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**SOME UNCOMMON POTTERY FROM TELL IBRAHIM AWAD  
(EASTERN DELTA)**

**Willem M. van Haarlem, Amsterdam**

In the course of the excavations at Tell Ibrahim Awad, several unparallelled (or hardly parallelled) items of pottery have come to light, worth to be mentioned briefly here. Any (more) similar items would be welcome.

The first one is a small vessel with an ovoid body and a wide neck with a broad rim, Nile clay I B 1 (Findno. A 140/190/455, Fig. 1). Date: Naqada IId. The body is obliquely cut off on one side and broken off on the other side. It is hand-formed, except for the wheel-made rim. Slip: Munsell Soil Color Chart 2.5 YR 5/6. I'm not aware of any parallels. One might assume a cultic use, as it was found in a temple area. Maybe some liquid was poured in the body and could then flow out of the neck (or spout) ?

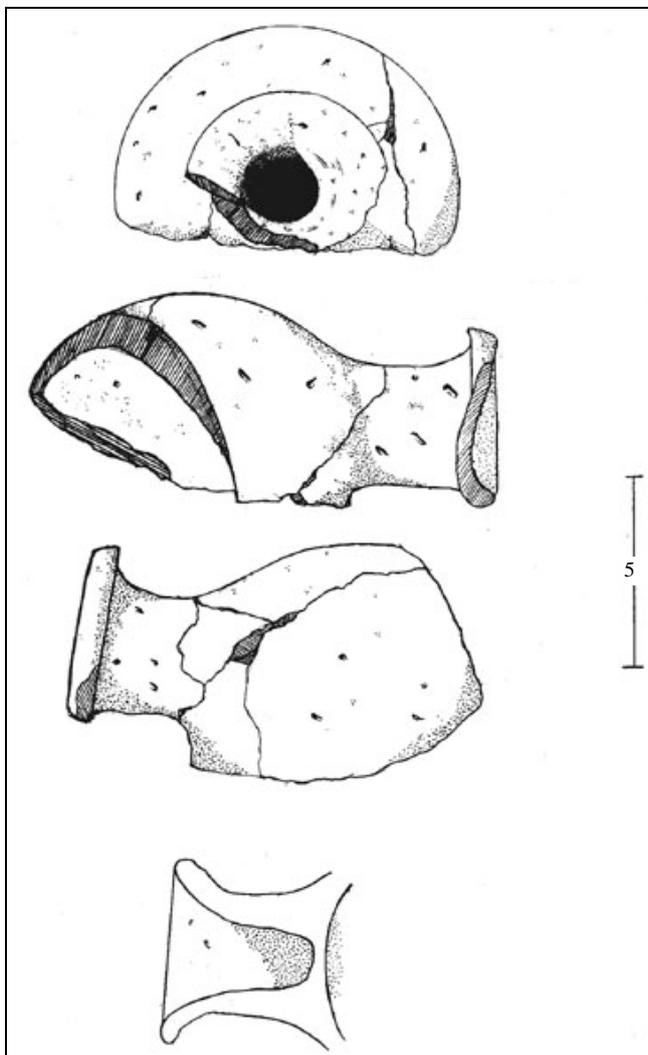


Fig. 1: Vessel A 140/190/455

The second one is an incomplete hand-formed plate with high sides, divided into (probably) four compartments, Nile clay I C (Findno. A 130/210/95, Fig. 2a-b). Slip: 5 YR 6/4. It was found in a First Intermediate Period settlement context. It is probably a bread mould with a parallel in a vessel found in Tomb K01.12 at Dra Abu'l Naga (Findno. ZN 02/12)<sup>1</sup>.

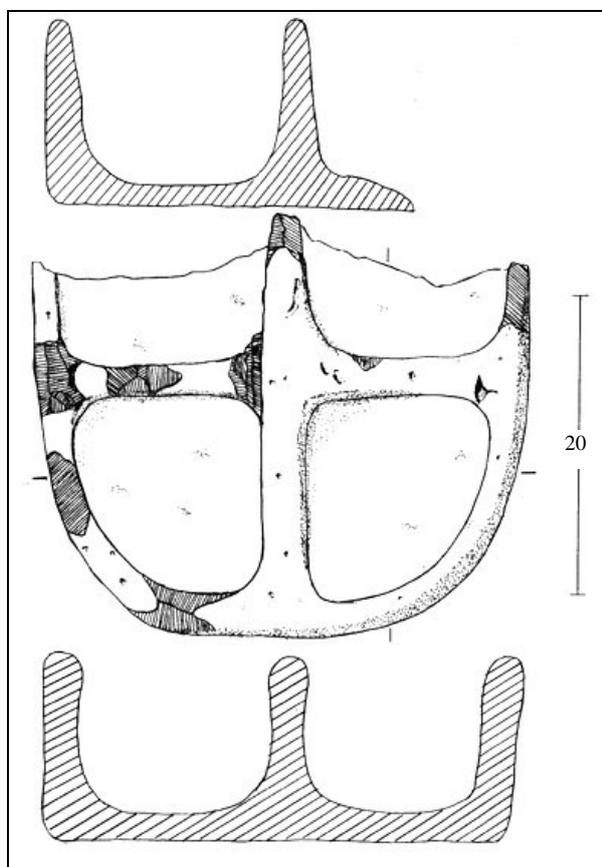


Fig.2a-b: Findno. A 130/210/95



One similar, but less complete fragment has come to light in a settlement context (Fig. 3).

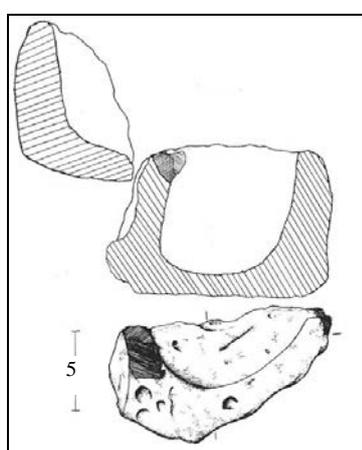


Fig.3: Bread mould, A 130/230/47B

<sup>1</sup> Seiler, A. *Tradition & Wandel: die Keramik als Spiegel der Kulturentwicklung Thebens in der Zweiten Zwischenzeit*. (Sonderschrift DAIK 32, 2005), 68-69 / Fig. 23 (Middle Kingdom)

The third group is the most enigmatic. It comprises about 30 ceramic fragments from Phase 7 in square A 140/190, dated in Naqada IId<sup>2</sup>. Most of them are Nile clay I B, some I C. They have two smoothed (or reworked) edges, possibly belonging to rectangular flat or slightly curved plates<sup>3</sup>. Unfortunately, no complete specimens have been found so far, so this interpretation remains speculative. The following examples are illustrated: two fragments from A 140/190/486 (Fig. 4), and one from A 140/190/444 (Fig. 5).

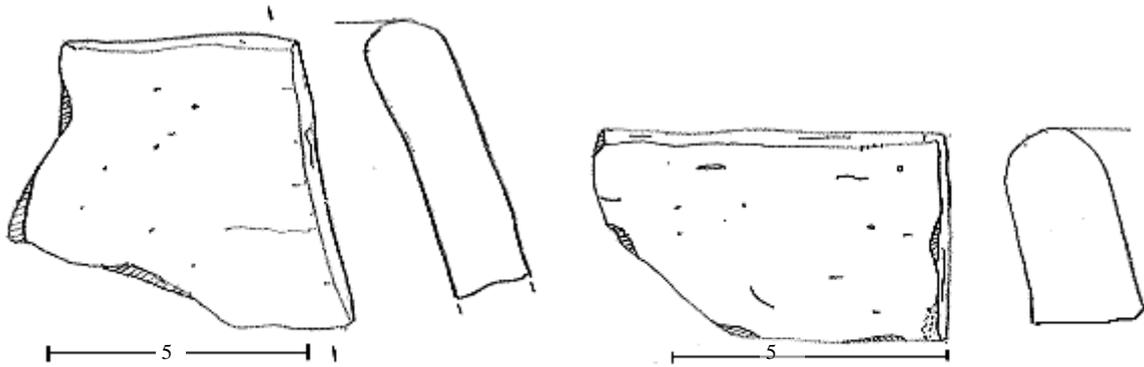


Fig. 4

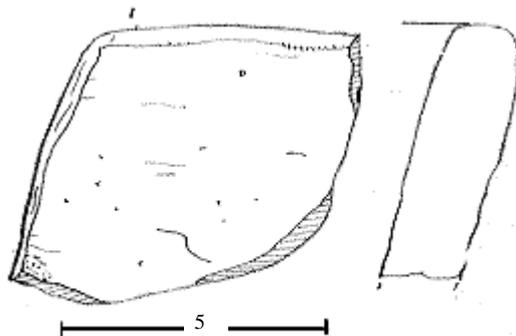


Fig. 5

<sup>2</sup> van Haarlem, W.M., *Temple Deposits at Tell Ibrahim Awad* (Amsterdam 2009), 16-17

<sup>3</sup> Comparable fragments are known from Buto: Köhler, E. Chr., *Tell el-Fara'in-Buto III* (AVDAI. 94, 1998), 28-29 / Pl. 50; Mendes: Friedman, R., *The Early Dynastic and Transitional Pottery of Mendes: the 1990 Season*, in: van den Brink, E.C.M. (ed.), *The Nile Delta in Transition: 4<sup>th</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Millennium B.C.* (Tel Aviv 1992), 202; and Tell el-Farkha: M. Chlodnicki, i.a., *Italian Excavations in the Nile Delta: Fresh Data and New Hypotheses on the 4<sup>th</sup> Millennium Cultural Development of Egyptian Prehistory*, in *Rivista di Archeologia* 15 (1991), 18 (Fig. 13, 31).