
Magdalena Kazimierczak

Warsaw

LIDDED JAR FROM GRAVE NO. 40
AT TELL EL-MURRA CEMETERY*

Abstract: The goal of the article is to provide data about a lidded jar discovered in a Tell el-Murra (Nile Delta) grave from the Early Dynastic period. Through the publication of the morphological and technological analysis of the lidded vessel and the details of the place of its discovery, the author would like to make a contribution to the understanding of this kind of jars, known mostly from Upper Egypt and Nubia.

Keywords: lidded jar; pottery; Early Dynastic period; Tell el-Murra; cemetery

Introduction

The main aim of this paper is to present data concerning a lidded vessel found at Tell el-Murra cemetery in grave no. 40 dated to the Early Dynastic period. The paper should be considered as a case study regarding this single item from Tell el-Murra as well as a contribution to the body of research concerning basket-imitation lidded pottery from the Pre-, Proto-, and Early Dynastic periods.

The description presented below comprises an analysis of the form and technology (based on visual examination of the item) as well as details regarding the context of the discovery. As a complement to the corpus of lidded jars from the article about pottery from Nahal Tillah by

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Eric Kansa *et al.* (2002), a few similar examples not listed in that corpus will be mentioned.

At the current state of the research, the presence of lidded jars among the pottery finds from Nile Delta sites is quite rare. Examples which may be linked to the jar from Tell el-Murra are only sporadically noted from this area, while more parallels have been recovered at Upper Egyptian and Nubian sites. Such a state of affairs leads us to wonder about the source of the presence of such a vessel in the Tell el-Murra cemetery. The author will make an attempt to raise this issue briefly as well.

Tell el-Murra (Jucha 2016a, 85-86) is a site located in the north-eastern part of the Nile Delta (Pl. 1: 1), about 100 kilometers north-east of Cairo. It has been explored since 2008 (Jucha 2009, 86–88, Figs 40–41; Jucha and Buszek 2011; Jucha *et al.* 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018) by the Polish Archaeological Expedition from the Institute of Archaeology of the Jagiellonian University in Krakow.

The results of research carried so far have allowed us to establish the overall chronology of the occupation of the settlement of Tell el-Murra, which can be dated from the Predynastic period (Lower Egyptian Culture) through the Naqada III period until the end of the Old Kingdom (Jucha 2016b, 87-88, Table 1).

Regular excavation revealed settlement remains in the northern, eastern, and south-eastern parts of the tell (Jucha *et al.* 2013, 108-110; Jucha *et al.* 2014, 146-149; Małecka-Drozd 2016, 101-113) and the cemetery in the south-western part of the site (Pl. 1: 2). In the course of the excavation carried out between 2011 and 2018 on the cemetery, on an exposed area of approximately 5.5 ares,¹ 40 graves dated to the Proto- and Early Dynastic periods have been examined so far (Jucha *et al.* 2015, 200-208; Jucha and Bąk-Pryc 2016; Kazimierczak 2016).

The Context of the Discovery

The lidded jar was discovered in grave no. 40 (explored in 2016), located in the southern part of the exposed area of the cemetery, with a NE-SW orientation.

The grave is two-chambered in structure (Pl. 2: 1). The storage chamber, to the north, contained a part of the ceramic vessels (mainly tall and big jars). In the main grave chamber, to the south, the body of the deceased was

¹ At this state of the research, it is impossible to determine the proportion of the examined area to the whole cemetery, as its area has not yet been fully defined.

buried and the rest of the assemblage (pottery and other items) was placed. The body of the deceased (adult female, approximately 22 years of age), was placed in a strongly contracted position, on its left side, with the top of the head to the north-east and the face to the south-east. She was buried in a pottery coffin, rectangular in shape and covered with a two-part convex lid (measuring 105cm x 51cm x 31cm) (Kazimierczak and Grzyb 2020: 422).

Apart from the ceramic vessels, the assemblage of grave no. 40 also includes six stone vessels: four bowls and two cylindrical jars.

Based on the examination of the pottery forms, grave no. 40 is dated to the second part of the First Dynasty, which means it is considered to belong to the group of graves dated to the Naqada IIIC2 period.²

Ceramic Vessels Found in Grave No. 40

The pottery assemblage of this grave comprises twenty-seven vessels. One of them is a lidded jar, found in in the south-eastern corner of the northern chamber of the grave (Pls 2: 2, 3: 1). The vessel was broken into pieces (Pls 3: 2, 4: 1), but in a state allowing reconstruction of the form.

In the same storage chamber, nine other vessels were discovered (Pls 2: 2, 3: 1). Among them were six very tall slender (Pl. 4: 3B) or shouldered jars (Pl. 4: 3A) (so-called wine jars). Some of them are decorated with (a) simple applied band(s) and bear pot-marks. They are made of Nile clay with small amounts of temper and belong to fine ware. The surfaces of these jars were finely smoothed; in the lower part (from the shoulder to the base), vertical trimming marks are visible.

Furthermore, the pottery set includes a tall stand with straight convergent sides (Pl. 4: 3I). It has a slipped and polished surface, and is made of medium-category Nile silt.

In the south-western corner of storage chamber, another two vessel types were found. One of them was medium-sized, conical-shaped, broad-shouldered jar with a concave lower part of the body and a slightly smoothed surface (Pl. 4: 3C). It was made of medium-category Nile silt tempered with

² Based mainly on the analysis of the pottery assemblage, graves from Tell el-Murra have been divided into several chronological groups which correspond with the phases of the Naqada III period:

1. group of graves dated to the Naqada IIIB-C1;
2. group of graves dated to the Naqada IIIC2;
3. group of graves dated to the Naqada IIIC;
4. group of graves dated to the Naqada IIIC2/D;
5. group of graves dated to the Naqada IID.

medium-grained sand and particles of straw. The jar was filled with pieces of bread moulds (Pl. 4: 3L) placed inside the vessel intentionally. They belong to a shallow wide form with a concave rim top, and are made of coarse Nile silt with a large amount of large particles of straw and sand. Their outer surface is very rough and irregular; the inner walls are roughly smoothed.

Three from among the very tall slender jars as well as the tall stand with straight convergent sides were found in the direct vicinity of the lidded jar.

The remaining eighteen vessels were placed in the southern chamber (Pl. 4: 2).

On the west side of the chamber, between the wall of the grave and the wall of the coffin, five medium-sized conical-shaped jars with broad shoulders and concave lower part of the body were found (Pl. 4: 2). Four of them have very rough surfaces with many vertical scratch marks clearly visible below the shoulders (so-called beer jars) (Pl. 4: 3E). The fifth one has a slightly smoothed surface (Pl. 4: 3D). These two pottery types were made of medium-category of Nile silt.

Several more vessels were located in the south-eastern corner of the grave. They include three small, broad-shouldered jars with a concave lower part of the body narrowing towards a flat base and with scraped surfaces (Pl. 4: 3H). They were made of medium-category Nile silt. Next to them, two other small jars were located: one barrel-shaped jar (Pl. 4: 3F) made of marl clay with smoothed surface (some examples of scum are visible on the surface), and one small, slender jar with smoothed surface, made of fine Nile silt (Pl. 4: 3G).

In the same location, there were also two undecorated cylindrical jars made of medium-category Nile silt and with slightly smoothed surfaces (Pl. 4: 3N).

In the southern part of the grave chamber, two bowls with convex walls and rims curved to the inside were found (Pls. 4: 3J-K, 5: 1). They were made of good quality Nile silt and their surfaces are slipped and burnished. The bowls were placed edgewise between the south wall of the grave and the south wall of the coffin.

Moreover, two more cylindrical jars were discovered in the south-eastern corner of the grave. One of them is decorated with an incised wavy line below the rim, has smoothed surface, and is made of good quality Nile silt (Pl. 4: 3O). The second jar is undecorated with smoothed surface, and it is made of medium-category Nile silt.

In addition, one more undecorated cylindrical jar (Pl. 4: 3M) was found inside the pottery coffin, in its north-western corner, directly behind the head of the deceased. The jar is made of good quality Nile silt, and its surface is covered with cream slip.

Lidded Jar from Grave No. 40

The lidded vessel found in grave no. 40 is comprised of two components: the jar and the lid (Pls 5: 2-3, 6: 1). The jar is a tall (H: 47cm) barrel-shaped vessel with very broad shoulders (Md: 42.4cm). It resembles so-called hole-mouth jars, as it lacks a neck and has a restricted mouth and an only slightly distinguished simple rim with a rounded lip (Rd: 18.3cm) and an internal ledge (Pl. 6: 2). The rim was internally ridged to facilitate the use of the lid. The jar reaches its maximum diameter at the height of 31.5cm. From this point, in the lower part the body, the vessel narrows toward the base, which has the shape of a low ring with slightly concave walls as well as thickened and rounded edges (Bd: 12cm, Hb: 4cm) (Pls 6: 3-4, 7: 1).

The majority of the outer surface, between the rim and the base, except the zone below the rim and above the base, is covered with 47 deeply incised horizontal lines. The intervals between the grooves are regular and most of them are of the same width (approx. 8mm).

Directly below the rim and above the incisions, eight perforations (joined in four pairs) were made, and immediately below these holes, sixteen punctures (irregular in shape and not pierced through the vessel's wall) were made (Pl. 7: 4). Such punctures (eight of them, spaced every 4cm) also appear below the horizontal decoration and above the ring base (Pl. 6: 3). The holes were made before firing, as is suggested by the excess of clay visible on the edges of the perforations on the inner surface of the vessel (Pl. 7: 2).

The lid has the shape of an upside-down bowl (H: 7.8cm) with convex walls, a rounded top, and a simple rim with a rounded lip (Rd: 17.2cm). On the outer surface, in the upper part of the lid (close to the top), five horizontal deep incisions were made (Pls 5: 2, 8: 1). Just as in the case of the jar, the spaces between the grooves on the lid are of even width (approx. 5-6mm). Below and above the grooves, rows of regularly distributed punctures were made: nine in the lower row, close to the rim, and five in the upper row, close to the top.

The rounded top of the lid was pierced through (Pl. 7: 3). The hole was presumably made before firing. Traces probably left after removing of

the excess of the clay are visible on the edge of the hole on the outer surface of the lid. It is supposed that the hole was intended for a string which was used to lift up the lid. However, according to another interpretation, strings were attached both to the top of the lid and to the holes below the rim of the jar so as to join both parts of the vessel (Scharff 1926, 34; Hendrickx 1994, 87).

The perforations and punctures both on the jar and on the lid were made by poking, probably with a sharp or pointed instrument such as a piece of reed or a stick, which left depressions and holes of irregular shapes and edges on the surface and in the section of the vessel (Pl. 8: 2).

Both components of the vessel, the jar and the lid, were formed and finished quite carefully. Based on macroscopic analysis, we can state that they were made of good quality Nile silt, probably of local origin, tempered with fine organic particles and sand grains (Pls 7: 2, 8: 2). Visual inspection of the fabric indicates that it must have been well-prepared. The clay is quite dense and compact, and it shows the features of low porosity; fine cavities are regularly distributed.

The surfaces of both the jar and the lid were smoothed and covered with yellow slip or wash,³ only partially preserved. Some remains of it are visible, especially on the shoulders and on the body of the jar (where the horizontal decoration is situated), and to a lesser extent, on the rim as well as above and on the base. The cover must have been applied after the horizontal decoration was made, as residues of the slip occur in the grooves (Pl. 8: 3). It is not unlikely that yellow slip/wash was intended to enhance the impression of the imitation of the basketwork. The natural surfaces of the jar and the lid visible under the slip are brown and light red in color.

Both parts of the lidded vessel were fired under fairly controlled conditions, although neither the jar nor the lid have a homogenous surface color. The different colors and shades of the particular pieces of the broken vessel are probably the result of postdeposition processes.

The atmosphere of firing was oxidizing at least for part of the firing process (there is light gray from organic residues but no black core in the section). The pieces of vessel are hard (hardness 3 on the F. Mohs scale).

The jar and the lid were probably built with clay coils or rings. Traces of the forming were evened, as they are not clearly visible on the outer or inner surfaces. The lid and at least the upper part of the jar (the zone close to the rim) are covered with thin horizontal lines, which suggests that they were

³ A more specialized analysis is needed to determine it.

finished by turning. The base of the jar was probably made separately, also from coils (which produced ridges visible on the surface), and put together with the corpus of the jar. Both components of the vessel are regular and symmetrical, and the thickness of their walls is quite even, at 15-17mm for the jar and 7-8mm for the lid.

Analogies and Similar Examples from Other Sites

The number of available analogies from the Delta area is very limited. Close similar examples to the jar from Tell el-Murra in terms of chronology and location were discovered at the neighboring Tell el-Farkha site. The vessels were found in room no. 211 belonging to the administration and cultic center located at Western Kom. They were recovered from a context dated to phase 5 of Naqada IIIB-C1 (Sobas 2009, 25; Ciałowicz 2018, 7) and include three reconstructable vessels as well as several pieces.

One of the vessels is a lidded barrel-shaped jar with an internal ledge and holes at the top of the rim. The outer surface of the vessel is covered with horizontal incised lines (Pl. 8: 5) (Sobas 2009, 29, Pl. II: Fig. 2).

The second jar is also a 'lidded barrel shaped jar with four holes at the top of the rim' and an internally guttered rim. More elaborate decoration of this vessel consists of 'punctured dots and incised lines forming triangles in the upper and waves in the lower part' (Pl. 8: 4) (Sobas 2009, 26, Pl. II: Fig. 1) and it is probably also an imitation of an organic basket pattern.

The third of the nearly completely preserved jars is an undecorated barrel-shaped form with an internal ledge and the top of the rim perforated (Pl. 8: 6) (Sobas 2009, 29, Pl. II: Fig. 3).

Apart from the reconstructable vessels described above, several pieces of rims, probably belonging to lidded jars, were also found (Sobas 2009, 30).

In concordance with the corpus of lidded jars presented by Eric Kansa *et al.* (2002, 210-214, Tab. 3), the majority of parallel examples dated to the Pre-, Proto-, and Early Dynastic periods come primarily from Upper Egypt and Nubia. The authors divided all the recorded examples into a few categories.

They present, among others, Upper Egyptian sites with vessels which imitate baskets in terms of both shape (barrel, squat) and occurrence of particular elements of the forms (internal ledge) and decorative design (horizontal lines, triangles, holes, and punctures/dots) (Kansa *et al.* 2002, 204-206, Tab. 3).

Some of them bear painted decoration (white, black, charcoal), such as the jars discovered at the cemetery in Nagada (Payne 1993, 61: 416, Fig. 29: 416; 105: 836, Fig. 38: 836; 112: 915, Fig. 48: 915).⁴

Other vessels have incised patterns like the jar from Tell el-Murra, for example the jars from graves from Abu Zeidan (Needler 1984, 130: 67, 68, Fig. 25: 67, 68; 227-228: 91, 93), Adaima (Buchež 2002, 223-224, Fig. 2.10: 191 3b6/1-01) and from Abadiyeh and Hu cemeteries at Diospolis Parva (Petrie 1901, Pl. XIV: 65, 67, 68, 70).⁵

Among the finds from South Egyptian sites, undecorated jars have also been distinguished (Kansa *et al.* 2002, 206, Table 3: 211-212). They resemble baskets by the shape (squat, barrel-like) and by the occurrence of an internal ledge, perforated in some cases, such as the jars from the cemetery at Elkab (Hendrickx 1994, 87, Pl. XI: H337, XXX) or the cemetery at Matmar (Brunton 1948, Pl. XXI: 7, 8, 25).⁶

Examples from the cemetery at El Adwa can also be classified to this group. A lidded jar of barrel shape is undecorated, but it has a rim with a perforated internal ledge (Abu Zeid 2004, 205, 207-208, Table 1, Fig. 8, *cf.* L75- Petrie 1921, Pl. LI).

Barrel-shaped vessels with lids have also been noted on Nubian sites of Group A (Firth 1912; 1915; 1927; Nordström 1972; Needler 1984, 224-231; Williams 1986, 1989, 1993; Reisner 1910; Payne 1993, 127; Raue 1999, 187-189). However, they occur there rather rarely, as this pottery form is not typical for ceramics of this culture. This suggests that in terms of shape (barrel, squat), such vessels, including the jar from Tell el-Murra, have Egyptian provenience despite the incised decoration, which is usually linked specifically with Nubia. Numerous finds from Lower Nubian cemeteries of Group A confirm this attribution (Firth 1912, 193, pl. 46: 5; 134, pl. 46: 3; Needler 1984, 224-231).⁷

Ethno-archaeological studies have shown that analogical materials also occur among the pottery produced and used by Somono people living currently in the Sahel area (Inland Niger Delta). These are lidded vessels, spherical or ovaloid (barrel) in shape (Rice 2015, 241), with an undistinguished neck, some of them with rims internally ridged, and finished with a ring base. Surfaces of these vessels are covered, to various extent, with decoration imitating basket patterns (Huysecom 1994, 41:

⁴ More examples, see Kansa *et al.* 2002, Table 3.

⁵ More examples, see Kansa *et al.* 2002, Table 3.

⁶ More examples, see Kansa *et al.* 2002, Table 3.

⁷ More examples, see Kansa *et al.* 2002, Table 3.

Fig. 8, 43; Fig. 10; 1996, 448, Fig. 15). Through these features, these jars bear a very strong resemblance to the example from Tell e-Murra.

Finally, sherds with reed-decoration have also been found in the Southern Levant. They have been recorded in Nahal Tillah site, located in Halif Terrace, and they derive from domestic contexts (Kansa *et al.* 2002, 202, 207 Fig. 8).

A piece of pottery with a similar design (consisting of horizontal incisions and vertical reed-like impressions) and probably belonging to a lid has also been recently discovered in Tell Erani (Ciałowicz *et al.* 2016), a site located on the south banks of Nahal Lachish (Southern Levant), and it also comes from a settlement context.

In both cases, the presence of pottery with this kind of decoration and made of local clays, in layers containing big quantities of other forms of Egyptian style, are considered the result of the Egyptian influx into this region during Early Bronze Age Ib.

Analogical material also includes organic baskets which are known from ancient times (Petrie, Wainwright, 25, Pl. X; Lythgoe, Dunham 1965, 78: iib, Fig. 31j, k; Gourlay 1981, Pl. X, XIII-XVI, XVIII; Dubis 1995) as well as faience (Adams 1974, 42-43, Pl. 32: 217, 37: 217; Dreyer 1986, 82; Kansa *et al.* 2002: 206-207, Tab. 3; van Haarlem 2019, 54-55, Pl. 20: 484-487, Pl. 21: 489) and stone models (Kansa *et al.* 2002: 207, Tab. 3).

Summary

All ancient ceramic examples of lidded jars, both those mentioned above and those presented in Eric Kansa's Corpus, are dated from the 4th to 3rd millennium BC and could be treated as prototypes of the lidded jar from Tell el-Murra. In terms of shapes (barrel, squat), and the occurrence of particular elements of the forms (internal ledge) and type of decoration (horizontal lines, triangles, holes and punctures/dots), they imitate baskets and resemble to a greater or lesser extent the vessel from grave no. 40 discussed in this paper.

As the majority of the known examples of that shape come from Egyptian sites, it seems that given its form, the lidded jar from Tell e-Murra is of Egyptian provenience. However, it is important to remember that most of these examples are not precise and exact analogies. All the known Egyptian examples have rather flat bases, unlike the jar from Tell el-Murra, whose base is shaped in the form of a ring. Among other ceramic vessels presented in the corpuses of Predynastic and Early Dynastic pottery (Petrie 1921,

1953; Wodzińska 2009), no forms with bases of this shape occur (the rare exception is: Wodzińska 2009, 101: 59, 61). Therefore, it is hard to indicate any precise chronological analogy from the discussed period and determine whether this shape was the result of some cultural interconnection or it was the effect of a one-off idea of the potter.

Considering the shape of the base, the pottery from Sahel region produced today by the Somono people constitutes a more accurate analogy to the Tell el-Murra jar. In turn, the type of decoration on the jar from grave 40 brings to mind the Nubian pottery of group A, where incised ornamentation was especially popular, as confirmed by numerous finds on Nubian sites (Firth 1912, 193, pl. 46: 5; 134, pl. 46: 3; Needler 1984, 224-231).

Examination of available analogies reveals that ceramic lidded jars imitating baskets occur on different kinds of sites, although the most numerous are finds from necropolises (Kansa *et al.* 2002, 207; e.g. Petrie 1921, LI: 75a, d, n, m; Scharff 1931, Taf. 11: 257; Brunton 1948, XXI: 6; Needler 1984, 227-228: 91-94; Payne 1993, 61: 416, Fig. 29: 416; Midant-Reynes 1996, 15). The lidded jar from Tell el-Murra cemetery is also included in this list. It should be highlighted that the find from grave no. 40 is a rare case where not only the vessel but also the matching lid were found in the grave together (Kansa *et al.* 2002, 196). Only a few lidded jars have been noted in sacral/ritual context (Friedman 1994, 725, 851: Fig. 9.74, 5-1p; Sobas 2009: 25-26) and settlement contexts (Köhler 1998, Taf. 24.9; Kansa *et al.* 2002, 204, 207)).

This begs the question about the functions of these vessels, including the example from Tell el-Murra. Many elements indicate a symbolic meaning of the jar (it would be even tempting to see in it a status symbol), including sepulchral context of the discovery of the jar at Tell el-Murra and the majority of the known analogies, the small number of similar vessels recovered from settlement layers, the occurrence of faience and stone models of such vessels, and the rich decoration of the jar. However, experimental studies have shown that the execution of such a decoration, eye-catching as it is, did not require a lot of work and time (Kansa *et al.* 2002: 207-209).

The origin of the jar, indicating the place where it was produced, is also debatable. In light of the information presented above, and considering the corpus of lidded jars prepared by Eric Kansa *et al.* (2002), there is a clearly visible disproportion between the number of available analogies from Upper and Lower Egypt. The modest number of examples from the Nile Delta contrasts with the predominant majority of similar vessels found in southern Egypt and Nubia.

This allows us to suppose that the presence at Tell el-Murra of a relatively large vessel imitating basketwork on a ring-shaped base and with an internally ledged rim supporting the lid, which clearly stands out from the ceramic material from the Nile Delta sites of similar chronology, is linked with influence from the south. According to one of the interpretations, the occurrence the vessels with strong southern provenience only at certain sites located in the Nile Delta (including Tell el-Murra) could be connected (at least to some extent) with the population migration from different sites of Upper Egypt into the Nile Delta, which is observable during subsequent phases from the Naqada II period onwards. The jar found at Tell el-Murra could have been brought by new Naqadian settlers from the south as a finished product. It is even possible that something was being transported in it, as one of its morphological features, its big closed form, makes it a good storage container. On the other hand, it is also plausible that new settlers brought only the idea and the vessel was made in a local workshop in the Lower Egypt. Another version which cannot be excluded is that the jar appeared in Tell el-Murra as a result of contacts between cities and towns and the exchange of ideas or products (e.g., between the settlers of Tell el-Murra and some other center or workshop).

Visual examination of the fabric of the vessel does not help to solve the problem of the origin of the jar unequivocally.⁸ Nile silt, the basis for the fabric of the lidded jar, was commonly used in many places in Egypt. Therefore it cannot be stated for sure whether the vessel was made locally (in the same workshop as other vessels discovered in Tell el-Murra, located at the site or near it) or in another workshop situated on the Nile Delta (lack of analogies from the Nile Delta could be a result of the state of the research) or possibly at some other site in the Nile Valley (in Upper Egypt or even elsewhere).

At the current state of the research, it is impossible to indicate the final explanation, and each of the interpretations presented above (as well as potential others) can be taken into account.

⁸ A more specialized analysis is needed to determine it.

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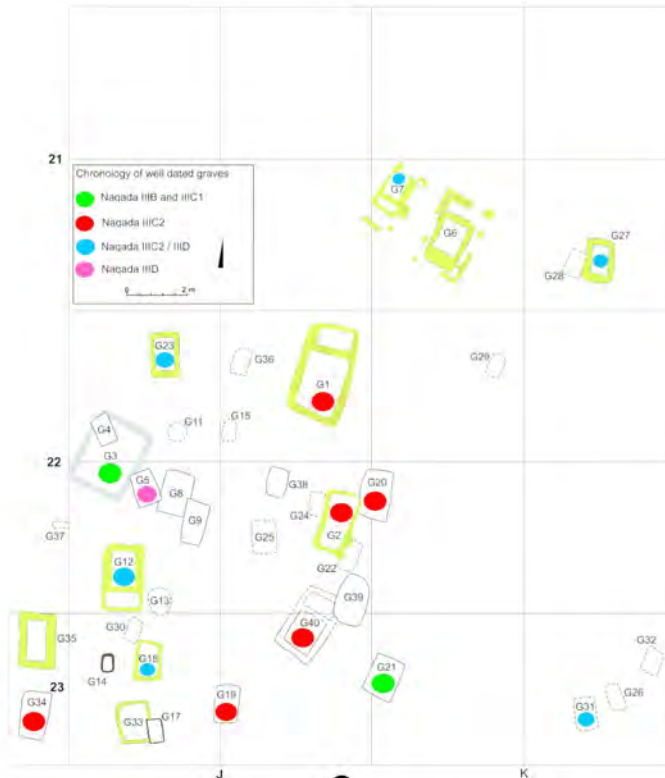
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Magdalena Kazimierczak
Institute of Mediterranean and Oriental Cultures
of the Polish Academy of Science
magdakazimierczak@poczta.onet.pl



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2

Pl. 1: 1 – Map of the sites mentioned in the text. Based on: https://www.bible-history.com/geography/maps/map_pharaonic_egypt.html

Pl. 1: 2 – Cemetery at Tell el-Murra. Location of the graves. Digitizing by G. Bąk-Pryc



1



2

Pl. 2: 1-2 – Tell el-Murra. Grave no. 40. Photos by E. Kuciewicz



1



2

Pl. 3: 1 – Tell el-Murra. Grave no. 40. Pottery vessels from the northern chamber. Photo by E. Kuciewicz

Pl. 3: 2 – Tell el-Murra. Grave no. 40 – pottery vessels from the south-eastern corner of the northern chamber. Photo by E. Kuciewicz



1



2



3

Pl. 4: 1 – Tell el-Murra. Grave no. 40 – pottery vessels from the south-eastern corner of the northern chamber. Photo by E. Kuciewicz

Pl. 4: 2 – Tell el-Murra. Grave no. 40 – western part of the grave chamber. Photo by E. Kuciewicz

Pl. 4: 3 – Tell el-Murra. Pottery vessels from grave no. 40. Photos by E. Kuciewicz



1



2



3

Pl. 5: 1 – Tell el-Murra. Grave no. 40 – southern part of the grave chamber. Photo by E. Kuciewicz

Pl. 5: 2 – Tell el-Murra. Lidded jar from grave no. 40. Digitizing by K. Grzyb

Pl. 5: 3 – Tell el-Murra. Lidded jar from grave no. 40. Photo by E. Kuciewicz



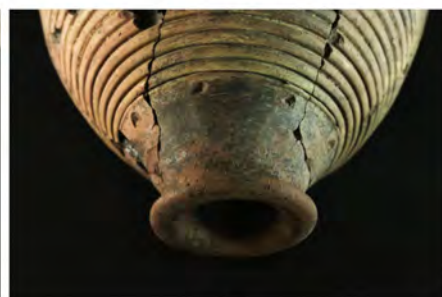
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Pl. 6: 1 – Tell el-Murra. Lidded jar from grave no. 40. Photo by E. Kuciewicz
Pl. 6: 2 – Tell el-Murra. Lidded jar from grave no. 40. View from the top. Photo by E. Kuciewicz
Pl. 6: 3-4 – Tell el-Murra. Lidded jar from grave no. 40 – the ring base. Photos by E. Kuciewicz



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Pl. 7: 1 – Tell el-Murra. Lidded jar from grave no. 40 – the ring base. Photo by E. Kuciewicz

Pl. 7: 2 – Tell el-Murra. Pieces of the lidded jar – the section. Photo by E. Kuciewicz

Pl. 7: 3 – Tell el-Murra. Lidded jar from grave no. 40. Top view of the lid.

Photo by E. Kuciewicz

Pl. 7: 4 – Tell el-Murra. Lidded jar from grave no. 40. Perforations and punctures visible below the rim. Photo by E. Kuciewicz



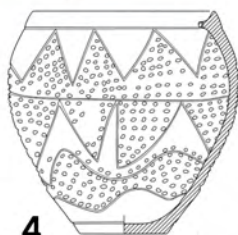
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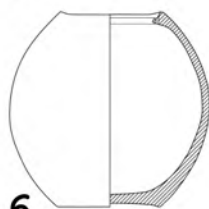


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0 10 cm
4-5



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0 20 cm
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Pl. 8: 1 – Tell el-Murra. Lidded jar from grave no. 40. Close-up of the lid. Photo by E. Kuciewicz

Pl. 8: 2 – Tell el-Murra. Pieces of the lidded jar – the section. Photo by E. Kuciewicz

Pl. 8: 3 – Tell el-Murra. Lidded jar from grave no. 40. Residues of the yellow slip/wash visible in the grooves. Photo by E. Kuciewicz

Pl. 8: 4-6 – Examples of lidded jars from Tell el-Farkha. Digitizing by U. Bąk. Courtesy of M. Sobas (Polish Archaeological Expedition to the Eastern Nile Delta)