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Deir El-Bahari 1994 : Pottery from the Temple of Hatshepsut and Tuthmosis III

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DEIR EL-BAHARI 1994
POTTERY FROM THE TEMPLE OF HATSHEPSUT
AND TUTHMOSIS III

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POTTERY FROM THE TEMPLE OF QUEEN HATSHEPSUT

For a brief period, during the spring season,¹ documentation of vessels and sherds found in the upper court was continued (after a few years break).² The pottery comes from several trial trenches which were made in the temple during the period from 1981 to 1988.

Material from two well-stratified parts of the temple was taken into consideration, namely:

- the fill behind a wall above the so-called lower shrine of Anubis.³ The central part of this wall was dismantled and rebuilt in 1986;⁴

¹ February 19-28, 1994. This work was part of the Polish-Egyptian Restoration project at the Hatshepsut Temple directed by Dr. Franciszek Pawlicki.

² Cf. Z.E. Szafrński, *Bulletin du liaison du GIÉCÉ X*, 1985, § 11; id., Pottery from the time of construction of the Hatshepsut Temple, *DE 22*, 1992, pp. 53-59; M. Daszkiewicz, J. Jelitto, Preliminary report on results of thin-section analysis of pottery from the trial trenches in the Hatshepsut Temple at Deir el-Bahari, *DE 22*, 1992, pp. 61-78.

³ A cup with a red band around the rim and a flower pot have already been published, cf. Z.E. Szafrński, *DE 22*, 1992, pp. 54, 55. The letter "A" and field numbers identify this material (i.e. A1-A17).

⁴ Cf. A. Kwaśnica, Z.E. Szafrński, The problem of reconstruction of the retaining wall... [in:] *The Temple of Queen Hatshepsut at Deir el-Bahari*, vol. 4, M. Olbryś (ed.), Warsaw 1991, pp. 50-56.

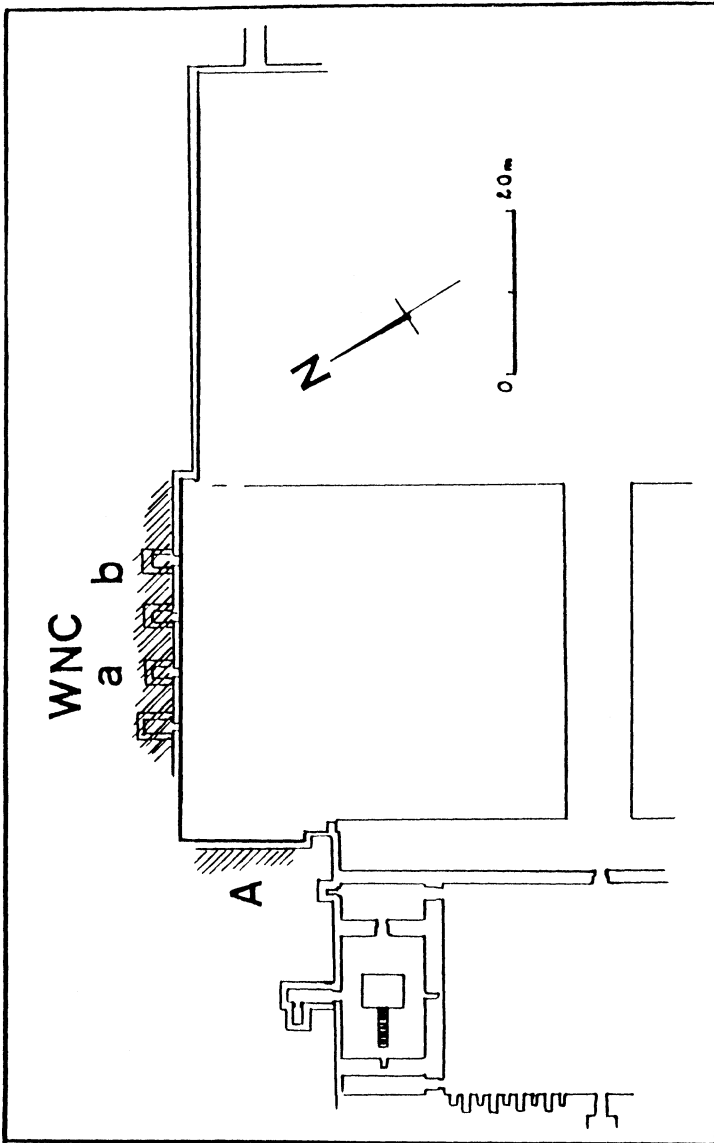


Fig. 1. Temple of Queen Hatshepsut: A; a, b - pottery fills.

- the fill behind a wall of the so-called northern colonnade on the middle terrace.⁵

The pottery from both fills (Fig. 1) includes a variety of wares; a total of 36 vessels and fragments has been recorded. Chemical and thin-section analyses of five samples selected from this material⁶ will add to knowledge of the pottery of the beginning of the 18th Dynasty, providing an interesting and complementary contribution.⁷

POTTERY FROM THE FOUNDATION DEPOSIT IN THE TEMPLE OF TUTHMOSIS III

In January 1989 a foundation deposit pit was discovered in the temple of Tuthmosis III. Pottery was found in and around the pit.⁸ The deposit consists of at least 14 different models of vessels and their fragments, made of Nile clay.⁹ Most of them have a red band around the rim, one of them (a conic cup) is also painted red inside.

Our knowledge of the pottery of the beginning of the 18th Dynasty is based almost entirely on cemetery material. There-

⁵ Four vessels from this area have been published: Z.E. Szafranski, *DE* 22, 1992, pp. 54-57. The letters "WNC" (with subdivisions "WNCa" and "WNCb", which correspond to the western and eastern parts of the fill) and field numbers identify the material.

⁶ Report by M. Daszkiewicz, available at the Institute of Archaeology, Dept. of Egyptian Archeology, Warsaw University.

⁷ Cf. J.D. Bourriau, P.T. Nicholson, Marl clay fabrics of the New Kingdom from Memphis, Saqqara and Amarna, *JEA* 78, 1992, pp. 29-91.

⁸ The Polish-Egyptian Restoration Mission of the Tuthmosis III Temple under Prof. Jadwiga Lipińska's direction. Pottery from the foundation deposit is recorded as no. F 8983(1-12) and F 8983(13-14) in the Mission's files. Pottery from this area is marked F 8921, F 8925-6, F 8944-5, F 8951(A-M).

⁹ Fabric equivalent to the so-called Nile B₂ or I_b.

fore, pottery from the time of construction of both temples at Deir el-Bahari has special value.

Samples selected from 29 wares of this material have been deposited in the excavation house of the Austrian Mission at Tell el-Daba'a in order to provide study opportunities for ceramologists.

EXCURSUS

In 1982, at Asasif, a faceless sandstone statue of Amenothis I was found.¹⁰ The statue is stored now in the temple of Hatshepsut. Following the kind information of Prof. Dieter Arnold, and with the permission of the EAO, a fragment of a sandstone face of this king, stored in the tomb of Mentuhotep II Nebhepetre at Deir el-Bahari, was examined. Unfortunately, the face fragment does not fit the statue.

¹⁰ Cf. Z.E. Szafranski, *MDAIK* 41, 1985, pp. 257-263, pls 38-39.