeological Research in Egypt.
2.- cf. el-Khouli 1978, no. 827 (as prototype).
3.- Munsell Soil Color Chart: 10 YR 8/2-3
4.- According to the «Vienna System», see Arnold/Bourriau 1993.