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*Pottery from an Early Old Kingdom Terrace Quarry
in West Saqqara (Egypt)*

The West Saqqara necropolis, just east of Netjerykhet's funerary complex, has been in the focus of archaeological research carried out by the Polish mission in 1987 and later, since 1996, by the Polish-Egyptian mission of the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology.¹ In the course of excavations two necropoleis have been revealed: the Lower, dated to the Sixth Dynasty – terminal phase of the Old Kingdom, and the Upper, from the end of the Late Period to the Roman times.

The pottery from the studied area constitutes the most numerous group of objects found here. The dominating majority, approximately 96%, is associated with the Lower Necropolis, while only 3% of the material could be linked to the Upper Necropolis. The remaining 1% comprised ceramics dated to other periods, primarily Early Dynastic and early Old Kingdom.

CERAMICS PREDATING THE LOWER NECROPOLIS

Typologically, the material identified up until season 2009 and predating the Lower Necropolis is uniform. In regard to the Early Dynastic pottery, it comprises primarily fragments of burnished bowls and plates, as well as jars with scraped surface. Other forms, including a thick-walled jar with a built-in sieve in the rim or wine jars fragments, are exceptionally rare. The early Old Kingdom ceramic repertoire, on the other hand, is represented by five main types: beer jars with a collar, bowls with inner ledge, various carinated bowls, bread moulds with rounded base and large ovoid jars.

The largest concentration of the Early Dynastic and the early Old Kingdom pottery has been so far observed in the eastern part of the necropolis, in particular immediately next to the enclosure wall of the royal complex.² Such location can be perfectly explained by the proximity of Netjerykhet's complex, from which the pottery is most likely to have originated. The sherds must have been transferred to the investigated area either through clearing the surroundings of the royal tomb or with water from torrential rains common in this region at the end of the Old Kingdom.³

¹ In 1987, three evaluation trial pits were excavated, with the full excavations commenced in 1996. For the complete bibliography of the site see: K. MYŚLIWIEC, with contributions by K. KURASZKIEWICZ, D. CZERWIK, T. RZEUSKA, M. KACZMAREK, A. KOWALSKA, M. RADOMSKA, Z. GODZIEJEWSKI, *The Tomb of Merefnebef, Saqqara I*, Varsovie 2004 [= *Saqqara I*], pp. 31–36 (up to year 2004); M. RADOMSKA, A. KOWALSKA, M. KACZMARCZYK, T.I. RZEUSKA, E. KOPP, K.O. KURASZKIEWICZ, J.K. WINNICKI, *The Upper Necropolis, Saqqara III*, Ed. K. Myśliwiec, Varsovie 2008, pp. 27–28 (for the years 2005–2008); K. MYŚLIWIEC and K. KURASZKIEWICZ, with contributions by A. KOWALSKA, M. RADOMSKA, T.I. RZEUSKA, M. KACZMAREK, I. KOZIERADZKA, Z. GODZIEJEWSKI, S. IKRAM, and A. ZATORSKA, *The Tomb of Nyankhnefertum, Saqqara IV*, Varsovie 2010, pp. 23–24 (for the years 2009–2010); K.O. KURASZKIEWICZ, *Old Kingdom Structures Between the Step Pyramid Complex and the Dry Moat, Part 1: Architecture and Development of the Necropolis, Saqqara V/1*, Ed. K. Myśliwiec, Varsovie 2013, pp. 6–7; F. WELC, M. KACZMAREK, I. KOZIERADZKA-OGUNMAKIN, A. KOWALSKA, T.I. RZEUSKA, Z. GODZIEJEWSKI, with contribution by W. WEKER, *Old Kingdom Structures Between the Step Pyramid Complex and the Dry Moat, Part 2: Geology, Anthropology, Finds, Conservation, Saqqara V/2*, Ed. K. Myśliwiec, Varsovie 2013 [= *Saqqara V/2*] (for the years 2011–2013).

² T.I. RZEUSKA, *West Saqqara 2001. The Pottery, PAM XIII (Reports 2001)*, 2002, pp. 151–153.

³ Objects that might have derived from the Netjerykhet complex have been found at the West Saqqara necropolis already, cf.: E. DRIOTON, J.-PH. LAUER, *Un groupe de tombes à Saqqarah: Icheti, Nefer-Khouou-Ptah, Sébek-em-Khet et Ânkhî*, *ASAE* 55, 1957, pp. 220–222.



1. Saqqara, lower quarry terrace, view from the west; in the middle, Anonymous Tomb XLI. The presented ceramics come from the northern part of the terrace (Phot. W. Wojciechowski).

It has been possible to observe a certain regularity in the distribution of ceramics from these two epochs, which become visibly less frequent towards the west. For example, in the area of the Dry Moat, several dozen metres away from the western enclosure wall of Netjerykhet's complex, only one single fragment of a beer jar from the early Old Kingdom was found.⁴ This further confirms the origin of the analysed pottery.

CERAMICS FROM THE QUARRY AREA

In the course of archaeological works carried out over the investigated area in seasons 2009 and 2010 an early Old Kingdom terrace quarry was uncovered – a rather unsurprising discovery considering the close vicinity of the funerary complex of Netjerykhet (**Fig. 1**).⁵ This article aims to present the Early Dynastic and early Old Kingdom pottery recovered from the first terrace of the quarry, the so-called lower terrace, situated nearest to the eastern edge of the 'Dry Moat' (**Fig. 2**). Those ceramics which date to the late Old Kingdom – and as such are chronologically later than the quarry – have been only briefly introduced in the discussion, mainly because they represent well-known and frequently published standard vessel types. The material is presented in three groups according to their stratigraphic position of deposits they were found within. The first two assemblages

⁴ T.I. RZEUSKA, Saqqara West 2000. The Pottery, *PAM* XII (Reports 2000), 2001, pp. 138–139, Fig. 1.

⁵ F. WELC, The Third Dynasty Open Quarry West of the Netjerykhet Pyramid Complex (Saqqara), *EtudTrav* XXIV, 2011, pp. 271–304.



2. Plan of the eastern part of the necropolis excavated by the Polish-Egyptian mission between the Netjerykhet's complex and the Dry Moat, with marked quarry features (Drawing: K.O. Kuraskiewicz, F. Welc).

are pottery from the north-eastern portion of the terrace, while the third one comes from the north-western part of this area. Importantly, this approach of presentation proved significant for the interpretation of the analysed pottery.

ASSEMBLAGE 1 (FROM LAYERS ABOVE THE NORTH-EASTERN PART OF THE LOWER TERRACE – UPPER CONTEXTS)

The first of the identified assemblages was recovered immediately beneath the surface layer of windblown sand, within a layer of *dakka* mixed with a large amount of pottery. Three chronological groups have been distinguished within this assemblage. The first one, markedly more numerous, comprises late Old Kingdom ceramics, while the second and the third significantly smaller groups contain pottery dated to the early Old Kingdom and the Early Dynastic times (**Fig. 3a**).

The first group includes relatively small fragments from nearly all types of beer jars, several dozens fragments of various red-slipped open forms and occasional sherds from bread trays and moulds.

The second group of pottery, dated to the early Old Kingdom times, has a very different character. Apart from its aforementioned small size, it is less typologically diverse with only a handful of types identified. The open forms are represented by a small carinated bowl (**Fig. 4a**) made from Nile silt. The closed forms are exemplified by a rim fragment from a marl clay jar (**Fig. 4b**) and fragments of beer jars with a collar (**Figs 4c-h, 5–6**), which constitute a majority in this group. The primary difference between the two groups is that the vessels of the second one are far better preserved, especially the beer jars, in comparison with the first one. It is the first time such large pottery fragments appear in the material recovered from the investigated area. The Early Dynastic period is illustrated by a deep bowl with burnished surfaces (**Fig. 7a**).

ASSEMBLAGE 2 (FROM LAYERS ABOVE THE NORTH-EASTERN PART OF THE LOWER TERRACE – LOWER CONTEXTS)

The second assemblage was situated below Assemblage 1. It was recovered from a layer comprising frequent fragments of limestone and mud bricks. Assemblage 2, less numerous than the first one, has a different character. Although the late Old Kingdom group of sherds (the first group) is similar to those in Assemblage 1, it is less typologically and chronologically varied as well as considerably smaller. Whereas it forms the majority of ceramics in Assemblage 1, it constitutes approximately only half of the Assemblage 2 (**Fig. 3b**). Similarly to the late Old Kingdom ceramics in Assemblage 1, these vessels, too, come from the eastern part of the necropolis.

The second group in this assemblage comprises pottery dated to the early Old Kingdom. The open forms are represented by carinated (**Fig. 7b**) and hemispherical bowls (**Fig. 7c**) as well as bread forms with a rounded rim and base (**Fig. 7d-e**). The identified closed forms include marl clay (**Fig. 8a**) and Nile silt (**Fig. 8b**) jars, a medium-sized ovoid jar (**Fig. 8c**) and beer jars with a collar (**Fig. 9**) – the most numerous in this group. The non-containers

category is represented by a large, near-cylindrical stand (**Fig. 10**). Fragments from marl clay vessels used secondarily as tools are also present (**Figs 11–13**).

On comparison with the second group of Assemblage 1, this one is markedly more numerous and typologically diverse.

The third group comprises ceramics from the Early Dynastic period, which in this instance form a much better defined group, considerably larger than its equivalent in Assemblage 1 where only one fragment was identified. Here the open forms are represented by plates (**Fig. 14a**) and bowls (**Fig. 14b–d**) with a characteristic burnished surface, and broad, thick-walled bread *bedja* forms (**Fig. 15a**). The closed forms are represented by fragments of a cylindrical jar with wavy plastic decoration (**Fig. 15b**) and small, red-slipped jar (**Fig. 15c**). Also present are fragments of coarse jars, a wall fragment of a jar with a characteristic scraped and red slipped surface (**Fig. 15d**) and bases from large fusiform jars (**Fig. 15e**).

ASSEMBLAGE 3 (FROM LAYERS ABOVE THE NORTH-WESTERN PART OF THE LOWER TERRACE)

The last of the presented assemblages, Assemblage 3, has been identified in the north-western part of the terrace from a limestone-rich layer. In terms of quantity, it is similar to Assemblage 2, although in this instance the particular chronological groups occurred in different proportions to one another (**Fig. 3c**). The pottery group dated to the late Old Kingdom (the first group), approximately half of the entire assemblage, is formed by small ceramic fragments demonstrating a chronological and typological variety.

The second, early Old Kingdom group is larger as well as more typologically diverse than that in Assemblage 2. The open forms are represented by carinated (**Fig. 16a**) and hemispherical (**Fig. 16b**) bowls as well as bowls with an inner ledge (**Fig. 16c–d**); also present are bread trays of different shapes (**Fig. 17a–b**). The closed forms include ovoid jars (**Fig. 17c**) and beer jars with a collar (**Fig. 18**). The latter are the best-represented vessel type, similarly to the chronologically contemporary groups from the other assemblages. Moreover, ceramic fragments with signs of secondary use as tools have also been identified. They are both fragments from marl clay (**Fig. 19a**) and Nile silt (**Fig. 19b**) vessels. They are markedly less numerous in comparison to those from Assemblage 2.

The last ceramic group identified in Assemblage 3, dated to the Early Dynastic period, is similar in terms of quantity to its equivalent from Assemblage 2. The open forms are represented by a hemispherical bowl with burnished surface (**Fig. 20a**), a large vat (**Fig. 20b**) and a broad and shallow bread tray (**Fig. 20c**). A jar with a triangular rim (**Fig. 21a**), beer jars (**Figs 21b–c, 22a–b**) and flat-bottomed jars (**Fig. 22c–d**) are the closed forms observed in this group.

POTTERY FROM THE EARLY OLD KINGDOM

As already mentioned, the analysed material comes from the secondary contexts. In this circumstance, the only way of obtaining precise dates for the particular ceramic families and types was by comparison with analogous objects from well-dated contexts.

Five ceramic families represent the open forms: carinated and hemispherical bowls, plates with an inner ledge, bread forms and trays.

The carinated bowls, usually referred to as ‘Meidum bowls’, are relatively frequent in the material from the necropolis area,⁶ despite being less common in the presented assemblages. Two types of bowls have been identified: the first one defined by a sharp (**Figs 4a, 7b**), the second by a rounded carination (**Fig. 16a**). In both these types the maximum diameter is located at the shoulders. The majority of the vessels are executed in Nile silts, while examples made from marl clays, characterised by the thinner walls than in the Nile silt objects, occur considerably less often. The Nile silt bowls are red-slipped and polished, while the marl clay examples have a natural self-slip (scum). The closest analogies for the vessels with a sharp carination are known from phase VI at Buto dated to the Third–Fourth Dynasty,⁷ others come from Elephantine’s Oststadt (level VIII, the so-called *stone vessels workshop*) correspondent with the times of the late Third–beginning of the Fourth Dynasty.⁸ The bowl with a rounded carination has its analogies from the settlements dated to the late Fourth Dynasty at Heit el-Gourab⁹ and Nazelet el-Samman¹⁰ in Giza.

The next family, plates with an inner ledge – also found during the previous seasons¹¹ – form a diverse ceramic group that comprises bowls of different shapes and sizes and showing varied surface treatment. It is not frequently found in the material from the investigated area and so far two types have been observed: medium-sized with the diameter of c. 15–20cm and large-sized with the diameter of c. 30–32cm, both with a rounded and scraped base and untreated surface.¹² Those from the lower quarry terrace represent the first type (**Fig. 16c–d**). Because this is one of the most recognisable ceramic forms of the early Old Kingdom, its parallels are known throughout the entire Egypt – just to mention the examples from the Memphite necropolis in Giza,¹³ from Saqqara (tomb of Hesi-Re¹⁴) and Dahshur (North Pyramid of Snofru,¹⁵ tomb of Netjer-aperef¹⁶).

⁶ T. RZEUSKA, The Pottery [= The Pottery], [in:] K. MYŚLIWIEC *et al.*, *Saqqara I*, Pl. LXXXIX, p. 204, nos 10–11; EAD., *Saqqara 2007: The Pottery*, *PAM XIX* (Reports 2007), 2010, p. 216; EAD., *Saqqara 2008–2009: The Pottery*, *PAM XXI* (Research 2009), 2012, pp. 179–180, Fig. 4.

⁷ E.C. KÖHLER, Tell el-Fara’in, *Buto III*, *AV 94*, Mainz a/Rhein 1998 [= *Buto III*], p. 24, Taf. 31, nos 4, 6.

⁸ D. RAUE, Ägyptische und nubische Keramik der 1.–4. Dynastie, [in:] W. KAISER *et al.*, *Stadt und Tempel von Elephantine*, 25./26./27. Grabungsbericht, *MDAIK 55*, 1999, pp. 184–185, Abb. 39, nos 2, 10, 12.

⁹ A. WODZIŃSKA, *Egyptian Pottery of the end of the Fourth Dynasty from Giza (site and cemetery)*, unpublished PhD thesis, Warsaw University 2010 [= *Egyptian Pottery*], Pl. 26, no. 10, Pl. 27, nos 8, 10, they are, however, white-slipped, not red-slipped.

¹⁰ Z. HAWASS, A. SENUSSI, *Old Kingdom Pottery from Giza*, Cairo 2008 [= *Old Kingdom Pottery*], pp. 181, 228, no. H 40.

¹¹ RZEUSKA, *The Pottery*, p. 203, Pl. LXXXIX, nos 4–5; EAD., *PAM XIII* (Reports 2001), 2002, pp. 152–153, Fig. 1.

¹² EAD., *The Pottery*, p. 204, Pl. LXXXIX, nos 4–5; EAD., *PAM XIII* (Reports 2001), 2002, pp. 151–153, Fig. 1; EAD., *Saqqara 2006, The Pottery*, *PAM XVIII* (Reports 2006), 2008, pp. 181–182, Fig. 1.

¹³ G.A. REISNER, *A History of the Giza Necropolis II. The tomb of Hetep-heres the Mother of Cheops*, completed and revised by W.S. Smith, Cambridge, Mass. 1955 [= *GN II*], Fig. 75; WODZIŃSKA, *Egyptian Pottery*, Pl. 47 nos 7–12, Pls 48–49, 51, nos 1–3; HAWASS, SENUSSI, *Old Kingdom Pottery*, p. 244, type H2.

¹⁴ J.E. QUIBELL, *The Tomb of Hesi*, Le Caire 1913, Pl. 27.

¹⁵ D. FALTINGS, *Die Keramik aus den Grabungen an der nördlichen Pyramiden des Snofru in Dahschur. Arbeitsbericht über die Kampagnen 1983–1986*, *MDAIK 45*, 1989, pp. 146–147, Abb. 12a, no. A 28.

¹⁶ N. ALEXANIAN, *Das Grab des Prinzes Netjer-aperef. Die Mastaba II/1 in Dahschur*, *Dahschur II*, *AV 56*, Mainz a/Rhein 1999 [= *Dahschur II*], pp. 144–147, Abb. 59, Taf. 19, M. 110.

The family of hemispherical bowls rarely occurs amongst the ceramics recovered from the necropolis (**Figs 7c, 16b**). Its analogies have been found inside the satellite pyramid of Redjedef in Abu Rawwash¹⁷ and in Giza.¹⁸

The fourth of the families comprises *bedja*-bread forms, classified in a pioneering article by Helen Jacquet-Gordon as type A1, i.e. forms with rounded bases.¹⁹ The recent studies, especially on the material from the settlements in Giza²⁰ and Sheikh Said,²¹ demonstrated that these ceramics are a rich and diverse family, which can be further divided into various types according to:

- shape and size: deep and shallow, large and small,
- interior shape: flat or rounded base, and
- fabric type: more or less sandy, or organic.

The early Old Kingdom bread forms are remarkably rare from the investigated area and up to date, after nearly two decades of excavations, a mere handful of fragments have been recorded.²² All of them belong to one type: a medium-sized form with a rounded rim, hemispherical interior and a rounded base, which is not encircled by a characteristic collar so typical of the Fourth Dynasty forms (**Fig. 7d-e**). The vessels, made from a medium sandy clay with limestone and large, clearly visible organic inclusions, are poorly fired. Similar bread forms are known from Bet Khalaf²³ and Elkab²⁴ and indicate a Third Dynasty date for the presented examples.

The last family of the open forms comprises trays, which similarly to the bread forms are generally rare in the area.²⁵ However, unlike the bread forms, they display typological diversity (**Fig. 17a-b**). It cannot be excluded some of them are actually elongated flat bread moulds of *ʿprt* type, but the insufficient preservation of the examples does not allow for a conclusive answer. Three types of trays have been identified in the discussed assemblages: flat, cylinder-like tray, tray with low flaring walls and a groove on the inside below the rim and tray with a sharp edge. All are handmade using paddle-and-anvil technique, while the walls (if present) are coiled. The flat trays of type 1 have their parallels from the

¹⁷ S. MARCHAND, Abou Rawash à la IV^e dynastie. Les vases en céramique de la pyramide satellite de Rêdjédef, [in:] T.I. Rzeuska, A. Wodzińska (Eds), *Studies on Old Kingdom Pottery*, Warsaw 2009, p. 87, classe 7.

¹⁸ REISNER, *GN* II, Fig. 61, Pl. 48a; WODZIŃSKA, *Egyptian Pottery*, Pl. 34, nos 4–14; HAWASS, SENUSSI, *Old Kingdom Pottery*, p. 233, type D8.

¹⁹ H. JACQUET-GORDON, A Tentative Typology of Egyptian Bread Moulds, [in:] Do. Arnold (Ed.), *Studien zur Altägyptischen Keramik*, Mainz a/Rhein 1981 [= *Bread Moulds*], pp. 11–24.

²⁰ A. WODZIŃSKA, Domestic and Funerary/Sacral Pottery from Fourth Dynasty in Giza, [in:] T.I. Rzeuska, A. Wodzińska (Eds), *Studies on Old Kingdom Pottery*, Warsaw 2009 [= *Domestic and Funerary*], p. 211, Fig. 2; EAD., *Egyptian Pottery*, Pls 64–74.

²¹ S. VERECKEN, An Old Kingdom bakery at Sheikh Said South: preliminary report on pottery corpus, [in:] N. & H. Strudwick (Eds), *Old Kingdom, New Perspectives. Egyptian Art and Archaeology 2750–210 BC*, Oxford 2011, p. 280, Figs 2–3.

²² RZEUSKA, *The Pottery*, p. 204, Pl. LXXXIX, no. 13.

²³ J. GARSTANG, Mahasna and Bêt Khallaf, London 1903 [= *Bêt Khallaf*], Pl. XXX, no. 17.

²⁴ L. OP DE BECK with the collaboration of F. DEPUYDT, L. MOELANTS & F. ROLOUX, Early Old Kingdom Pottery from Excavations to the North of the Great Enclosure Wall at Elkab, [in:] Elkab in Honour of Luc Limme, *OLA* 191, Leuven-Paris-Walpole, MA 2009 [= *Early Old Kingdom*], p. 68, Fig. 4.7.

²⁵ RZEUSKA, *The Pottery*, p. 203, Pl. LXXXIX, no. 7; EAD., *PAM* XVIII, 2009, pp. 181–182, Fig. 1.

settlement at Heit el-Ghurab in Giza;²⁶ for the trays with low walls and a groove (type 2) analogies can be found at Nazlet el-Samman,²⁷ Nezlet el-Batran²⁸ and the settlement at Heit el-Ghurab,²⁹ all in Giza; vessels similar to the sharp-edged trays of type 3 are known also from Nazlet el Samman.³⁰

In the case of the closed forms, three families have been observed: beer jars with a collar, large ovoid jars and medium-sized jars with elongated body.

The first of the families is the most numerous in the entire early Old Kingdom material from the investigated area.³¹ Shaped by hand from Nile B2 fabric close to C with the surfaces left untreated, they are easily recognisable thanks to the characteristic groove situated a few centimetres below the rim (**Figs 4c-h, 5-6, 9, 18**).

The examples are primarily rim fragments, while the bases are less frequent. The latter, apparently shapeless at a first glance, are actually quite easily identifiable. They are robust, remarkably thick and narrow – especially in comparison to the bases of the late Old Kingdom beer jars. Moreover, a small dip can be often observed on their outer surface, while deep horizontal grooves left by coiling are visible on the inside. In regard to the body fragments, they are marked by deep diagonal grooves evident of the shaping process – an element that is absent from later beer jars. Despite the lack of complete vessels in the analysed material, a certain diversity in the shape of the neck is noticeable: it can be vertical or narrowing; the collar varies in terms of shape as well and can be either deep or shallow and rounded or sharp. Vessels of the first family have numerous analogies found throughout Egypt, e.g. from Memphis at Kom el-Fakhry,³² at Bet Khallaf,³³ and on Elephantine,³⁴ where they have been discovered in a context that contained sealings dated to the times of Djoser. In the Memphite necropolis they have been found, amongst other locations: in Giza, inside the early mastabas,³⁵ in Sakkara, in the Netjerykhet's mortuary complex by the northern chapel,³⁶ as well as within mortar of the Western Massif,³⁷ inside the Fourth Dynasty mastabas adjacent to the ramp of the pyramid of Unas,³⁸

²⁶ WODZIŃSKA, *Egyptian Pottery*, Pl. 62, no. 2.

²⁷ HAWASS, SENUSSI, *Old Kingdom Pottery*, pp. 186–187, 240, nos H 70, H 71.

²⁸ K. KROMER, *Nezlet el Batran, Eine Mastaba aus dem Alten Reich bei Gizeh (Ägypten)*. Österreichische Ausgrabungen 1981–1983, Wien 1991, pp. 32–33, Taf. 27, nos 3–4.

²⁹ WODZIŃSKA, *Egyptian Pottery*, Pl. 62, nos 3–4, 7.

³⁰ HAWASS, SENUSSI, *Old Kingdom Pottery*, pp. 186, 240, no. H 72.

³¹ RZEUSKA, *The Pottery*, p. 204, Pl. LXXXIX, no. 12; EAD., *PAM XIII* (Reports 2001), 2001, pp. 152–153, Fig. 1; EAD., *PAM XVIII*, 2009, pp. 180–182, Fig. 1.

³² EAD. with contribution by HANAN MAHMOUD SOLIMAN, *In Search for the Lost Memphis. The Old Kingdom Settlement at Kôm el-Fakhry?*, *EtudTrav XXVI*, 2013, p. 584, Fig. 2b.

³³ GARSTANG, *Bêt Khallaf*, Pl. XXXI, p. 18, no. 28.

³⁴ RAUE, *MDAIK* 55, 1999, pp. 182–183, Abb. 38.3.

³⁵ Type A LVI, cf.: G.A. REISNER, *A History of the Giza Necropolis I*, Cambridge, Mass. 1942, Figs 279, 285, 289, 287; ID., *GN II*, p. 72, Fig. 88.

³⁶ C.M. FIRTH, J.E. QUIBELL, *The Step Pyramid, Le Caire 1935* [= *Step Pyramid*], Pls 25, 102, nos 18, 20.

³⁷ T.I. RZEUSKA, F. WELC, *Some Remarks on the Western Massif in the Step Pyramid Complex*, *PAM XIX* (Reports 2007), 2010, pp. 211–212, Figs 3–4.

³⁸ H. GHALY, *Ein Friedhof von Ziegelmastabas des Alten Reiches am Unasweg in Saqqara*, *MDAIK* 50, 1994, pp. 66–69, Abb. 5.

in Anubieion,³⁹ on the Sacred Hillside,⁴⁰ and in Dahshur (tomb of Netjer-aperef).⁴¹ The analogies leave no doubt that the presented material dates back to the times of the Third–early Fourth Dynasty.

Large ovoid jars are relatively frequent amongst the analysed ceramics and form a typologically homogenous family.⁴² The majority are made from various marl fabrics or mixed clays, while the Nile silt examples are rare (**Figs 4b, 8a,c, 17c**). The jars are large, standing at a minimum height of 80–100cm and the maximum diameter of the body must have been approximately 60cm. Their bodies are either conical with broad, rounded shoulders or ovoid, while the bases are slightly pointed or rounded. The rims also vary and can be either rounded or pointed, usually with a characteristic indentation on the inside. The vessels are handmade: the bodies up to the shoulders are invariably coiled and the rims are slab-built and lightly thrown on the tournette. On the shoulders of all the jars there is a clearly visible seam between the rim and the body: the vessel wall is of uneven thickness in this place, while on the inside there is a hollow and vertical marks left by smoothing over the joint. On occasion, potter's marks or decoration(?) can be observed on these vessels – as seen on an example (**Fig. 8c**), where three small triangles have been placed on the shoulders. Similar jars are found in abundance throughout Egypt, just to mention those from the mortuary complex of Netjerykhet, found inside the stores of the Southern Tomb,⁴³ and from Dahshur.⁴⁴

The example representing the third family is particularly interesting. It is a medium-sized jar with an elongated body and a rounded rim, the inner surface of which is coated in a thick layer of white mortar (**Fig. 8b**), indicating the vessel had been used as a container for it. The significance of this object lies in the fact that its analogy, accompanied by fragments from collared beer jars, has been found as an inclusion within mortar bonding the stone blocks of the Western Massif, confirming an early Third Dynasty date of this example.⁴⁵

A group of finds which certainly deserves more attention comprises fragments of vessels that had been secondarily used as tools. They form a large assemblage amongst the ceramics from the investigated necropolis, with several dozens examples identified, showing varied preservation and diversity in terms of shape and fabric.⁴⁶ The tools can be oval, rectangular or triangular and made from fragments of marl or mixed clays vessels of high hardness or less hard Nile silt ceramics (**Figs 11–13, 19**). Their distinctly shaped edges – rounded,

³⁹ P. FRENCH, assisted by J. BOURRIAU, *The Anubieion at Saqqara III: Pottery from the Archaic to the Third Intermediate Period*, *EES Excavation Memoir* 103, London 2013, pp. 42–43, 371, Fig. 2h.

⁴⁰ S. YOSHIMOURA, N. KAWAI, H. KASHIWAGI, *A Sacred Hillside at Northwest Saqqara: Preliminary Report on the Excavation 2001–2003*, *MDAIK* 61, 2005, pp. 374–375, Fig. 10.3

⁴¹ ALEXANIAN, *Dahschur II*, pp. 130–138, Abb. 54, M 28–39.

⁴² RZEUSKA, *The Pottery*, p. 203, Pl. LXXXIX, no. 9; EAD., *PAM XIII* (Reports 2001), 2001, pp. 152–153, Fig. 1; EAD., *PAM XXI* (Research 2009), 2012, pp. 179–180, Fig. 5.

⁴³ FIRTH, QUIBELL, *Step Pyramid*, Pls 25, 102, nos 18.2. The author had an opportunity to see the vessels still in 2006.

⁴⁴ ALEXANIAN, *Dahschur II*, p. 138, Abb. M 68–69, made of Nile D; EAD., R. STADELMANN, *Die Friedhöfe des Alten und Mittleren Reiches in Dahschur*, *MDAIK* 54, 1998, Abb. 6.9; FALTINGS, *MDAIK* 45, 1989, Abb. 12, A 54.

⁴⁵ RZEUSKA, WELC, *PAM XIX* (Reports 2007), 2010, p. 211, Figs 3–4.

⁴⁶ RZEUSKA, *PAM XVIII* (Reports 2006), 2008, p. 182, Fig. 2.

straight or convex – and corners – rounded or sharp – suggest the implements had been used for different purposes, e.g. working an object into shape, gouging, evening out and smoothing its surface. Traceological analysis of the edges could undoubtedly provide crucial data to help classify the objects, but this question lies beyond the framework of the article.

Two classes of tools, determined by the fabric from which the original vessel and subsequently the tool have been made, could be identified in the material from the quarry area. The first class comprises tools made from marl clay, the second, from Nile silt ceramics – with the former being decidedly dominating. They are defined by significant hardness and are made from fragments of large jars, which appear to be identical to the above presented examples. Such possibility could be evident from the fabric type and, most of all, from the shape of the spatulas, based on which the original shape of the vessels can be partially reconstructed. A notable example is a small fragment a spatula preserved with a drilled opening (**Fig. 13**). The presence of the holes suggests that damaged or even shattered jar had been fixed. The repair would be done by drilling the holes along the edges of the break and then pulling a string or a leather strap through in order to join the separated pieces. The fact that the owner had gone into so much trouble to mend the jar speaks of its high value. The attempts at fixing the vessel were clearly unsuccessful and the damaged jar ended as a material for tools.

In regard to the second class, comprising tools made from Nile silt ceramics, one object has been identified in the analysed material. Unlike the first class tools, they are soft and such must have served different purposes.

The presence of such large number of tools in the quarry area appears unsurprising: they could have been used for stone-working, either to level or smooth blocks of stone. The question certainly requires further research.

The category of non-containers is represented by a highly exceptional find: a large cylindrical stand (**Fig. 10**). Not only is this the first object of its kind recorded in the material, but also the first that has been so well-preserved. Hand-built by coiling technique, it has been most probably lightly turned on the tournette as well. So far, no analogies could be found for this example.

EARLY DYNASTIC POTTERY

The identified Early Dynastic ceramics, though less numerous, are just as typologically diverse as those from the Early Old Kingdom. The majority of the instances are small fragments.

Three ceramic families illustrate the open forms: vessels with burnished surface, *bedja*-bread forms and vats.

The first family comprises examples of the so-called ‘Half-polished’ or ‘P2’ Ware,⁴⁷ defined by the surface treated in a characteristic manner, that is, burnished (German *Strichpoliert*). Objects of this type have been previously recorded on the site.⁴⁸ The quarry area has

⁴⁷ W. NEEDLER, *Predynastic and Archaic Egypt in the Brooklyn Museum*, New York 1984, p. 230.

⁴⁸ RZEUSKA, *The Pottery*, p. 203, Pl. LXXXIX, nos 1–2; EAD., *PAM XXI* (Research 2009), 2012, pp. 175–177, Fig. 1.

yielded three types of the vessels: plates with straight walls, medium-sized hemispherical bowls, and smaller but deep hemispherical bowls almost goblet-like (**Figs 7a, 14, 20a**). The majority are made from Nile silts, while the marl clay examples are considerably less frequent. The former are thick- and the latter thin-walled. Invariably, the interior is treated in its entirety, but the burnished pattern can be different: in some vessels it is horizontal, in others vertical, in others still, it can be vertical immediately below the rim and, further down, radial or at times irregular, resembling the check motif of intersecting horizontal and slightly diagonal lines. If the exterior is at all decorated, the ornaments are limited exclusively to the upper part – hence the name ‘Half-polished’. Similarly embellished pottery can be found throughout Egypt. Analogous vessels from the Early Dynastic times have been recovered at Buto from layers IV–V dated to the First–Second Dynasty⁴⁹ and from the settlement on Elephantine in levels corresponding with the late Second⁵⁰ or even the 0 Dynasty.⁵¹

The next family comprising different types of broad and shallow *bedja*-bread moulds are the only such examples found on the site to date (**Figs 15a, 20c**). Similarly to the above presented objects from the early Old Kingdom they belong to type A1 in Helen Jacquet-Gordon’s classification.⁵² The vessels have a rounded rim and slightly flaring walls with a distinct ledge on the inside. Forms of this type are characterised by rounded and poorly fired bases, which rarely are preserved. Parallels for this ceramic type come from Helwan,⁵³ Buto⁵⁴ and Tell el-Farkha.⁵⁵ Similarly, the second form with a pointed, triangular rim and straight walls, also has a hemispherical interior. Judging from known analogies, this type presumably had a flat base. Identical objects from Buto and Abydos⁵⁶ helped to date it to the Early Dynastic period.

The third family, constituted by large vats, is represented by a base fragment (**Fig. 20b**). Apart from the presented fragment, only a handful of rim sherds have been recorded in the investigated area. These red-slipped vessels are built by hand from Nile silt, heavily-tempered with organic matter. Their parallels have been found in Abydos.⁵⁷

The closed forms of this epoch are more frequent than the open shapes and eight distinct families have been observed – although it was not possible to find analogies for all of the

⁴⁹ KÖHLER, *Buto* III, pp. 22–23, Taf. 28, no. 7, from deposit 21421; Taf. 26, nos 2, 5–6.

⁵⁰ RAUE, *MDAIK* 55, 1999, pp. 178–179, Abb. 36.3.

⁵¹ P. KOPP, Die Siedlung der Naqadazeit, *Elephantine* XXXII, *AV* 118, Mainz a/Rhein 2006, p. 129, Kat. 354, Taf. 23, from the phase B3 dated to Dynasty 0.

⁵² JACQUET-GORDON, Bread Moulds, *passim*.

⁵³ CH. KÖHLER, Helwan I. Excavations in the Early Dynastic Cemetery. Season 1997/98, with contributions by M. Birrell, I. Casey, T. Hikade, J. Smythe and B. St. Claire, *SAGA* 24, Heidelberg 2005 [= Helwan], Pl. 33, no. 10.

⁵⁴ KÖHLER, *Buto* III, Taf. 45, no. 2.

⁵⁵ A. MACZYŃSKA, Old Kingdom Pottery at Tell El-Farkha. Some Remarks on Bread Moulds, [*in*:] T.I. Rzeuska, A. Wodzińska (Eds), *Studies on Old Kingdom Pottery*, Warsaw 2009, p. 103, Fig. 11.1; pp. 108–109, Figs 15.1, 15.4.

⁵⁶ W.F.M. PETRIE, *The Royal Tombs of the First Dynasty I*, London 1900 [= *Royal Tombs*], Pl. XLIII, nos 149–150.

⁵⁷ *Id.*, *Abydos I*, London 1902 [= *Abydos I*], Pl. XXIX, Nos 66–67.

examples. Three of the families – jars with ‘scratched’ surface, large fusiform jars and beer jars – are illustrated by numerous sherds. To the contrary, the remaining five families are represented by isolated examples: a medium-sized jar with a pointed rim, cylindrical vessel with *Wavy Band Decoration*, a medium-sized jar represented by shoulder fragment from, as and two flat bases of hand-shaped jars.

The first family, that of hand-built jars, executed in sandy Nile silt, are the best-represented of the families. They are characterised by the very specific exterior vertically scraped, seemingly ‘scratched’ with a brush (German *Bürstenschtrich* or *Besenstrichau-frauhung*), and additionally coated with a red slip (**Fig. 15d**). The preserved fragments suggest the jars had elongated, round or angular bodies and probably rounded bases. The site has yielded several dozens fragments of such jars, including one with an inscription in black ink.⁵⁸ Based on analogies from Abydos, the form could be closer described as a jar with a short neck, broad and rounded shoulders, conical body and a gently rounded base. Vessels with identically treated surfaces have been found in Helwan⁵⁹ as well as in Buto from layers IV/V, which corresponds with the First Dynasty. Unlike the former, the objects from Buto are not red-slipped.⁶⁰

The second family is formed by jars which in shape resemble the fusiform jars of the Old Kingdom, but, in contrast to those, are significantly larger, reaching approximately 60cm in height (**Fig. 15e**). Similarly to the Old Kingdom objects, they are executed in Nile silt and hand-built from several parts. The analysed material produced only fragments of their thick-walled bases. Similar jars have been found in Abydos.⁶¹

Beer jars constitute the third family and are represented in the material by two types (**Fig. 21b-c**). Both are handmade from Nile silt C and characterised by the surface left untreated. The first type is defined by the distinctly rounded shoulders and, judging from the preserved fragment, a straight neck. Its analogies are known from Buto,⁶² Abydos⁶³ and Elephantine.⁶⁴ The second one has gently emphasised shoulders with a shallow indentation – a type of a collar – below. It appears to be an early form of the collared beer jars discussed above and could be dated to the late Second–early Third Dynasty, based on the similar objects from Buto,⁶⁵ Elkab⁶⁶ and Elephantine.⁶⁷

The remaining Early Dynastic closed forms are isolated examples that do not form groups. Some of them have been preserved as diagnostic fragments, which, to a certain extent, facilitates the identification process. A good example is a medium-sized jar with

⁵⁸ RZEUSKA, *The Pottery*, p. 202, Pl. LXXXIX, no. 8; EAD., *PAM XIX* (Reports 2007), 2010, pp. 215–216, Fig. 1; EAD., *PAM XXI* (Research 2009), 2012, pp. 177–178, Fig. 2.

⁵⁹ KÖHLER, Helwan, Pl. 32, Nos 3–4.

⁶⁰ Id., *Buto III*, pp. 16–17, Taf. 5, no. 5; Taf. 6, no. 2.

⁶¹ W.M.F. PETRIE, *Tombs of the Courtiers and Oxyrhynchos*, London 1925, Pl. XI, no. 463.

⁶² KÖHLER, *Buto III*, Taf. 2, nos 3–4.

⁶³ PETRIE, *Abydos I*, Pl. XXXIV, nos 108–109.

⁶⁴ RAUE, *MDAIK* 55, 1999, pp. 178–179, Abb. 35.2.

⁶⁵ KÖHLER, *Buto III*, Taf. 14, nos 3–5.

⁶⁶ OP DE BECK *et al.*, *Early Old Kingdom*, pp. 62–64, 71, Fig. 4.2.

⁶⁷ RAUE, *MDAIK* 55, 1999, pp. 178–179, Abb. 36.7.

a pointed rim and cylindrical body (**Fig. 21a**), hand-built in parts – the individually shaped rim with the neck and the separate body – which is evident from the joint visible on the inside below the neck. Parallels recovered from Buto⁶⁸ and Helwan confirm the Early Dynastic date of this object.⁶⁹

Another form, notably popular during the time, is a body of a handmade jar from Nile silt with plastic *Wavy Band Decoration* (**Fig. 15b**). Up to date this is the second example of its kind found in the part of the necropolis investigated by the mission. Similar vessels have been recovered from the necropolis in Helwan⁷⁰ and the settlement in Buto.⁷¹

A shoulder fragment from a medium-sized jar(?) (**Fig. 15c**) and two flat bases of hand-shaped jars (**Fig. 22c-d**) can also be included in this chronological group. In the latter instance, one base is narrow and carefully made, while the other, broader and crudely worked. The first one is a fragment from a medium-sized jar with broad and round shoulders and a conical body that is frequently found in the Early Dynastic funerary context, e.g. in Abydos.⁷² The poor condition of the bases precludes a more precise identification.

ORIGIN OF ANALYSED CERAMICS

When taking a look at the ratio between the particular chronological groups in all three assemblages (**Fig. 3**), it is noticeable that the late Old Kingdom ceramics are the most frequent in assemblage 1, less so in assemblage 2 and the least numerous in assemblage 3. The remaining chronological pottery groups, the early Old Kingdom and Early Dynastic, are correspondingly the smallest in assemblage 1, increasing in assemblage 2 and the largest in assemblage 3. This indicates that in the area of the lower quarry terrace the number of pottery from the earlier periods increases towards west. The picture is exactly reversed for the so-far explored regions between the western enclosure wall of Netjerykhet's complex and the edge of the Dry Moat, where the frequency of ceramics predating the Lower Necropolis decreases moving away from the complex – a remarkably crucial observation for ascertainment of the origin of the particular assemblages.

In regard to assemblage 1, the first chronological group represents all four occupation phases of the Lower Necropolis.⁷³ Such considerable chronological and typological diversity combined with the highly fragmentary nature of the material indicate it is mixed and originates from many funerary complexes. This can be quite easily explained by the sloping natural terrain west of the lower terrace, which leaves no doubt that the majority of the material slid down from there.

The second chronological group, comprising pottery from the early Old Kingdom, most likely originates from Netjerykhet's mortuary complex. Typologically it presents a distinct

⁶⁸ KÖHLER, *Buto* III, Taf. 52, no. 8.

⁶⁹ KÖHLER, Helwan, Pl. 29, no. 1.

⁷⁰ *Ibid.*, Pl. 51, no. 3.

⁷¹ KÖHLER, *Buto* III, Taf. 60, nos 8, 11–14.

⁷² PETRIE, Abydos I, Pl. XLI, nos 84/92, 51/86/97 from the tomb M19.

⁷³ T.I. RZEUSKA, Pottery, [in:] WELC *et al.*, *Saqqara* V/2, p. 518.

homogeneity, which suggests it comes from one location. This leads to an interesting question: how such large pottery assemblage arrived so far away from Netjerykhet's complex?

The good condition of some of the fragments suggests this may have occurred during a single episode – otherwise the sherds would have been more damaged and considerably smaller, similar to those from the first chronological group. It is more than just likely that they have been redeposited by torrential rains that fell in the late Old Kingdom.⁷⁴ The Early Dynastic vessel fragment also must have come from the eastern part of the area, though nothing more can be said about its provenance.

Regarding assemblage 2, the picture is slightly different. The late Old Kingdom pottery comes from the areas to the east of the lower quarry terrace as well. The early Old Kingdom group of ceramics – and at least its part – was possibly contemporary and directly associated with the quarry. This could be further supported by the location of these examples at the time of discovery, immediately on the bedrock – hence at the very base of the quarry.

Whether they originated from the lower terrace no.1 or the middle terrace no. 2 located to the east and slightly higher (**Fig. 2**), is impossible to determine at this stage and very unlikely to be clarified in the future.

Considering the origin of the group, the presence of a relatively high number of tools likely to be associated with stone working, provides a vital piece of information. The provenance of the Early Dynastic group is discussed below.

In terms of the origin of the chronological groups of assemblage 3, the situation is similar to that in assemblage 2. The dominating majority of the late Old Kingdom examples come from the area of the eastern necropolis, although some part may have come from the nearby Anonymous Tomb XLI. The early Old Kingdom group, on the other hand, appears likely to be associated with the functioning of the quarry, just like its chronological equivalent from assemblage 2. Furthermore, at least one of the vessels (**Fig. 8d**) is made up from fragments that have been found within assemblages 2 and 3, which points to the fact that the early Old Kingdom ceramics forming these assemblages may have a common provenance.

The most difficult to identify are the Early Dynastic groups of vessels from assemblages 2 and 3, particularly in terms of establishing their origin. Theoretically, they could have come from the mortuary complex of Netjerykhet, where similarly dated ceramics have been found in great number – note the vast amount of stone vessels deposited in the underground galleries. However, it seems rather unlikely in the case of these particular groups. What speaks for it most of all is not so much their physical distance from the aforementioned mortuary complex, but the fact that they were from within the lower layers situated close to the base of the quarry. Moreover, another significant piece of information is that they frequently were accompanied by ceramic tools, which indicates the objects in question may have been in the quarry area already during the functioning of the quarry. Hence, two interpretations are possible: one, that the vessels are associated with the functioning of the quarry, two, they are related to another, unspecified earlier activity. Should the first

⁷⁴ J. TRZCIŃSKI, K.O. KURASZKIEWICZ, F. WELC, Preliminary Report on Geoarchaeological Research in West Saqqara, *PAM XIX* (Reports 2007), 2010, pp. 194–208.

scenario be correct, it would cause a shift in dating of the quarry from the Third Dynasty to the Early Dynastic period. If the second interpretation was more likely, on the other hand, it would indicate the existence of, for example, an Early Dynastic necropolis, which might have been destroyed by the quarry. In either case, these finds provide solid evidence of more Early Dynastic activity at Saqqara.

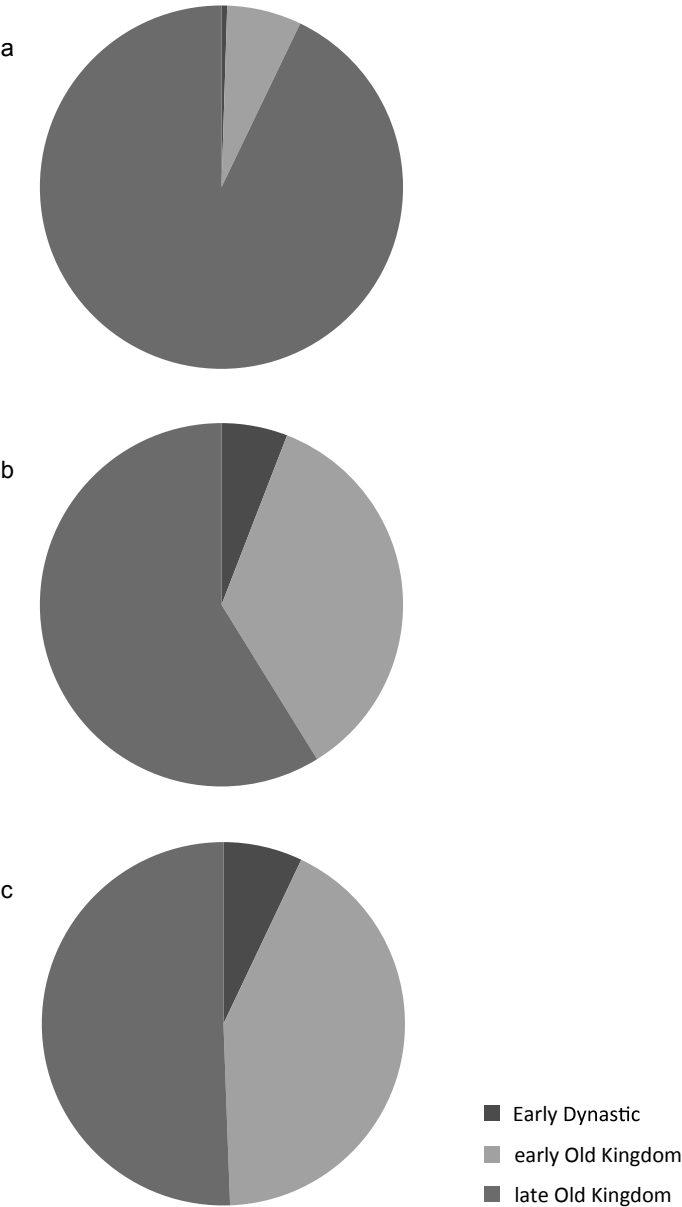
Assemblage	late Old Kingdom Group	early Old Kingdom Group	Early Dynastic Group
1	Various funerary complexes east of the lower terrace	Netjerykhet's mortuary complex	Undetermined
2	Various funerary complexes east of the lower terrace	The quarry, lower and possibly middle terrace	An Early Dynastic necropolis or the quarry?
3	Various funerary complexes east of the lower terrace and partially the Anonymous Tomb XLI on the lower terrace	The quarry, lower terrace	An Early Dynastic necropolis or the quarry?

CONCLUSIONS

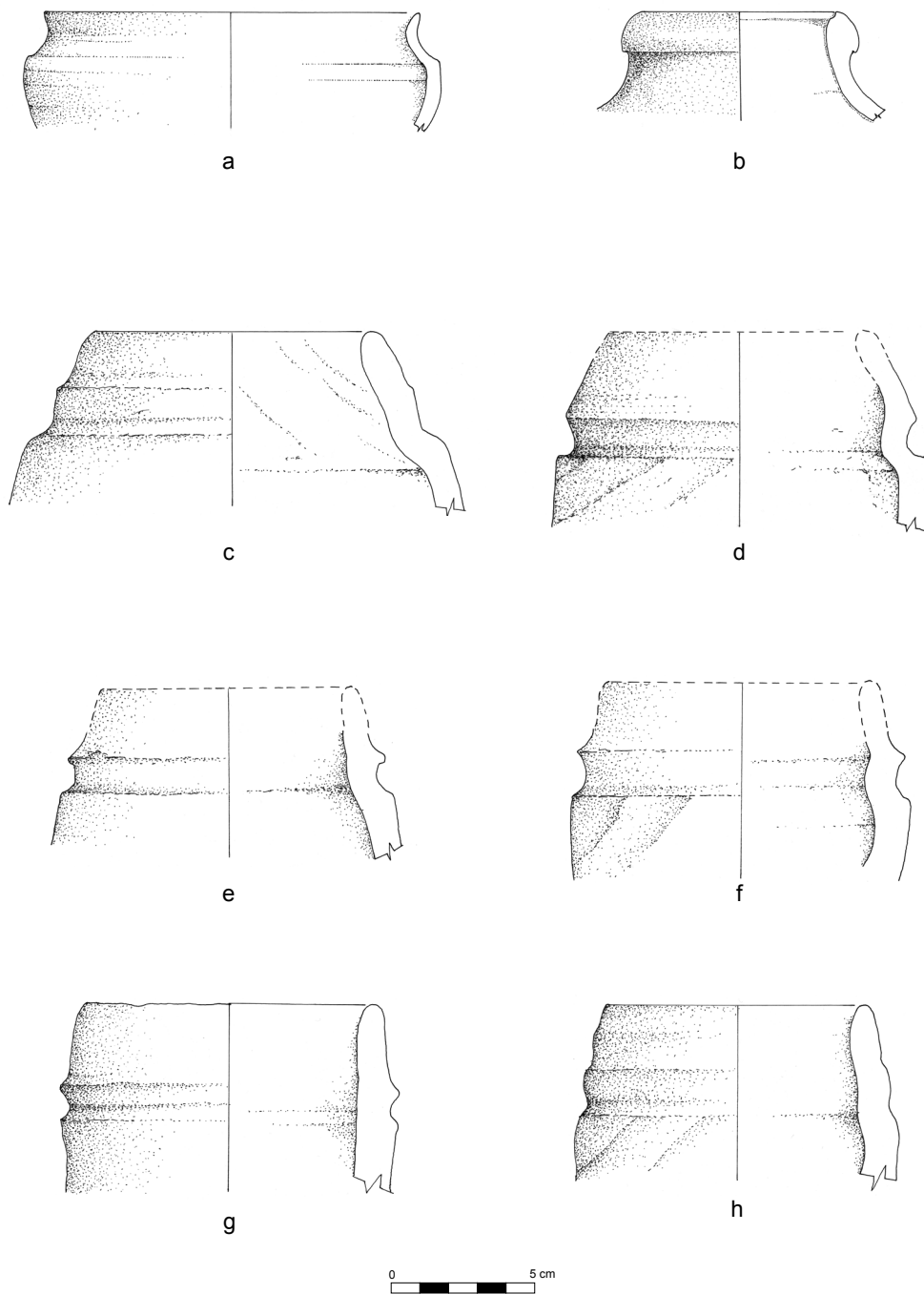
To summarise the above discussion on the pottery of the periods predating the emergence of the Lower Necropolis, it should be concluded that the objects from the early Old Kingdom recovered from the quarry came from the mortuary complex of Netjerykhet (assemblage 1) and from the quarry (assemblages 2 and 3). In regard to the Early Dynastic pottery, it is associated with an unspecified activity that took place in the quarry area. It is too early to determine whether it originated from the quarry that may have already existed during the Early Dynastic period, or from an early necropolis which has yet to be discovered, or alternatively, has not survived to our times. To answer this question, a larger portion of the quarry, especially the westernmost third terrace, should be investigated.

(Translation K. Olchowska)

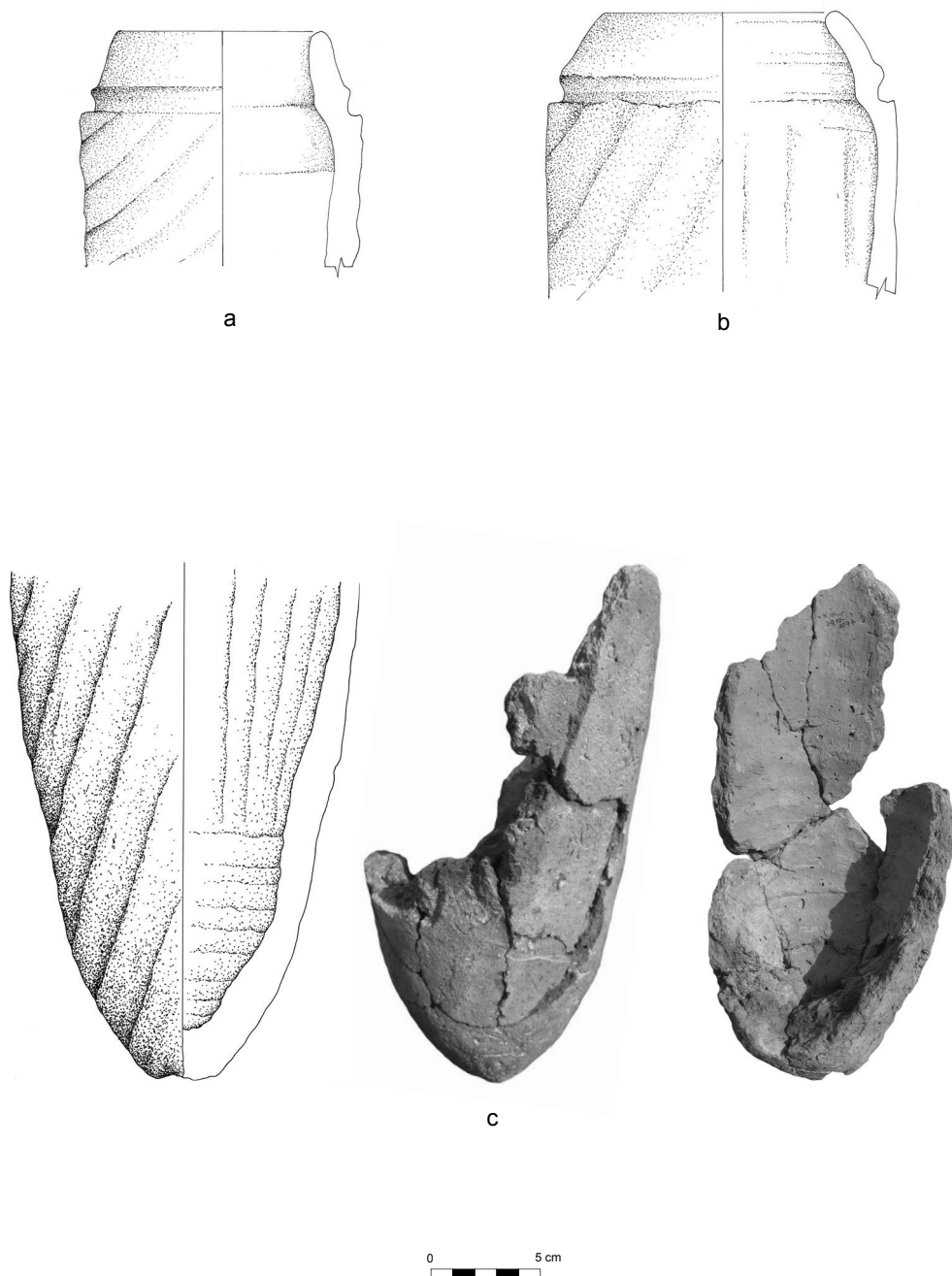
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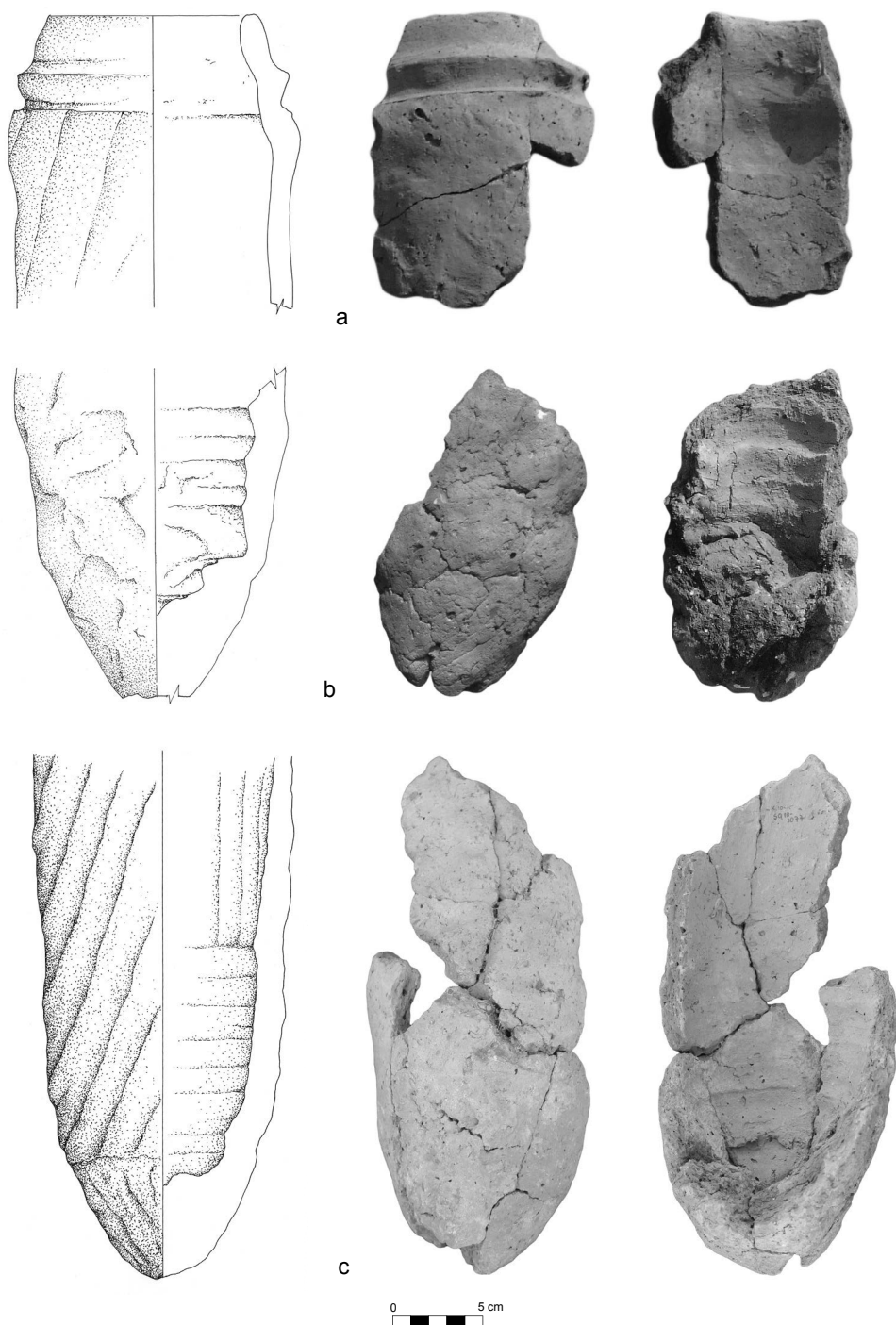
3. Proportions between different chronological ceramic groups in: a. Assemblage 1, b. Assemblage 2, c. Assemblage 3.



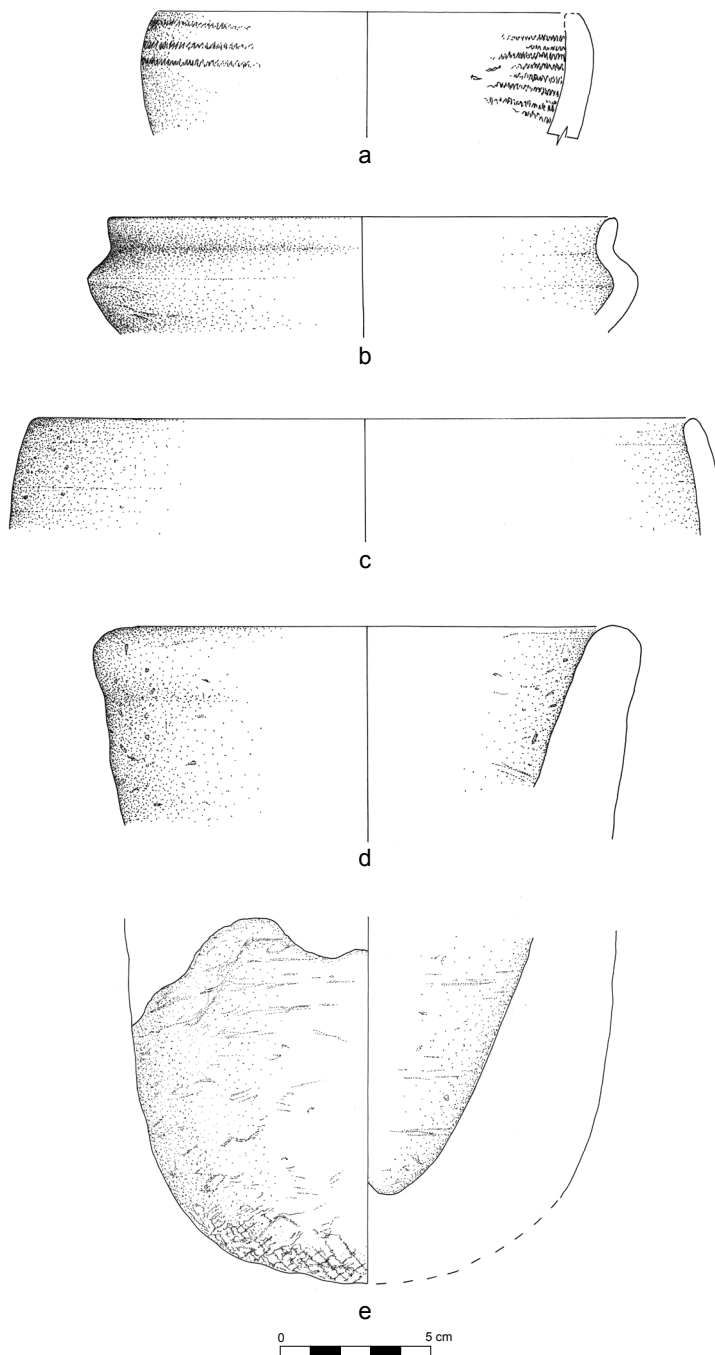
4. Assemblage 1, group 2, pottery from the early Old Kingdom: a. carinated bowl, b. marl clay jar, c-h. beer jars with collar (Drawing: T.I. Rzeuska, inking: M. Orzechowska).



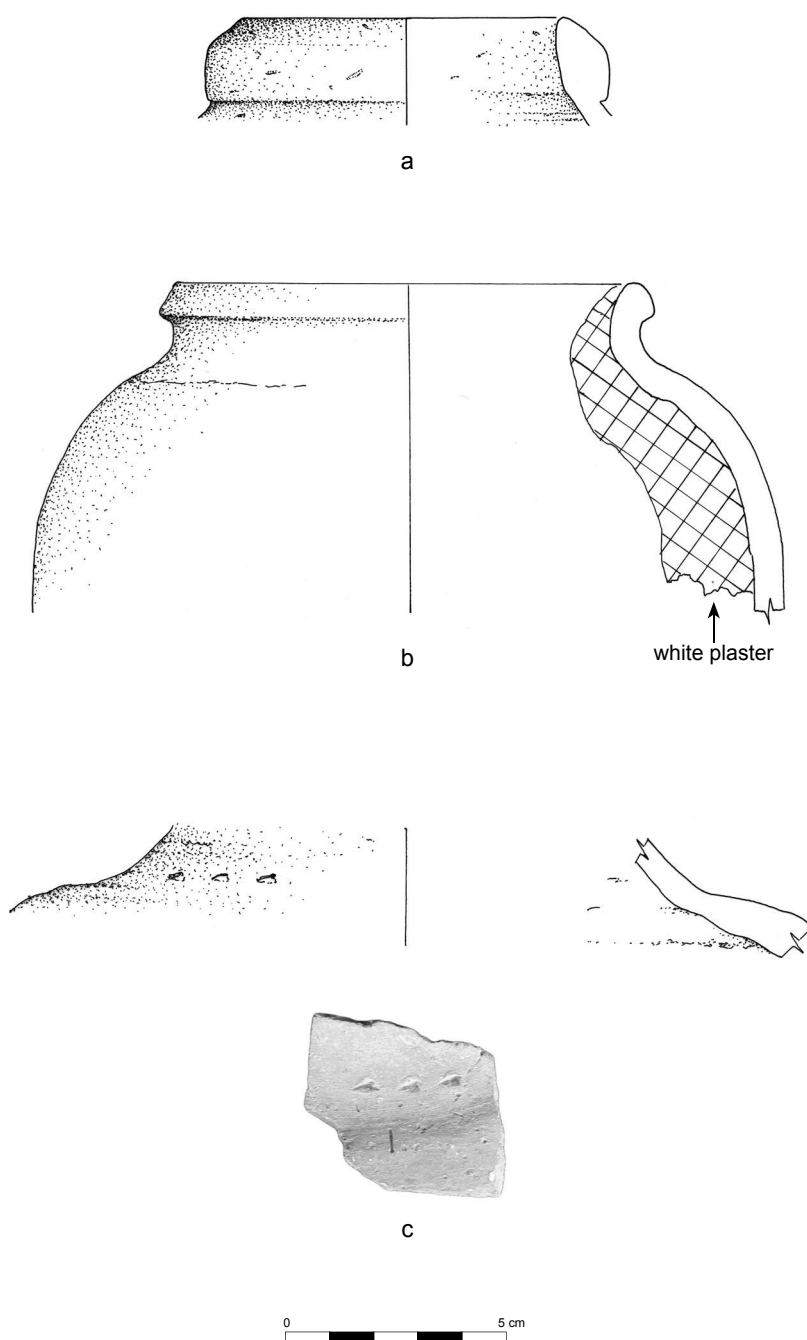
5. Assemblage 1, group 2, pottery from the early Old Kingdom: a-c. beer jars with collar (Drawing and Phot. T.I. Rzeuska, inking: M. Orzechowska).



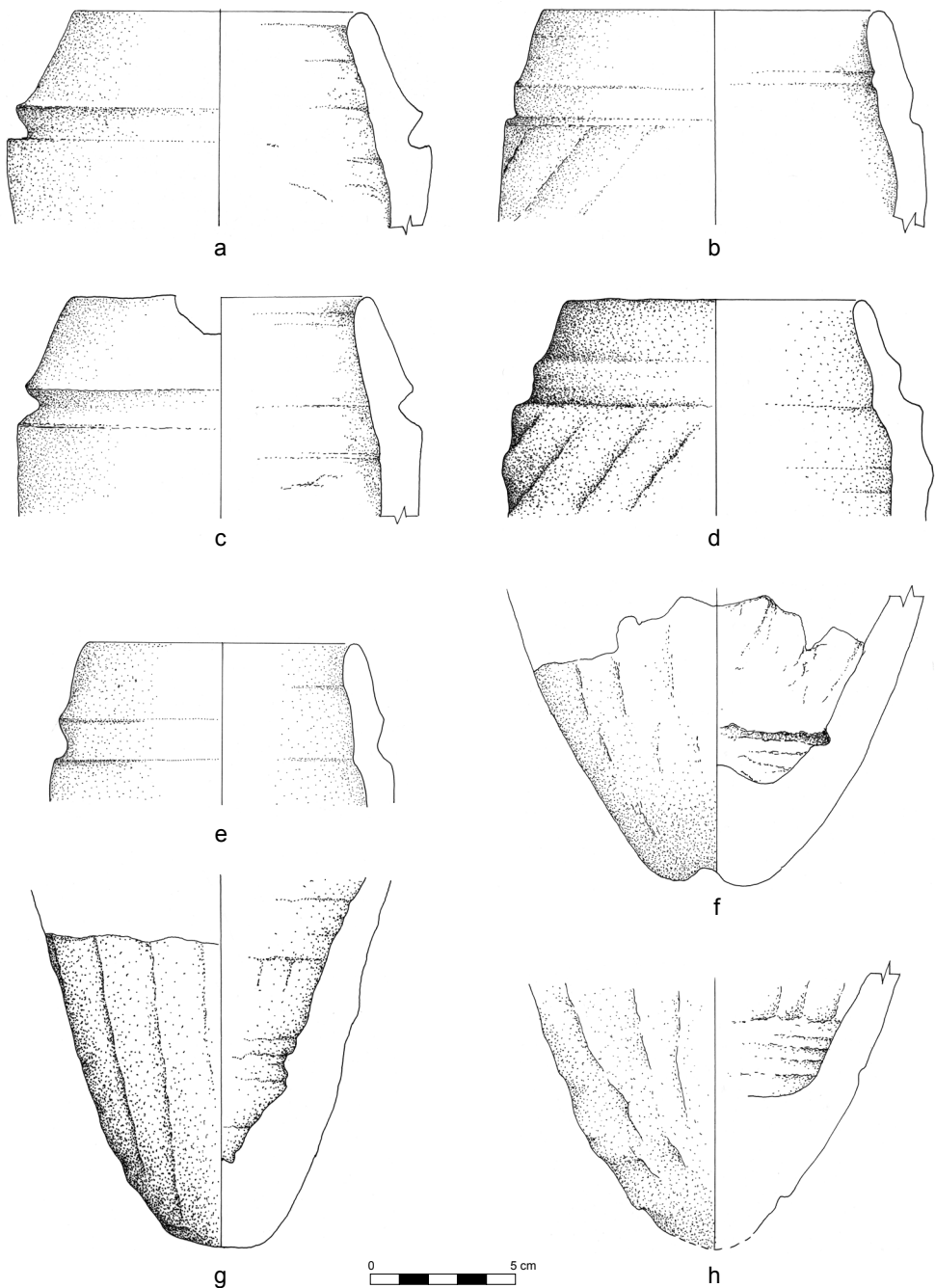
6. Assemblage 2, group 2, pottery from the early Old Kingdom: a-c. beer jars with collar (Drawing and Phot. T.I. Rzeuska, inking: M. Orzechowska).



7. Assemblage 1, group 3: a. Early Dynastic burnished bowl; Assemblage 2, group 2, pottery from the early Old Kingdom: b. carinated bowl, c. hemispherical bowl, d-e. *bedja*-bread moulds (Drawing: T.I. Rzeuska, inking: M. Orzechowska).



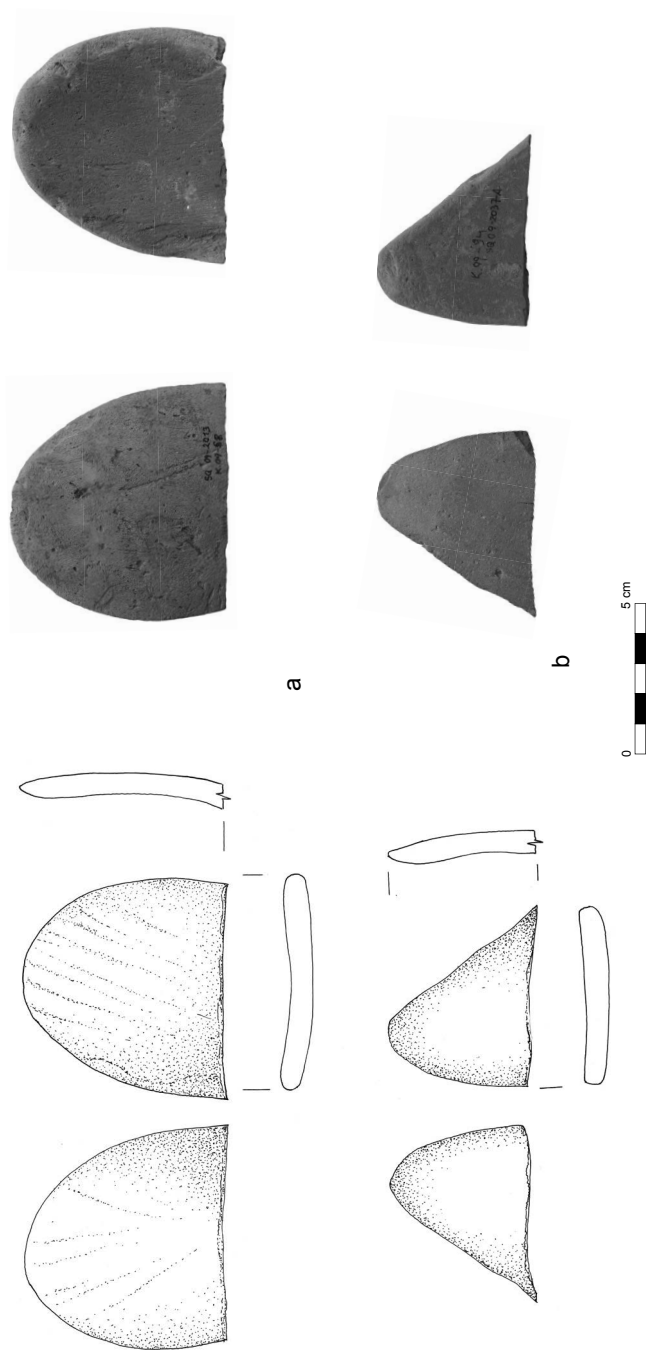
8. Assemblage 2, group 2, pottery from the early Old Kingdom: a and c. marl clay jars, b. Nile silt jar (Drawing and Phot. T.I. Rzeuska, inking: M. Orzechowska).



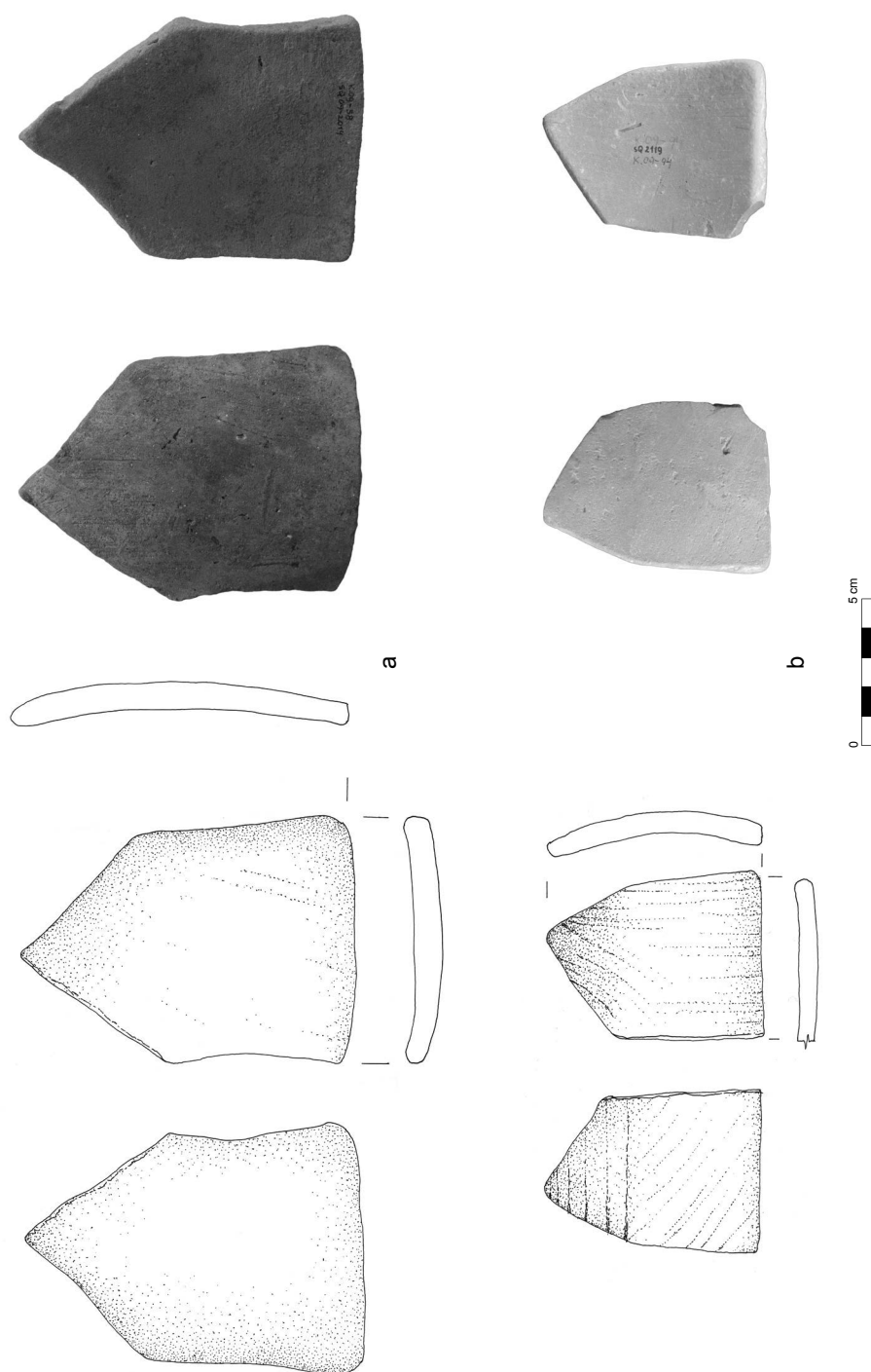
9. Assemblage 2, group 2, pottery from the early Old Kingdom: beer jars with collar (Drawing: T.I. Rzeuska, inking: M. Orzechowska).



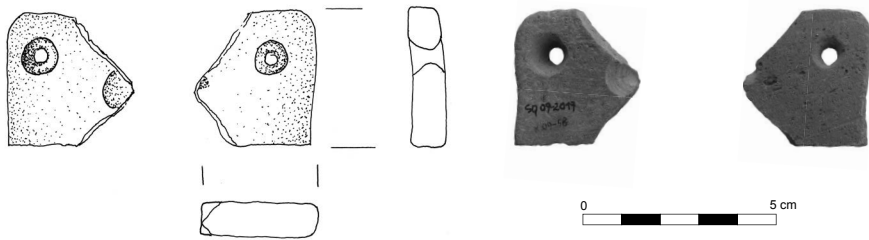
10. Assemblage 2, group 2 from the early Old Kingdom: tall, red-slipped stand (Phot. T.I. Rzeuska, drawing: Nermee Aba Yazeed, inking: M. Orzechowska).



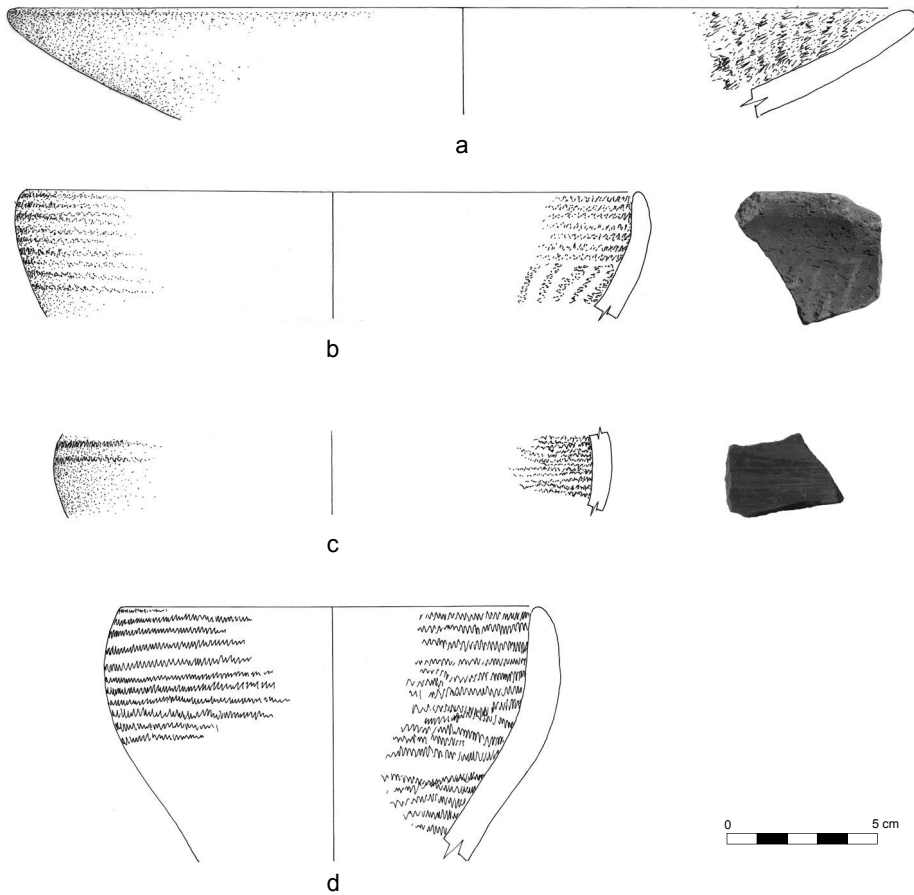
11. Assemblage 2, group 2 from the early Old Kingdom: ceramic tools made from fragments of marl clay ceramics (Drawing and Phot. T.I. Rzeuska, inking: M. Orzechowska).



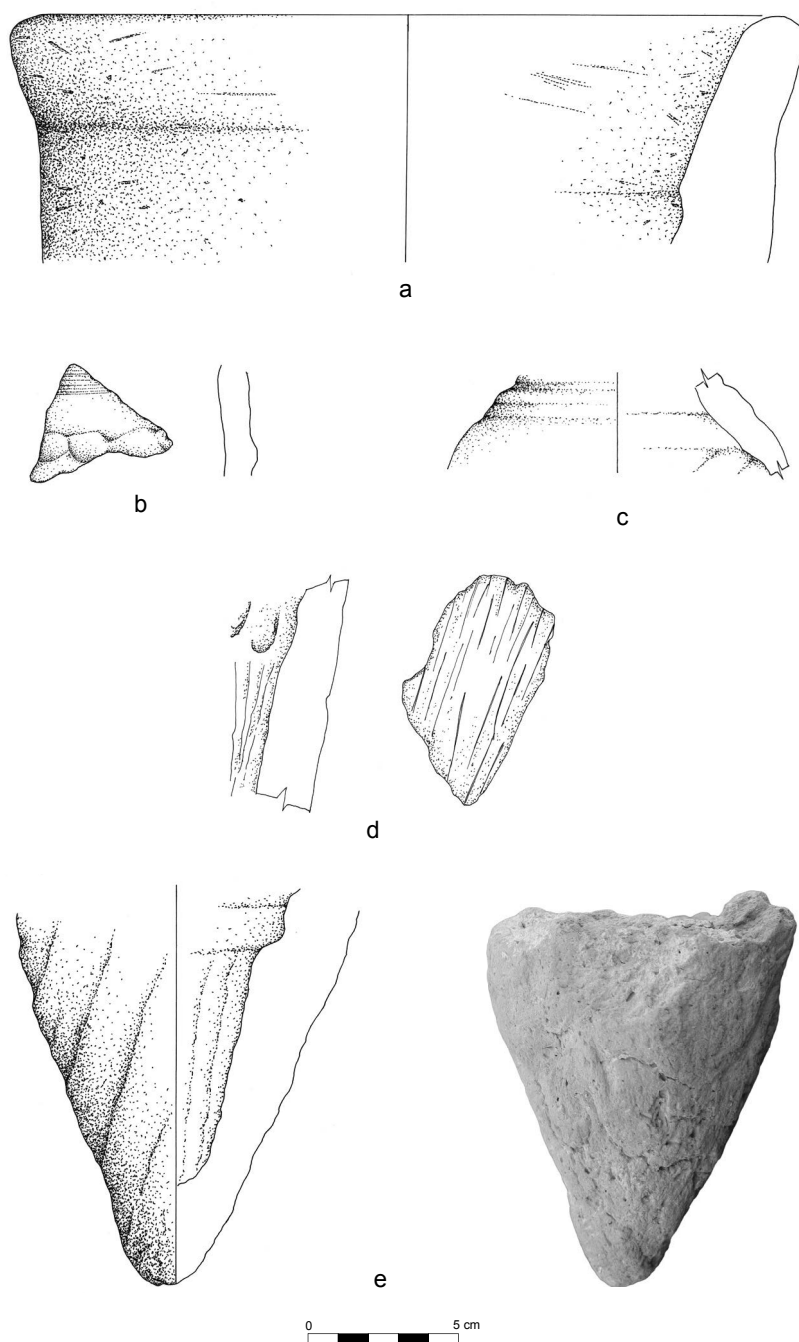
12. Assemblage 2, group 2 from the early Old Kingdom: ceramic tools made from fragments of marl clay ceramics (Drawing and Phot. T.I. Rzeuska, inking: M. Orzechowska).



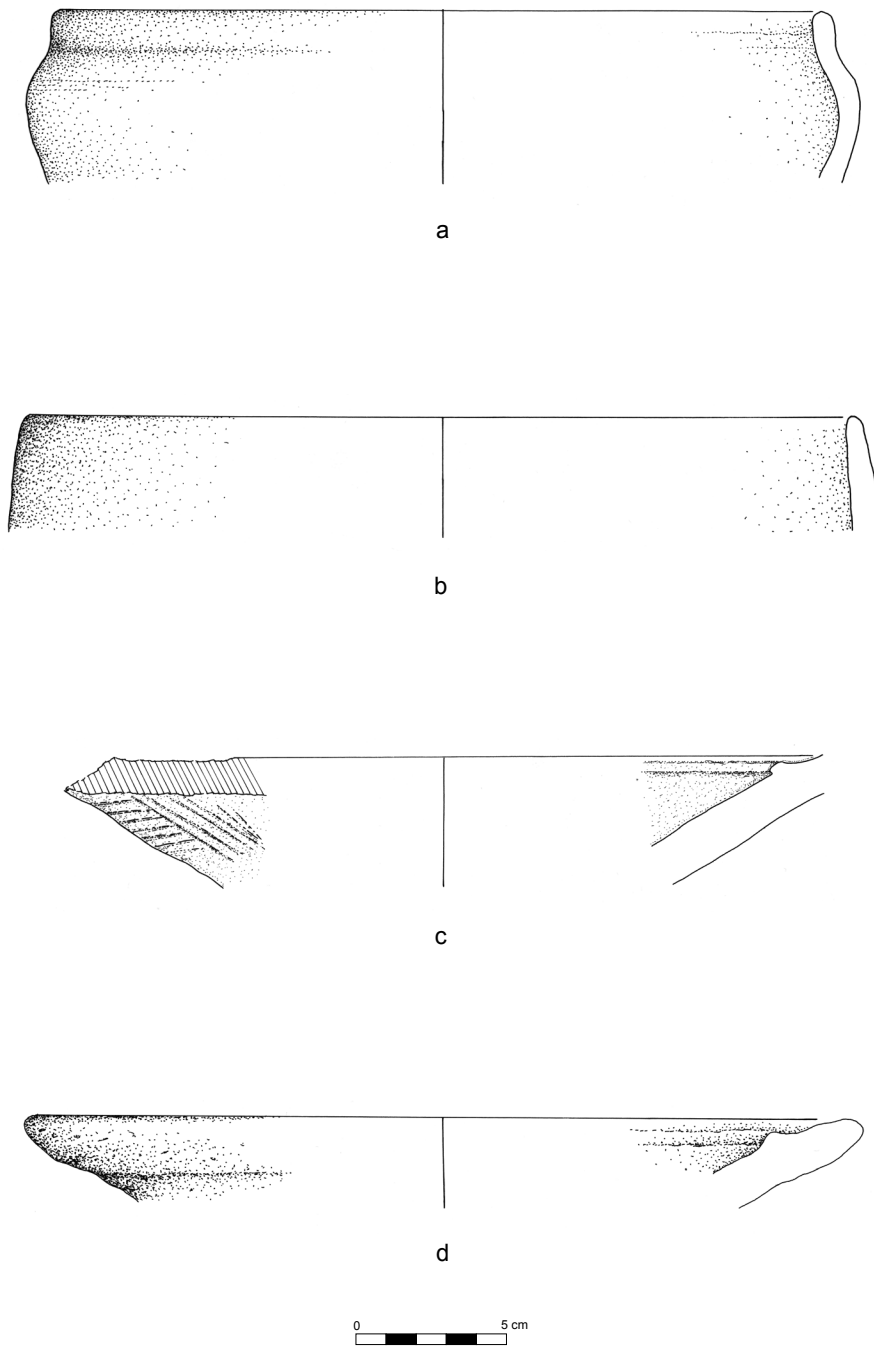
13. Assemblage 2, group 2: fragment of ceramic tool made from marl clay sherd, early Old Kingdom. Note the small hole drilled post-firing immediately by the edge – an evidence of fixing the broken vessel (Drawing and Phot. T.I. Rzeuska, inking: M. Orzechowska).



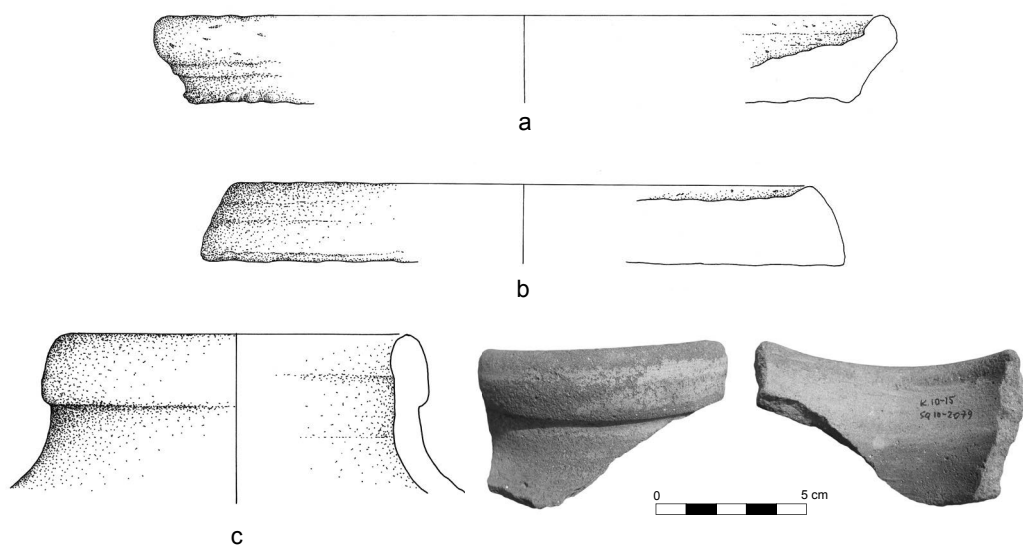
14. Assemblage 2, group 3: Early Dynastic plate and bowls with burnished surface of P2 ware (Drawing and Phot. T.I. Rzeuska, inking: M. Orzechowska).



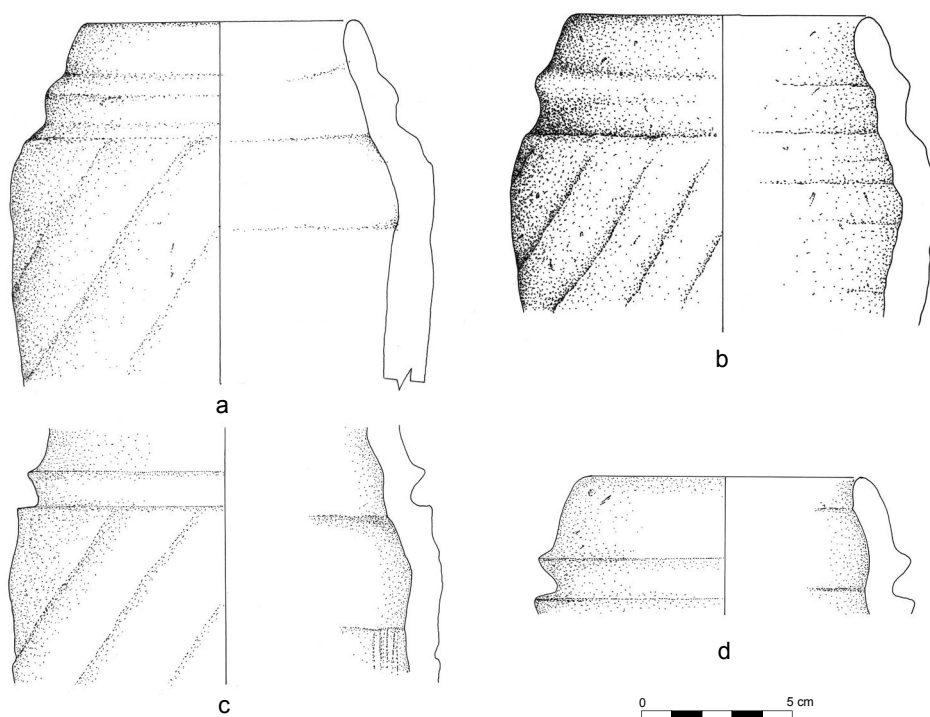
15. Assemblage 2, group 3, Early Dynastic vessels: a. *bedja*-bread moulds, b. cylindric jar with wavy plastic decoration, c. jar?, d. coarse jar with scratched surface, e. base of large coarse jar (Drawing and Phot. T.I. Rzeuska, inking: M. Orzechowska).



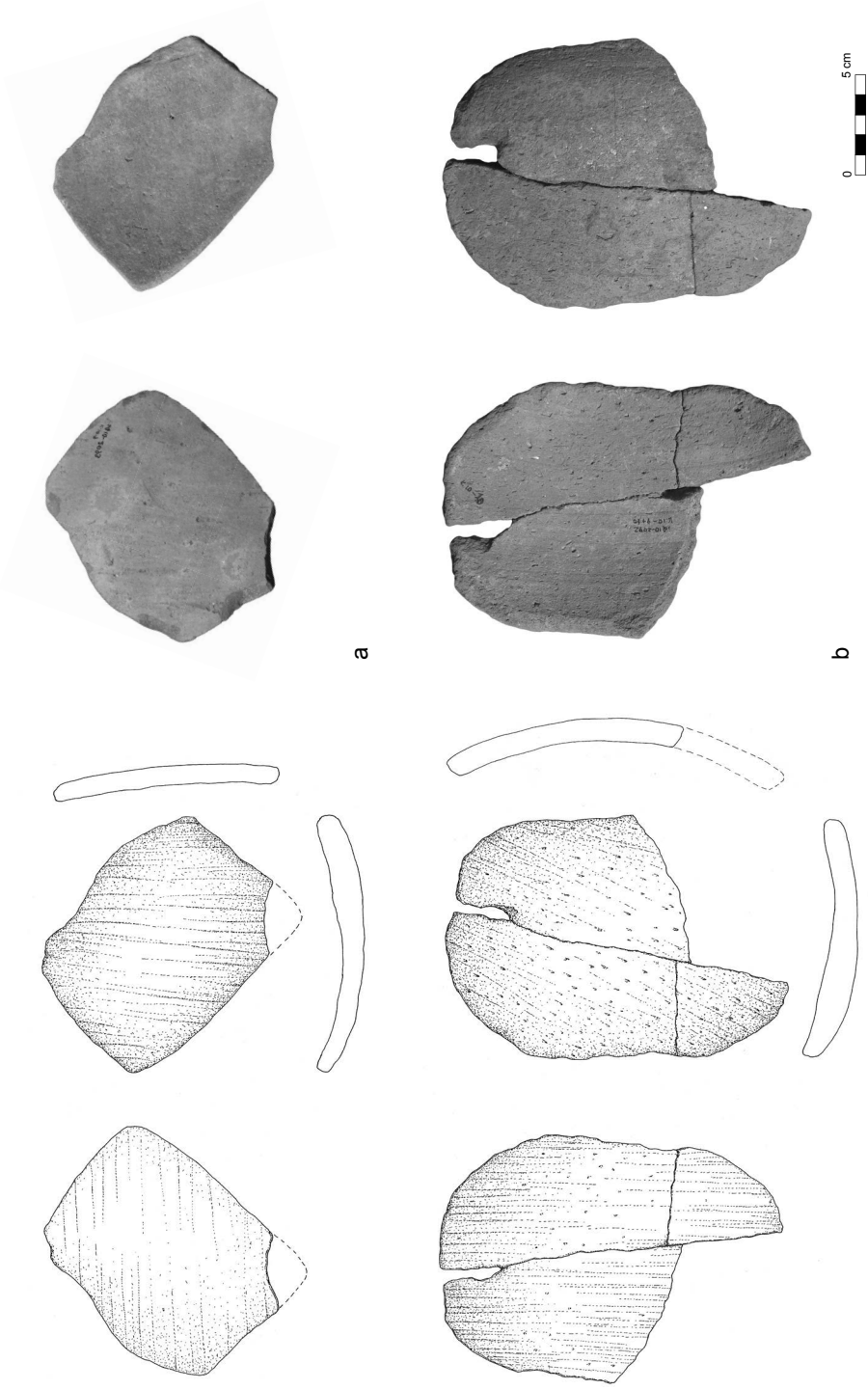
16. Assemblage 3, group 2, pottery from the early Old Kingdom: a. carinated bowl, b. hemispherical bowl, c-d. plates with inner ledge (Drawing: T.I. Rzeuska, inking: M. Orzechowska).



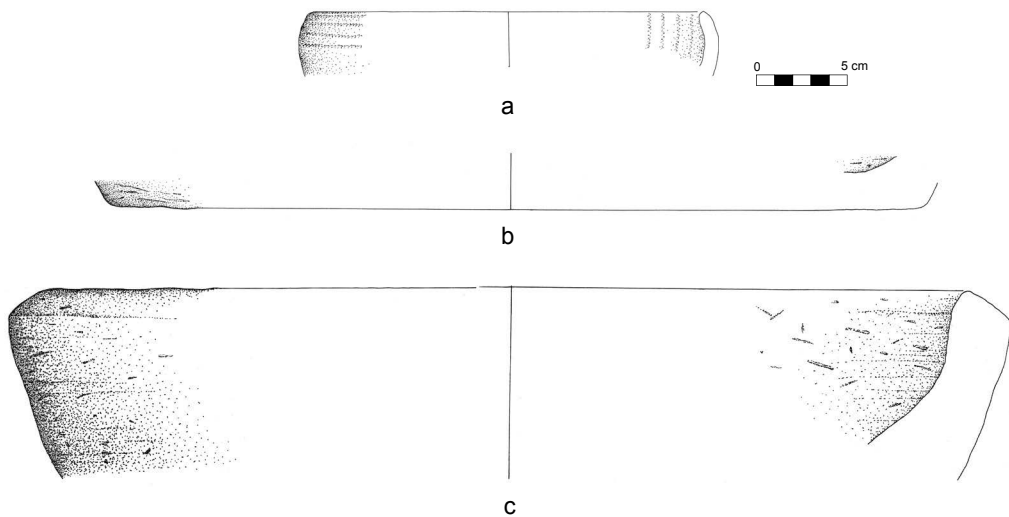
17. Assemblage 3, group 2: pottery from the early Old Kingdom: a-b. trays, c. rim from marl clay jar (Drawing and Phot. T.I. Rzeuska, inking: M. Orzechowska).



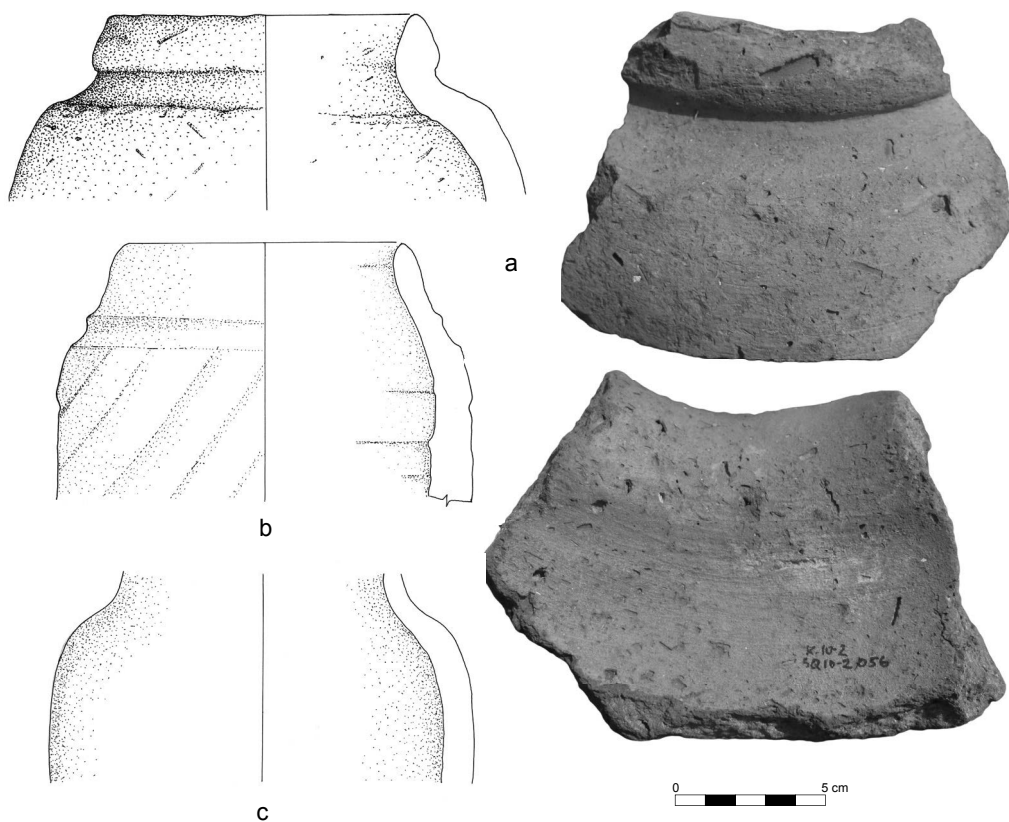
18. Assemblage 3, group 2: beer jars with collar; early Old Kingdom (Drawing: T.I. Rzeuska, inking: M. Orzechowska).



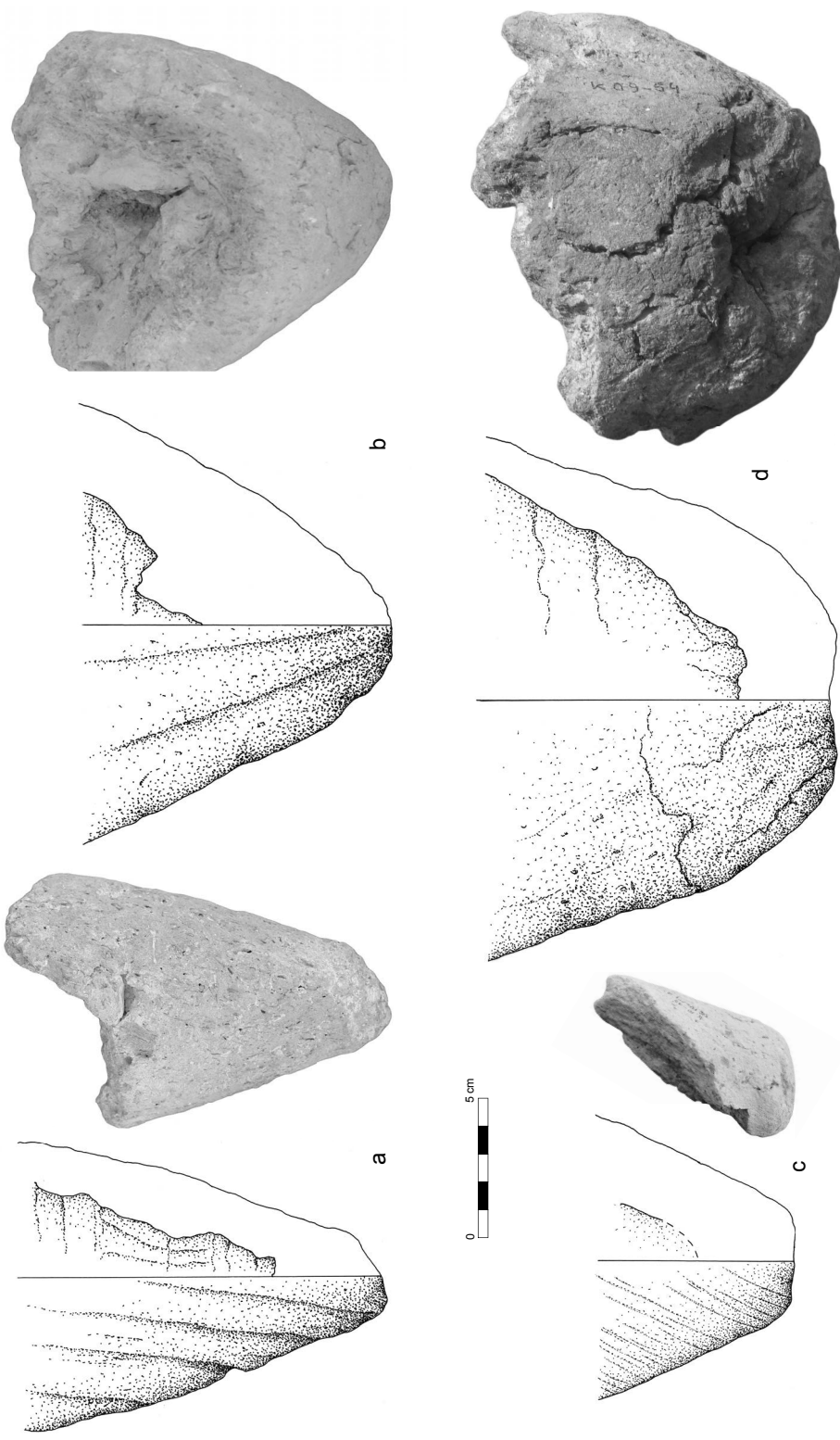
19. Assemblage 3, group 2. Early Old Kingdom ceramic tools: a. from fragment of marl clay vessel (Drawing and Phot. T.I. Rzeuska, inking: M. Orzechowska).



20. Assemblage 3, group 3. Early Dynastic pottery: a. burnished bowl of P2 ware, b. base fragment from large vat, c. *bedja*-bread mould (Drawing: T.I. Rzeuska, inking: M. Orzechowska).



21. Assemblage 3, group 3. Early Dynastic pottery: a. jar with pointed base, b. early form of beer jar with collar, c. beer jar with rounded shoulders (Drawing: T.I. Rzeuska, inking: M. Orzechowska).



22. Assemblage 3, group 3. Early Dynastic pottery: a. beer jar with pointed base, c. base from fusiform jar, b. and d. bases from unidentified jars (Drawing and Phot. T.I. Rzeuska, inking: M. Orzechowska).