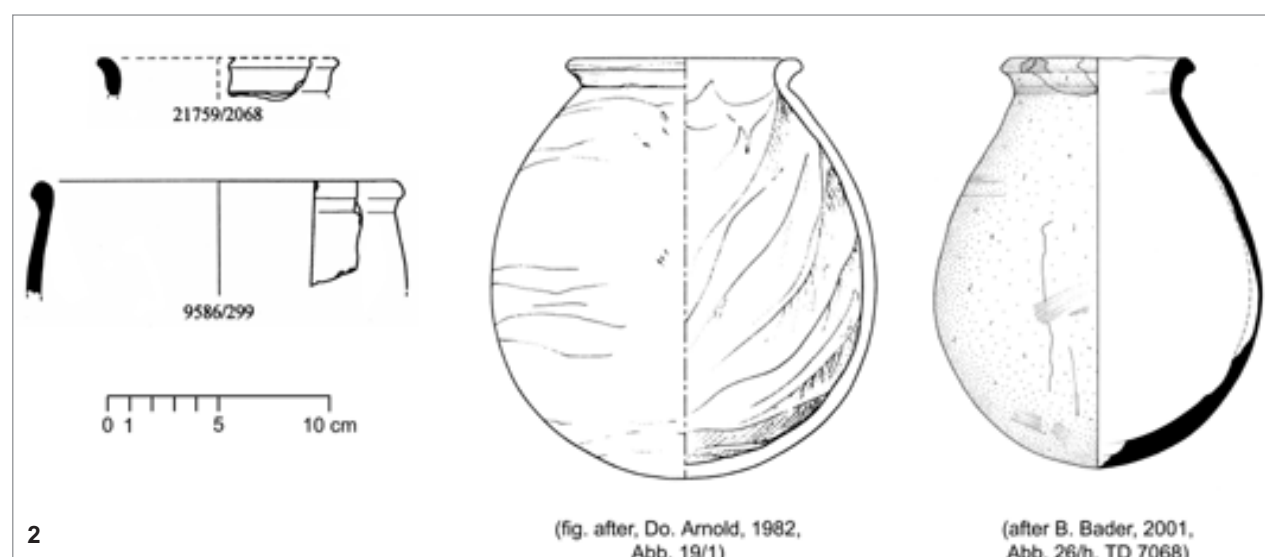


The ancient city of Sidon with its sea harbour was one of Egypt's most important connections to the Ancient Near East and the Mediterranean in the MB IIA period <sup>1</sup>. As a part of SCIEM 2000's "stratigraphie comparée nouvelle" project) the MB IIA pottery material of Sidon was investigated for Egyptian imports in a joint effort of the Sidon and Tell el-Dab'a excavations <sup>2</sup>. Some of the results shall be represented here.

The sherds that will be discussed in this paper are all ascribed to level 4, the first occupation phase in MB Sidon see Doumet-Serhal in this issue p. 37-40). All fragments of Egyptian origin from this phase belong to the fabric group Vienna System Marl C1 <sup>3</sup> (see fig. 1, p. 85 and Griffiths & Ownby in this issue, p. 63) and are from closed vessels.



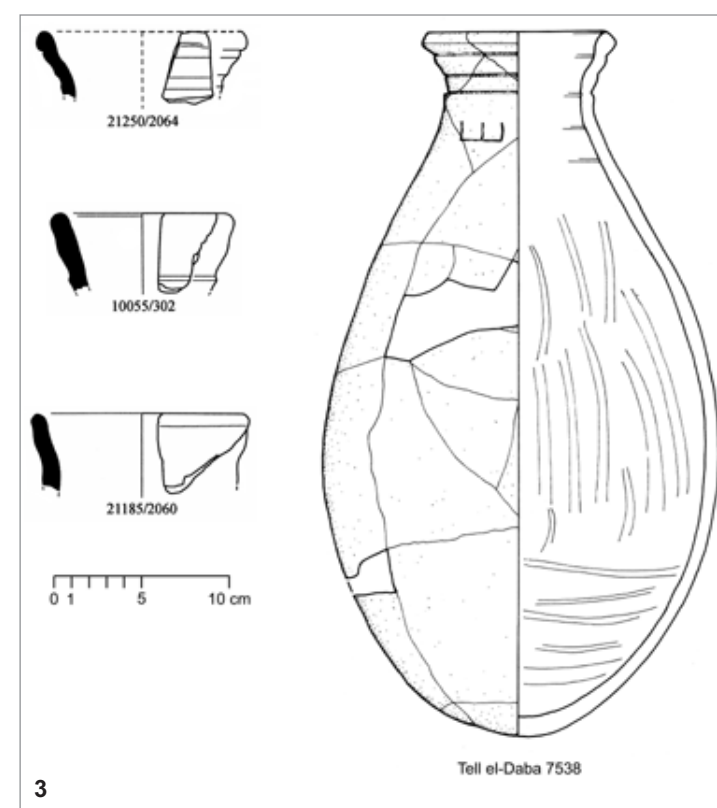
Medium-sized Jars (fig. 2)

Two of the rim fragments (S/21759/2068 and S/9586/299) belong to medium-sized jars. This type of vessel has its forerunners already in the first half of the 12<sup>th</sup> dynasty <sup>4</sup> and was produced until the first half of the Hyksos period <sup>5</sup>. Its body varies from globular to bag-shaped and its rim folded to the outside with a bulging lip which is profiled. Mostly handmade with the rim formed on a turnable device, one finds occasionally wheel-made examples from the 13<sup>th</sup> dynasty onwards. The sizes of these jars vary with heights between 12 to 26 cm and rim diameter from 6 to 12 cm. While one sherd (S/21759/2068) falls with its 11 cm rim diameter into the average size, the other sherd of this type (S/9586/299) has an unusually large diameter of 17 cm which most probably can be traced back to the fact that these vessels are individually made and the one or other piece might have been slightly deformed either during the manufacturing process, the

drying or firing process. The curving of the sherd shows that it belonged to a globular jar of this type. Do. Arnold has stated a chronological differentiation between earlier globular vessels, mainly from the 12<sup>th</sup> dynasty and later bag-shaped vessels from the 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> dynasty <sup>6</sup>. That differentiation is also visible in the settlement material from Tell el-Dab'a. <sup>53</sup>

There fragments of globular jars have been found up until the beginning of Phase G/1-3 <sup>7</sup>. In Egyptian terms this would set the Sidon sherd in the period between the second half of the 12<sup>th</sup> dynasty and the beginning of the 13<sup>th</sup> dynasty. Parallels have been found all over Egypt. One piece comes from tomb 150 in Riffah, which dates into the second half of the 12<sup>th</sup> dynasty <sup>8</sup>. In Harageh they were uncovered in burials of the 12<sup>th</sup> <sup>9</sup> and early 13<sup>th</sup> dynasty <sup>10</sup>. The examples from Bauschicht 13 in Elephantine <sup>11</sup> fall into the late 12<sup>th</sup> and early 13<sup>th</sup> dynasty. Further jars come from the settlements of Kahun <sup>12</sup>, Qasr al-Sagha <sup>13</sup> and Balat <sup>14</sup>. Jars of this type were exported also into the Nubian regions, where they were found mainly in tombs like Aniba <sup>15</sup>, Ukma West <sup>16</sup> and Sai <sup>17</sup>.

From the second example only the rim is preserved, therefore it might come either from a globular or a bag-shaped jar. The latter make their first appearance in the Phase H from Tell el-Dab'a and exist up until the very early Phase D/3 <sup>18</sup>. These jars appeared in tombs as well as in settlements.



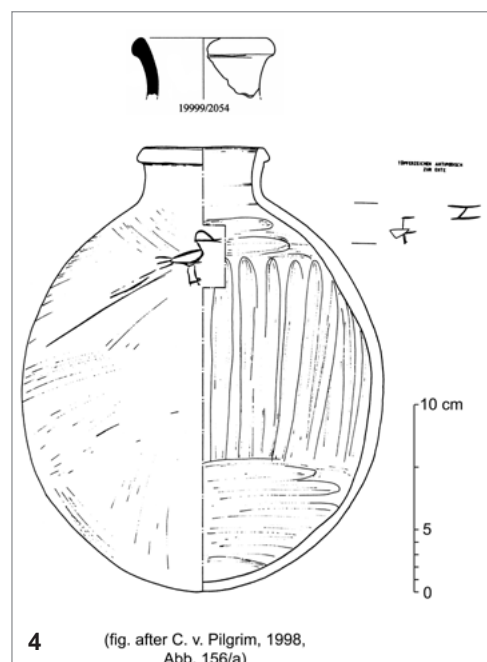
Large jars with corrugated necks (fig. 3)

In level 4 from Sidon three sherds from large jars with corrugated necks (S/21250/2064, S/21185/2060 and S/10055/302) have been found. These vessels with their egg-shaped bodies appear in Egypt from the second half of the 12<sup>th</sup> Dynasty until the middle of the Hyksos time. Their funnel-like rims are folded to the outside and corrugated and their rim diameter varies from 10 to 13 cm and their max. height from 40 to 50 cm. All of the vessels are handmade, with their neck and rims formed on a turnable device. The predecessors of these jars appear for the first time post- Sesostri I, in the Middle Kingdom layers of 'Ezbet Rushdi <sup>19</sup> as well as in Bauschicht 14-15 in Elephantine <sup>20</sup>. Although the production technique of those earlier jars is

the same, their bodies are more globular and they are larger. Since only a small group of complete vessels have survived, attention has to be turned to the shape of the rim once more. Here two types can be differentiated, an earlier one with the upper most horizontal groove of the corrugation only 1 cm below the rim, and a more recent one where this groove is further below the rim <sup>21</sup>. The first group appears in Egypt from the reign of Senwosret III/Amenemhat III, until the middle of the 13<sup>th</sup>

dynasty, while the second group was found from the middle of the 13<sup>th</sup> dynasty until the middle of the 15<sup>th</sup> dynasty. All rim sherds from Sidon belong to the earlier group. In Egypt these vessels have been found in tombs as well as in settlements. Some of these vessels carry hieratic inscriptions revealing their content, use or possibly their destination. A complete and a fragmentary piece with an inscription were found by de P. de Morgan in the princess gallery below the pyramid of Senwosret III in Dahsur<sup>22</sup>. Do. Arnold translated the text as “[belonging to an] *lustration basin*”<sup>23</sup>. The burials in this gallery took place in the reigns of Senwosret III and his successor Amenemhat III. Two jars, one complete and the other a rim fragment have been uncovered in Bauschicht 13 in Elephantine<sup>24</sup>. This layer is dated by T. Rzeuska into the late 12<sup>th</sup> and early 13<sup>th</sup> dynasty. Further parallels come from “Abhub 2” of the settlement south of the temple of Qasr es-Sagha dated to the first half of the 13<sup>th</sup> dynasty<sup>25</sup>, and the phases of the late 12<sup>th</sup> and early 13<sup>th</sup> dynasty in Askut<sup>26</sup>. Pieces of this type have been found in Beni Hassan<sup>27</sup> and Illahun<sup>28</sup>, but also outside Egypt from Serabit al-Khadim<sup>29</sup> and the Northern Sinai<sup>30</sup> to Kerma<sup>31</sup> and the cemeteries of Sai<sup>32</sup> in Nubia.

Smaller stone versions of these jars were produced at the same time. While their use was probably for ointments, the examples made of clay contained probably beer<sup>33</sup> or wine<sup>34</sup>. A body sherd from this kind of vessel is known from the surface of the outer courtyard of the pyramid complex of Senwosret I where pottery from the plundered tombs of this area was found<sup>35</sup>. The hieratic inscription written on this Senwosret I jar contains a word which can be read as *mn* and could be translated as “Lebanon”<sup>36</sup>, a reading that makes much more sense now in the light of the Sidon finds. It shows that either the container was filled with a product coming from the Lebanese area or that the inscription has to be seen as a delivery address and the jar, and more likely its content, was to be shipped to the Levantine region. If the former was the case then the content was probably filled into the vessel in Egypt. Keeping the Sidon finds in mind it is also possible that the goods were already filled into the Marl C jars in Lebanon and then shipped back to Egypt.



Jar with a triangular lip (fig. 4)

Jars with out-turned rims are rarely found in Egypt, making it all the more surprising that one rim fragment (S/19999/2054) from such a jar comes from level 4 of Sidon. It has a diameter of 12 cm and is handmade. The rim is rolled outward and carelessly trimmed.

A possible parallel<sup>37</sup> is from Bauschicht 13 in Elephantine, from the late 12<sup>th</sup> and early 13<sup>th</sup> dynasty<sup>38</sup>. This globular jar was also handmade.

Zir (fig. 5)

One rim fragment (S/24899/1081) comes from a big container, named after the Arabic word for water jars, a *Zir*. In Egypt these vessels with their heights between 40 to 60 cm, were used as storage containers. Due to their density they contained liquids but also other commodities

such as grains, salted meat or herbs<sup>39</sup>. On desert roads they were used as water reservoirs<sup>40</sup> and in gardens as basins<sup>41</sup>. These vessels were found from the beginning of the 12<sup>th</sup> dynasty until the 18<sup>th</sup> dynasty. Throughout this period the development of the shape of their body as well as their rims and bases is of chronological relevance.

The rim of the Sidon example is rolled to the outside and profiled by the potter. Vessels of this type have bag-shaped bodies and large flat bases<sup>42</sup>. Variations in the rim diameters lay between 18 to 48 cm. The example from Sidon was probably a smaller sample of this vessel group, since its rim diameter of 22 cm is more towards the lower end of the scale. With its shape it fits type 3 of the chronological development in rims (fig. 6). Rim type 3 dates to the period between Senwosret III and the middle of the 13<sup>th</sup> dynasty. The complete *Zir* of burial 24<sup>43</sup> from Sidon (fig. 9 p. 38 in this issue) is attributed to the same type of rim<sup>44</sup>. Parallels either dated by stratigraphy or by texts have been found in Tell el-Dab'a<sup>45</sup>, Dahshur<sup>46</sup>, Qasr es-Sagha<sup>47</sup>, Karnak<sup>48</sup> and Mirgissa<sup>49</sup>.

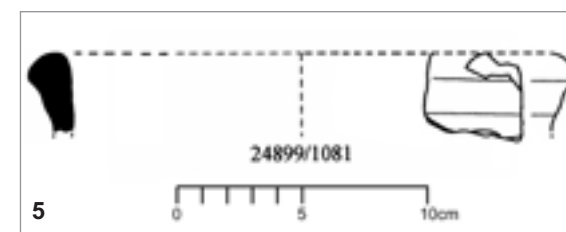
### Statistic analysis

The Egyptian imports within level 4 consist exclusively of fabric Marl C. 51 sherds (including both rim and body sherds) could be identified, all of them closed shapes, appr. 75% of the amount as *Zirs*, the rest as different types of jars.

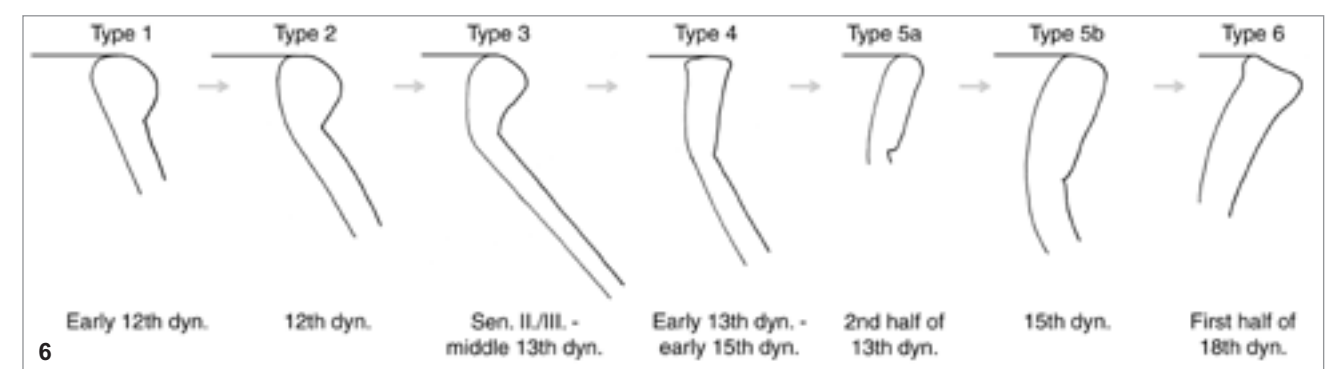
In comparison to previous phases a significant increase can be discerned in level 4, a period when trade contacts between Egypt and the harbour towns on the Levantine coast seem to have increased (see Doumet-Serhal in this issue p. 39).

### Conclusion:

All the fragments of Egyptian vessels found in Sidon are from closed containers of different sizes mainly made of Marl C. Since Marl C is a very dense and compact clay when fired, it is only natural that vessels of this fabric were more often used for trading than containers of the more fragile Nile clays.



There are no written sources from the Middle Kingdom dealing with goods that were exported from Egypt, but from texts of the New Kingdom we can reconstruct possible exports. From the Amarna period a tablet is preserved which lists exports from king Akhenaten to king Burniburiaš of Babylon<sup>50</sup>.





Although this list contains goods destined as luxury gift items some of these goods were most probably also common commercial exports. The text speaks about gold and gold objects such as jewellery and vessels, furniture made of exotic woods as well as cedars, bronze objects like mirrors and vessels, linen, stone vessels filled with different kinds of oils, statues of Egyptian goods made of different materials, ivory as raw material and objects made of it. From the report of Wenamun<sup>51</sup> of the 21<sup>st</sup> dynasty we know that in addition to the items mentioned above ox-hides, ropes, lentils and dried fish were exported. Some exports are attested archaeologically such as stone or alabaster vessels<sup>52</sup>, faience<sup>53</sup> and scarabs. The famous ship of Uluburun from between the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> and the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> dynasty, also carried, beside many other things ebony and elephant tusks<sup>54</sup>, raw materials from inner Africa and Nubia, all of which was certainly exported by Egypt. Further possible trading goods transported in these vessels could have been cereals, herbs of different kinds or medicine, for which Egyptian physicians were famous in ancient times. All these goods which had been partly processed in Egypt arrived in the important Levantine harbour cities like Sidon or Byblos and were then locally distributed to the whole Near East. These preliminary results from Sidon resemble the situation already visible at Egyptian sites like Tell el-Dab<sup>a</sup><sup>55</sup> and Lisht<sup>56</sup>. Obviously there was a significant increase in the volume of traded goods in the late 12<sup>th</sup> and the first half of the 13<sup>th</sup> dynasty between Egypt and the Levantine coast. While in Egypt this phenomenon is well attested by finds and texts<sup>57</sup>, evidence from the Levant with the exception of Byblos<sup>58</sup> is scarce. With the well stratified finds from Sidon it is possible for the first time to connect the Levantine coast with Egyptian excavations and furthermore with Egyptian chronology.

56

## NOTES

1 See previous articles, C. Doumet-Serhal, 2003, *AHL*, 18, p. 12–13. Further: B. Bader, 2003, *AHL*, 18, p. 31–37. See also: C. Doumet-Serhal in this issue, p. 34.

2 The material from sidon presented in this volume was excavated before 2005.

3 Marl C1 is a fabric in which the dominating limestone and sand particles are well spread with occasionally larger Marl particles in between. During the firing process this fabric creates a white self slip on its surface. Its fracture is either homogeneous brick-red or zoned with a black or grey core. Due to the high firing temperatures, between 850°–1000°C, these vessels were often used to contain liquids. H.-Å. Nordström and J. Bourriau, 1993, *Ceramic Technology: Clays and Fabrics*, p. 180.

4 E. Czerny, 2002, "Egyptian Pottery from Tell el-Dab<sup>a</sup> as a Context for Early MB IIA Painted Ware", *CChEM*, 3, p. 142/fig. 25a.

5 B. Bader, 2001, *Tell el-Dab<sup>a</sup> XIII*, p. 119, nr. 182.

6 Do. Arnold, 1982, *MDAIK*, 38, 63–64, Abb. 19.

7 K. Kopetzky, 2005, *Die Chronologie der Siedlungskeramik der Zweiten Zwischenzeit aus Tell el-Dab<sup>a</sup> (Ägypten)*, p. 210–211.

8 R. Engelbach, 1915, *Riqqeh and Memphis VI*, pl. XXIX/36l2.

9 R. Engelbach, 1923, *Harageh*, pl. XXXV/36l, 36 L 2, tomb 391.

10 R. Engelbach, 1923, *Harageh*, pl. XXXV/36l, 36L2, tomb 64.

11 C. v. Pilgrim, 1996, *Elephantine XVIII*, p. 339, Abb. 150/f; p. 349, Abb. 155/c,d.

12 J. Bourriau and S. Quirke,

1998, *Lahun Studies*, p. 63, fig. 1/6, 9.

13 J. Sliwa, 1988, *Fontes Archaeologici Posnanienses*, 36, p. 209, fig. 30/1, 2. Also: Do. Arnold, 1979, *Der Tempel von Qasr el-Sagha*, 33, Abb. 19/7.

14 Do. Arnold, 1982, *Keramikfunde aus Qilac el-Dabba*, Taf. 62/G.

15 G. Steindorff, 1935, *Aniba*, I, p. 196, Taf. 81/11, tomb C 13; p. 194, Taf. 18/10, tomb C 2.

16 A. Vila, 1987, *Le Cimetière Kermaïque d'Ukma Ouest*, p. 204, fig. 228/201/4; fig. 229/22/2.

17 B. Gratien, 1986, *Saï I*, SKC 1 tomb 1, p. 144, fig. 134/b; SKC 6 tomb 6, p. 232, fig. 195/b; SKC 6 tomb 16, p. 250, fig. 205/e.

18 K. Kopetzky, 2005, p. 211–212.

19 E. Czerny, 2002, *CChEM*, 3, p. 142, fig. 26.

20 C. v. Pilgrim, 1996, *Elephantine XVIII*, p. 359, abb. 160 j.

21 M. Bietak, 1991, *BASOR*, 281, p. 37, fig. 8.

22 J. de Morgan, 1895, *Fouilles a Dahchour, Mars-Juin 1894*, p. 74, fig. 164.

23 Do. Arnold, 1981, *Studien zur Altägyptischen Keramik*, p. 186.

24 C. v. Pilgrim, 1996, *Elephantine XVIII*, p. 351, Abb. 156/b. T. Rzeuska, 1999, *MDAIK*, 55, 202, Abb. 45/5.

25 Do. Arnold, 1979, *Der Tempel von Qasr el-Sagha*, 37, Abb. 22/11.

26 S. T. Smith, 1995, *Askut in Nubia*, 60, fig. 3.6/A.

27 J. Garstang, 1907, *The Burial Customs*, pl. XVI/47.

28 J. Bourriau and S. Quirke, 1998, *Lahun Studies*, 63, fig. 1/ 11, 12.

29 J. Bourriau, 1996, *Cripel*, 18,

22, fig. 10; 27, fig. 4/11, 12.

30 E. Oren, 1997, *The "Kingdom of Sharuhen" and the Hyksos Kingdom*, 276, fig. 8.23/16.

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31 D. Dunham, 1982, *Excavations at Kerma*, 35, fig. 64b/5; 161, pl. IIb/B70; 171, pl. XIb/K5534/left; 173, pl. XIIc/links; 173, pl. XIIIa/left; 174, pl. XIVb/left and middle; 175, pl. XIVc/left; 189, pl. XXVIIIa; 187, pl. XXVc/ left.

32 B. Gratien, 1986, *Saï I*, SKC 1 tomb 21, 169, fig. 155/a, SKC 1 tomb 41, 203, fig. 176; SKC 6 tomb 16, 250, fig. 205/d.

33 D. Arnold, 1992, *The Pyramid Complex of Senwosret I*, 77, nr. 233, pl. 95; on one body sherd from such a jar, found in the outer courtyard of the Pyramid Complex of Senwosret I in Lisht, was written in hieratique aHa, which is a measure for beer (WB I, 221, 16).

34 H. O. Lange, H. Schäfer, 1902, *Grab- und Denksteine des Mittleren Reiches*, 349–352, Nr. 20722. This relief fragment from Abydos, which is dated to the late 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> dynasty, shows such a jar and next to it in hieroglyphs "wine" as it content.

35 D. Arnold, 1992, *The Pyramid Complex of Senwosret I*, 77, nr. 233, pl. 95.

36 WB II, 421, 5. The second reading as *rmn.t*, WB II, 420, 15, which means a "kind of pot", as suggested by D. Arnold, 1992, *The Pyramid Complex of Senwosret I*, 77, nr. 233, should be excluded. *Rmn.t* is determined with the symbol of a 'pot' and not, as written on the jar, with the symbol of 'foreign land'.

37 C. v. Pilgrim, 1996, *Elephantine XVIII*, p. 351, Abb. 156/a.

38 For the dating of "Bauschicht" 13 see above.

39 S. Allen, 1998, *OLA*, 82, p. 45–46.

40 I. Shaw, E. Bloxam, J. Bunbury, R. Lee, A. Graham and D. Darnell, 2001, *Antiquity*, 75, fig. 4.

41 C.C. van Siclen III, 1996, *Remarks on the Middle Kingdom Palace at Tell Basta*, p. 242, fig. 7.

42 See: B. Bader, 2003, *AHL*, 18, p. 34.

43 B. Bader, 2003, *AHL*, 18, p. 34, fig. 4.

44 A re-dating of this vessel is forthcoming.

45 K. Kopetzky, 2005, p. 218-220.

46 S. J. Allen, 1998, *OLA*, 82, fig. 3/9. Also: Do. Arnold, 1982, *MDAIK* 38, p. 32, Abb. 8/5, 7.

47 Do. Arnold, 1979, *Der Tempel von Qasr es-Sagha*, 32. Also: J. Sliwa, 1987/1988, *Fontes Archaeologici Posnanienses*, 36, fig. 18–20, 27–35.

48 H. Jacquet-Gordon, 1990, *Karnak Nord*, *BCE*, 14, 17, fig. 2/2.

49 A. Vila, 1963, *Journal des Savants*, 153, 153, fig. 13/14.

50 EA 14: J.A. Knudtzon, 1915, *Die El-Amarna-Tafeln*, p. 107-125.

51 H. Goedicke, 1975, *The Report of Wenamun*, p. 94.

52 M. Dunand, 1950, *Fouilles de Byblos II*, pl. CXII/15393, 15404, 15385, pl. CCIII/11424, 9361

53 M. Dunand, 1950, *Fouilles de Byblos II*, pl. C–CVIII.

54 C. Pulak, 2005, *Das Schiffswrack von Uluburun*, p. 71.  
55 For the amount of imports from the Levantine coast to Tell el-Dab'a see: M. Bietak, 1991, *BASOR*, 281 and K. Kopetzky, 2005, a.o.

56 See Do. Arnold, F. Arnold and S. Allen, 1995, "Canaanite Imports at Lisht, the Middle Kingdom Capital of Egypt", *Ä&L*, 5.

57 See for instance the intriguing historical text from the tomb of the Chief Stewart and Vezier Chnumhotep in Dahshur who served under the kings Senworet II and III, J. Allen, 2004, which sheds a completely new light on the relations between Egypt and the Levant.

58 One has to keep in mind, that no well stratified finds exist from Byblos for this period.

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Drawings: Norma Sfeir-Khoury  
scanning: Ramy Yassine.