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WAVY-HANDLED AND CYLINDRICAL
JARS IN THE NILE DELTA
A VIEW FROM TELL EL-FARKHA

Petrie's *W-class* (wavy-handled and cylindrical jars)¹ constitute an important group of pottery still useful for the dating of Egyptian graves and settlement strata. The shape of these vessels changed over the time transforming from the broad forms to the cylindrical jars. Similarly the decoration changed from well to less or more pronounced and protruding pair of handles, through a modelled decorative band of wavy pattern and then incised or impressed motives which finally, at the end of the sequence, completely disappear. These changes allowed their arrangement into typological series and made it possible to establish their chronological development.

The first jars with wavy-handles appeared in Egypt in the middle of Naqada II period (Naqada IIC)². It has long been accepted that they occurred there as the result of trade relations with Canaan. The Palestinian ledge-handled jars, the history of earlier development of which is known, occur at many sites of that region³ and were also imported to Egypt⁴. It is quite possible that this way

¹ Petrie, W.M.F., *Corpus of Prehistoric Pottery and Palettes*, London 1921:Tab.XXVIII-XXX; Id., *Ceremonial slate Palettes, Corpus of Proto-Dynastic Pottery*, London 1953: Tab. VIII-IX.

² Hendrickx, S., The relative chronology of the Naqada culture (unpublished text delivered at the British Museum Colloquium on "Early Egypt", London, 22nd July 1993) (hereinafter referred to as: *The relative chronology 1993*):35,84; Id., The relative chronology of the Naqada Culture: Problems and Possibilities, [in:] Spencer, A.J. (ed.), *Aspects of Early Egypt*, London 1996 (hereinafter referred to as: *The relative chronology 1996*):62,Tab.7; Kaiser, W., Zur inneren Chronologie der Naqadakultur, *Archaeologia Geographica* 6, 1957:72, Taf.23.

³ Amiran, R., *Ancient Pottery of the Holy Land*, Jerusalem 1970:35-40, Pl.8; Goldman, M., *Guide to Ancient Potsherds of The Land of Israel*, Tel Aviv 1996: 11-12, Pl.V (5);

⁴ Hartung, U., Importkeramik, [in:] Dreyer, G.; Engel, E.-M.; Hartung, U.; Hikade, T.; Köh-

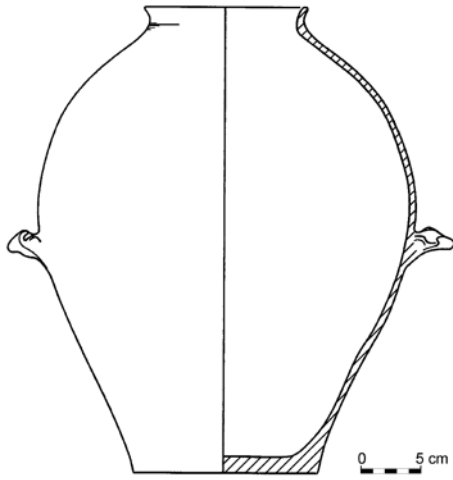


Fig. 1. A jar with handles imported from Palestine

the form, which originated in Palestine, became known also in Egypt, where it was first copied and later transformed into the purely Egyptian form⁵. It has been suggested⁶ that Petrie's first two types included in his *W-class* pottery were imports. Further examples, though showing affinity in detail to these known from EB I Canaan, constitute early copies of such jars made of wares which appear to be Egyptian. The remaining examples represent Egyptian development of the type.

Fragments as well as complete (or reconstructable) examples of wavy-handled and cylindrical jars were also found

at Tell el-Farkha, the site situated in the North-Eastern part of the Nile Delta⁷. These were attested on the settlement in phase 1 (Naqada IIC-IID1) belonging to Lower Egyptian Culture, as well as Naqada II - III phases: 2 (beginning of Naqada IID2), 3 (terminal Naqada IID2 [IIIA1?]), 4 (Naqada IIIA1-IIIB), 5 (Naqada IIIB-IIIC1) and beginning (Naqada IIIC1-IIIC2 – I Dynasty) of phase 6 (Naqada IIIC1-IIID)⁸. These occur also in the cemetery in graves belonging to group 1. Most of the vessels found in these graves show affinities with pottery types that are well-known for the period at the end of Dynasty 0 (Naqada IIIB-C1) and the beginning (first half) of the I Dynasty (Naqada IIIC1-2). Therefore, the chronological positions of certain graves of that group fall within that period (though most of them seem to belong to Naqada IIIC1)⁹.

ler, E.Ch.; Pumpenmeier, F.; *Umm el-Qaab. Nachuntersuchungen im frühzeitlichen Königsfriedhof. 7./8. Vorbericht*, MDAIK 52:40-41, Abb.8:a-b.

⁵ Needler, W., *Predynastic and Archaic Egypt in the Brooklyn Museum*, New York 1984:212; Payne, J.C.; *Catalogue of the Predynastic Egyptian Collection in the Ashmolean Museum*, Oxford 1993:97.

⁶ Payne, *Catalogue...*, 97.

⁷ Chłodnicki, M. & Ciałowicz, K.M., *Polish Excavations at Tell el-Farkha (Ghazala) in the Nile Delta. Preliminary Report 1998-2001*, *Archeologia* LIII, 2002 (2003):63-119; Id., *Polish Excavations at Tell el-Farkha (Gazala) in the Nile Delta. Preliminary Report 2002-2003*, *Archeologia* LV, 2004 (2005):47-74.

⁸ Jucha, M.A., *Tell el-Farkha II. The Pottery of the Predynastic Settlement (Phases 2 to 5)*, Kraków-Poznań 2005:19-21, Fig.2.

⁹ Abłamowicz, R.; Dębowska, J.; Jucha, M., *The Graves of Tell el-Farkha (seasons 2001 – 2002)*, [Jucha, M., *The Pottery*] [in:] Hendrickx, S.; Friedman, R.F.; Ciałowicz, K.M. &

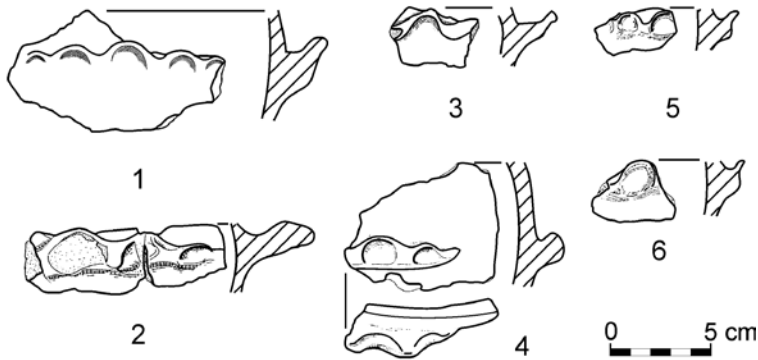


Fig.2. Fragments of jars with handles of Palestinian (1-2) and Egyptian (3-6) provenance

Beside Egyptian wavy-handled jars there occur also examples imported from Palestine. These include handles (Fig.2:1-2) coming from jars with a modelled, distinctly pronounced and protruding pair of handles as well as an almost complete-reconstructable jar (from phase 2) of that type (Fig.1). All of them show affinity to handles and vessels identified at Early Bronze I sites in Canaan¹⁰. That dating fits well also the chronological position of examples from Tell el-Farkha which were found in the strata of phase 1 as well as subsequent phases 2¹¹ and phase 3¹². A possibly Palestinian origin can be attributed also to handles identified in phase 4¹³.

Further examples of Petrie's wavy-handled jars from Tell el-Farkha include already Egyptian shapes which illustrate development and transformation of that class. These were made of the fine Nile clay fabric, untempered or tem-

Chłodnicki, M. (eds.), *Egypt at its Origins. Studies in Memory of Barbara Adams. Proceedings of the International Conference "Origin of the State. Predynastic and Early Dynastic Egypt"*, Kraków, 28th August – 1st September 2002, OLA 138, 2004:406-415.

¹⁰ Amiran, *Ancient Pottery...*, 35-40, Pl.8; Goldman, *Guide to Ancient Potsherds...*, 11-12, Pl.V (5); Gophna, R. & Cresson, B., *Architecture and Stratigraphy*, [in:] Gophna, R. (ed.) (1996), *Excavations at Tel Dalit. An Early Bronze Age Walled Town in Central Israel*, Tel Aviv 1996: 21; Gophna, R. & Iron-Lubin, M., *The Pottery Assemblages*, [in:] Gophna, *Excavations at Tel Dalit...*: fig.42:2, fig.43:8, fig.45:10; Gophna, R. & Shlomi, V., *Some Notes on Early Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age Material from the Sites of 'En Jezreel and Tel Jezreel*, Tel Aviv 24 (1997): fig.4:9.

¹¹ Mączyńska, A., *Egyptian-Southern Levantine Interaction in the 4th and 3rd Millenium B.C.-A View from Tell el-Farkha*, [in:] Kroeper, K.; Chłodnicki, M. & Kobusiewicz, M., *Archaeology of Early Northeastern Africa*, Studies in African Archaeology 9, 2006:948-949, Fig.5.

¹² Jucha, M. A., *Naqada IId2/IIIa1 Pottery in the Nile Delta. A view from Tell el-Farkha*, Studies in Ancient Art and Civilization 10, 2007: 38, Fig.7:10-12.

¹³ Jucha, *Tell el-Farkha II...*, 61, Pl.103:2-3.

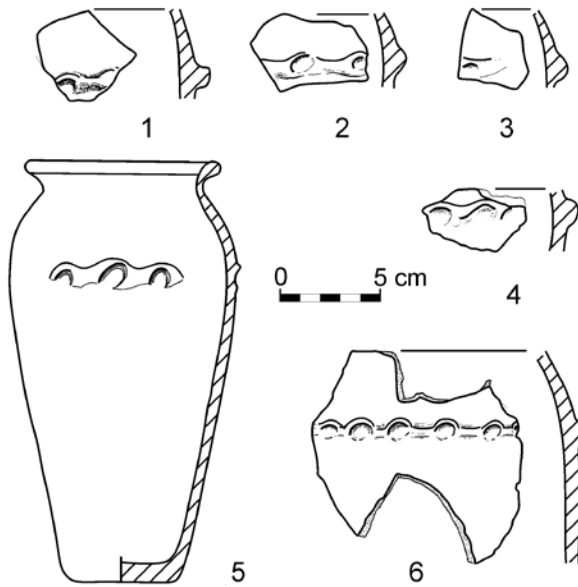


Fig.3. Wavy-handled jar and fragments
with less pronounced handles or with continuous
wavy pattern

pered with a small amount of fine sand (Fabric SN-I) or the fine marl clay fabric, mostly untempered or containing a small amount of fine sand (Fabric M). Later examples (some of cylindrical jars) include also forms made of the rougher Nile clay fabric, tempered with fine to medium straw and fine to medium sand sometimes with coarser sand grains (SN-II-2).

The earliest in this typological series (from Tell el-Farkha) are fragments of wavy handles which originally belong to different, evolutionally older types,

with two less or more protruding and pronounced handles¹⁴ which are known from the second half of Naqada II period (Naqada IIC-D), though some of them may occur also at the beginning of Naqada III¹⁵. At Tell el-Farkha they occur also mostly in the phases dated to the above mentioned period. Rare fragments belonging to jars with distinctly pronounced handles come from phases 3 and 4 (Fig.2:3-6). The first examples with less pronounced handles (Fig.3:1-4) were attested from phase 1, though they occur more frequently in

¹⁴ W19-32: Petrie, *Corpus of Prehistoric...*, Tab.XXVIII-XXIX and W41-47: Id., *Corpus of Prehistoric...*, Tab.XXIX.

¹⁵ Hendrickx, *The relative chronology 1996...*, 62, Tab.7; Kaiser, *Zur inneren Chronologie...*, Taf. 23-24; see also: Bourriau, J.D., *Umm el Qa'ab. Pottery from the Nile Valley Before the Arab Conquest*, Cambridge 1981:132-133,no.258; Kroeper, K., *The Excavations of the Munich East-Delta expedition in Minshat Abu Omar*, [in:] Brink, E.C.M. van den (ed.), *The archaeology of the Nile Delta. Problems and Priorities*, Amsterdam 1988: 13-14, Figs.27-28, 59-61; Pumpenmeier, F., *Keramik des Friedhofes U*, [in:] Dreyer, G., Hartung, U., Pumpenmeier, F., *Umm el-Qaab. Nachuntersuchungen im frühzeitlichen Königsfriedhof. 5./6. Vorbericht*, MDAIK 49, 1993:44,Abb.9:U-127/5; Taf.8:h; Regner, Ch. *Keramik*, [=Bonner Sammlung von Aegyptiaca, Band 3], Wiesbaden 1998:107-110, Kat.84-86, Taf.16-17; Steinmann, F., *Tongefässe: von der vordynastischen Zeit bis zum Ende des Mittleren Reiches* [= Katalog Ägyptischer Sammlungen in Leipzig, Band 2], Mainz am Rhein 1998:43-44, Kat. 89-92, Taf. 41-42; Way, T. von der, *Tell el-Fara in. Buto I. Ergebnisse zum frühen Kontext während der Jahre 1983-1989*, AV 83, Mainz 1997:104, Taf. 45-46.

the subsequent phases 2 and 3, in which an almost complete example of such a jar was found (Fig.3:5). Sporadically, they were still present until phase 4.

Other examples include fragments which may belong to different types of almost cylindrical jars, which evolutionally are classified as the later stage of development of the *W-class*¹⁶, dated at the beginning of Naqada III period (Naqada IIIA1-IIIa2)¹⁷.

Among them there occur potsherds with a modelled band of different decorative patterns, which seems to show affinity to examples known from Naqada IIIA1 (IIIa2) period¹⁸. These include fragments which may belong to jars with a distinctive (pronounced) wavy pattern which continues around the upper part of the body (Fig.3:6)¹⁹. Such examples were found mostly in phase 4. There are also fragments of thin-walled

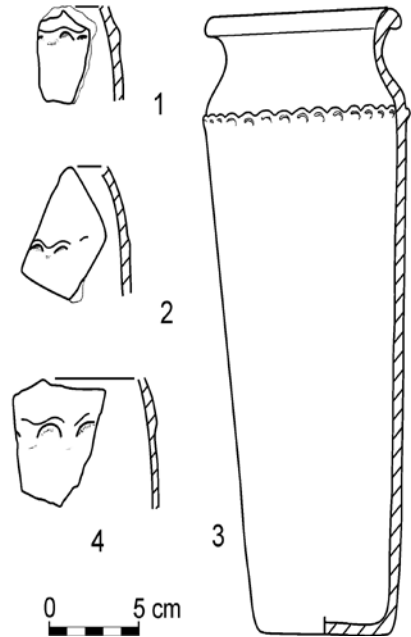


Fig.4. Almost cylindrical jar and fragments with impressed decorative pattern

almost cylindrical jars decorated with a less pronounced decorative band of wavy pattern extending continuously (?) around the circumference (Fig.4:1). Only one fragment with such decoration may be linked to the end of phase 3, though it may be misplaced as other potsherds were found mostly in the subsequent phase 4. Some of these fragments may also belong to jars probably with two decorative bands (Fig.4:2) (a more distorted version of wavy handles). Moreover, decoration which consists of regular pushed-up impressions extending continuously around the circumference, does also occur, among others, on the almost completely preserved jar from phase 4 (Fig.4:3).

Other potsherds were decorated with an ornamental pattern which is composed of a thin band of simple impressions on the body (Fig.4:4). At Tell el-

¹⁶ Petrie, *Corpus of Prehistoric...*, Tab. XXX: W49-61.

¹⁷ Hendrickx, *The relative chronology 1996...*, 62, Tab.7; Kaiser, *Zur inneren Chronologie...*, Taf. 24.

¹⁸ Pumpenmeier, F., *Ägyptische Keramik*, [in:] Dreyer, G., *Umm el-Qaab I. Das prädynastische Königsgrab U-j und seine frühen Schriftzeugnisse*, Mainz 1998: 21-25, Abb.13-14.

¹⁹ Hendrickx, S., *Elkab. The Naqada III Cemetery*, Vol. V, Brussel 1994: 210, pl.XV:A FSJ 1-5; Pumpenmeier, *Keramik des Friedhofes U...*: 47, Taf. 8:a-c. Regner, *Keramik...*, 112-113, Kat. 89, Taf. 18.

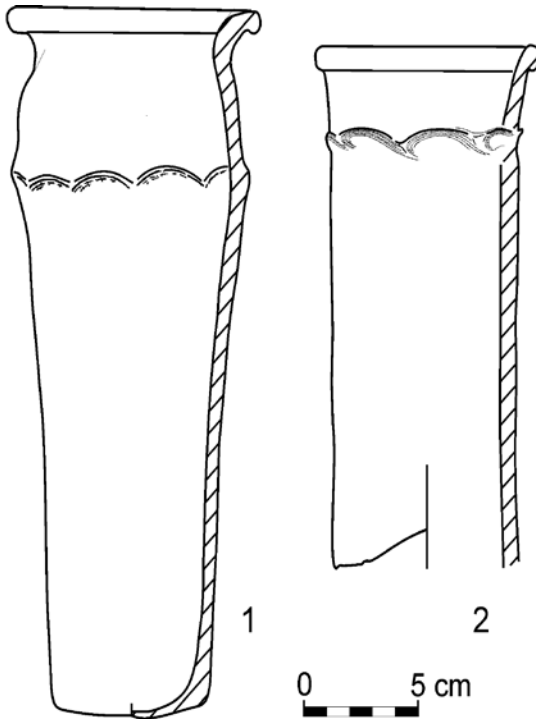


Fig.5. Jars decorated with elongated arches with the upper edge pushed upwards

Farkha they occur mostly in phase 4, though they were attested sporadically also in the subsequent phase 5.

Furthermore, examples with a decorative pattern composed of elongated arches with the upper edge pushed upwards (Fig.5:1) were also found, generally in phase 4, though some of them still occurred at the beginning of phase 5. These most probably belong to almost cylindrical (and cylindrical) jars of Naqada IIIA2 (Naqada IIIa2) period²⁰.

Another group includes fragments and complete examples of cylindrical jars with different types of impressed or incised decoration. Due to their forms and decoration they evolutionally belong to the younger stage of development of Petrie's W-class²¹ dated mostly at Protodynastic Period (Naqada IIIA2-Naqada IIIB)²².

These include cylindrical jars with a decorative pattern, composed of elongated arches (Fig.5:2) found mostly in phase 4 (upper strata).

The jars from Tell el-Farkha comprise also examples decorated with a finger-impressed motif situated beneath the rim (Fig.6:1). This technique of decoration on cylindrical vessels is characteristic for the beginning of the Protodynastic Period and generally occurs in Naqada IIIA2²³. Fragments as well as a

²⁰ Petrie, *Corpus of Prehistoric...*, Tab. XXX:W61; Petrie, W.M.F. *Corpus of Proto-Dynastic Pottery*, London 1953: Tab. VIII:46d; see also: Hendrickx, *The relative chronology 1996...*, 62, Tab. 7; Kaiser, *Zur inneren Chronologie...*, Taf. 24; Pumpenmeier, *Keramik des Friedhofes U...*:48-49, Abb. 9:Ug/2; Regner, *Keramik...*, 111-112, 116-117, Kat. 88, Kat. 93, Taf. 18.

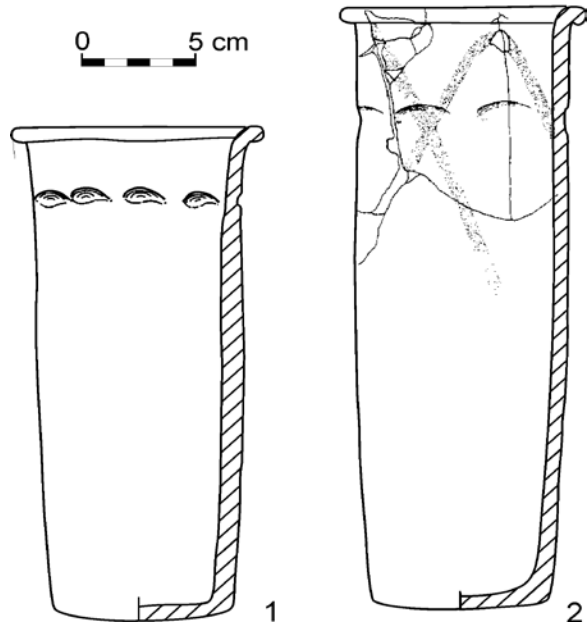
²¹ Petrie, *Corpus of Prehistoric...*, Tab. XXX:W63, W71, W80, W85; Id., *Corpus of Proto-Dynastic...*, Tab. VIII:46, 47r, 47t; Tab. IX:47-49.

²² Hendrickx, *The relative chronology 1996...*, 62, Tab. 7; Kaiser, *Zur inneren Chronologie...*, Taf. 24

²³ Hendrickx, *Elkab...*:71-72, 211, pl. V:1, pl. IX; Kaiser, *Zur inneren Chronologie...*, Taf. 24.

complete example, of such a jar were found at Tell el-Farkha in phase 4.

Another example, with a wavy design (in the upper part of the vessel beneath the rim), made by pushing the clay upwards slightly from the body toward the rim, was decorated additionally with a motif, composed of sloping crossing lines painted in a reddish-brown colour (Fig.6:2). This, “net-painted” decoration²⁴, belongs to one of the oldest proper cylindrical jars, which are typical especially for Naqada IIIA2 period²⁵. Cylindrical vessels of this kind appear in



the similar period on the sites located both in the Upper and Lower Egypt²⁶. Also at Tell el-Farkha it was attested in the strata belonging to phase 4.

Other fragments include those with a different pattern of decoration beneath the rim, mostly incised or impressed²⁷. These belong to cylindrical jars which are typologically subsequent to the first two jars defined above and are typical mainly of the end of the Protodynastic period and the beginning of the First Dynasty (mostly Naqada IIIB).²⁸

²⁴ Petrie, *Corpus of Prehistoric...*, Tab. XXX: W62-63; Id., *Corpus of Proto-Dynastic...*, Tab. VIII: 42-49.

²⁵ Hendrickx, *The relative chronology 1996...*, 62, Tab. 7; Kaiser, *Zur inneren Chronologie...*, Taf. 24, Kaiser, W., *Einige Bemerkungen zur ägyptischen Frühzeit III: Die Reichseinigung*, ZÄS 91, 1964:94.

²⁶ Adams, B., *Imports and imitations in Predynastic funerary contexts at Hierakonpolis*, [in:] Krzyżaniak, L., Kroeper, K., Kobusiewicz, A. (eds.), *Interregional Contacts in the Later Prehistory of Northeastern Africa*, Poznań 1996:137-139, Fig.2; Brink, E.C.M. van den, *Preliminary Report on the Excavations at Tell Ibrahim Awad, Seasons 1988 – 1990*, [in:] Brink, E.C.M. van den (ed.), *The Nile Delta in Transition; 4th-3rd Millenium BC*, Tel-Aviv 1992:52-53; Hendrickx, *Elkab...*, 211, Tab. IX; Köhler, Ch., *Tell el-Fara 'in - Buto III. Die Keramik von der späten Naqada-Kultur bis zum frühen Alten Reich (Schichten III bis VI)*, AVDAIK 94, Mainz am Rhein 1998: Taf.64:9-12; Kroeper, *The Excavations...*, fig.78;

²⁷ Petrie, *Corpus of Prehistoric...*, Tab. XXX:W71,W80,W85; Id., *Corpus of Proto-Dynastic...*, Tab. IX:47-49.

²⁸ Hendrickx, *The relative chronology 1993...*, 85; Kaiser, *Zur inneren Chronologie...*, Taf. 24.

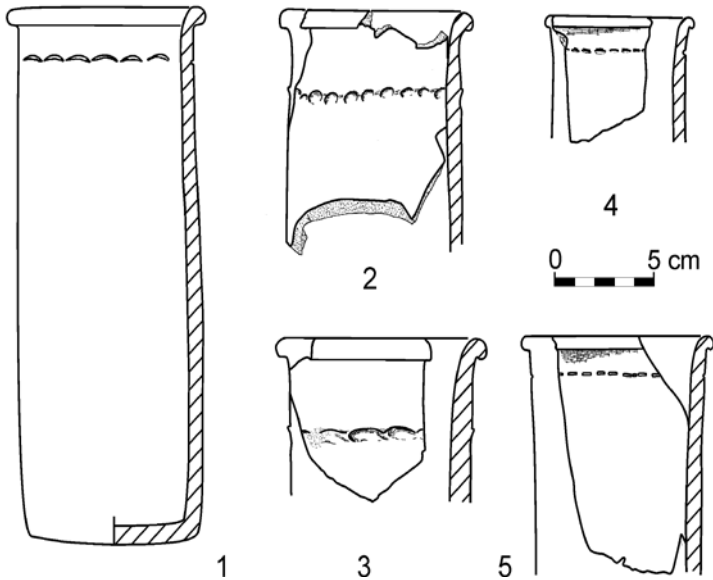


Fig.7. Cylindrical jars with decoration beneath the rim

These include fragments as well as a complete example decorated beneath the rim with a raised continuous band of decoration formed by pushing the clay upwards with a finger nail (Fig.7:1). In the classifications of cylindrical jars such decorated pots are assessed as slightly later than the above, though they are also typical of the unification period²⁹. Although at Tell el-Farkha such decoration appears from phase 4, it seems typical mostly of the subsequent phase 5.

Other examples of cylindrical jars were decorated with regular pushed-up impressions which extend continuously around the circumference (Fig.7:2-3). That pattern was attested mostly in phase 5 (lower strata).

Another type of decoration is composed of impressed points which form lines running around the vessels beneath the rim (Fig.7:4-5)³⁰. These are characteristic especially for Naqada IIIB³¹, though they may occur also earlier (similar examples, e.g. from Buto are recognised since *Schicht* IIIId, dated to Naqada IIIa2³²). At Tell el-Farkha such decorated potsherds were found generally in the strata of phase 4 and 5.

²⁹ Petrie, *Corpus of Prehistoric...*, Tab. XXX:W71a; Id., *Corpus of Proto-Dynastic...*, Tab. VIII:47r; Hendrickx, *The relative chronology 1996...*, 62, Tab.7.

³⁰ Petrie, *Corpus of Proto-Dynastic...*, Tab. IX:49g

³¹ Hendrickx, *The relative chronology 1996...*, 62, Tab.7.

³² Köhler, *Tell el-Fara 'in - Buto III...*, 139, Taf. 58:3-4

One example of a jar with impressed decoration was also found in grave no.2 (Fig.8:1) (other fine ware cylindrical jars from that grave were not decorated). Another example with a band of decoration resembling a cord impression³³ was found in grave no. 9 (Fig.8:2) (fine ware cylindrical jars from that grave include also two examples with an incised straight line as well as six examples without decoration). Both these graves belonging to group 1, on the basis of other finds, should be placed chronologically at the beginning of the period to which that group was dated (end of Naqada IIIB and beginning of Naqada IIIC1, respectively).

Other examples embrace also decorations composed of an incised straight line³⁴ as well as with a straight line and the upper wavy edge pushed upwards³⁵. Vessels with this type of decoration are typical mostly of Naqada IIIB period (though they may occur also at the beginning of Naqada IIIC1)³⁶. These from Tell el-Farkha were found chiefly in the strata belonging to phase 5, though such examples occur sporadically also in the upper strata of phase 4. Moreover, two examples decorated with a straight line were also found in grave no. 9 (Fig.8:3), another one - though of wider type - comes from grave no. 7 (Fig.8:4).

Fragments decorated with an incised ornament and with both edges, the upper and the lower, pushed wavy³⁷ were found in phase 5 too, though sporadi-

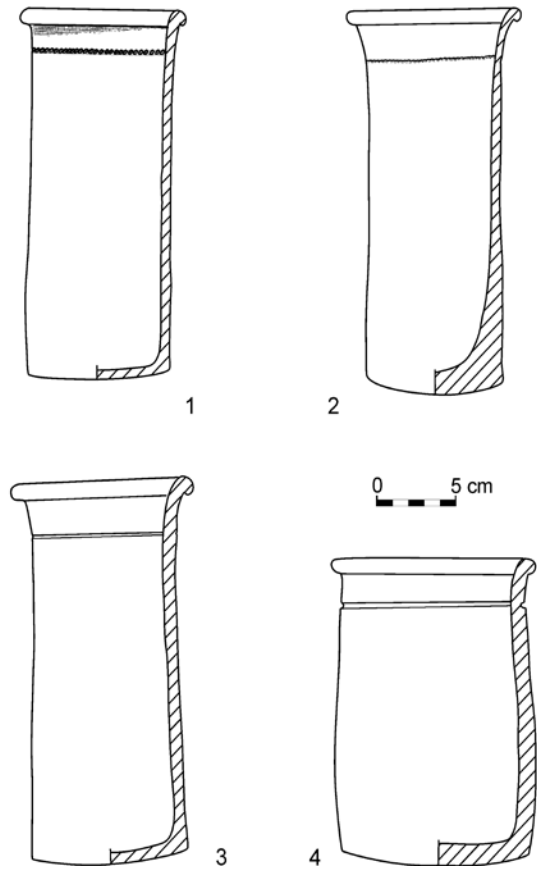


Fig.7. Cylindrical jars with decoration beneath the rim

³³ Petrie, *Corpus of Proto-Dynastic...*, Tab. IX:48s,t.

³⁴ Petrie, *Corpus of Proto-Dynastic...*, Tab. IX:49l

³⁵ Petrie, *Corpus of Proto-Dynastic...*, Tab. IX:49d.

³⁶ Hendrickx, *The relative chronology 1993...*, 88.

³⁷ Petrie, *Corpus of Proto-Dynastic...*, Tab. IX:47k,m.

cally also in the upper strata of phase 4. These show affinity to vessels dated also at the period of state formation in Egypt and known from other sites.³⁸

The above types of impressed or incised decoration focused round the vessel and beneath the rim are generally typical of Naqada IIIB (Naqada IIIb2-c1) period.³⁹ This group of jars is generally accepted to occur slightly earlier than the undecorated type.⁴⁰ Although at Tell al-Farkha their first examples appear since the upper strata of phase 4, all of them are typical especially of the subsequent phase 5. Jars with such decoration, sporadically occur in the graves of group 1, where mostly undecorated cylindrical jars were found.

The latest group in typological series of W-class include cylindrical jars without decoration⁴¹. Examples from Tell el-Farkha show differences both in type and fabric.

These made of marl (M) or Nile clay (SN-I) and belonging to the fine ware (S) or yellow coated ware (P5) with well and hard smoothed surface (Fig.9:1-2) were found in eight of the seventeen graves containing pottery vessels and belonging to group 1. Moreover, they included also wider and higher forms, found in grave no. 4 (Fig.9:3) together with narrower forms. Such jars are well-known especially from the beginning of Early Dynastic times: Naqada IIIC1/IIIC2⁴².

Another type of cylindrical jars, made of coarser fabric (SN-II-2) sometimes also with grog inclusions, was found only in two graves (Fig.9:4) (grave 7: six examples; grave 26: one example). The surface of these jars was smoothed, and remnants of yellow coating were occasionally visible. In the case of grave no. 7, they constitute the only group of cylindrical jars, except for one ex-

³⁸ Brink, E.C.M. van den, *A Transitional Late Predynastic - Early Dynastic Settlement Site in the Northeastern Nile Delta, Egypt*, MDAIK 45, 1989:Fig.14:13; Köhler, *Tell el-Fara 'in - Buto III...*, 33, Taf. 58:5, Taf. 59:4.

³⁹ Engles, D.R., *An Early Dynastic Cemetery at Kafr Ghattati*, JARCE XXVII, 1990: fig.10; Hendrickx, *Elkab*, 72, 211, Pl.V:1, Pl.X: A UFY 10; Köhler, *Tell el-Fara 'in - Buto III...*, 33, 49, Taf. 58:3-11, Abb.24; Kroeper, *The Excavations...*, Figs. 86-88; Pumpenmeier, *Keramik des Friedhofes U...*, Abb. 9:U-t ost/1; Steinmann, *Tongefässe...*, 47-48, Kat.100, Kat.101, Kat.104, Taf. 45

⁴⁰ Hendrickx, *The relative chronology 1996...*, 62, Tab.7; Köhler, E.Ch., *Bearbeitung der Keramik*, [in:] Dreyer, G., Engel, E.-M., Hartung, U, Hikade, T., Köhler, E.Ch., Pumpenmeier, F., *Umm el-Qaab. Nachuntersuchungen im frühzeitlichen Königsfriedhof. 7./8. Vorbericht*, MDAIK 52, 1996:54-57, Abb.17-18; Köhler, E.Ch., Smythe, J.C., *Early Dynastic Pottery from Helwan – Establishing a Ceramic Corpus of Naqada III period*, CCE 7, 2004:128-129, Pl.1:3-5.

⁴¹ Petrie, *Corpus of Proto-Dynastic...*, Tab. IX:50.

⁴² Hendrickx, *The relative chronology 1996...*, 62, Tab.7; Id., *Elkab...*, 211, Pl.X: A UFY 9; Kaiser, *Einige Bemerkungen...*, 94; Köhler, *Bearbeitung der Keramik...*, 55-56, Abb.17:690; Abb.18:690; Kroeper, *The Excavations...*, Fig.139.

ample made of fine ware and with decoration beneath the rim. In the case of grave no. 26, only one example was found among others undecorated jars, though made of fine ware. It seems that this type appeared at Tell el-Farkha around the time when the above mentioned fine ware jars, typical for the end of Protodynastic/beginning of the I Dynasty were still in use (Naqada IIIc1/c2; Naqada IIIc1/C2). Moreover, other types of pottery found in these graves are also characteristic of the discussed period. They comprise: wine jars with three applied rope-bands (in the case of grave no.7), shouldered jars decorated with lightly impressed half-bows

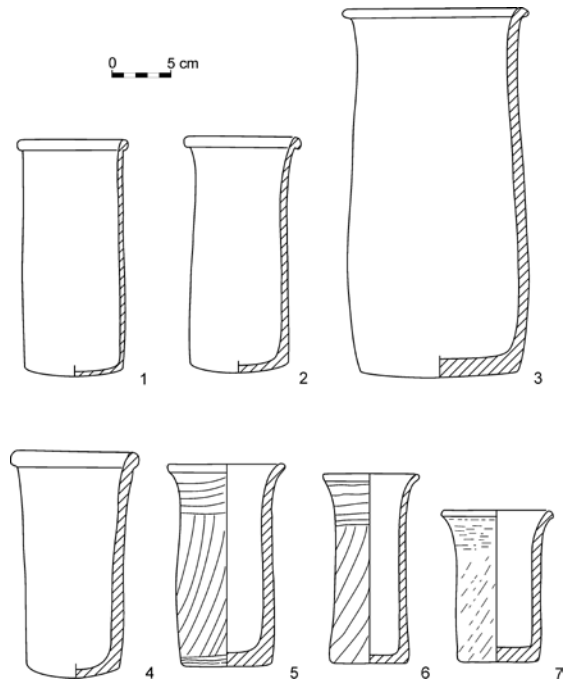


Fig.9. Cylindrical jars without decoration

around the shoulder (in the case of both graves) and broad-shouldered ovoid jars with a flat or slightly convex base, decorated with a single rope band on the shoulder (in the case of grave 7)⁴³.

Yet another type of small cylindrical jars, with almost straight sides and made of coarser fabric (SN-II-2) was found in graves nos. 5, 12, 20 belonging also to group 1 (Fig.9:5-7). Most examples of that type have a slightly smoothed surface. Moreover, the upper part of these was frequently finished by slow turning, while the middle and lower parts were trimmed vertically or diagonally. These jars seem to be dated slightly later than fine ware cylindrical jars without decoration.⁴⁴ It can be suggested that they appeared around / after the middle of the I Dynasty (end of Naqada IIIc1/beginning of Naqada IIIc2). At Tell el-Farkha they occur in graves for which characteristic is absence of cylindrical jars made of fine ware (which were replaced by the discussed rough ware forms). On the other hand, such rough ware jars occur together with other forms characteristic of the beginning and the first half of the I Dynasty (e.g. wine jars with three applied rope-bands in grave no. 20, shouldered jars deco-

⁴³ Abłamowicz, Dębowska, Jucha, *The Graves...*, 406-415, Figs.4-6.

⁴⁴ Smythe, J., *The Pottery from operation 3/Tomb 1 at Helwan*, [in:] Hendrickx, Friedman, Ciałowicz, Chłodnicki (eds.), *Egypt at its Origins...*, 324-325, Fig.15:a.

rated with lightly impressed half-bows around the shoulder in graves nos. 20 and 5; broad-shouldered ovoid jars with a flat or slightly convex base, decorated with single rope band on the shoulder in grave no. 5), which were found in other tombs together with fine ware cylindrical jars⁴⁵.

More narrow examples of such rough ware cylindrical jars⁴⁶ (not attested at Tell el-Farkha) seem to belong to a slightly later stage in development of that group (Naqada IIIC2),⁴⁷ whereas examples which probably represent a further distortion of that form⁴⁸ are known from the end of the I dynasty (Naqada IIID)⁴⁹ (although none of them was attested in the graves at Tell el-Farkha, either).

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⁴⁵ Jucha, *The Pottery from the graves*, [in:] Chłodnicki, Ciałowicz, *Polish Excavations 2002-2003...*, 68-69, Fig.15; M.A.Jucha, *Pottery from the Graves* [in:] Chłodnicki M. & Ciałowicz K.M. with contribution by... *Polis Excavations at Tell el-Farkha (Ghazala) in the Nile Delta. Preliminary Report 2004-2005*, *Archeologia* LVII, 2006 (2007): 97, Fig.14.

⁴⁶ Petrie, *Corpus of Proto-Dynastic...*, Tab.IX:50t,50v.

⁴⁷ Hendrickx, *The relative chronology 1993...*, 88; Smythe, *The Pottery...*, 325, Fig.15.c-d.

⁴⁸ Petrie, *Corpus of Proto-Dynastic...*, Tab. IX:51.

⁴⁹ Köhler, E.Ch., *On the Origins of Memphis – The New Excavations in the Early Dynastic Necropolis at Helwan*, [in:] Hendrickx, Friedman, Ciałowicz, Chłodnicki (eds.), *Egypt at its Origins...*, 301, Fig.2; Smythe, *The Pottery...*, 325, Fig.15.e-k.