**CHAPTER SEVEN**

**A SELECTION OF CERAMIC TYPES FOUND AT KOM EL-HISN**

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Although Old Kingdom ceramics have been recovered from several Delta sites since our last field season, in 1988, the ceramic material we found at Kom el-Hisn still represents the largest recorded and systematically excavated body of late Old Kingdom material from the Delta.  Comparative material from other Old Kingdom Delta sites such as Tell Basta, Hussaniya (Tell el-Fara'un), Mendes, Kom Abu Billou, el-Qatta, Tell el-Kebir, and Bhuto (Tell el-Fara’ in) ( reviewed in *Lexikon der Ägyptologie*[hereafter “*LÄ*])*:* IV 1982: 395ff) has so far not been published in large enough numbers to permit a comparative study.  Most parallels to the Kom el-Hisn material are, therefore, drawn from published material from Giza and Abu Gurob (Lower Egypt) and from Upper Egyptian sites.

Note that the division of the ceramic material according to clay types, method manufacture, surface treatment, and form types is based on the so-called "little Vienna system" (LÄ VI 1986).

**I.  NILE SILT C**

**1.   Restricted vessels**

Handmade

Natural surface/self-slip

Frequently occurring at Kom el Hisn are fragments of roughly worked handmade medium-size jars with somewhat constricted necks and pointed bottoms (Figure 7.1).  Made of medium-fired Nile silt clay C, this type of jar has a long tradition and seems to be associated with beer offerings.  However, pots of this type that were found in Giza and Abu Gurob (Eggebrecht 1974:50 a-b; 172 ff) contained remains of plaster, which seems to indicate a re-using of these vessels for building purposes.  At Giza it was also noted that these jar were seldom found in graves (i.e., in burial chambers), but many were found in or near the offering chapels,(Reisner 1955:70; Kaiser and Ricke, 1969:54) which may explain their re-use.

 The types found at Kom el-Hisn do not show a specially worked lip; instead the vessel usually ends in a rounded upper edge, slightly thickened, with some horizontal turning marks just below the thickening.  Many end with a plain open mouth, no special treatment of the neck/lip area (Figures 7.2-7.3), and the outside surface left rough, with many finger imprints.  Since only smaller fragments of this type of jar have been found at Kom el-Hisn, it can only tentatively be stated that the base is usually pointed, but a flat base of the same material may also belong to this group of vessels.  This type of jar is well-dated to the 5th-6th Dynasty by many parallel (Bourriau 1981:17; Arnold 1976: pl. 1a-b, 1f; Kemp (1985:Fig. 4/1-1, 5/2-3; Kaiser, op.cit., no. 64-67; Reisner, op.cit., Fig. 85).

**2.   Cups/beakers**

Outside natural surface – inside slip

Handmade

 Bread forms are known in Egypt through direct and indirect evidence.   Representations showing the production of bread (for example, in the grave of *Ti*) (Steindorff 1913: pl. 83-86) are supplemented by many hieroglyphic inscriptions, especially in offering scenes specifically naming various types of breads, followed by determinatives in the shape of the breads (Wahren 1961; Wahren 1963; *LÄ* I 1975:594ff). Old Kingdom sculptures of servant figures show bread being baked in molds, (Breasted 1948: pl. 16-28, 17ff) and these molds have occasionally survived with bread still remaining inside (L*Ä* 1982: IV, s. v. *Nekropolen*:395ff).

 Bread molds are generally made of Nile clay mixed with large amounts of sand and straw temper and only lightly fired.   They are usually roughly hand-modeled, with thick walls and finger impressions still on the outside.   The shape may vary from bowl to cup shapes, with rounded or flat bottoms in the Old Kingdom, to slender conical containers in the later periods.   However, they all have in common the smoothed and slipped inner walls (in contrast with the rough outside surfaces).   According to representations, these molds were stacked over glowing embers until heated through, then removed, filled with dough, and covered with a second mold.   The heat of the molds then completed the baking process.5

 The bread molds of the Old Kingdom seem to have evolved from a low bowl shape known from the Early Dynastic times (Jacquet-Gordon 1981:11ff) to a cup shape with rounded or straight bottom, the upper edges usually being trimmed at a slight downward and outward angle.   At the end of the Old Kingdom the proportions of the cup shapes seem to Narrow, changing from 5:4 to 4:5 (Ibid.; Kaiser, op.cit: no. 257-260; Kemp op.cit: Fig. 5/2-9; Eggebrecht, op.cit., *Tf*. 50c; Kromer 136; Band, *Tf*. 20/1-4) (diameter c. 22 cm, height c. 20 cm) and changing to a conical shape (proportions 1:3, later 1:5), probably in the First Intermediate Period.  At Kom el-Hisn, as elsewhere, because of the friability and only lightly fired state of the material, these forms are generally found broken in many small pieces, often not reconstructable, preventing an exact count of the volume of molds present (Gordon 1981:11ff; Kaiser :no.s257-260; Kemp :Fig 5/2-9; Eggebrecht *Tf* 50 c.; Kromer 136; *Band* *Tf*: 20/1-4)

**3.  Large Oval or round trays**

Self-slip outside – slip inside

At least partly handmade

 These large circular/oval trays with low sides and flat bases are made of the same material as the bread molds above.  Sometimes called “offering-trays,” they may have served some purpose in food production, since the samples found at Kom el-Hisn are treated on the inside in a similar manner as the bread molds: the inside surface is smoothed and covered with a thick slip.  Parallels to these large vessels can be found at most Old Kingdom sites throughout Egypt.

 One type of tray found at Kom el-Hisn generally has thick walls slightly concave at the bottom before connecting with a flat base.  The walls end in a straight upper edge, sometimes with a slight inward slant; the outside walls are smoothed.  The widest diameter is usually at the top edge, c. 50 cm (Figure  ).  A second type of tray is more roughly-worked, with an irregular flat base, concave walls, rounded top edges, and its widest point at the bottom (Figure  ).  It too is smoothed on the inside and covered with a slip, and its diameter is also c. 50 cm or larger.  Sometimes the walls appear almost straight, with the base projecting in a kind of bulb on the sides (Figure  ).  Two varieties of this type are trays with thick straight bases connected with straight walls leaning either slightly inward or outward, and manufactured in the same way, also slipped on the inside. (See, for example: Kaiser, op.cit., no. 252-253; Reisner, op.cit., Fig. 132; Charvat 1981:pl. 25).

**4. Trays/Plates**

Natural surface/self-slip

Partly wheel-made

These circular or oval plates (diameter 30-40 cm) can have a slightly curved base (Figure 10) and have low, slightly concave walls leaning outward and ending in a rounded lip.  The base is usually roughly scraped on the outside, with the inside smoothed, but usually not slipped (Figure  ) (Kaiser, op.cit., no. 254; Reisner, op.cit., Fig. 132).

**5.  Bowls/tubs**

Natural surface/self-slip

Partly or entirely wheel-made

This type of large tub is generally represented by rim sherds found in such small fragments that reconstructing the different complete forms is only possible by parallels from other sites. One type, the large tub with thick inward slanting walls ending with a rim that is flattened on top and bulbous on the outside, does not occur very frequently (Figures   ) (Kaiser, op.cit., no. 225-228).

**6.  Bowls**

Natural surface/self-slip

Wheel-made

This type consists of large, deep bowls with a thick rounded lip, set off by a contraction below the lip (sometimes with spout) (Figures  ) (Kaiser, op.cit: no. 226-227; Reisner, op.cit: Fig. 17, G.12256, G.6031D; Kromer, op.cit., Tf. 24,3; Kemp, op.cit., Fig. 6/4-4).

**7.  Bowls**

Slipped surface

Wheel-made/partly wheel-made

These bowls are of the same form as #6 above, with remains of a red-slipped surface inside and/or outside.

**8.  Bowls/tubs**

Slipped surface

Handmade

 These thick-walled tubs have walls leaning slightly outward and a thick round protruding lip (Figure  ).

**9.  Bowls**

Self-slip

Wheel-made

 This type consists of large bowls with con ex walls leaning slightly outward, with medium-thick walls and a smaller, rounded lip (Figure  ).

*10.  Bowls*

Slipped surface

Wheel-made

 These bowls have straight thin walls leaning gently outward, with a slightly thickened straight-edged rim, sometimes with one groove running just below the rim (Figure  ) (Similar to Kaiser, op.cit., no. 206; Reisner, op.cit., 75,70).

**11.  Bowls**

Slipped dark red

Handmade

 These bowls have straight, outward leaning walls ending with an overhanging “hook-like” lip (Figure  ).  On some bowls of this type the lip has three rope impressions, and in rarer cases further down the body the remains of two additional rope impressions can also be seen.  Although parallel ceramic types with rope impressions occur occasionally in the Old Kingdom, this type of decoration (especially with rope impressions on the body instead of the lip) was more popular in later, Middle Kingdom times.  Because of their provenance and associated ceramic types, we date the Kom el-Hisn samples to the Old Kingdom (Kaiser, op.cit., no. 208-210, 6th Dynasty).

**12.  Bowls**

Slipped red

Partly wheel-made

 These large bowls have concave walls and outward-sloping, grooved rims.  The groove in the rim is either made with a rope or scratched with a reed instrument (Figure  ) (Kaiser, op.cit., no. 208, 210).

**I.  2.  NILE SILT B 1-2**

In this preliminary presentation of the ceramic material, Nile silt B 1 and B 2 are not listed separately.

**13.  Restricted vessels**

Self-slip/natural surface

Wheel-made/partly wheel-made

 Although many fragments of the rim sherds from restricted vessels were recorded, they are generally so small that a clear division of vessel forms will take more time to investigate.  On all these restricted vessels the surface is generally well-smoothed, and the proportion of vessels made of Nile B 1 and Nile B 2 clay is approximately the same.  The rim forms vary from vessels with no neck but strongly rounded and set-off lips, to vessels with medium high concave necks with overhanging, slightly rounded lips, to almost straight, high-necked vessels with small drop-shaped lips (Fig. 24-27) (Kaiser, op.cit., type I, II, III, 5th-6th Dynasty; Reisner, op.cit., Fig. 81 and 83).

**14.  Restricted vessels**

Slipped

Wheel-made

 As with the above vessel type, the surviving rim framents of this type are generally too small to allow a reconstruction of the complete vessel. The variety in form is the same as with the above type.  The exterior slip can be red and cover part of the inside lip/neck of the vessel, or, in a few cases, the surface is covered with a beige slip/wash probably imitating or copying the appearance of marl vessels (Fig. 28-31) (Kaiser, op. cit., No. 61, 4, 7, 6th Dynasty; Reisner, op,cit., 86).

**15.  Bowls**

Slipped red

Wheel-made

 These bowls with convex walls end with a rounded, somewhat thickened rim, which sometimes ends in a rounded, sharply set-off lip.  This type is usually well-smoothed inside and outside and slipped inside and outside (Fig. 32-34) (Kaiser, op.cit., No. 224, 225, 227, 5th and 6th Dynasty).

**16.  Bowls**

Slipped

Wheel-made

These bowls have inward slanting walls and high rounded lip and are slipped inside and outside (Fig. 35-36).

**17.  Bowls**

Slipped Wheel-made

 These bowls with vertical outward-leaning almost straight walls and rounded lips are slipped inside and outside (Fig. 37-38) (Kaiser, op.cit., No. 197, 222, 6th Dynasty).

**18.  Bowls**

Sometimes slipped

Partly wheel-made

 This type consists of bowls with a outward rim and downward droop slightly overhanging the concave walls (Fig. 39).

**19.  Bowls**

Partly wheel-made

Slipped

 These bowls have an outward-drawn knobby lip and concave walls (Fig. 40) (Kaiser, op.cit., No. 202-203, 6th Dynasty).

**20.  Bowls**

Slipped and self-slip

Mostly wheel-made

 These low, round-bottomed bowls have concave walls and a drawn-out rim, with a notch on the upper, inside lip.  Usually the remains of slip can be seen, but some unslipped samples also occur. Generally the outer and inner surfaces of the bowls are well smoothed, but in some cases the bottom is only roughly scraped, which may indicate a slightly later date than the smoother versions (Fig. 41-42) (Kaiser, op.cit., No. 183-185, 6th Dynasty).

**21.  Bowls**

Slipped

Wheel-made

 These bowls have outward-drawn plain rims, and are slipped outside and inside (Fig. 43) (Kaiser, op.cit., No. 185-187; Reisner, op.cit., Fig. 75;121).

**22.  Bowls**

Self slip

Wheel-made/partly wheel-made

 This type consists of smaller bowls with outward-swinging concave walls ending in a rounded lip with internal molding (Fig. 44-46) (Reisner, op.cit., Fig. 75, 115, 121, end of 4th to 6th Dynasty; Quibell 1898, pl. XII 34, 37, 39; OK; Kromer, op.cit., Tf. 23, 1, 61f).

**23.  Bowls**

Red slip

Partly wheel-made

 These large bowls have outward-leaning walls and overstanding irregularly worked, hook-shaped lips (Fig. 47).

See 11, above.

**24.  Bowls**

Slipped

Partly wheel-made

These large bowls have a drawn-out straight rim with a rope- or reed-made groove in the edge

of the lip (Fig. 48) (see 12, above).

**25.  Bowls**

Slipped

Wheel-made

 These bowls, with convex walls and upward turning, slightly rounded rims, are slipped inside and outside (Fig. 49) (Kaiser, op.cit., No. 182, 5th to 6th Dynasty).

**26.  Bowls**

Slipped

Wheel-made

 These tall bowls have outward leaning concave walls and curved-in rims and are slipped inside and outside (Fig. 50) (Kaiser, op,cit., No. 183-184, 6th Dynasty).

**27.  Bowls**

Wheel-made

Slipped

 These bowls have a small rounded lip from which the walls of the vessels run vertically a short distance then with a rounded bend continue conically downward (Fig. 51).  The inside and the top outside are slipped dark brown, the outside red (Reisner, op.cit., Fig. 106, 116; Kaiser, op. cit., No. 199-200).

**28.  Bowls**

Wheel-made

Self slip

 These bowls, with a plain lip and straight rim, are polished inside (Fig. 52).

**29.  Bowls**

Slipped

Wheel-made

 These low bowls have a drawn-out, rounded lip and a slight bend connecting the wall and rim.  They are slipped inside and outside, and some examples are polished (Fig. 53) (Kaiser, op.cit., No. 175, 5th Dynasty; Reisner, op.cit., Fig. 105, 114; Charvat, op.cit., pl. 28, 1670, OK; Kemp, op.cit., 41, Fig. 4, 2-7, OK).

30.  Bases (of cups?)

Self slip

Wheel-made

 Small bases of what appear to be footed cups occur occasionally at Kom el-Hisn.  We have not yet found a complete vessel with this kind of base, so that the appearance of the upper part of these vessels remains conjecture.  The shape of the base is, however, similar to that of the footed cups with bent-sided upper walls.  This type of vessel is particularly frequent in the First Intermediate Period but also occurs occasionally in the late Old Kingdom (Fig. 54-55).  At Kom el-Hisn we have assigned this type to the end of the Old Kingdom, according to its associated finds (Reisner, op.cit., Fig. 222, 5th Dynasty; Kaiser, op.cit., No. 245-246, 6th Dynasty; Petrie 1924, pl.XXIX, Vth-Xth Dynasty; Bourriau, op.cit., No. 98).

**31.  Bowls**

Slipped and polished

Wheel-made

 This group of vessels has interior and/or exterior surfaces covered with a thick slip.  The walls were also polished to a shiny or at least buff finish.  Often, however, the original surface is not preserved intact so that the degree of burnishing (shiny or buff) cannot be determined.

 The slip varies from orange-red (2,5YR5/8-10R/4/8), red (10R/4/8), reddish-brown (2.5YR/4/4), to dark reddish-brown (5YR/3/2), almost black.

 A large majority of the bowls were made of Nile silt B 1 material with fine admixture of organic material in the clay and were fired to a hard consistency.

 The sherds covered with the dark reddish-brown slip were often (but not always) made of Nile silt B 2, not fired and not polished as well as the vessels with red slip.

**32.  Bowls**

Slipped and polished

Wheel-made

 These orange-red hemispherical bowls with simple rims leaning slightly inward (Fig. 56) are well-polished inside and outside (Kaiser, op.cit., no 124).

**33.  Bowls**

Slipped/sometimes polished

Wheel-made

 These hemispherical bowls have convex walls leaning slightly outward and ending in a simple rim (Fig. 57).  They are usually polished inside and out and vary from orange-red to red (Kaiser, op.cit., Type XX).

**34.  Bowls**

Slipped

Wheel-made

 These bowls have a rounded bottom and straight outward-bending rim ending in a simple lip. The buff surface is well smoothed and orange-red (Fig. 58) (Kaiser, op,cit., No. 168, 6th Dynasty; Reisner, op.cit., No. 108).

**35.  Bowls**

Slipped and polished

Wheel-made

 The upper walls couldn’t decipher the edit bend inward at a more or less sharp angle from the bottom.  Outside, parallel to the rim, are one to three lightly engraved horizontal parallel lines (Fig. 59-64).  The clay used for these bowls is mostly Nile B 1, fired hard to very hard, with a reddish-brown to orange-red slip and polished interior and exterior surface (Kaiser, op.cit., No. 165, 5th-beg. 6th Dynasty; Petrie 1892, pl. XXX 8, pl. XXI 3, 4th Dynasty; Brunton 1928, pl.LXXVI 15L, 15N, 5th Dynasty).

**36.  Bowls**

Slipped

Wheel-made

 Similar to #35 in decoration, with one to three engraved lines near the lip, these bowls usually have much straighter walls (Fig. 65).  The engraved lines were partly made after the slip had been applied to the vessel.  The color varies from reddish-brown to dark brown and the surfaces inside and outside are lightly polished/buff.  Although similar forms are dated to the 6th Dynasty, it should be noted this type of bowl is also known from the 11th Dynasty, where it usually occurs with a footed base.  The bases of the Kom el-Hisn examples were not preserved, so that a final dating is difficult (Reisner, op.cit., Fig. 120; Kaiser, op.cit., No. 120, 6th Dynasty; Arnold MDAIK23, 1968, Abb.4 16-18, 11th Dynasty).

**37.  Bowls**

Slipped

Wheel-made

 These thin-walled bowls with double recurved rim are made of Nile B 1 clay, fired hard, and slipped orange-red inside and outside (Fig. 66) (Kaiser, op.cit., No. 156-157).

**38.  Bowls**

Slipped

Wheel-made

 These bowls have a rounded, small lip pulled slightly inward.  Exterior and interior surfaces are slipped reddish-brown and lightly polished.  The fabric is fine Nile B 1 clay fired hard (Fig. 67) (Kaiser, op.cit., No. 115, 116, 119).

**39.  Bowls**

Slipped

Wheel-made

 These deep bowls have a slight contraction just under the lip and a simple rounded outward leaning rim. They are slipped inside and outside (red) and lightly polished (Fig. 68-69) (Kaiser, op.cit., No. 108-110).

**40.  Bowls**

Slipped

Wheel-made

 These deep bowls have a lightly curved rim ending with slight slant outward, with a pointed or rounded lip.  They are slipped inside and outside (red-yellow/brown) but usually not polished (Fig. 7-72) (Kaiser, op.cit., No. 90-91, 88; Reisner, op.cit., Fig. 110).

Note: The following form types are those known variously as “brim bowls” or “Maidum bowls,” having first been noted by Petrie in Maidum (Petrie, Meidum, op.cit.; Eggebrecht, loc.cit.; Bourriau, op.cit., No. 6, 87, 88).  These bowls are a common type of tableware—as opposed to utility ware (see above especially under Nile Silt C)—occurring throughout Egypt at Old Kingdom sites.  The quality varies to a great extent from porcelain thin-walled, highly polished types made of marl clays or of Nile silt A, to thick-walled types, carelessly polished and made of less fine clay.  All are fired to a hard to very hard consistency.

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**41.  Bowls**

Slipped

Wheel-made

 These are round-bottomed bowls with a sharp recurving high rim, which is sometimes set off from the shoulder by a flat engraved horizontal line.  They are usually made of Nile B 1 clay (hard), thin-walled, and covered with an orange-red slip (buff) inside and out (Fig. 73-74) (Kaiser, op.cit., No. 96, 5th-6th Dynasty.

**42.  Bowls**

Slipped

Wheel-made

 These bowls have a sharply recurving rim slanting outward (lip slightly rounded) to varying degrees.  They are made equally often of Nile B 1 and Nile B 2 clay, but well fired.  The slip (sometimes polished, sometimes buff) is usually red and applied inside and out (Fig. 75-76) (Kaiser, op.cit., No. 97, 112, 5th-early 6th Dynasty).

**43.  Bowls**

Slipped

Wheel-made

 These round-bottomed bowls (Nile B 2 clay) with high-flaring, sharply recurved lip and neck have a brownish-red surface slip and are lightly polished inside and out (Fig. 77) (Kaiser, op.cit., No. 98-99; Reisner, op.cit., Fig. 110, G.5230A, G.2200C, G.4341B).

44.  Bowls

Slipped

Wheel-made

 These round-bottomed bowls with carinated rim and neck are slipped red inside and out, with buff or polished surfaces (Fig. 78-79) (Kaiser, op.cit., No. 96, 5th Dynasty; Reisner, op.cit., Fig. 110, pl. 54a; Kemp, op.cit., Fig. 5 3-5, OK; Meisterwerke…, op.cit., No. 146, 5th Dynasty; Bourriau, op.cit., No. 87, 6th Dynasty 1967:277-281).

**45.  Bowls**

Slipped

Wheel-made

 These bowls (probably with rounded bottom) have a somewhat rounded neck and a contraction between the neck and rounded shoulder area. Sometimes a flat groove has been made between the rim and shoulders.  The clay is generally a fine variety of Nile B 1, and the inside and outside of the bowl have been well-smoothed and slipped orange-red.  A buff luster is usually preserved (Fig. 80-82) (Bouriau, op.cit., No. 6, 5th Dynasty; Kaiser, op.cit., No. 97, 92, 5th to early 6th Dynasty; Reisner, op.cit., Fig. 110).

**46.  Bowls**

Slipped

Wheel-made

 These bowls have a short straight neck and a sharp bend between the neck and rounded shoulders.  They are slipped dark grey inside and out and polished (Fig. 83).

**47.  Bowls**

Slipped

Wheel-made

 These bowls have a short rounded lip set back somewhat from the protruding shoulders.  The surface is slipped brown and lightly polished (Fig. 84-85) (Kaiser, op.cit., No. 113-114).

**I.  3.  NILE SILT A**

Only few sherds of Nile silt A (fine clay with no or almost no organic material added to the paste as temper) have been encountered so far at Kom el-Hism.  All, however, belong to “Maidum”-type bowls.

**48.  Bowls**

Slipped

Wheel-made

 These bowls are like #46, slipped and polished inside and outside, orange-red (Fig. 86) (Kaiser, op.cit., No. 89, 92, early 5th – early 6th Dynasty).

**49.  Bowls**

Slipped

Wheel-made

 These bowls are like #40, and the slip varies from orange-red to red (Reisner, op.cit., Fig. 111, early 5th – end of 5th Dynasty).

**50.  Bowls**

Slipped

Wheel-made

 These have extremely thin walls, an “S”-shaped rim, and wide shoulders. They are slipped and polished inside and out in red.  A rare piece at Kom el-Hisn so far (Fig. 87) (Kaiser, op.cit., No. 107, 5th - early 6th Dynasty).

 A small selection of the ceramic types dating to the 11th and 12th Dynasties found at Kom el-Hisn are shown in Figs. 89-107.  Especially characteristic are the conical bread molds made of Nile Silt C (Fig. 87-88) superficially smoothed outside, well-smoothed inside, and covered with a thick slip inside (Jacquet-Gordon, op.cit).  A large concentration of these molds was found in a small area where are also found rim sherds of the same material of Figs. 90-91 (Arnold 1976-1981, in MDAIK38, 1982, Abb. 9 Nr. 16, 12. Dyn) and one of the few examples of a ring-stand (Ibid., Abb. 9 Nr. 4, 7) (Fig. 93) encountered at Kom el-Hisn so far.  Simple round-bottomed bowls are also paralleled by finds dated to the 12th Dynasty (Ibid., Abb. 6 Nr. 3) .  Nile Silt B 1 and B 2 were used for the constricted vessels (Fig. 92) (Ibid., Abb. 6 Nr. 3) and especially for bowls of the type illustrated in Fig. 94 (Ibid., Abb. 8 No. 5).  The bowl types illustrated in Figs. 95-96 seem to have no exact parallels elsewhere in Egypt.

 A large volume of sherds at Kom el-Hisn consists of fragments of very thin-walled cups, made of dark greyish-brown Nile Silt B 1 (Figs. 97-103).  Sometimes these cups have an interior red slip, but the majority are self-slipped, often with a red line applied on the exterior rim.  These cups have been dated to the 12th Dynasty and described and analyzed in detail by Dorothea Arnold (Ibid., 60f).

**Marl clays**

 Rim fragments of vessels made of marl clay (C) (Arnold 1981:167f) occur at K-H only in context with 12th Dynasty ceramics (Figs. 104-107) (Arnold, in: MDAIK38, op,cit., Abb. 11 Nr. 6,5; Abb. 7 Nr. 10.; Bourriau, op.cit., No. 128).  The few fragments of body sherds that appear from the context to be associated with Old Kingdom finds are non-diagnostic (for example, two sherds, probably of marl A3 clay, had been shaped to use as some sort of tool).

**III. DISCUSSION** Generally the ceramics of Kom el-Hisn correspond to the three overlapping time periods to which the glyptic material has been dated.  The Old Kingdom, represented especially by the carinated bowl, seems to be represented as early as the 5th - 6th Dynasty.  The majority of bowls described above are of the type that already shows a degeneration of form and the less well-polished surface and thicker walls typical of the 6th Dynasty, although some of the fine ware (as mentioned above) does occur.  Some of the forms that continue in use into the First Intermediate Period cannot be as yet assigned to either period with certainty, especially since the finds from other sites dating to the First Intermediate Period have not always been excavated in a secure archaeological context and are only now being closely studied by J. Bourriau, Do. Arnold, and others.  Of special interest for comparative material from the Delta will be the ceramic finds from Tell ed-Dab’a, where a First Intermediate Period settlement was also located.  The most interesting question of possible regional differences in ceramic production at various periods, which was already noted for the Middle Kingdom in Upper Egypt (Arnold 1972:33f) needs further investigation.  Already, in the initial stages of our  investigation, ceramic types appear at Kom el-Hisn which do not seem to have parallels at other sites.  Also the Old Kingdom, First Intermediate Period, and Middle Kingdom ceramic distributions are well-defined spatially across the site, with O.K. material occurring in one area, and Middle Kingdom sherds and glyptic materials occurring exclusively in the southern part of the site, next to a wall.

1.  Do. Arnold, Weiteres zur Keramik von el-Tarif, in: MDAIK28, 1, 1972, 33f.

1.  Do. Arnold, Ägyptische Mergeltone (“Wüsgtentone”) und die Herkunft einer Mergeltonware des Mittleren Reiches aus der Gegend von Memphis, in: Studien zur Altägyptischen Keramik, ed. Do. Arnold, Mainz 1981, 167f.

2.  Arnold, in: MDAIK38, op,cit., Abb. 11 Nr. 6,5; Abb. 7 Nr. 10.; Bourriau, op.cit., No. 128.

1. Do. Arnold, Weiteres zur Keramik von el-Tarif, in: MDAIK28, 1, 1972, 33f.

1. Petrie, Meidum, op.cit.; Eggebrecht, loc.cit.; Bourriau, op.cit., No. 6, 87, 88

1.  Lexikon der LÄyptologie IV, s. v. Nekropolen, Wiesbaden, 1982, 395ff.

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