

Some materials in Tenerife from Petrie's and Garstang's excavations

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The Museo Municipal de Bellas Artes de Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain, holds a small collection of Egyptian objects –pottery and one stone vessel– arrived at the beginning of the XXth century. As many other collections formed at that moment, they come from the excavations organised by western archaeological institutions in Egypt. The pieces were found by W.M.F. Petrie and J. Garstang between 1898 and 1906 at Diospolis Parva, Hierakonpolis, Esna and Abydos in Predynastic and Middle Kingdom sites. They were sent to Liverpool Museum and from there to the Canary Islands as an exchange for a set of Dutch and Talavera tiles from the XVIIth and XVIIIth centuries.

El Museo Municipal de Bellas Artes de Santa Cruz de Tenerife posee una pequeña colección de piezas egipcias –cerámica y un recipiente de piedra– que llegó a comienzos del s. XX. Como muchas otras colecciones formadas en este periodo, proceden de las excavaciones organizadas en Egipto por instituciones arqueológicas occidentales. Los objetos fueron hallados por Petrie y Garstang entre 1898 y 1906 en áreas predinásticas y del Reino Medio de Dióspolis Parva, Hieracópolis, Esna y Abidos. Llegaron primero al Museo de Liverpool y de éste a las Islas Canarias, como intercambio por un conjunto de azulejos holandeses y de Talavera de los ss. XVII y XVIII.

IN the XIXth century the Canary Islands, especially Tenerife, had already become an important trading post where products and peoples from three different continents converged. Such activity meant the usual opening of consulates and offices of the major European shipping companies. This contact among different peoples had two important effects on the Canarian society of that moment. On one hand, it meant the knowledge of other cultures and the access of the incipient bourgeoisie from Tenerife to new ideas. On the other, it caused some people to recognise the islands as a valuable place for tourism. The

former allowed the creation of communities and societies of erudites, whose field of studies ranged from the Natural Science to Archaeology or Fine Arts. The latter managed to attract many visitors willing to enjoy good weather and curious to see, in situ, the natural and archaeological beauties that numerous travellers told about the islands. As a result of both these stimuli and the tendency to create collections at the time, some cultural societies, cabinets of curiosities and anthropological museums were founded. All of them gathered their collections with donations made by their members or with local discoveries.

* We would like to express our gratitude to Dr. B. Adams for her comments and constant support since we contacted her for the first time at the moment of the discovery of this collection and during the whole development of our study. At the time this article going to press we have known of her death which

we consider a personal loss. It is to her memory that this paper is dedicated. We also wish to thank Dr. J.-R. Pérez-Accino for his collaboration with the English version of this article and Dr. M. Arnay, Dr. M. Á. Molinero and Mrs. D. Montesdeoca for their help and constant suggestions.

The Museo Municipal of Santa Cruz de Tenerife was founded in this spirit from its very beginning and, thanks to its varied collections of Natural Sciences, Anthropology and Fine Arts, it became a *must* among the tourists who came to the islands on holiday. Consequently, it comes as no surprise that one of them, Peter Entwistle, started formalities in January 1908, to establish a particular exchange. He had a special interest in expanding the ware collection of the Liverpool Museum with a set of XVII century tiles from the cupola of the San Pedro Alcántara old convent,¹ and proposed the offer of a number of Egyptian vessels which would enrich the exotic collection of the institution. As a result of this arrangement, the Museo Municipal of Santa Cruz obtained a set of thirteen vases, twelve of which were made of clay and one of stone, and the British institution acquired thirty-six tiles. The selective choice of these pieces resulted in a small but varied sample of ancient Egypt craftsmanship.² The vessels arrived in the island in the same year, and they were on display to the public until 1959 when the museum specialised in Fine Arts. For this reason all the objects of the collection not matching precisely that definition were exhibited in other institutions. However, the set of pieces which we focus on remained in the custody of the museum, even though their presence was unnoticed by the managers until the 1980s, when a new inventory of the collection was started. Since 1990, we have been carrying out research on these objects, and as a result we have obtained the following information.

As for the original provenance of the pieces and the method we have used for its identification, it must be pointed out that very few documents were sent accompanying the

Liverpool Museum Access number	number here
25.09.99.18	1
25.11.05.3.142.F	2
25.11.05.6.156.F	4
25.11.05.7.142.F	3
25.11.05.16.F	5
25.11.05.123.183.E	9
25.11.05.140.139.E	8
13.12.05.3	6
16.11.06.55.264.E	10
16.11.06.89.336.E	11
16.11.06.107.77.E	7
16.11.06.108.346.E	12
14.10.01.79	13

Table 1

collection. These did not allow an immediate categorisation of each vessel into a specific site and date. A brief list and the accession number to the Liverpool Museum, written on the surface of the majority of the objects, could offer an initial hint to begin with. Such numbers consisted of a series of digits separated by dots, which made reference to the date in which they entered the Liverpool Museum, the number of the piece in the register of the museum that same day and, finally, the Egyptian tomb and site to which they belonged.³ All this information helped us to reach the conclusion that the origin of the collection was to be found in four different places, associated with three different archaeological campaigns carried out by two Egyptologists: William Matthew Flinders Petrie, in the area of Diospolis Parva and

1. The Museo Municipal occupying its rooms at the moment.

2. For more details on the arrival of the pieces see Almenara, E. and Martín del Río, C. M., *Colección de vasos egipcios del Museo Municipal de Bellas Artes de Santa Cruz de Tenerife*. Santa Cruz de Te-

nerife, 2000; and “El largo viaje del patrimonio egipcio. El ejemplo de la colección del Museo de Bellas Artes de Santa Cruz de Tenerife”, en M.Á. Molinero Polo & D. Sola Antequera (coords.), *Arte y sociedad del Egipto antiguo*, Madrid, 2000, 254-265.

3. See table I.

Abydos, and John Garstang in Hierakonpolis and Esna. Nevertheless, those without a tomb or site number could only be identified through the checking of the Egypt Exploration Society archives, and, in one case, we have only arrived at a hypothetical conclusion.

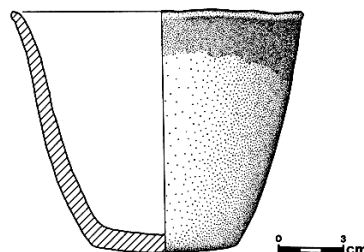
THE SITES

For this study, we analysed the pieces in relation to their provenance. The typological description of the pottery is based on Petrie's *corpus*⁴ and the arrangement of Federn,⁵ when suitable, for the predynastic pieces, and that of Dorothy Downes⁶ for the dynastic ones.

1. Diospolis Parva

This place was chosen by Petrie to carry out two seasons between 1898 and 1899, with the intention of completing his project, consisting in the systematic excavation of the area from Dendera to Abydos. He tried to verify the Sequence Dating system with the materials he hoped to obtain there.⁷ The site comprised a huge area of land, which included three different villages: Hu, Abadiya and Semaina. The chronology and typology for the archaeological remains found there were varied, since several settlements and necropolis from all periods were found. This allowed the unearthing of a great number of items, some of which were donated to institutions like the Liverpool Museum.

As for the exact place of the provenance of the pottery in the Canarian collection, there were many difficulties to locate it, since only the date of the accession number was available, and the letter of the site had been



n° 1

omitted from the inscription. Lacking any other data, the research focused on the chronology and typology of the vessel. Once they were determined, the entry number of the material from the Liverpool Museum and the Egypt Exploration Society were consulted. Thus the conclusion was reached that it was the Diospolis Parva 1898 campaign. Yet there remained the concrete origin, so a systematic revision of the excavation journals elaborated by Petrie during his work in the site was made.⁸ Such search helped formulate the hypothesis that the vessel could only come from two of the six graveyards that belonged to the same period: U (Hu) and B (Abadiya).

Piece no. 1

Material: Nile silt.

Typology: Black-topped, B18k (Petrie, *Corpus*, pl. II).

Description: Unrestricted vessel with flat-base, straight side and rounded lip. Handmade. The surface has been burnished in the interior and smoothed outside.

Measures: Ht. 112 mm, max. ϕ = mouth ϕ 136 mm, base ϕ 70 mm. Vessel-Index: 121.

Date: Naqada Ib.

Conservation: Good state of preservation.

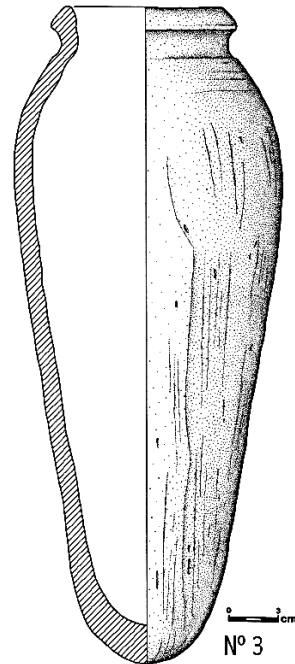
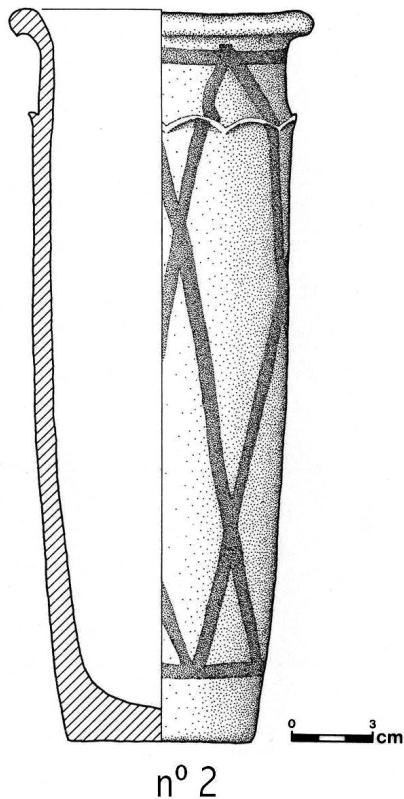
Observation: Accession number of Liverpool Museum 25.09.99.18.

4. Petrie, W.M.F., *Corpus of Prehistoric Pottery and Palettes*. London, 1921.
 5. Needler, W., "Federn's Revision of Petrie's Predynastic Pottery Classification", *Journal of the Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities* XI, 1981, 69-74.
 6. Downes, D., *The Excavations at Esna, 1905-1906*. Warminster, 1974, 24-29.

7. His Sequence Dating system is published in Petrie, W.M.F., *Diospolis Parva*. (EEF 20). London, 1901, 4-12.
 8. Petrie Manuscript Notebooks in the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology, University College London. (now available on CD ROM, previously on microfiche).

2. Hierakonpolis

The five pieces of the collection found in this site come from the excavations carried by John Garstang in 1905 and 1906, which were executed on behalf of the Liverpool University. Though the archaeologist was interested in the city, several problems forced him to desist from his initial idea of working on it. Thus he focused on a necropolis nowadays renamed as Locality Hk27.⁹ His target there was, specifically, an area called the "Fort". Beneath the interior of this Dynasty II construction were a series of burials,¹⁰ dated from Naqada Stufe IIa to IIIb, according to Kaiser's relative chronology.¹¹ The tombs were unlined hollow, oval and of little depth, in the fashion of the Predynastic Period. They were normally individual tombs, with funerary equipment beside the bodies. They consisted of less than ten pieces, the most common being pottery and cosmetic palettes. The work



in that area lasted twenty-seven days, during which one hundred and eighty-eight graves were excavated. Since three of the objects of Hierakonpolis kept in Tenerife present an indication of the tomb where they were found, this reference has been taken as guide for its description.

Tomb 142: it was excavated on February 5, 1905, and it contained an adult body and a equipment of sixteen recipients and a palette¹² with its pebble. Two of them are the objects number 2 and 3 from the Museo Municipal of Santa Cruz de Tenerife.

9. Hoffman, M.A. et al., *The Predynastic of Hierakonpolis*. Cairo, 1982
10. Kemp, B. J., "Excavations at Hierakonpolis Fort, 1905: A Preliminary Note", *Journal of Egyptian Archaeology* 49, 1963, 24-28.
11. Kaiser, W., "Zur Inneren Chronologie der Naqadakultur", *Archaeologica Geographica* 61, 1957: 67-77.
12. This palette was sent to the Otago Museum, in 1913, though it is now located in the Nelson Provincial Museum. Both these institutions are in New Zealand.

Piece no. 2

Material: Nile silt with calcium carbonate.

Typology: Wavy-handled, W62 (Petrie, *Corpus...*, pl. XXX).

Description: Restricted vessel with flat base, straight side and rolled lip. Handmade. The rim was finished on a stand. Smoothed on both surfaces.

Decoration: Atrophied wavy-handled and net-painted.

Conservation: Good state of preservation, though it presents a little split in the rim, which has been restored in the past.

Measures: Ht. 270 mm; max. ϕ = mouth ϕ 113 mm; base ϕ 70 mm. Vessel Index: 42.

Date: Naqada IIIa2.

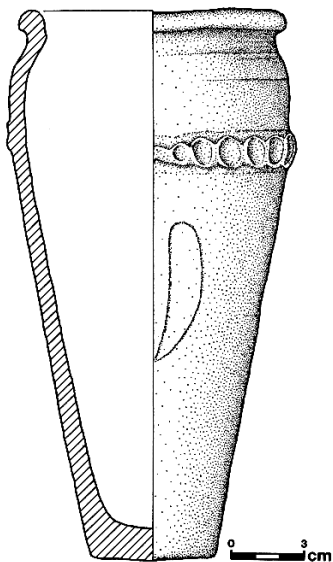
Observation: Accession number of Liverpool Museum 25.11.05.3.142F.

Piece no. 3

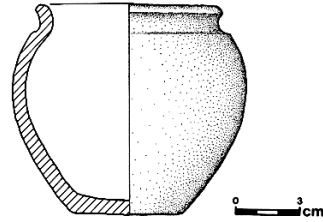
Material: Nile silt with calcium carbonate.

Typology: Late, L36a (Petrie, *Corpus...*, pl. XLVIII).¹³

Description: Restricted vessel with a pointed base, straight sides, rounded shoulder, short concave neck and rounded lip. Handmade. The



N° 4



N° 5

rim was finished on a stand. The exterior surface is roughening and the interior has been smoothed.

Conservation: Good state of preservation.

Measures: Ht. 396 mm; max. ϕ 167; mouth ϕ 113 mm. Vessel Index: 42.

Date: Naqada IIIa2-IIIb.

Observation: Accession number of Liverpool Museum 25.11.05.7.142F.

Tomb 156: it was excavated on February 8, 1905, and it contained an adult body accompanied by other 13 pieces of pottery.

Piece no. 4

Material: Nile silt with calcium carbonate.

Typology: Wavy-handled, W56g (Petrie, *Corpus...*, pl. XXX).

Description: Restricted vessel with straight sides, sloping shoulders, short neck and rolled lip. Handmade. The rim was finished on a stand. The exterior surface has been smoothed. It presents two wavy-handles.

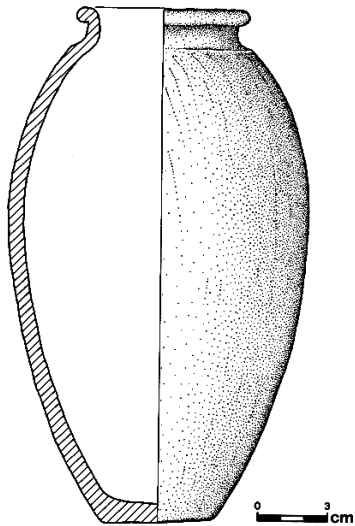
Conservation: Good state of preservation.

Measures: Ht. 226 mm; max. ϕ 120 mm; mouth ϕ 112 mm; base ϕ 53mm. Vessel Index: 53.

Date: Naqada IIIa2.

Observation: Accession number of Liverpool Museum 25.11.05.6.156F.

13. According to Federn's proposal, this piece should be included under the Smooth category (S).



Nº 6

The other objects of the collection belonging to this site do not present any indication of the burial where they were found. However, Dr. Barbara Adams analysed both pieces and proposed her own hypothesis. She located items 5 and 6 as belonging to burial 163, where the body of a child was found together with two recipients and a palette with its corresponding pebble.¹⁴

Piece no. 5

Material: Nile silt with calcium carbonate.

Typology: Late type L53s (Petrie, *Corpus...*, pl. L).

Description: Restricted vessel with flat-base, convex sides, short-necked and rolled lip. Handmade. The rim was finished on a stand. The exterior surface presents roughening.

Conservation: Good state of preservation.

Measures: Ht. 97 mm; max. ϕ 111 mm, mouth ϕ 88 mm, base ϕ 51 mm. Vessel Index: 144.

Date: Naqada IIIa2.

Observation: Accession number of Liverpool Museum 25.11.05.16.F.

Piece no. 6

Material: Nile silt with calcium carbonate.

Typology: Red polished, P46j (Petrie, *Corpus...*, pl. XII).

Description: Restricted vessel with flat base, convex sides, short neck and rolled lip. Handmade. The rim was finished on a stand. The surface is slip

Conservation: Good state of preservation.

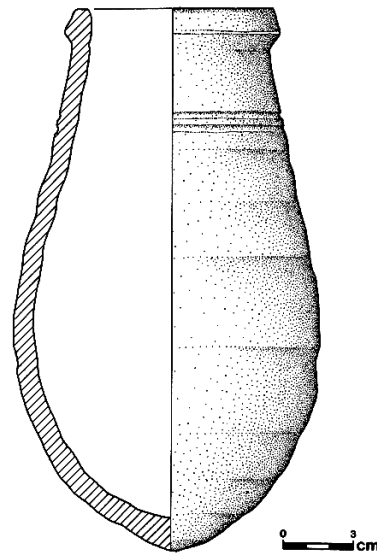
Measures: Ht. 221 mm; max. ϕ 128 mm; mouth ϕ 73 mm; base ϕ 49 mm. Vessel Index: 58.

Date: Naqada IIIa1.

Observation: Accession number of Liverpool Museum 13.12.05.3.

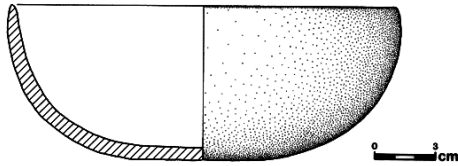
3. Esna

As in the case of Hierakonpolis, this site was excavated by John Garstang, with the help of Harold Jones, his assistant, during the 1905 and 1906 campaigns. The job took place in the huge cemetery of Hagar Esna, situated in the Northeast of today's city, where 385 tombs



Nº 7

14. Personal communication. For other details, see Adams, B., *The Fort Cemetery at Hierakonpolis. (Excavated by John Garstang)*. London. 1987.



N° 8

result of these works, more than 2000 pieces of pottery were obtained. The funerary constructions coincide with those normally used in the provincial cemeteries of the Middle Kingdom and the Second Intermediate Period. They presented pits with a exterior brick parapet, and several interior cameras. Besides, there were tombs related to the Nubian C Group and the Oriental Desert, together with singular materials of Cypriot and Hyksos origin. All the pottery from this site now in the Museo Municipal were made with a potter's wheel.

Tomb 77: dates from the XII Dynasty. It contained pottery and stone recipients and little objects of faience.

Piece no. 7

Material: Nile silt.

Typology: Type 80 (Downes, *Excavations...*, 38).

Description: Restricted vessel with a pointed base, convex side and rolled lip.

Irregular coated surface, with curettage prints in its base and two parallel incised lines as decoration under the rim.

Conservation: Good state of preservation.

Measures: Ht. 231 mm; max. ϕ 132 mm; mouth ϕ 88 mm. Vessel Index: 57.

Date: Dynasty XVII.

Observation: Accession number of Liverpool Museum 16.11.06.107.77E.

Tomb 139: Garstang dated it from the XVII Dynasty. It presented an equipment of clay¹⁵

15. Registered by the Liverpool Museum as L.M.25.11.05.119.16. It is considered as intrusive due to its typology (139), which dates it to the Dynasty XXVII.

and stone objects, as well as a set of pieces of pottery of different typology, one of which was considered to be intrusive.¹⁶

Piece no. 8

Material: Nile silt.

Typology: Type 25 (Downes, *Excavations...*, 31).

Description: Unrestricted vessel with flat base, convex sides and pointed lip.

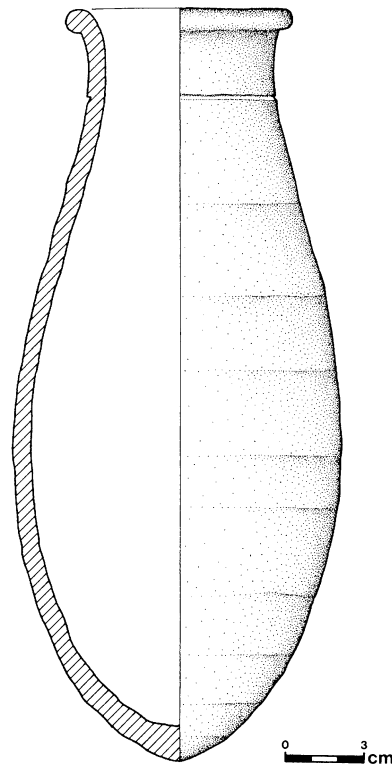
Both surfaces have been polished.

Conservation: Good state of preservation.

Measures: Ht. 76 mm; max. ϕ 194 mm; mouth ϕ 190 mm. Vessel Index: 255.

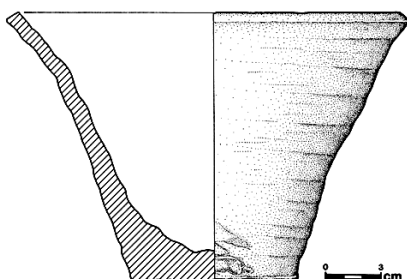
Date: Dynasty XVII.

Observation: Accession number of Liverpool Museum 25.11.05.140.139E.



N° 9

16. It is considered as intrusive due to its typology (139), which dates it to the Dynasty XXVII.



N° 10

Tomb 183: it was dated from the XVIII Dynasty. It contained exclusively pottery vessels and one nucleus of a dark resinous substance.

Piece no. 9

Material: Marl clay.

Typology: Type 83 (Downes, *Excavations...*, 38).

Description: Restricted with a pointed base, convex sides and rolled lip.

Decoration: Horizontal incised line of triangular section under the rim.

Conservation: Good state of preservation.

Measures: Ht. 285 mm; max. ϕ 127 mm; mouth ϕ 86 mm. Vessel Index: 44.

Date: XVIII Dynasty.

Observation: Accession number of Liverpool Museum 25.11.05.123.183E.

Tomb 264: it dates from the XVIII Dynasty. Its funerary equipment consists only of pottery vessels.

Piece no. 10

Material: Nile silt.

Typology: Type 12C (Downes, *Excavations...*, 30).

Description: Unrestricted vessel with a flat-base, straight sides with flat rim. It is uncoated and roughly made. It presents in its base the potter fingerprints and the turning-marks of the wheel.

Conservation: Good state of preservation with several splits in the rim.

Measures: Ht. 145 mm; max. ϕ = mouth ϕ 217 mm, base ϕ 91 mm. Vessel Index: 50.

Date: Dynasties XVII to XVIII.

Observation: Accession number of Liverpool Museum 16.11.06.55.264E.

Tomb 336: it dates from the XII or XIII Dynasty. It had pottery and several other objects. One of them, a glazed scarab inscribed with the name of Ramesses, is considered to be intrusive.

Piece no. 11

Material: Nile silt.

Typology: Type 153 (Downes, *Excavations...*, 47).

Description: Low biconical stand.

Decoration: The body has a white coating.

Conservation: Good state of preservation.

Measures: Ht. 46 mm, mouth ϕ 81 mm, base ϕ 108 mm.

Date: Dynasties XII-XIII.

Observation: Accession number of Liverpool Museum 16.11.06.89.336E.

Tomb 346: it belongs to the Dynasties XII-XIV. It had a varied funerary equipment, which includes painted pottery, stone recipients, two amulets of the God Bes, some fragments of a copper pin and several necklace beads of blue glass.

Piece no. 12

Material: Nile silt.

Typology: Type 46A (Downes, *Excavations...*, 32).

Description: Restricted vessel with rounded base, straight side and rounded lip.

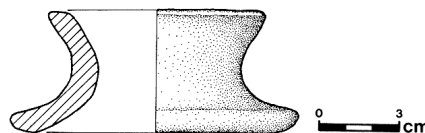
Decoration: The body has a red coating and two bands of white colour.

Conservation: Good state of preservation.

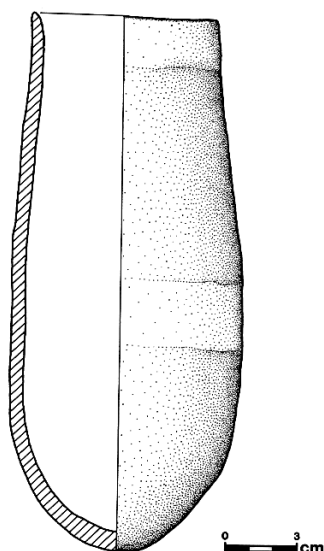
Measures: Ht. 223 mm; max. ϕ 99 mm, mouth ϕ 79 mm. Vessel Index: 44.

Date: XIII-XVII Dynasties.

Observation: Accession number of Liverpool Museum 16.11.06.108.346E.



N° 11



N° 12

4. Abydos

Abydos is one of the greatest archaeological complexes of Egypt, with settlements, cultic and burial areas. The latter are attested from the beginning of the Predynastic Period and present a very wide range of tombs, among them those belonging to the chieftains and their followers of Dynasty 0 and the royal complexes of Dynasties I and II. Cemetery B occupy an intermediate place in Umm el-Qaab, both for its chronology and for the size, form and disposition of its structures. It includes the tombs of Iry Hor (B1/2), Ka (B7/9), Narmer (B17/18), Aha (B10/15/19) and a possible Aha's predecessor (B50).¹⁷

Petrie started his work in this cemetery in 1900. Some objects from this excavation were sent to the Liverpool Museum and received an accession number in 1901. This year appears in the stone vase that now belongs to the Museo Municipal. In the distribution list of objects for the supporters of the season, archived in the Egypt Exploration Society, the only calcite item presented to the Liverpool Museum is said to come from the tomb of Ka. Since Petrie thought that graves B7 and B9 belonged to two different kings, Ka and Zeser

respectively, there is no doubt that number 13 comes from B7, which nowadays is considered as the main chamber of a bicameral grave.

Tomb B7 / B9 is a structure with two chamber of similar size and a gap between them of 1,80 m. In the lower part of the south wall of B7, some remnants of red and white colours were discovered, which must have belong to its decoration.¹⁸ Although it has been sacked, a great number of decorated pottery fragments and stone vessels, besides a label with the name of Ka were found.

Piece no. 13

Material: Calcite.

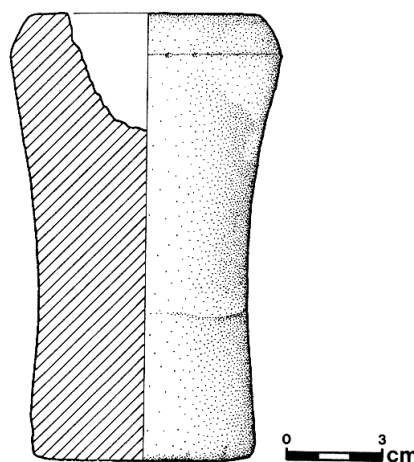
Description: Cylindrical vase of concave sides and flat rim. The exterior surface has been polished, whereas the interior presents some 36 mm deep and shows drilling-marks.

Conservation: Good state of preservation.

Measures: Ht. 140 mm; max. ϕ = mouth ϕ 85 mm; base ϕ 69 mm. Vessel Index: 61.

Date: Naqada IIIc1.

Observation: Accession number of Liverpool Museum 14.10.01.79.



N° 13

17. Dreyer, G., "Umm el-Qaab. Nachuntersuchungen im frühzeitlichen Königsfriedhof. 3/4 Vorbericht", *Mitteilungen des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts*, Kairo 46, 1982, 71.

18. Kaiser, W.-Dreyer, G., "Umm el-Qaab. Nachuntersuchungen im frühzeitlichen Königsfriedhof. 2" Vorbericht", *Mitteilungen des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts*, Kairo 38, 1982, 211-269.

CONCLUSION

Although the present study started as a mere catalogue of some pieces of the Museo Municipal collection, after some work, it became a research which had a double purpose. First, we intended to provide some knowledge of a singular set of objects which may give a new perspective to the archaeological museums of the Canary Islands, since today almost all of them specialise in local cultures. Second, the study intends to contribute to the account of materials excavated at the end of the XIX and the beginning of the XX century, some of which have not been yet identified in

the institutions where they are kept. In the case of Garstang's materials, this effort is especially interesting, since the majority of the objects from the 1905-6 excavations were deposited in the Liverpool Museum, where they were destroyed during World War II, and the rest was dispersed among, at least, four continents. This sheds some more light on the scarce information given by the archaeologist, since the excavation reports were never published though they were meant to appear in a global work.¹⁹ In the same way, we must underline the appearance of a stone vessel from royal tomb B7, which had been considered to be missing.

19. Garstang, J., "Excavations at Hierakonpolis, at Esna, and in Nubia", *Annales du Service des Antiquités de l'Égypte* 8, 1907, 132-148; and "Postscripts", *Egypt*

Exploration Fund. Archaeological Reports 1906-1907, London, 1907, 79.

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