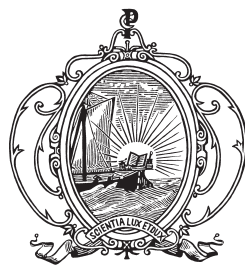


BRITISH MUSEUM PUBLICATIONS ON EGYPT AND SUDAN 8

ABYDOS:  
THE SACRED LAND AT THE WESTERN HORIZON

edited by

Ilona REGULSKI



PEETERS

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# THE LATE MIDDLE KINGDOM BURIAL ASSEMBLAGE FROM TOMB G62 (CEMETERY G) AT ABYDOS

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## Abstract

The Department of Ancient Egypt and Sudan of the British Museum preserves thirty-six finds (BM EA 37286–37320) registered as coming from tomb 62 in Cemetery G at Abydos, excavated on behalf of the Egypt Exploration Fund by W. M. Flinders Petrie in 1902. The tomb finds include several artefacts of archaeological and chronological importance: six faience figurines (including examples of the rare three-dimensional representations of both Aha/Bes and Ipi/Taweret); a wooden fish; three pairs of ivory clappers; two wavy neck pottery jars; seven toilet vessels; a copper bowl; a bronze mirror; a wooden spacer-bar; a silver torque; eight cowrie shells; and many beads assembled as seven necklaces (made of faience, carnelian, garnet, feldspar, lapis lazuli, turquoise, and green jasper). Unfortunately, a detailed archaeological report about the discovery of this group of objects is lacking at present. This paper aims to provide records for each of the objects found in G62: a concise description (including material, dimensions, and bibliographic references) followed by a ‘close parallels’ section, where the primary objective is to identify similar find groups; and a summary on the date range provided. The detailed analysis of find groups showed with a fair degree of certainty that most of the G62 objects belong to a broad—but defined—time-frame, which extends from the Middle Kingdom to the Second Intermediate Period. Finally, the entire range of objects from G62 finds a close echo in other funerary equipment included in multiple burials of the late Middle Kingdom (1800–1700 BC).

\* \* \*

The Department of Ancient Egypt and Sudan of the British Museum holds thirty-six finds registered as coming from tomb 62 in Cemetery G at Abydos, excavated on behalf of the Egypt Exploration Fund by W. M. Flinders Petrie at the beginning of the 20th century (preliminary accounts in Miniaci 2015, 18; Miniaci 2016a, 42). No further archaeological information is recorded in the British Museum archives, which is unfortunate since this group is significant for containing a remarkable cross section of objects typical of late Middle Kingdom culture, a period for which it is rare to find such a large number of artefacts preserved from a single context (cf. Kemp and Merrillees 1980, 105–75; Grajetzki 2014, 17–93).

## Abydos: Cemetery G

In his second expedition to Abydos, in 1901–02, Petrie labelled an extended area located near the dig house of that season (‘lying close behind our huts’; Petrie 1902, 1) as Cemetery G (Porter, Moss 1939, 38), following a rather confusing system used by early excavators at Abydos to refer to their concessions within the cemetery fields with alphabetic letters. Unfortunately, Petrie did not mark the position of Cemetery G on a map and only vaguely described its location in the published report. The area labelled ‘G’ was located ‘on the south side of the great valley which leads up to the Royal Tombs, a spur of the desert runs forward between the temenos of Osiris and the great temples of the XIXth Dynasty [...] opposite the old fort (the Shunet-ez-Zebib), and further back...’ (Petrie 1902, 34). In the only overall map of Abydos area

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<sup>1</sup> The results published here are part of my research at the British Museum as a post-doctoral fellow at the Department of Ancient Egypt and Sudan in 2014. I am grateful to Marcel Marée, Neal Spencer and all the AES staff, who strongly supported me. I am grateful to Ilona Regulski for inviting me to the conference in London to present the G62 group and for all her hard work in assembling the volume. I am especially grateful for comments and information shared by Paul Whelan, Wolfram Grajetzki,

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Janet Richards, and Robert Bianchi. I am indebted to Alice Stevens and Campbell Price for permission to publish the museum images/documents of the Petrie and the Manchester museums; to Christian Knoblauch for the additional information about the pottery from G62; to Angela Tooley for the photos of tomb E 1.

provided by Petrie (Petrie 1900, pl. 3), Cemetery G is not marked. However, Kemp and Merrillees were able to approximately place Cemetery G in a general map of Abydos, identifying the dig house of the 1901–02 expedition through photographs, notes, and sketches left by Petrie (Kemp and Merrillees 1980, 288, fig. 36). Therefore, Cemetery G should have been located on the hill just above the southern slopes of the great natural wadi, towards the northern edge of the so-called Middle Cemetery—corresponding to the ‘Nécropole du Centre’ of Mariette (1880, 40) and to the ‘South Cemetery’ of Peet—and probably adjacent to Peet’s Cemetery E (Peet 1914, fig. 1; Snape 1986, 12–13). Unfortunately, the actual location and extent of Cemetery G are at the moment unknown (Fig. 1; for an overview of Abydos cemetery locations see Richards 2005, 125–56).

Petrie published the results of his 1901–02 excavations at Abydos soon after, in 1902 (*Abydos I*;

nonetheless the information about Cemetery G was very scant, as explicitly admitted by Petrie himself:

Cemetery G was only worked as proved desirable in intervals of other work, and to give employment to workmen between other enterprises [...] and with scarcely any small objects of value casually found in it, such a place was an ideal resort whenever men could not be kept elsewhere. I should hardly have worked it for its own sake alone. (Petrie 1902, 1)

Moreover, in this published report, Petrie focused primarily on finds of Dynasty 19 and later periods, stating that ‘the contents of the tombs of the XI–XVIIIth Dynasties, not having yet been drawn, will be described when they are published next year’ (Petrie 1902, 35), but this never happened. The only brief information that Petrie gives about the Middle Kingdom burials concerns their architectural structure: ‘several tombs of the XIIth Dynasty have been opened; they are

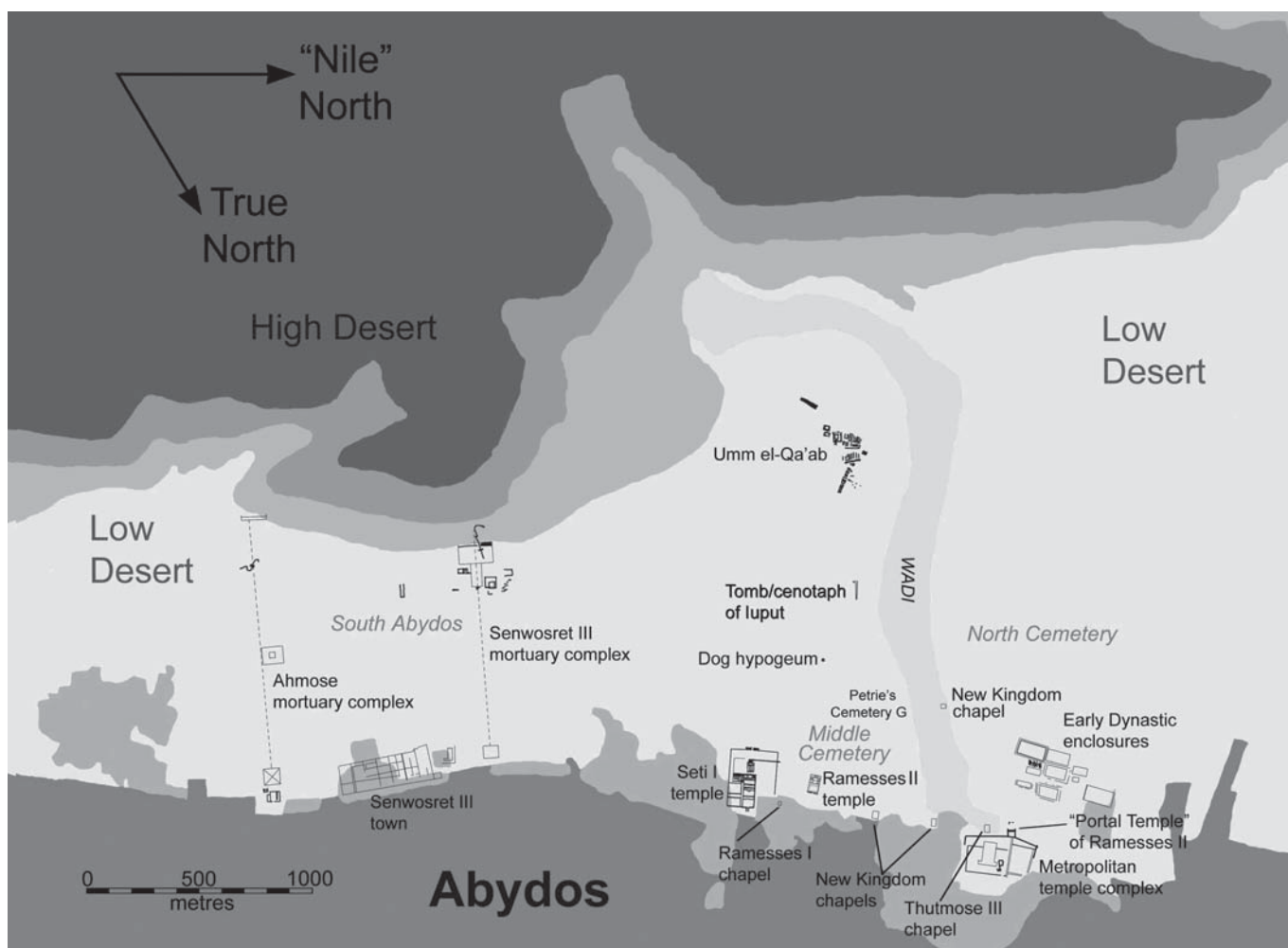


Fig. 1: Map of Abydos. © Courtesy of Paul Whelan.

usually placed in pairs, one leading to the chamber, the other, about half of the depth, probably for offerings' (Petrie 1902, 34).

Only in 1904, in the *Abydos III* volume, was there a short note written by Currelly about Middle Kingdom tomb G60 from Cemetery G,<sup>2</sup> dated to the Middle Kingdom (see Ayrton, Currelly and Weigall 1904, 47, no. 12, pl. 11). Given the proximity of the tomb's number it is reasonable to suppose that tomb G62 was fairly close to G60, and both could belong to a Middle Kingdom sector of the cemetery. Nevertheless, it must be borne in mind that the excavation sequence followed in Cemetery G is unclear, and Petrie may have jumped from one spot to another.

### Abydos: tomb G62

The only information concerning tomb G62 comes from the archives of the Petrie Museum, where, according to the Distribution List of 1902, most of the objects from G62 were assigned to the British Museum (Petrie Museum, Distribution List 1902, p. 5). A few pages later in the same list, among Abydos objects donated to the British Museum from season 1901–02, G62 is mentioned again: 'Tomb G62 XII Dyn. ivory wands etc.'. (Petrie Museum, Distribution List 1902, p. 7; **Fig. 2**). Two pottery vessels from G62 are preserved in other collections: the Petrie Museum, London, and the National Museum of Ireland, Dublin. Unfortunately, there is no other information at the present time concerning the archaeological context and the contents of tomb G62. All that can be said comes from the actual artefacts preserved in these museums, mainly in the British Museum.

### The objects from G62

Thirty-six finds in the British Museum can be attributed with certainty to tomb G62, since this is given as the provenance for each one in the archival records ('Abydos, Tomb G62'). Due to the presence of some diagnostic items (such as faience figurines, ivory clappers, a silver torque), G62 potentially represents a key tomb group for late Middle Kingdom archaeology.

However, the main concern of the present study is to assess whether all the objects are consistent with such a definite time span or if some are later intrusions. Due to the lack of any archaeological information, objects have been grouped in typological categories (nos 1–7) in order to explore their chronological potential. Nonetheless, some of these categories (such as body adornment and amulets) can sometimes completely escape dating criteria on typological grounds. Therefore, the G62 objects will be assessed not in their typological isolation, but in association with other types of objects: the combination of various elements in the same context will create a chronological anchor for those objects lacking diagnostic chronological values per se.

A short introduction has been included for each category, giving a historical background; the entry for each object provides a concise description (including material, dimensions,<sup>3</sup> and bibliographic references) followed by a 'close parallels' section, in which the primary objective is to identify any analogous relationship networks between similar categories of objects; finally, after the evaluation of comparable material, a summary of the date range will be proposed.

- Category 1: Figurines (nos **1.1–7**)
- Category 2: Musical instruments (nos **2.1–4**)
- Category 3: Vessels (no. **3.1–3**)
- Category 4: Toilet equipment (nos **4.1–10**)
- Category 5: Amulets (no. **5.1**)
- Category 6: Body adornments (nos **6.1–4**), including beads (nos **6.5–12**)
- Category 8: Undetermined category (no. **7.1**)

#### *Category 1: Figurines*

5 faience figurines (nos 1.1–6) + 1 figurine in other material (no. 1.7)

Figurines made in faience representing humans, animals (including composite beings), animate and inanimate objects appeared in the 3rd millennium BC in the Near East (Wengrow 2003, 139–60; Caubet and Pierrat-Bonnefois 2005, 31–35), and in Egypt by the end of the 3rd millennium BC ('Early Dynastic', see Bussmann 2010, 211–430; 2011, 747–62; 2013,

<sup>2</sup> According to the Petrie Museum Distribution List 1902, p. 5, the contents of tomb G60 were shipped to Boston.

<sup>3</sup> Some entries do not have complete sets of measurements (when they were not available or could not be taken).

1901-02

Abydos 1 British Museum

X		Porphyry mace head 1 <sup>st</sup> dyn ✓
X M. L		Kudju painted vase 0 <sup>th</sup> dyn ✓
X XXVI. 294		Flints - <u>crocodile</u> , 1 comb, ✓
X XX. 92		circular scraper, <u>polished</u> hoe <del>etc</del> ✓
		flint knives <del>(A)</del> about 1 <sup>st</sup> dyn ✓
X		<sup>2nd</sup> <sup>XII dyn</sup> ^ G 2 ^ ivory wands etc ✓
X Lii		<sup>piece of</sup> ^ 2 ^ cubits ✓
X LXI. 5		<del>1/2</del> Tahutmes III foundation deposits bronze ✓
XLXX 6. 8. C		2 Apries foundation deposit ✓ green glazed plaques
X		Statuette of Takeloth IV ✓
X LXXVII. G 500		Large hypcephalus <del>string of</del> ✓ <sup>amulets</sup>
XLV 6		Large granite king's head. <sup>about</sup> XII dyn ✓
X LXIX.		Granite altar Tahmes II ✓
X LXXIV. 4-7		Canopic box ✓
X LXXI		<sup>piece of</sup> <del>Model</del> coffin of Tahutmes ✓
X LXXIX 1, 2		Uschibtes of Zedher + Heduasor xxx dyn ✓
X <del>XXXX</del>		Ptolemaic uschibtes ✓

Fig. 2: Petrie Museum, Distribution List 1902, p. 7.  
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21–34). These types of figurines continued in use throughout the 2nd and 1st millennia BC (Pinch 2003; Stevens 2006, 79–120). However, there is a peculiar type evident only during a narrow chronological period, mainly spanning from c. 1900 BC to 1650 BC (Miniaci 2014, 109–42; 2017; forthcoming a). This type can be distinguished from all the faience figurines produced during other periods of Egyptian history for two main reasons: first, the mode of production, from the raw material selected to the type of manufacture (Nicholson 1998, 58; Tite et al. 2008, 58); and second, the range of iconographic motifs selected. Middle Kingdom faience figurines include a wide repertoire of images, some of which were previously unknown (Patch 2012, 163–79; see discussion in Miniaci 2017) and did not continue afterwards (e.g. Waraksa 2009). In addition, they also display an unparalleled lustrous and intensely blue faience made by a thin, finer surface layer of glossy bi-chrome glaze, perfectly and skilfully manufactured, finely modelled by hand and not mechanically produced in moulds, as in earlier (Tite et al. 2008, 58–59) and later (Quirke and Tajeddin 2010, 341–61) periods.

Unfortunately, within the time span of Middle Kingdom faience figurines, it is difficult to provide a precise chronological sequence. Although a few isolated cases could be dated to the early/mid-Middle Kingdom (Beni Hasan: tombs 65 and 655 [Garstang 1907, 141–42, fig. 140; 142, fig. 140], tomb 51 [Garstang 1907, 213]; Meir: tomb B no. 3 [Kamal 1911, 17; Oppenheim et al. 2015, 216–17, cat. no. 156]; Lisht: tomb of Hepi, Pit 3 [Lansing and Hayes 1934, 27–41]), almost the entire corpus of archaeologically documented faience figurines can be related to the late Middle Kingdom (Kemp and Merrillees 1980, 162–74; Miniaci 2017). They rather abruptly stopped during the Second Intermediate Period, and from Dynasty 17 onwards they were not included in burials or even produced any more (Miniaci 2014, 130–32).

### **1.1. Miniature drop-shaped vessel (BM EA 37294); Pl. 1**

Concise description: Miniature vessel, with flat base, drop-shaped body and everted rim.

Material: blue-green faience

Dimensions: h. 3.48cm; diam. 3.46cm (max.)

Bibliography: unpublished

Summary of the date range proposed: late Middle Kingdom

Close parallels: No faience model vessels of a similar shape are known to the present author. For a vaguely comparable vessel model in faience: MMA 44.4.1, found west of the pyramid of Amenemhat I at Lisht North inside a basket, deposited by itself and without a body, called by the excavators ‘Toilet Basket I’. Other objects found inside this basket include a toilet vessel in calcite of exactly the same shape as nos **4.1–3** (see below); on a comparative basis, the group can be dated to late Dynasty 12–early Dynasty 13 (see Patch 1998, 207; Vink 2016, 275, fig. 17). See also the miniature vessels with flat base, convex sides and everted rim: BM EA 59849, donated by Lady Maxwell (Miniaci, forthcoming a), and BM EA 63125, found at Mostagedda during Guy Brunton’s excavations (Brunton 1937, tomb 1913, pl. 56.9).

### **1.2. Miniature hemispherical bowl (BM EA 37295); Pl. 2**

Concise description: Miniature hemispherical bowl.

Material: blue-green faience

Dimensions: h. 1.60cm (max.); diam. 3.30cm (max.)

Bibliography: unpublished

Summary of the date range proposed: late Middle Kingdom

Close parallels: MMA 15.3.129 from Lisht North, tomb 453 (south cemetery, south of Nakht tomb no. 493, MMA excavations 1913–14), found together with several other faience figurines (Miniaci 2017); UC 17513 from Tarkhan, tomb 1895 (Petrie 1914, pl. 71); no. 416.A.07.64 from Abydos, tomb 416 (Kemp and Merrillees 1980, 133, fig. 43, no. 64; see Fig. 11), slightly bigger in size and decorated with alternating spotted and plain water-lily petals. All the tombs listed above date to the late Middle Kingdom.

### **1.3. Hippopotamus-lion figure (prototype of Ipi/Taweret figure) (BM EA 37296); Pl. 3**

Concise description: Fragment from the torso of a hippopotamus-lion with a prominent belly, lion paws, pendulous breasts, part of the mane and dorsal ridge. The lower part of the body and head are broken off. The creature represented by the model figurine is a hybrid figure, often called Ipi (and later identified with the goddess Taweret), whose form has a hippopotamus’ body and head, with the legs and mane of a lion, and dorsal ridge sometimes in the form of a crocodile. In some instances a version with a leonine



face is also attested (UC 7059 from Lahun [Miniaci, forthcoming a]).

Material: faience

Dimensions: h. 5.77cm; w. 4.77cm

Bibliography: Morris 2017 (only sketch drawing)

Summary of the date range proposed: early–mid (?) to late Middle Kingdom

Close parallels: Despite the fact that representations of the hippopotamus-lion figure are common on ivory tusks of the late Middle Kingdom (Quirke 2016a, 327–34; Ceruti 2017), three-dimensional representations of this creature are very rare. Only a few hippopotamus-lion hybrid figurines are known in faience, and most of them come from outside Egypt (Miniaci 2017): MMA 34.1.127 from Lisht South, burial of Hepi (Lansing and Hayes 1934, 27–41; **Fig. 10**); MMA expedition photograph L20-21: 535 from Lisht North, tomb 885 (**Fig. 3.v**; Quirke 2016a, 174; see below under no. **6.2**); nos 15153–60 from Byblos, eight figurines from the votive deposit at the Obelisk Temple (Dunand 1950–58, 745–46; Weingarten 1991, 5–6, 8, pl. 16a–c). To these should be added a limestone figure from the late Middle Kingdom palace at Bubastis (el-Sawi 1979, 76–77, figs 177–79; Weingarten 1991, 6, n. 17; Quirke 2016a, 330; Bakr and Brandl 2014) and a roughly worked limestone figurine from the Lisht North excavations of 1906–07 (MMA 15.3.599; Quirke 2016a, 330).

Apart from the figurine found in the tomb of Hepi, all the other examples are clearly dated to the late Middle Kingdom (Miniaci 2017). The pottery and the coffin type found inside the burial chamber of Hepi can be dated to early to mid- (at the latest) Dynasty 12. The hippopotamus-lion figurine did not lie inside the burial chamber of Hepi, but on a ledge in front of her sealed chamber (see Fig. 10). If this deposit was strictly connected with the burial of Hepi, the hippopotamus-lion figurine cannot be dated later than mid-Dynasty 12 (Quirke 2016a, 135–36).

#### **1.4. Standing lion on hind legs/frontal lion-maned/-eared figure (prototype of Aha/Bes figure?) (BM EA 37297); Pl. 4**

Concise description: Figure of a standing creature with leonine mane, paws and ears. Breasts and face fluctuate between human and feline features. The legs are lost; the junction of the tail on the back is not clearly recognizable.

Material: faience

Dimensions: h. 5.7cm (max.); l. 4.50cm (max.); w. 3.20cm

Bibliography: Marée 2014, 223; Miniaci 2016a, 42; Morris 2017 (only sketch drawing)

Summary of the date range proposed: late Middle Kingdom

Close parallels: Two types of iconography in use during the late Middle Kingdom can be compared to the creature modelled in faience from tomb G62: (a) the standing lion on hind legs (Altenmüller 1965, 40–43; Quirke 2016a, 335–39); (b) the frontal lion-maned/-eared figure (Quirke 2016a, 358), sometimes called Aha in contemporary Middle Kingdom sources; this is one of the most probable ancestors of the god Bes. Although figurine **1.4** is represented from a frontal perspective, which is reminiscent of the very typical characteristic of iconography (b), the use of lion paws instead of human hands hanging down the body, the absence of clearly visible human anatomical details, and the human position of arms (and legs)—not bent outwards—suggest that the craftsman intended here to represent style (a).

Despite the fact that on ivory tusks of the late Middle Kingdom the hybrid iconography of Aha, the human-lion figure—or alternatively the standing lion on hind legs—is commonly found (see Quirke 2016a, 316–21), only two other faience figurines can be closely paralleled to item **1.4**: Liverpool World Museum 1977.110.2 from Esna, tomb 275 (Downes 1974, 52, 275, fig. 90; Bourriau 1988, 112–13, cat. no. 99); and Baltimore Walters Art Museum 48.420, stated as coming from Dra Abu el-Naga (Steindorff 1946, 143, no. 624, pl. 94; Dasen 1993, 58, pl. 3.3). The attitude of these two figurines seems to recall the position of Aha on ivory tusks more than the posture of **1.4**.

Other Middle Kingdom models of standing lions can be dated to the late Middle Kingdom; see faience figurines UC 2424 from Lahun and MMA 22.1.178 from Lisht North, pit 885 (see Fig. 3.t); two ivory figurines from Abydos D84 (Randall-MacIver and Mace 1902, pl. 43.54) and Lisht North pit 884 (Quirke 2016a, 338, fig. 4.25).

#### **1.5. Pregnant female(?) grotesque human figure (BM EA 37298); Pl. 5**

Concise description: Figure of a squatting female(?) grotesque human figure, probably a dwarf, holding a circular protrusion in her hands, which is probably

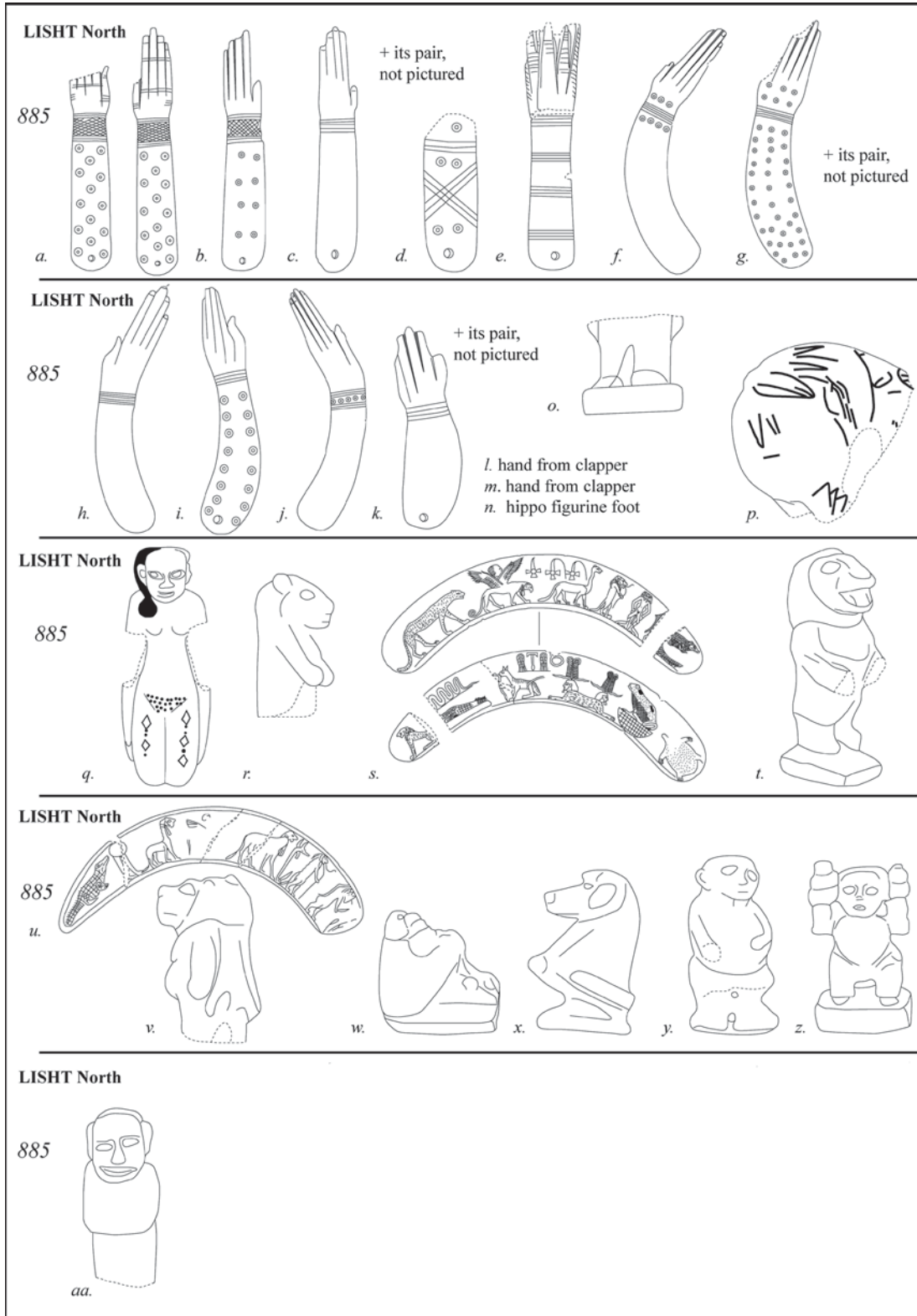


Fig. 3: Selection of objects from Lisht pit 885: a. MMA 22.1.143; b.–d. after MMA expedition photograph L20-21: 361; e. MMA 22.1.148; f. MMA 22.1.152; g. MMA 22.1.142; h.–i. after MMA expedition photograph L20-21: 361; j. MMA 22.1.146; k. after MMA expedition photograph L20-21: 361; l.–m. recorded on MMA tomb card; o.–p. after MMA expedition photograph: L20-21: 535; q. MMA 22.1.180; r. after MMA expedition photograph L20-21: 535; s. MMA 22.1.154a, b; t. MMA 22.1.178; u. MMA 22.1.153; v. after MMA expedition photograph: L20-21: 535; w. MMA 22.1.1637; x. MMA 22.1.175; y. after MMA expedition photograph L20-21: 535; z. MMA 22.1.177; aa. MMA 22.1.179. Courtesy © Ellen Morris (2017).

intended to emphasize her pregnant status (possibly holding a tambourine? Cf. MMA 22.1.1140 from Lisht North, surface find: Dasen 1993, 280, cat. no. 132, pl. 33.1). The figurine stands on a rectangular base. However, male dwarf figurines in faience are also frequently represented with an exaggerated, swollen belly (Dunand 1950–58, 759–60, pl. 97).

Material: faience

Dimensions: h. 6.04cm (max.); l. 2.34cm (max.); w. 2.47cm (max.)

Bibliography: Miniaci 2016a, 42; Morris 2017 (only sketch drawing)

Summary of the date range proposed: late Middle Kingdom

Close parallels: Dwarfs are represented quite frequently in the faience figurines of the late Middle Kingdom (Dasen 1993, 279–85), including female types (MMA 22.1.1163 from Lisht North, surface find: Dasen 1993, 280, cat. no. 133, pl. 32.4). Some dwarfs are represented holding a child (cf. MMA 15.3.887 from Lisht North, surface find: Hornemann 1951–69, vol. V, no. 1430). However, pregnant dwarfs are rarer, see for instance no. 15330 from Byblos, votive deposit at the Obelisk Temple (Dunand 1950–58, 761).

#### **1.6. A squatting caprid (goat or antelope) (BM EA 37299); Pl. 6**

Concise description: Squatting figure of a quadruped probably belonging to the caprid family (goat? or antelope?) with black spots, standing on a rectangular base.

Material: faience

Dimensions: h. 3.31cm (max.); l. 4.86cm (max.); w. 2.13cm (max.)

Bibliography: Morris 2017 (only sketch drawing)

Summary of the date range proposed: late Middle Kingdom

Close parallels: Domestic or harmless animals are frequently attested in faience figurines of the late Middle Kingdom (Miniaci, forthcoming a); however, no caprids are known to the present author. Closer parallels can be given by no. 15260 from Byblos (Dunand 1950–58, 754, pl. 106), which has been classified as belonging to the bovine category; and nos 15269–71 from Byblos (Dunand 1950–58, 755, pl. 105), which

have been identified as rams. In the late Middle Kingdom/Second Intermediate Period Cemetery S at Rifa, Petrie found a box decorated with animals, hybrid figures and geometric patterns (Fitzwilliam E.15.1907: Petrie 1907, 20–21, pl. 24; Quirke 2016a, 413). In these scenes, a female caprid is depicted in close association with two motifs; a lion-hippopotamus (cf. item no. 1.3) and a standing lion on hind legs/frontal lion-maned/-eared (cf. item no. 1.4). Although it is uncertain whether the box was found in an intact context, its geometric decoration has parallels with Middle Kingdom coffins.

#### **1.7. Wooden fish (BM EA 37300); Pl. 7**

Concise description: Wooden figurine in the form of a fish; a pierced hole represents the eyes; traces of blue and red paint remain.

Material: painted wood

Dimensions: h. 2.29cm; l. 8.87cm; w. 1.01cm

Bibliography: Hornemann 1951–69, vol. VI, no. 1662

Summary of the date range proposed: late Middle Kingdom

Close parallels: The dimensions of the item seem to exclude it from the category of string amulets widely attested during the First Intermediate Period–early Middle Kingdom (cf. Dubiel 2008, 29–85; Grajetzki 2017). Likewise, the dimensions (4.6 × 1.8 × 1.3cm) of a piece of wood shaped in the form of a fish found at Amarna, to the south of the workmen's village, is again too small to be compared with no. 1.7 (Stevens 2006, 103).

The only example of fish figurines made of wood known to the present author comes from tomb 247, at Hagar Esna, where eight wooden fish models were found (Liv. M.16.11.06.164–66), in addition to three other models made in stone from the same tomb (Downes 1974, 109).<sup>4</sup> Dorothy Downes, who studied the material from Garstang's 1905–06 excavations at the site, gave the tomb a preliminary Second Intermediate Period date. However, the inclusion among the finds of a hippopotamus faience figurine and a blackened limestone kohl container with incised representations of hybrid creatures (Downes 1974, 100)

<sup>4</sup> Other than fishes, figurines of animals made of wood and not resting on a base were commonly in use during the Middle

Kingdom: e.g. a crocodile (UC 16741: Petrie 1891, pl. 8.2) and a lion (UC 16647: Petrie 1890, pl. 8), both from Lahun.

corroborates the impression that the burial equipment belongs to a much wider chronological range. The faience figurine of the hippopotamus seems to indicate a late Middle Kingdom date (cf. Miniaci forthcoming a), while this particular category of kohl-pot is generally well dated to mid-Dynasty 18 (Sparks 2006).

There are a number of free-standing fish figurines attested during the Middle Kingdom which, although made in different materials, can be compared with no. 1.7 from Abydos. At Abydos, in tomb 859 A'09 a model fish of green slate (Liverpool E.7823) was found together with other material dated to the Middle Kingdom (Snape 1986, 341, 562).<sup>5</sup> The fish lies on a base, as in the case of other faience figurines of that time representing other types of animals (cf. Bourriau 1988, 116–18, cat. nos 106, 108, 110). In the Ashmolean Museum (E 1962.697), an unpublished and unprovenanced faience fish (probably resting on a base?) could be paralleled.

Another fish, partly made in wood with the addition of semi-precious stones (Ashmolean Museum E 1925.426), comes from the site of Qasr es-Sagha, tomb

12, and can be dated to Dynasty 12 (Caton-Thompson and Gardner 1934, 138, pl. 84.4). However, this is not a proper figurine but a pendant. This raises a question as to the function of object no. 1.7; should it be classified under figurines or amulets/body adornment? Although a suspension loop is lacking from no. 1.7, it should be noted that scanty traces of damage are visible around the mouth of the fish and that an original ring in wood could have broken off from it. Therefore, it must be taken into consideration that no. 1.7 could originally have been a pendant.

Fish pendants of the mid- to late Middle Kingdom show a range of dimensions similar to that of no. 1.7.<sup>6</sup> However, no fish pendants known to the present author are made of wood. Several Middle Kingdom fish pendants are made in precious materials, such as: gold (e.g. Abydos, tomb E 30: Garstang 1901, 4, 25, pl. 1); electrum (unprovenanced, Bourriau 1988, cat. 160b); stone, such as carnelian (Harageh: Engelbach 1923, pl. 50.19; Rifa: Petrie 1907, 13), anhydrite (Rifa, tomb 68: Petrie 1907, 13; Bourriau 1988, 151, cat. no. 165b).

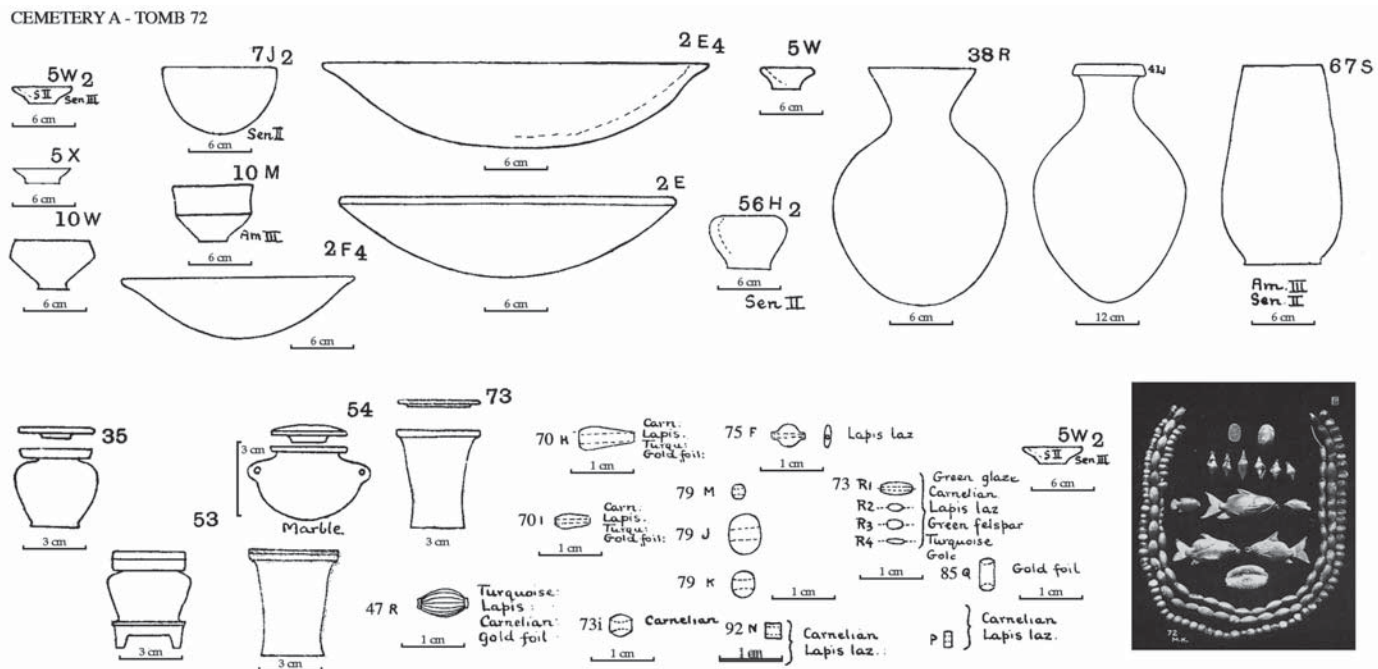


Fig. 4: Burial equipment coming from tomb 72 of Harageh Cemetery A, assembled from plates in Engelbach 1923.

<sup>5</sup> 859 A'09 is a large rectangular tomb probably belonging to the Early Dynastic period and later reused in the Middle Kingdom. Unfortunately, the context was not intact.

<sup>6</sup> For a detailed list of fish-pendant finds, see Bourriau 1988, 148–51 and Quirke 2016a, 419–20.

In tomb 72 of Cemetery A at Harageh, a group of three gold fish pendants were found in the coffin of a child<sup>7</sup> (Fig. 4; Engelbach 1923, 14–15, pls 10, 22; Bourriau 1988, 148–49, cat. no. 159; Grajetzki 2014, 105; Oppenheim et al. 2015, 203–04, cat. no. 137). Notably, also found in the child's burial were some silver cowrie shells that presumably formed part of a girdle; these can be paralleled—in a less rich context—with the G62 cowrie shells (no. 6.5). The statuette BM EA 2572 offers a close parallel for the combination of cowrie shells and fish pendant: a kneeling girl offers



Fig. 5: BM 2572. Steatite figurine of a girl holding a cosmetic kohl-jar; note, on the back, the fish pendant and, around her hips, a girdle formed from cowrie shells. © The Trustees of the British Museum.

a pot before her and wears a skirt and a cowrie-shell girdle around her hips; at the end of a long braid, a fish pendant hangs on her back (Fig. 5; Oppenheim et al. 2015, 203–04, cat. no. 136 with bibliography). From the late Middle Kingdom tomb 487 at Beni Hasan (Garstang 1907, 113, fig. 104), two fish pendants made of silver and electrum were found together with a scarab (with a zigzag pattern) ring mounted in gold (cf. item no. 6.2).

#### *Category 2: Musical instruments*

3 pairs of ivory clappers (nos 2.1–3) + 1 fragment (no. 2.4)

Ivory hand-shaped clappers first appear in burials at the end of the Old Kingdom; the earliest example comes from the Dynasty 6 tomb 1008 at Mostagedda (Brunton 1937, pl. 64). They were in use throughout the Middle and New Kingdoms, and possibly also into the Third Intermediate Period (cf. Hickmann 1949, 18–29). During the first phase, from the Old Kingdom to Dynasty 13, ivory clappers consisted simply of stylized forearms (straight or arched), variably carved with bracelets of different types and sizes, decorated with drilled circle-dot designs, delineated nails and knuckles, often pierced at the butt end, and all completely devoid of inscriptions (Morris 2017). Very few examples from this phase show any significant variation in design (Lahun: Petrie 1890, pl. 8.13). In a second phase, from the Second Intermediate Period onwards, ivory clappers became more elaborate in design and started bearing inscriptions (cf. BM EA 30866 from Hu inscribed for Sit-Hathor: Petrie 1901, 51 [77], 53 [83, 84], pl. 27). The clappers from G62 (nos 2.1–4) seem to fall into the category of items belonging to the earlier phase.

However, from a list of excavated contexts for the first phase clappers drawn up by Ellen Morris (2017), it might be noted that during the late Middle Kingdom, clappers frequently occurred in combination with faience figurines: Abydos 498 A'08; Harageh A 55; Harageh B 399; Thebes, TT 315; Thebes, Ramesseum tomb no. 5; Lisht North, pits 475 (Quirke 2016a, 149–52), 752, 884, and 885 (see Fig. 3; Quirke 2016a, 172–76).

<sup>7</sup> This can be compared with a fish-pendant found in the hair of a child in tomb 521, see Brunton 1948, 55, pl. 43.

Among the ivory clappers from G62, two decorations seem to be more distinctive (nos 2.2–3, see below under ‘Close parallels’ sections). Similar types of clappers have been found in contexts which contained material ranging from the early Middle Kingdom to the Second Intermediate Period.

### 2.1. Pair of curved clappers (BM EA 37301); Pl. 8

Concise description: Pair of clappers in the form of left and right hands with forearm; the elongated fingers and thumb have the nails carved and there is a depression between each of the digits. Six incised lines on the wrist represent a bracelet. The curved forearm is rounded at the end.

Material: ivory

Dimensions: *Left hand*: l. 19.10cm; w. 3.10cm; th. 0.80cm; weight 0.048kg

*Right hand*: l. 19.20cm; w. 2.90cm; th. 0.90cm; weight 0.05kg

Bibliography: Anderson 1976, 10, fig. 14, no. 2; Morris 2017 (only sketch drawing)

Summary of the date range proposed: from mid–late Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period

Close parallels: ivory clappers from tomb E 356 at Abydos, dated by excavator to Dynasty 12 (Garstang 1901, 10, pl. 14).

### 2.2. Pair of straight clappers decorated with dotted circles (BM EA 37302); Pl. 9

Concise description: Pair of straight clappers in the form of right and left hands with forearms; the joints of the fingers and thumbs have been marked with three incised lines on the right hand and two on the left; there is a depression between each of the digits, and the ends of the thumbs are separated from the fingers. Eight incised lines on the right wrist and seven on the left represent bracelets. On the right-hand clapper there are three roundel ornaments (as dotted circles) above the bracelet and twenty-seven on the forearm, while on the left there are two above the bracelet and twenty-one on the forearm. The clappers are straight-ended and pierced with a hole.

Material: ivory

Dimensions: *Left hand*: l. 17.40cm; w. 2.42cm; weight 0.034kg

*Right hand*: l. 17.30cm; w. 2.41cm; weight 0.034kg

Bibliography: Anderson 1976, 11, fig. 15, no. 3; Miniaci 2016a, 42; Morris 2017 (only sketch drawing)

Summary of the date range proposed: from early Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period

Close parallels: ivory clappers MMA 31.2.34a–b from tomb 815 at Asasif; the tomb is located just south of Mentuhotep II’s temple-tomb causeway and apparently contained early Middle Kingdom material (Morris 2011, 94; 2017, 296–97). Pair of clappers in the British Museum (BM EA 20859–60), acquired in 1888 at Akhmim (Sourdive 1984, 182–83, fig. b).

### 2.3. Pair of straight clappers decorated with criss-cross pattern on the wrists (BM EA 37303); Pl. 10

Concise description: Pair of straight clappers, right and left hands with forearms; there is a depression between each of the elongated digits and the ends of the thumbs are well separated from the fingers (right thumb is broken off). An incised criss-cross pattern between two groups of three lines on each wrist represents a bracelet. The forearms are rounded at the end and pierced with a hole.

Material: ivory

Dimensions: *Left hand*: l. 15.30cm; w. 2.50cm; th. 0.70cm; weight 0.028kg

*Right hand*: l. 15.50cm; w. 2.50cm; th. 0.70cm; weight 0.028kg

Bibliography: Anderson 1976, 12, fig. 16, no. 4; Morris 2017 (only sketch drawing)

Summary of the date range proposed: from late Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period

Close parallels: ivory clappers from tomb 404 A’07 at Abydos (Snape 1986, 237–38, 473). From the same tomb comes a pottery vessel (CG 45365: Snape 1986, 473, no. 5) whose shape seems to belong to the Second Intermediate Period (cf. Brunton 1927, pl. XVI.59); also from the same tomb is an alabaster vessel (CG 45363: Snape 1986, 473, no. 3) whose shape closely parallels no. 4.7 and is suggestive of a late Middle Kingdom date (cf. Engelbach 1923, tomb 124, pl. 46, no. 24). Abydos, tomb 641 A’08 (Snape 1986, 298, 538); a fragmentary statuette (Liverpool Garstang Museum E.7813: Snape 1986, no. 2) found inside this tomb depicts a male figure with its arms at its sides and wearing a plain belt and tripartite striated short kilt, leaning against a back pillar. This type of figure represents a particular style of private sculpture evident during the Second Intermediate Period (Snape 1994, 310–13).

#### 2.4. Butt end of an ivory clapper (BM EA 37304); Pl. 11

Concise description: Butt end of an ivory clapper (?), spatulate form, with incised dotted circle pattern. There is no hole.

Material: ivory

Dimensions: l. 4.20cm; w. 3.30cm; th. 0.80cm; weight 0.008kg

Bibliography: Morris 2017 (only sketch drawing)

#### Category 3: Vessels

1 copper bowl (no. 3.1); 2 pottery jars (nos. 3.2-3)

Only two pottery vessels have been identified for the large assemblage of tomb G62. Nonetheless, the low number might be due to the choices made by the excavator or to the policy of a museum at the time of acquisition, which led to the discarding of less attractive pottery elements, as they might have survived in fragments. Vessels made of metal were much rarer and therefore considered more valuable.

#### 3.1. Copper bowl (BM EA 37311); Pl. 12

Concise description: The bowl is a shallow vessel formed from a sheet of copper.

Material: copper

Dimensions: h. 6.50cm; diam. 18.90cm

Bibliography: Radwan 1983, 87, no. 227, pls 46.227, D.227

Summary of the date range proposed: from the Early Dynastic period to Dynasty 18, with particular circulation of this vessel type in the late Second Intermediate Period and early Dynasty 18

Close parallels: Copper bowls of a similar shape were already in use during the Early Dynastic period, as attested for instance at Abydos in satellite grave no. 80 associated with the tomb of king Djer (two bowls of diameters of c. 15.5 and 17.5cm; date: Dynasty 1; see Radwan 1983, 8, no. 16.A–B, pl. 1.16A–B; Amélineau 1897–98, 121, pl. 26.14–15). They probably remained in fashion throughout the Old Kingdom, although their use is rather sporadic: there is only one similar example dated to the late Old Kingdom from the mastaba of Ankhhaf at Giza (13cm diameter; date, second half of

Dynasty 5; see Radwan 1983, 52, no. 133A, pl. 25.133A). Although the shape for no. 3.1 is well attested for pottery bowls during the Middle Kingdom (see Petrie 1890, pl. 20.8; Schiestl 2009, 141; Schiestl and Seiler 2012, 198–202), this type remains the only known example in metal for the period (cf. Radwan 1983, nos 200–30). Copper bowls were regularly produced during the late Middle Kingdom, as attested at Lahun (town), where, in a corner of a room, Petrie found inside a basket (no. 200) a hammered copper bowl with a carinated profile and a footed base (Radwan 1983, 87, no. 224, pl. 46.224),<sup>8</sup> together with several copper chisels and hatchets; their deposition context can be dated to the late Middle Kingdom (Amenemhat III to mid-Dynasty 13; Petrie 1890, 26, pl. XVII.7; Bourriau 1988, 160, cat. no. 184). In contrast, during the late Second Intermediate Period and early Dynasty 18 similarly shaped metal bowls were more widespread across the country (Radwan 1983, pls 47–49). A closer parallel, although in bronze, comes from a bowl (MFA Boston, 29.1203) found at Semna below the temple of Taharqa and dated, together with other material associated with it, to Dynasty 18 (Dunham and Janssen 1960, 54, 28-1-366, pl. 130.D; Radwan 1983, 96, no. 238, pl. 47.238).

#### 3.2. Wavy neck pottery jar with flat base (National Museum of Ireland 1902.484); Pl. 13

Concise description: Fine Nile clay (Nile B2) jar with a wavy contour, consisting of four bulging sections, with a plain treatment of the surface and a hand-trimmed base (Schiestl, Seiler 2012, 697, no. 9). The jar is now in the National Museum of Ireland, Dublin.

Material: Nile clay (type B2)

Dimensions: h. 17.4cm; diam. 11.4cm (max.)

Bibliography: Schiestl and Seiler 2012, 2: 697, no. 9

Summary of the date range proposed: Middle Kingdom, esp. late Middle Kingdom

Close parallels: incomplete jars from the external refuse deposits of the Senwosret III temple at Abydos (southern external area and east block rear doorway), Wegner 2007, fig. 125.106–107. See also Wegner 2000, fig. 17.31.

<sup>8</sup> It should be noted that the shape is different from item no. 3.1, yet is similar to the drinking cups of that time, e.g. Fitzwilliam

Museum E.45.1910, from Abydos tomb B13 belonging to Renseneb (Bourriau 1988, 135–36, cat. no. 135).

According to Schiestl and Seiler the temporal distribution of this type of jar varies greatly, spanning through the whole Middle Kingdom, from 2050 BC to 1700 BC. Nonetheless, they observe that jars with four segments, as NMI 1902.484, seem not to continue after Dynasty 11/early 12 (Schiestl and Seiler 2012, 694), but this requires further testing. Similar wavynecked jars (albeit incomplete, with an unknown number of bulges) have been documented in the external refuse deposits of Senwosret III's temple at Abydos (southern external area and east block rear doorway); although this deposit may cover an extended time span, the nature of its artefact composition seems to mainly belong to the final phase of the Middle Kingdom, mid- to late Dynasty 13, see Wegner 2007, 255, 269–83, 282 fig. 125.106–107.

### 3.3. Wavy neck pottery jar (Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology UC 19026); Pl. 14

Concise description: Pottery jar with wavy neck and a flat base with a red coating. On the neck, written in pencil, G62 is still visible, although in the online database the artefact is wrongly reposted as coming from 'Harageh'.

Material: Nile clay

Dimensions: h. 12.5cm

Bibliography: unpublished

Summary of the date range proposed: Middle Kingdom

Close parallels: see the corpus of wavy neck pottery jars assembled in Schiestl and Seiler 2012, 2: 692–97.

#### *Category 4: Toilet equipment*

5 small calcite cosmetic vessels (nos 4.1–5) + 1 calcite vessel lid (no. 4.6)

+ 2 anhydrite vases (nos 4.7–8) + 1 green porphyry lid (no. 4.9)

+ 1 bronze mirror (no. 4.10)

The set of toilet vessels preserved in tomb G62 (nos 4.1–9) looks rather incomplete or irregular, since divergent objects of different materials and shapes are

grouped together.<sup>9</sup> There are three small calcite cylinder vessels (nos 4.1–3), a small globular calcite vessel (no. 4.4), and a small calcite kohl-pot (no. 4.5); only one circular calcite lid is preserved (no. 4.6). To this approximately coherent set must be added two other small cosmetic jars in anhydrite (nos 4.7–8) and one green porphyry lid (no. 4.9). The typology of stone vessels is more conservative, since it shows fewer shape transformations across time when compared to pottery and other categories of objects. Most of the preserved toilet stone vessels do not come from (well-) documented archaeological contexts; therefore, it is difficult to provide a precise dating for them. However, the shape of all G62 vessels is compatible with a broad Middle Kingdom date (cf. the slightly more elongated cylindrical vessels from both the cosmetic box of Kemeni, MMA 26.7.1438 [Carnarvon and Carter 1912, 54–56, pls 48–49, 51; Oppenheim et al. 2015, 141–42, no. 75A, B] and from the burial equipment of princess Nubhetepkhered, at Dahshur [De Morgan 1895, 110, fig. 261]) but unfortunately, due to the lack of systematic study, none can be dated with greater precision.

A similar range of stone vessel shapes—grouped together—occurs in Abydos tomb 574 A'08, where two small cylindrical vessels were found coupled with a small shouldered jar and a squat kohl-pot (Snape 1986, 525). Unfortunately, there are no other objects recorded from this tomb which can anchor this group to a more precise dating. Owing to the nature of the part of the cemetery excavated by Garstang, a general Middle Kingdom date can be proposed. The combination of the different types of shapes (cylindrical vessels 4.1–3 and shouldered jar 4.7) has been found on numerous occasions, as in tomb no. 124 from Cemetery A at Harageh (Fig. 6), which can be firmly dated to the late Middle Kingdom (Engelbach 1923, pl. 16; Miniaci 2013–14, 57), or in tomb no. 153 from Esna (Downes 1974, 98–99, fig. 75), where a faience figurine of a frog was found. The late Middle Kingdom group no. 9 from Lahun also has cylindrical vessels associated with a shouldered jar, with a mirror and silver torque in addition (Fig. 7; for archaeological context and bibliography of this group, see under no. 4.10).

<sup>9</sup> The toilet set found in the tomb of Renseneb at the Asasif, see under MMA 26.7.1438, appears more homogeneous in its combination of materials (calcite lids for calcite vessels): Oppenheim et al. 2015, 141–42, no. 75A, B. For a set of seven cylinder

vessels plus an eighth vessel found in a box see von Bissing 1904–07, vol. I, 136–39 (CG 18642–18659), 153–55 (CG 18721–18728).



CEMETERY A - TOMB 124

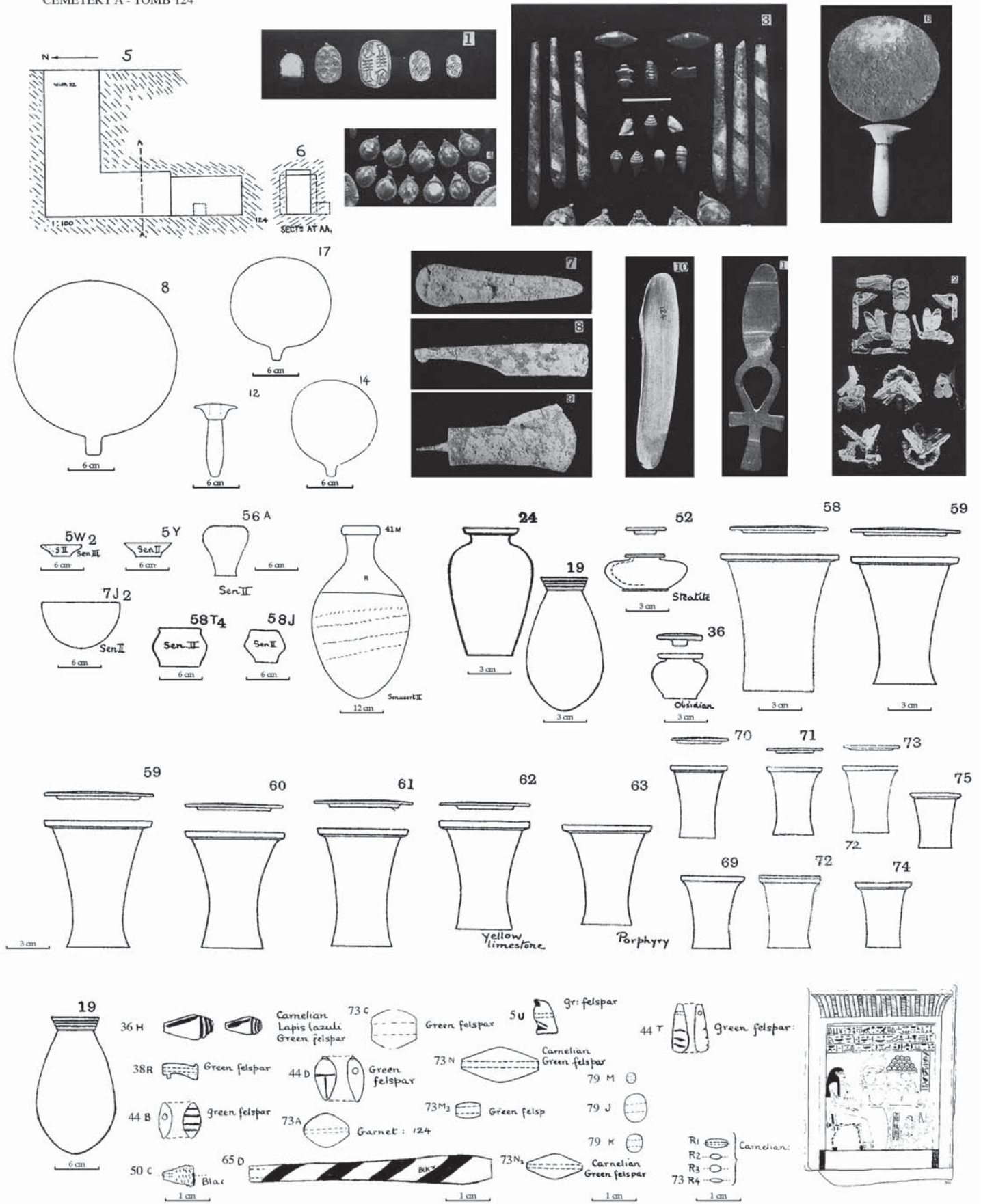


Fig. 6: Burial equipment coming from tomb 124 of Harageh Cemetery A, assembled from plates in Engelbach 1923.

**4.1. Cylinder vessel (BM EA 37286); Pl. 15**

Concise description: Small cylinder vase with flat base, flaring sides and ledge-rim, chipped in a number of places. Written in black ink on the body of the vase is '1902 10-11 24'.

Material: calcite

Dimensions: h. 3.48cm; diam. 2.92cm (max.)

Bibliography: unpublished

Summary of the date range proposed: this type of vessel can be generally assigned a broad Middle Kingdom dating, with a special focus during the late Middle Kingdom

Close parallels: fifteen cylindrical vessels in alabaster from Harageh tomb 124 (see Fig. 6; Engelbach 1923, pl. 16; Bagh 2011, 142, fig. 8.9; Bianchi 2013, 24, no. 14003). Similarly shaped vessels during the Middle Kingdom can also be found in faience: see UC 45064–66 (unprovenanced: see Miniaci, forthcoming a) and also from Beni Hasan tomb 487, dated to the late Middle Kingdom (from the same tomb also come two silver fish pendants and a scarab ring mounted in gold: Garstang 1907, 113–14, fig. 107). See also the introductory paragraph of 'Category 4: Toilet equipment' above and discussion under item no. 1.1.

**4.2. Cylinder vessel (BM EA 37287); Pl. 16**

Concise description: Small calcite cylinder vase with flat base, flaring sides and ledge-rim. Written in black ink on the body of the vase is '1902 10-11 25'.

Material: calcite

Dimensions: h. 3.27cm; diam. 2.98cm (max.)

Bibliography: unpublished

Summary of the date range proposed: this type of vessel can be generally assigned a broad Middle Kingdom dating, with a special focus during the late Middle Kingdom

Close parallels: See above, under item no. 4.1.

**4.3. Cylinder vessel (BM EA 37288); Pl. 17**

Concise description: Small cylinder vase with flat base, flaring sides and ledge-rim, which is slightly worn. A few traces of ancient pigment preserved on the inside of the vase. Written in black ink on the body of the vase is '1902 10-11 26'.

Material: calcite

Dimensions: h. 3.34cm; diam. 3.12cm (max.)

Bibliography: unpublished

Summary of the date range proposed: this type of vessel can be generally assigned a broad Middle Kingdom dating, with a special focus during the late Middle Kingdom

Close parallels: See above, under item no. 4.1.

**4.4. Globular vessel (BM EA 37289); Pl. 18**

Concise description: Small vase with flat base, globular body and ledge-rim. A few traces of ancient pigment preserved on the inside of the vase. '1902 10-11 27' is written in black ink on the body of the vessel.

Material: calcite

Dimensions: h. 3.14cm; diam. 2.94cm (max.)

Bibliography: unpublished

Summary of the date range proposed: late Middle Kingdom

Close parallels: With a slightly more slender body: MMA 22.1.160, pit 885 from Lisht North, cemetery south of pyramid below House A1:1. From the same shaft were found several faience figurines (Miniaci 2017). The dating of the group of objects from this shaft is problematic, since it seems to fluctuate between the early and late Middle Kingdom. The vast majority of elements from this tomb, however, seem to indicate a late Middle Kingdom date (Quirke 2016a, 176–77).

**4.5. Kohl-pot (BM EA 37290); Pl. 19**

Concise description: The interior walls of the vase are completely covered by ancient pigment. '1902 10-11 28' is written in black ink on the body of the vessel. The object bears the same inventory number as the green porphyry lid (no. 4.9; see below for discussion).

Material: calcite

Dimensions: h. 3.00cm; diam. 2.50cm; weight 22.00g

Bibliography: unpublished

Summary of the date range proposed: late Middle Kingdom

Close parallels: Cosmetic kohl-pots show a limited range of forms and a much slower rate of transformation than other object types, which makes their dating difficult. The shape of no. 4.5, a broad, squat kohl-pot, is widely attested in the Middle Kingdom (cf. Hu Y316, Y 513, Y 910: Petrie 1901, pl. 30), and remained in use during the Second Intermediate Period and into early Dynasty 18 (Aston 1994, 146, no. 159; cf. Hu tomb X74: Petrie 1901, pl. XL.74). In tomb E 182 at Abydos,

excavated by Garstang, a similar kohl-pot was found together with a late Middle Kingdom scarab (Fitzwilliam museum, E.168.1900, see Bourriau 1988, 142–43, cat. no. 145c). A similar kohl-pot comes from a late Middle Kingdom burial (F/I-m/18-Grab 3, level d/1) at Tell el-Dab'a (Schiestl 2009, 121–23, fig. 54, no. 2; 375, 378, fig. 336, no. 7, pl. 21.b, associated with a finger-ring composed of an amethyst scarab mounted in gold wire, pls 15.c, 16.b); from the *radim* in the outer court west 2 of the pyramid complex of Senwosret I at Lisht another similar kohl-pot dates to the late Middle Kingdom (Arnold 1992, 75, no. 205, pl. 91). A full list of references for other sites where similar kohl-pots have been recorded can be found in Schiestl 2009, 121–23, nn. 1122–32.

#### 4.6. Calcite lid (BM EA 37291); Pl. 20

Concise description: Circular calcite lid of a toilet vessel. '1902 10-11 29' is written in black ink on top of the lid.

Material: calcite

Dimensions: h. 0.40cm; diam. 3.50cm; weight 8.00g

Bibliography: unpublished

Summary of the date range proposed: –

#### 4.7. Shouldered jar (BM EA 37292); Pl. 21

Concise description: Small shouldered jar of anhydrite with flat base, convex body, short neck and ledge-rim. '1902 10-11 30' is written in black ink on the body of the vessel.

Material: anhydrite

Dimensions: h. 2.20cm; diam. 3.80cm; weight 27.00g

Bibliography: unpublished

Summary of the date range proposed: Middle Kingdom

Close parallels: shouldered jars in Aston 1994, 138, no. 135; cf. jars from tomb Y361 at Hu (Petrie 1901, pl. 30) and from tomb no. 9 at Lahun (Petrie 1890, pl. 13.3).

#### 4.8. Kohl-pot (BM EA 37293); Pl. 22

Concise description: Part of the ledge-rim is broken; worn at the base. '1902 10-11 31' is written in black ink on the body of the vessel.

Material: anhydrite

Dimensions: h. 3.50cm; diam. 2.70cm; weight 34.00g

Bibliography: unpublished

Summary of the date range proposed: Middle Kingdom, perhaps extending into early Dynasty 18 (?)

Close parallels: A slightly taller version of no. 4.8 is attested at Gurob in group 27 dated to the time of Amenhotep I (Brunton and Engelbach 1927, pl. 22.43, in serpentine). However, during the Middle Kingdom both types of kohl vessel were in use (shapes similar to nos 4.5 and 4.8 are attested together in tomb Y 316 at Hu: Petrie 1901, pl. 30). See also above under no. 4.5.

#### 4.9. Green porphyry lid (BM EA 37290); Pl. 23

Concise description: Green porphyry lid; it bears the same inventory number as the calcite vessel (no. 4.5, see above). No information confirms that the lid and the vessel were originally associated but, even though it is of different material, the lid fits perfectly on the top of the vessel and they both show the same finishing traces along the edges (the rim of the vessel and the side of the lid).

Material: green porphyry

Dimensions: h. 3.00cm; diam. 2.50cm; weight 22.00g

Bibliography: unpublished

Summary of the date range proposed: –

#### 4.10. Bronze mirror (BM EA 37307); Pl. 24

Concise description: Elliptical bronze mirror with a short tang, tapering towards the end for insertion into the handle. Unfortunately, the handle is missing.

Material: bronze

Dimensions: l. 13.90cm (max.); w. 12.80cm; th. 0.34cm

Bibliography: Lilyquist 1979, 46, n. 454 (quoted only); Morris 2017 (only sketch drawing)

Summary of the date range proposed: late Middle Kingdom (?)

Close parallels: Mirrors are generally widespread in Egypt since the Old Kingdom and attested with the same frequency in both the early and late Middle Kingdom (Lilyquist 1979, 14–48), with the frequency probably slightly decreasing by the end of the Second Intermediate Period (Smith 1992, 207; Miniaci 2011, 165–76). In the absence of any inscription it is rather difficult to provide close parallels for the mirror and this is further compounded by the fact that the handle is also lacking. According to Lilyquist, the slightly tapering shape of the tang might be indicative of a late Middle Kingdom date, where 'there is more of a tendency to narrow and shorten the tang' (Lilyquist 1979, 55). One mirror from Lahun represents a close parallel for no. 4.10, given not only its similar elliptical shape and short, tapered tang, but also the group of objects

1:3

## KAHUN. GROUP N° 9, XII DYN.

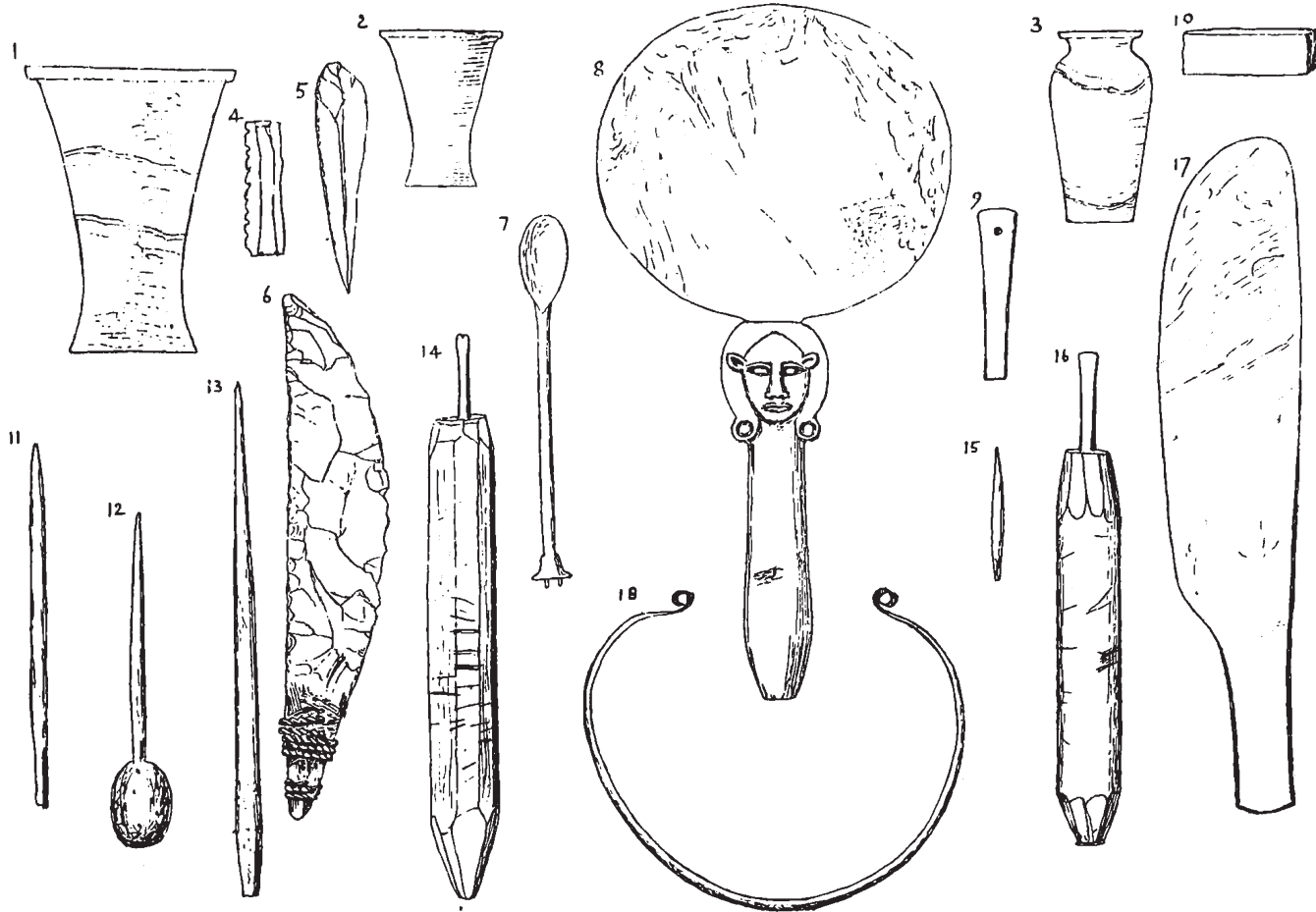


Fig. 7: Group no. 9 found by Petrie at Lahun, from Petrie 1891, pl. 13.

with which it was associated. The mirror was found in one of the houses in the 'workmen's quarter' of the town together with a group of objects, recorded by Petrie as group no. 9 (see Fig. 7), including a torque and a set of toilet vessels similar to those from G62 (cf. nos 6.4, 4.1-3, 4.7; Petrie 1891, 12, pl. 13). The group of objects appears to date to the late Middle Kingdom (Lilyquist 1979, 35). Other mirrors of the late Middle Kingdom have been found coupled with a torque: Kom el-Hisn D10; Abydos, Garstang E 1; Abydos, Garstang E 230; Abydos, Garstang 416 (see Fig. 11); Abydos, Frankfort 1008; Buhen K 45 (full bibliographic references can be found in Lilyquist 1979, 35).

#### Category 5: Amulets

##### 1 *wedjat*-eye amulet (no. 5.1)

Eye amulets are quite common from as early as the Old Kingdom (Dubiel 2008, p. I, Typ 5), and their production

continued throughout the New Kingdom (Pinch 1993, 253-56; Stevens 2006, 72) and into the Roman period (Andrews 1994, 43-44); numerous examples are equally well attested for the Middle Kingdom (Engelbach 1923, pl. 50.38A). They are usually made in materials other than wood (Andrews 1994, 44, quotes glass and glazed composition, feldspar, lapis lazuli, amethyst, sard, carnelian, chalcedony, obsidian, porphyry, hematite, agate, diorite, steatite, serpentine and gold, but not wood).

#### 5.1. Gilded wooden amulet in the shape of a *wedjat*-eye (BM EA 37305); Pl. 25

Concise description: Gilded wooden amulet in the shape of a right *wedjat*-eye; suspension ring (damaged) at the top. Not pierced.

Material: wood, gold foil

Dimensions: l. 2.55cm; w. 2.45cm; th. 0.50cm

Bibliography: unpublished

Summary of the date range proposed: -

Close parallels: *Wedjat*-eye amulets of similar size, but not in wood, are attested in Middle Kingdom burials at Abydos (tomb 492 A'08, in dark stone: Snape 1986, 260, 496; tomb 520 A'08, blue-green faience: Snape 1986, 269, 508; tomb 905 A'09, green faience, recorded as found together with a 'Bes [?] figure', without any further detail: Snape 1986, 350, 566).

#### *Category 6: Body adornment*

1 wooden spacer-bar (no. 6.1) + 2 finger-rings (nos 6.2–3) + silver torque (no. 6.4) + beads (nos 6.5–12)

The category of body adornment is attested with great regularity in burials from the Predynastic period onwards (Quirke 2015, 206). Among the many items grouped in the category of 'body adornments', beads represent the most problematic because their continuous use throughout ancient Egyptian history moved them—as a 'category'—outside time and thus they are not diagnostic for any specific epoch. Therefore, without detailed comparative analysis, the potential of beads remains unexplored (cf. Xia 2014). However, among the G62 group there are a few items which can provide some chronological information; especially **6.2**, **6.4** and **6.5** (see discussions below).

#### **6.1. Wooden spacer-bar (BM EA 37306); Pl. 26**

Concise description: Wooden spacer-bar pierced by seven perforations. It was possibly once part of a bracelet (see below, the high number of beads reassembled as necklaces). The surface of the wood is corrugated on one side in imitation of tubular beads.

Material: wood

Dimensions: l. 2.40cm; w. 0.50cm; th. 0.30cm

Bibliography: qtd. Budge 1922, 291, nos 26–57; Andrews 1981, 76, no. 560, pl. 9

Summary of the date range proposed: –

Close parallels: A single carnelian spacer-bar of exactly the same size (2.4 × 0.5cm), though pierced with ten holes and joined with blue-green glazed beads,

comes from tomb G60 at Abydos (**Fig. 8**; Ayrton, Currelly and Weigall 1904, 47, pl. 11). Although the material is different, it must be noted that the spacer-bar from G60 is also combined with a carnelian *wedjat*-eye amulet (cf. no. **5.1**). According to the excavators, tomb G60 dates to Dynasty 12; also belonging to the same equipment is an ivory spoon (Ayrton, Currelly and Weigall 1904, pl. 11.18), which might belong to the category of ivory cosmetic dishes imitating a shell, with a shorter shell-shaped bowl and handle, dated to the late Middle Kingdom (Quirke 2016b, 185–87).

#### *Finger-rings*

Rings with undecorated scarabs provide little detailed information for dating, since only a few come from datable contexts and a classification based on the style of the beetle itself has not yet been attempted (cf. Ben-Tor 2007, just for decorated scarabs).

#### **6.2. Finger-ring: obsidian scarab mounted in gold wire (BM EA 37308); Pl. 27**

Concise description: Obsidian scarab in a sheet gold mount made in two parts: rim and base-plate, the latter uninscribed. The shank is made of a tube of gold joined along the inside. The ends are beaten out into fine wire which passes through the scarab and then is wound around the shank on both sides. The scarab itself is carved with details of the head and division of the wing-cases, and scratches on the sides indicate the legs.

Material: obsidian, gold

Dimensions: l. 1.10cm (scarab); diam. 2.20cm (shank)

Bibliography: Budge 1922, 291, nos 26–57; Anderson 1976, 212–13, no. 344a; Andrews 1981, 75, no. 548, pl. 42; Andrews 1990, 146g; Andrews 1994, fig. 45d

Summary of the date range proposed: late Middle Kingdom (?)

Close parallels: green feldspar scarab mounted in gold wire with an undecorated gold plate, MMA 22.1.165, found in the cemetery south of Amenemhat I's pyramid at Lisht North, below House A1:1, in pit 885.<sup>10</sup> Also from the same context: eight faience

<sup>10</sup> The pit was located north of the so-called 'glaze factory' (F. Arnold 1996, 15; Quirke 2016a, 160), adjacent to a higher room which might have served as a chapel.

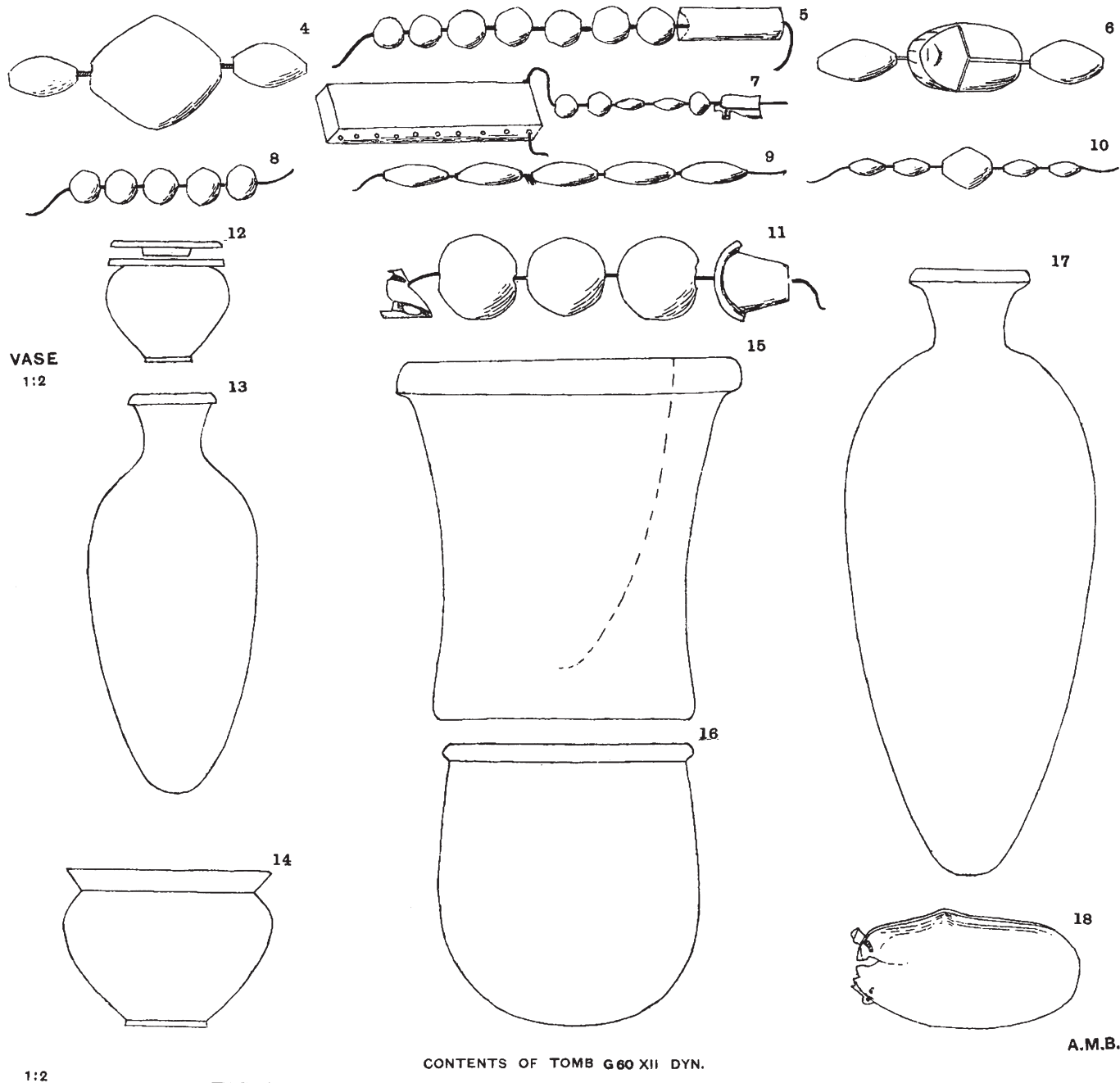


Fig. 8: Contents of tomb G60 at Abydos, from Ayrton, Currelly and Weigall 1904, pl. 11.

figurines (MMA 22.1.178–181, + three without MMA inv. numbers, see Quirke 2016a, 174), including a hippopotamus-lion (Ipi-type) figurine (MMA 22.1.181), see above under no. **1.3**; fifteen ivory clappers (MMA 22.1.142–48; MMA 22.1.150–52, see Quirke 2016a, 175; Morris 2017); see Fig. 3. A precise dating of the pit 885 is difficult to assess, owing to the fact that the finds were recovered from a non-intact context; therefore, items found in this shaft could have been either part of the original burial equipment or intrusive

elements from the rooms above at the surface level. According to Quirke, in his preliminary analysis of its archaeological context, the tomb seems to have undergone two phases of use, one in mid-Dynasty 12 (only a few elements point to such an early dating: an ellipsoid jar and the presence of what may be wooden models) and another in Dynasty 13 (besides the characteristically rectangular shaft, the vast majority of objects also suggest a late Middle Kingdom date: hemispherical and carinated cups; elements from a mummy mask; a

gold-capped copper cylinder; names and titles on scarabs; a *shen*-pendant [Quirke 2016a, 173–77]). Unfortunately, owing to the absence of any record of human remains, it is difficult to assess if the structure was used for several individuals and/or for a prolonged time span (cf. Miniaci, forthcoming b). In conclusion, intrusive elements of much earlier or later periods seem to be absent and the tomb's period of use can be assessed as being between the mid- and late Middle Kingdom.

### 6.3. Finger-ring: lapis lazuli scarab bezel mounted in silver wire (BM EA 37309); Pl. 28

Concise description: Silver wire finger-ring with a lapis lazuli scarab bezel. The wire shank narrows towards the point where it passes through the scarab; on either side a finer wire is wound around at the top of the shank. Details of the head, wing-case divisions and legs of the scarab are roughly carved. The base-plate is uninscribed.

Material: lapis lazuli, silver

Dimensions: l. 1.40cm (scarab); diam. 2.30cm (shank)

Bibliography: Budge 1922, 291, nos 26–57; Andrews 1981, 75, no. 549; Andrews 1994, fig. 45

Summary of the date range proposed: late Middle Kingdom (?)

Close parallels: In Middle Kingdom tomb E 108 at Abydos, Garstang found a group of objects including—among other items—ten electrum beads shaped like cowrie shells (cf. no. 6.5), two small green feldspar fishes set in gold (cf. no. 1.7), garnet beads (cf. nos 6.7 and 6.9), and a lapis lazuli scarab mounted in a gold ring (Garstang 1901, 4, pl. frontispiece). The combination of objects is reminiscent of the G62 burial assemblage. The additional presence, in tomb E 108, of a large gold pendant in the shape of an oyster shell, as well as a gold cylinder pendant, places this group within the late Middle Kingdom.

### 6.4. Silver torque (BM EA 37310); Pl. 29

Concise description: Torque consisting of a flat piece of silver rolled into a tube. The two ends have been flattened out and curled up. One of the ends is twisted into an open loop, probably to form a hook for closure. It is broken in two places: in the middle and close to one end (where it has been restored).

Material: silver

Dimensions: diam. (torque) 10.00cm; diam. (tube) 0.20cm

Bibliography: Budge 1922, 291, nos 26–57; Andrews 1981, 77, no. 565, pl. 39; Andrews 1994, fig. 45

Summary of the date range proposed: late Middle Kingdom–Second Intermediate Period

Close parallels: Torques are not frequently attested in Egyptian burial equipment, and it has been debated whether this type of ornament was of foreign origin/influence (Grajetzki 2014, 112). For Middle Kingdom and Second Intermediate Period Egypt (and adjacent areas, Nubia and Levant) only twenty-two examples are known: (1) Kom el-Hisn D10; (2) Northern Fayum area (Qasr es-Sagha, Gebel L); (3) Lahun, house group no. 9; (4) Mostagedda 3120; (5) Mostagedda 3170; (6) Abydos, Peet D 167; (7) Abydos, Garstang E 1 (Tooley 2015, 345); (8) Abydos, Garstang E 230; (9) Abydos, Garstang 342 A'07; (10) Abydos, Garstang 345 A'07 (Snape 1986, 216, 437); (11) Garstang 416, see Fig. 11; (12) Abydos, Frankfort 1008; (13) Ballas Q 188; (14) Thebes, Asasif 840 (Capel and Markoe 1997, 84–85, cat. no. 25); (15) Kubanieh 15.1.1; (16) Toshka C 147; (17) Buhen H 96; (18) Buhen K 13; (19) Buhen K 45; (20) Kerma K 1061; (21) Gaza (Petrie 1934, 11, pl. 34); (22) Byblos (Montet 1928–29, pl. 70, no. 595). Where not included here in round brackets, bibliographic references for the above examples can be found in Lilyquist 1979, 35, n. 397; Kemp and Merrillees 1980, 156.

Notably, torques seem to be attested with a certain consistency in burials containing a range of objects similar to those of tomb G62, including faience figurines and ivory clappers (Abydos tomb E 1: Tooley 2015, 339–55; Fig. 9; Abydos, tomb 416: Kemp and Merrillees 1980, 105–60, see Fig. 11; Abydos tomb 347 A'07: Snape 1986, 216, pl. 20). In Abydos tomb 345 A'07 the type of objects associated together is remarkably similar to those in G62; besides the silver torque, the objects include a bronze mirror (Lilyquist 1979, 40, n. 454); a faience figurine of a crocodile (Liv. Neg. A.163); four shells; and two kohl-pots (one in alabaster and another in grey stone: Snape 1986, 216, 437). A similar group of objects was also found in tomb 15.1.1 at Kubanieh north (Aswan), containing the burial of a young girl deposited in a rectangular shaft: ÄS 7113, an obsidian (?) scarab (cf. no. 6.2), ÄS 7112, a bracelet in blue faience beads (cf. beads below), ÄS 7114–15, two necklaces (cf. esp. no. 6.9), ÄS 7110, a kohl-pot with lid in blue-grey chalcedony (cf. no. 4.5) + bone stick for the eye, ÄS 7116, copper (?) torque (cf. no. 6.4), and ÄS 7109–11, two small calcite vessels (cf. no. 4.7) (Junker 1920, 129–30, 159; Hölzl 2015,



Fig. 9: Burial equipment from tomb Abydos E 1 © The Manchester Museum. Photos: Angela Tooley.

60–61, cat. no. 18). The tomb was found in a sector (15.1) of the cemetery typical of Dynasty 12 and where Nubian burials interweave with local depositions (Junker 1920, 129). In addition, a wooden box fitted with strips of bone decorated with concentric circles

(ÄS 7108) indicates a late Middle Kingdom date. Also, tomb 840 in Asasif contains, besides a silver torque, other elements in common with the G62 burial equipment (cowrie-shell girdle; lapis lazuli scarab; spacer-bar; beads in the shape of acacia seed-pod, cf. nos 6.8



and 6.9) (Capel and Markoe 1997, 84–85). The Horus pendant MMA 13.180.2 indicates a late Middle Kingdom date for Asasif tomb 840.

### *Beads*

The G62 necklace corpus is formed by strings of beads assembled either by excavators (according to an original distribution?) or by museum logic (of display or conservation): it includes the following materials: faience (of different colours), carnelian, garnet, feldspar, lapis lazuli, turquoise and green jasper. According to Nai Xia, who studied the entire corpus of the Petrie Museum collection, hard stones, which became rarer after the Early Dynastic period, were reintroduced in the Middle Kingdom on a larger scale. Carnelian is one of the commonest materials for beads, accounting for c. 61.7% of the beads made from hard stones during the Middle Kingdom (Xia 2014, 103), 88.1% during the New Kingdom (Xia 2014, 118), and 41% during the Late Period (Xia 2014, 127). Although garnet was in use from the Badarian period to the end of the New Kingdom, its most popular phase of use appears to have been the Middle Kingdom (Aston, Harrell and Shaw 2000, 32; Xia 2014, 103). Similarly also feldspar, although rarely attested, had a peak of use in the jewellery of the Middle Kingdom (Aston, Harrell and Shaw 2000, 46; cf. Bourriau 1988, 152). Green jasper was used for beads from the Badarian period onwards; it is frequently used during the Middle Kingdom, while from the New Kingdom onwards red jasper became more popular (Aston, Harrell and Shaw 2000, 29–30). Faience beads of the Middle Kingdom are mostly of blue-green colour (85.8%), followed by black (13%), white and red (cf. Reisner 1923, 109). The presence of yellow faience beads seems to point to the New Kingdom (after the reign of Tuthmosis III), when a variety of colours were introduced in faience bead production (Xia 2014, 117). It should be remarked that obsidian and amethyst beads, which were very popular during the Middle Kingdom (Xia 2014, 103), are completely absent from the G62 finds.

One of the strings (no. 6.6) has some beads apparently made of glass. The identification is not confirmed by laboratory analysis (which was not possible during the present author's fellowship at the British Museum). Glass production in Egypt did not start before Dynasty 17 (Lilyquist and Brill 1993, 23). Nonetheless, in some rare cases 'glass' items have been identified by excavators in Middle Kingdom

contexts (Nicholson, Shaw 200, 195; Xia 2014, 104). Lilyquist and Brill have shown how most of these early occurrences can be the result of misinterpretation due to the appearance of a particularly glassy-looking faience (Lilyquist and Brill 1993, 8–12). In pit 466 at Lisht North, a small blue 'glass' drop bead was recorded inside a context where all the diagnostic objects seem to date to between late Dynasty 12 and Dynasty 13. Also among the tomb equipment are two arm-shaped ivory clappers (MMA 15.3.168–69) decorated with dots and circles (cf. no. 2.2). However, the context of tomb 466 is not closed and the material of the bead has not been verified through scientific analysis (Quirke 2016a, 157–59). Similarly, a number of faience beads discovered in tomb 244 at Harageh (Cemetery B), in a late Middle Kingdom context, includes one glass drop bead (Engelbach 1923, pls 20.50 [scarab], 59.244; Bourriau 1988, 150–51, cat. no. 164). Unfortunately also in this case the context is disturbed, which raises the possibility that there could be New Kingdom intrusions. Nonetheless, apart from the difficulties distinguishing faience from glass in a large quantity of glazed material, sporadic glass production before the New Kingdom might have happened in a 'preadaptive stage characterized by the very infrequent and irregular use of glass' (Peltenburg 1987, 18). Lucas listed several scattered glass beads of the Middle Kingdom as a possible outcome of the glazing process for steatite and quartz ('imperfect glass', Lucas and Harris 1962, 181). In the Near East, occasional glass production is securely attested earlier than its introduction in Egypt, as attested by a squarish lump found beneath the paving of a hall in House 2 at Abu Sharhrein (c. 2050 BC; for a summary of the early presence of glass see Shortland 2012, 44–46).

### **6.5. Beads: eight cowrie shells (BM EA 37319); Pl. 30**

Concise description: Eight cowrie shells strung as beads. The backs of some have been cut off.

Material: shell

Dimensions: l. 2.40cm (largest shell)

Bibliography: Budge 1922, 291, nos 26–57; Andrews 1981, 559; Andrews 1994, fig. 45

Summary of the date range proposed: late Middle Kingdom (?)

Close parallels: Natural shell-beads are commonly attested in ancient Egyptian burials of all epochs (for

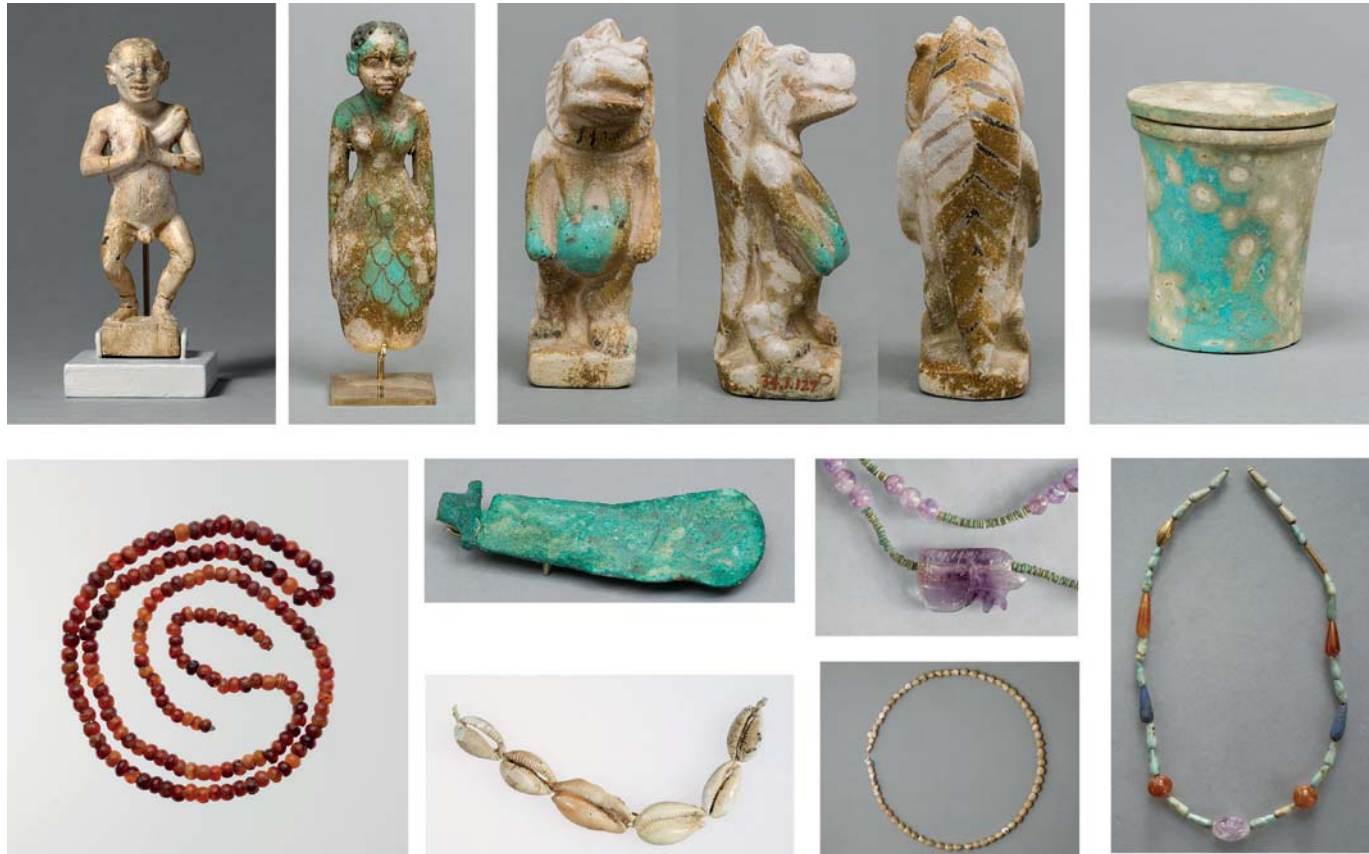


Fig. 10: Selection of objects found in front of the closing wall of Hepi's tomb (pit no. 3, Lisht South); from the top left corner: ivory dwarf MMA 34.1.130; faience figurine of a truncated-legged lady MMA 34.1.125; faience model of toilet vessel MMA 34.1.128a, b; string of beads MMA 34.1.147; carnelian beads MMA 34.1.132; razor MMA 34.1.131; string of cowrie shells MMA 34.1.142; detail of an amethyst *wedjat*-eye amulet stung on a necklace MMA 34.1.146; string of periwinkle shells MMA 34.1.143. © The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

example, tomb 453b from Nag ed-Deir, First Intermediate Period, where 600 shell-beads were found; see D'Auria, Lacovara and Roehrig 1988, 117–18, cat. no. 44). Nonetheless, cowrie-shell beads<sup>11</sup> seem to have been particularly fashionable during the Middle Kingdom (Andrews 1981, 61).

The eight cowrie shells may be interpreted as spacers in a girdle, as for instance in the richer equipment of princess Sithathoryunet: in her tomb (no. 8) at Lahun eight hollow gold beads in the form of cowrie shells formed a girdle around the hips of the woman (MMA 16.1.5; Brunton 1920, 30–31, pls 3, 7; Oppenheim et al. 2015, 117–18, cat. no. 56). Other women of the royal house had similar girdles; see for instance

the eight gold cowrie shells belonging to queen Mereret and the cowrie shells belonging to Sithathor (Aldred 1971, 190, no. 33, 196, no. 45; Wilkinson 1971, 80–81).

A string of marine cowrie shells (MMA 34.1.142) was found scattered in front of the blocking wall of the funerary room of Hepi, at Lisht South (pit no. 3, see Lansing and Hayes 1934, 27–41; Quirke 2016a, 134–36). In the same place also lay one of the earliest Middle Kingdom faience figurines: a rare image of Ipi/Taweret (MMA 34.1.127, cf. Ceruti 2017; Miniaci 2017; see above under no. 1.3); an amethyst *wedjat*-eye amulet (cf. no. 5.1); a miniature faience vessel (cf. nos 1.1–2); Fig. 10. Also in the burial chamber of

<sup>11</sup> Not to be confused with wallet-shaped beads, as pointed out by Lilyquist 2003, 175.

Hepi was a gold and lapis lazuli girdle featuring cowrie-shell beads (MMA 34.1.154). The dating of the burial is much debated: while some of the items found outside the door find close parallels in the late Middle Kingdom material culture, the coffin type and inscriptions, located inside the burial chamber, clearly date to the early Middle Kingdom (Miniaci 2017; pending further research carried out by Dorothea Arnold). Cowrie shells used as beads come also from other late Middle Kingdom contexts: MMA 15.3.10: pit 307, tomb enclosure of Nakht, at Lisht North (no. 493, Arnold 2008, 72–77, pl. 114; Quirke 2016a, 146); MMA 15.3.372: pit 518, cemetery south of Senwosret (758), at Lisht North. Often, cowrie beads were associated with faience truncated female figurines of the late Middle Kingdom (from Wilkinson 1971, 81; Morris 2011, 79–80; Tooley 2017).

#### 6.6. Beads (BM EA 37312); Pl. 31

Concise description: Long string of small beads of various shapes and materials. There are numerous small disc beads of dark and light blue, black, green, yellow and red faience, and ones of bright blue glass; standard cylinders of black and light green faience, oblate beads and one tiny thin cylinder of light green glazed steatite with incised decoration; standard and long convex bicones of carnelian and garnet; short convex bicones of garnet; segmented beads of light and dark blue and black faience; a few tiny turquoise discs. A glass eye-bead has two black and white ‘eyes’ on a dark blue ground.

Material: blue, black, green, yellow, and red faience, bright blue glass, light green steatite, carnelian, garnet, turquoise + glass eye-bead

Dimensions: l. 124.20cm (string)

Bibliography: Budge 1922, 291, nos 26–57; Andrews 1981, 69, no. 471

Close parallels: for parallels of faience small disc beads in Middle Kingdom contexts see Schiestl 2009, 98, nn. 777–80.

#### 6.7. Beads (BM EA 37313); Pl. 32

Concise description: A string composed of very small standard convex and truncated convex bicone beads, spherical beads and some barrel-beads. Most of the beads are garnet, with six carnelian and one lapis lazuli. The beads are graded in size with the larger ones

at the centre of the string, although it is not known if this was the original arrangement. A few of the beads have a silver deposit on them, probably the remains of a clasp or some other silver object which has corroded away completely. It is most unlikely that the silver is the remains of an intentional coating.

Material: garnet (+ carnelian [6], lapis lazuli [1], and traces of silver)

Dimensions: l. 45.50cm (string)

Bibliography: Budge 1922, 291, nos 26–57; Andrews 1981, 69, no. 472

Close parallels: for parallels of standard convex and truncated convex bicone beads made of garnet in Middle Kingdom contexts see Schiestl 2009, 97, nn. 686–90.

#### 6.8. Beads (BM EA 37314); Pl. 33

Concise description: A string composed of many long cylindrical beads of feldspar, carnelian and white faience, short truncated convex bicone beads of garnet and carnelian, one long convex bicone bead of feldspar and two of turquoise, one short cylinder of carnelian and twelve long pear-shaped pendants of very dark carnelian, each with a small green faience disc bead at the lower end. The string is completed by a green faience amulet of a bearded man (?).

Material: feldspar, carnelian, white and green faience, garnet, turquoise + amulet of a bearded man

Dimensions: l. 45.10cm (string)

Bibliography: Budge 1922, 291, nos 26–57; Andrews 1981, 64, no. 416, pl. 33

Close parallels: The long pear-shaped pendants made of carnelian find close parallels in Middle Kingdom contexts (see Engelbach 1923, pl. 52, type 70). For a full list of parallels see Schiestl 2009, 98, nn. 756–65.

#### 6.9. Beads (BM EA 37315); Pl. 34

Concise description: A string comprising beads of various shapes, dimensions and materials: twenty-four spherical, truncated bicone or small short cylinder beads of carnelian, forty-six elongated convex bicone or barrel-beads of garnet, eight tiny short cylinder beads of blue-green faience, two tiny short cylinder beads of gold. There are also a few tiny disc beads of turquoise, carnelian and green jasper, and a few disc beads of gold.

Material: garnet [46], carnelian [24] (+ blue-green faience [8], gold [2], turquoise, green jasper)

Dimensions: l. 25.20cm (string)

Bibliography: Budge 1922, 291, nos 26–57; Andrews 1981, 69, no. 473, pl. 36

Close parallels: for parallels of barrel-beads made of garnet in Middle Kingdom contexts see Schiestl 2009, 97, nn. 716–24.

### 6.10. Beads (BM EA 37316); Pl. 35

Concise description: String of many small disc beads of green, black, blue faience and two of white faience; it could have once formed a single string with **6.11** and **6.12** (information taken from the British Museum accession catalogue entry).

Material: green, black, blue and white faience

Dimensions: l. 46.70cm (string)

Bibliography: Budge 1922, 291, nos 26–57; Andrews 1981, 69, no. 474

Close parallels: for parallels of faience small disc beads in Middle Kingdom contexts see Schiestl 2009, 98, nn. 777–80.

### 6.11. Beads (BM EA 37317); Pl. 36

Concise description: String of small disc beads: of green, black, blue and white faience; it could have once formed a single string with **6.10** and **6.12** (information taken from the British Museum accession catalogue entry).

Material: green, black, blue and white faience

Dimensions: l. 49.70cm (string)

Bibliography: Budge 1922, 291, nos 26–57; Andrews 1981, 69, no. 475

Close parallels: for parallels of faience small disc beads in Middle Kingdom contexts see Schiestl 2009, 98, nn. 777–80.

### 6.12. Beads (BM EA 37318); Pl. 37

Concise description: String of small disc beads: of green, black, blue and white faience; it could have

once formed a single string with **6.10** and **6.11** (information taken from the British Museum accession catalogue entry).

Material: green, black, blue and white faience

Dimensions: l. 41.80cm (string)

Bibliography: Andrews 1981, 69, no. 476

Close parallels: for parallels of faience small disc beads in Middle Kingdom contexts see Schiestl 2009, 98, nn. 777–80.

### Category 7: Undetermined category

#### 7.1. Rectangular piece of wood (BM EA 37320)

Concise description: Unfortunately, during my research fellowship at the British Museum, I was not able to locate the object and the museum database does not contain any image of the item; no further information other than ‘rectangular piece of wood’ can be provided here.

Material: wood (only wood?)

Dimensions: h. 6.10cm; w. 1.25cm; th. 0.36cm

Bibliography: unpublished

### Conclusion

From the objects preserved in the British Museum, G62 cannot be considered an intact context, since some elements are clearly missing: the handle of the mirror (cf. no. **4.10**);<sup>12</sup> other wooden spacer-bars (cf. no. **6.1**);<sup>13</sup> the lids of some toilet vessels. Also the number and the different shapes/materials of toilet vessels do not point to a complete, homogeneous set. In addition, the meagre quantity of pottery containers preserved in the tomb (only two, **3.2–3**) is suspicious: this may have been the result of a selection of objects made either by the excavator or the ‘customer’ who acquired the artefacts. If so, this action may have fragmented and altered the original assemblage even more severely.

However, the above analysis makes it possible to show with a fair degree of certainty that most of the G62 objects belong to a broad—but defined—time-frame, which extends from the Middle Kingdom to the

<sup>12</sup> The fragility of materials used for handles, such as ivory, cannot be considered conclusive, since other ivory items have been found preserved, cf. nos **4.1–4**.

<sup>13</sup> Also in this case, such organic material as wood has been found in a perfect state of conservation, cf. item no. **1.7**.

Second Intermediate Period. Within this broad range it should be noted that a significant number of objects are diagnostic for the late Middle Kingdom (nos **1.1–7**; **4.1–5**; **6.5**). Also, for those objects whose type extends beyond/before the Middle Kingdom, the comparative analysis carried out using a combination of closely associated categories also suggests a homogeneous late Middle Kingdom date. The silver torque (no. **6.4**) and the copper bowl (no. **3.1**), which find close echoes in the Second Intermediate Period, are also—frequently—attested in the late Middle Kingdom. Ivory clappers (nos **2.1–4**), in use since the end of the Old Kingdom, are often found in late Middle Kingdom burials. Actually, only two elements might allow for an extension of the dating into the early New Kingdom: the presence of glass beads and yellow faience beads (no. **6.6**). However, it remains unknown from which sector of G62's excavation the beads were recovered—they could easily belong to layers of debris formed later (especially owing to the nature of the beads and the fact that they were not found in large quantities). Finally, parallels for the entire range of objects from G62 can be found in other funerary equipment included in the multiple burials of the late Middle Kingdom, as can be noticed especially in Abydos 416 (Fig. 11; cf. also other late Middle Kingdom tombs quoted above); Abydos E 1 (see Fig. 9), Harageh tomb 124; Lisht pit 466; possibly Lisht pit 885 (see Fig. 3; Quirke 2016a, 176; note that no human remains are recorded for this structure). In conclusion, the absence of objects dating to earlier (Old Kingdom/First Intermediate Period) or later (mid–late New Kingdom to Late Period) periods seems to indicate that the builders of G62 did not reuse an earlier context and the tomb did not suffer from later intrusions/reuse.<sup>14</sup>

The incoherence between the presence of a uniform but incomplete and reshuffled group of objects, and the absence of later (or modern) intrusion can be explained by a consistent change that late Middle Kingdom burials underwent. Around the time of Senwosret III, multiple burials on a larger scale started to be introduced at all social levels, not only in rural or peripheral areas

(Grajetzki 2007, 24–29). Sequential multiple burials<sup>15</sup> imply a continuous and prolonged use of the tomb over time, one generation following the other (see Miniaci 2016b, 228–33; Miniaci forthcoming b). When faced with multiple burials, the atomic individuality of burial equipment—as perceived by modern scholars—tends to fade out; types of objects grouped together no longer correspond to a definite point in time, to a homogeneous segment of society and to a uniform culture. The act of separating the material culture of different individuals deposited together in different yet also closely connected time-spots becomes more difficult. Due to the sequential use of a structure by multiple individuals and for a prolonged—but limited—time span, archaeological artefacts (if collected without an accurate method) are not clearly respondent to a single space, to a single identity, and to a precise time, as they have not all been deposited at the same point in the past. Therefore, in the face of multiple burials, tampering, misappropriation, and the reshuffling of artefacts, it should be no surprise to find that the interference of living people entering the tomb (not including the activities of plunderers) might alter quite substantially the ‘ideal’ burial equipment expected for a certain epoch. In addition, multiple burials, when prolonged for a significant time span, will inevitably show objects which cross different epochs, as with G62 from the (late) Middle Kingdom to the Second Intermediate Period.

The range of artefacts in G62 cannot be classified as equipment belonging to royalty and the most elite levels of society. Osirification regalia and other signs of the ideology of royalty and power, including hieroglyphic inscriptions and royal names, seem to be missing. Nevertheless, the fact that G62 contained valuable and sought-after materials, such as ivory, metals and hard stones, allows us to suppose that it was connected to a wealthy social class. All the parallel contexts (Abydos 416, Harageh 124, Lisht pits, etc.) belong to similar social milieus: a group which can afford a certain visibility in death (thus excluding the lower levels of society), but which is not among the very wealthiest and most powerful.

<sup>14</sup> However, this is not sufficient to indicate that G62 was a closed context.

<sup>15</sup> For the distinction between different types of multiple burials, see Crawford 2007.

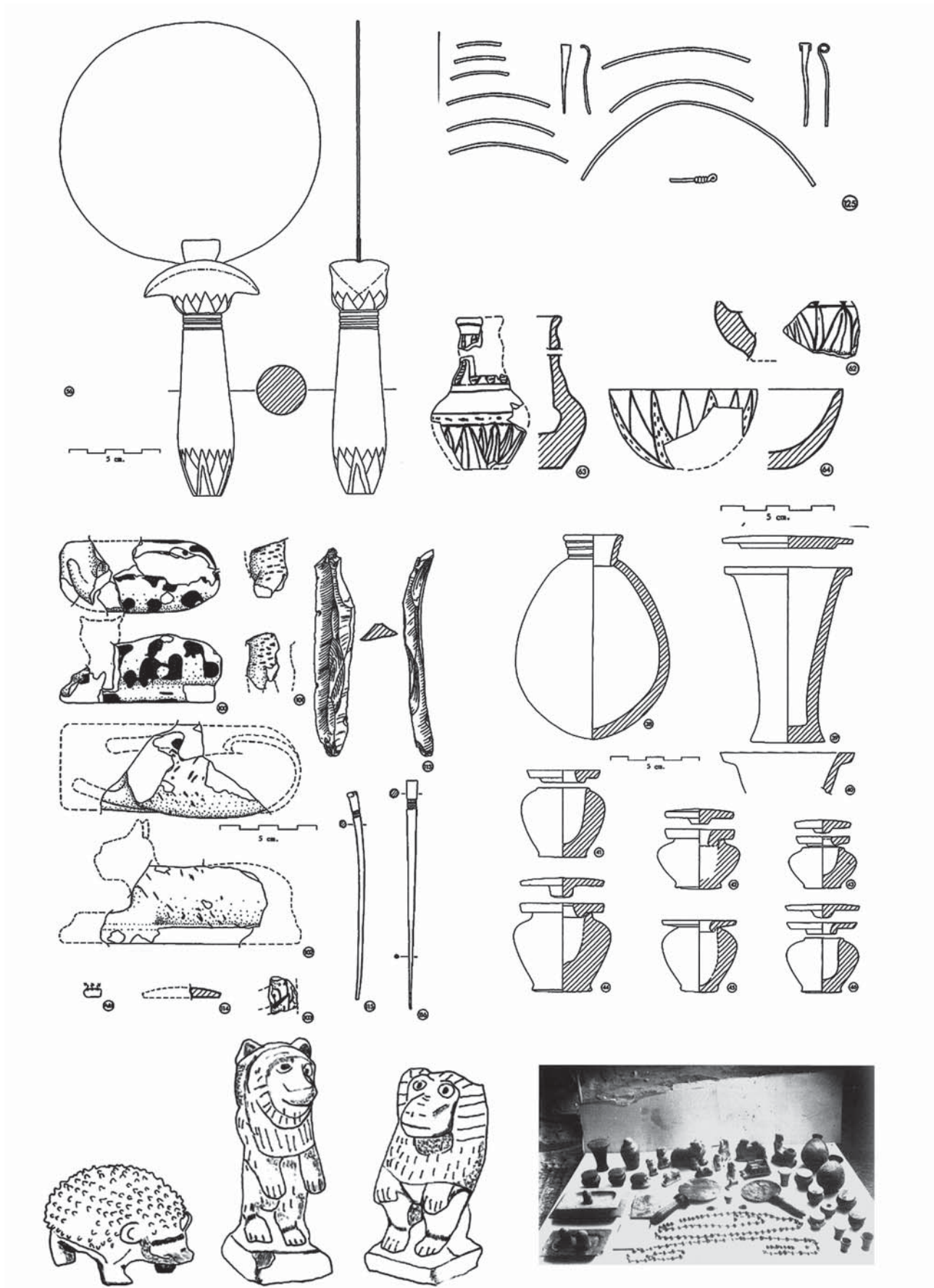


Fig. 11: Selection of objects from Abydos tomb 416, from Kemp and Merrillees 1980.

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Pl. 1: Miniature drop-shaped vessel (BM EA 37294, see no. 1.1). © The Trustees of the British Museum.  
Photo: Gianluca Miniaci.



Pl. 2: Miniature hemispherical bowl (BM EA 37295, see no. 1.2). © The Trustees of the British Museum.  
Photo: Gianluca Miniaci.



Pl. 3: Hippopotamus-lion figure (prototype of Ipi/Taweret figure?) (BM EA 37296, see no. 1.3): different views.  
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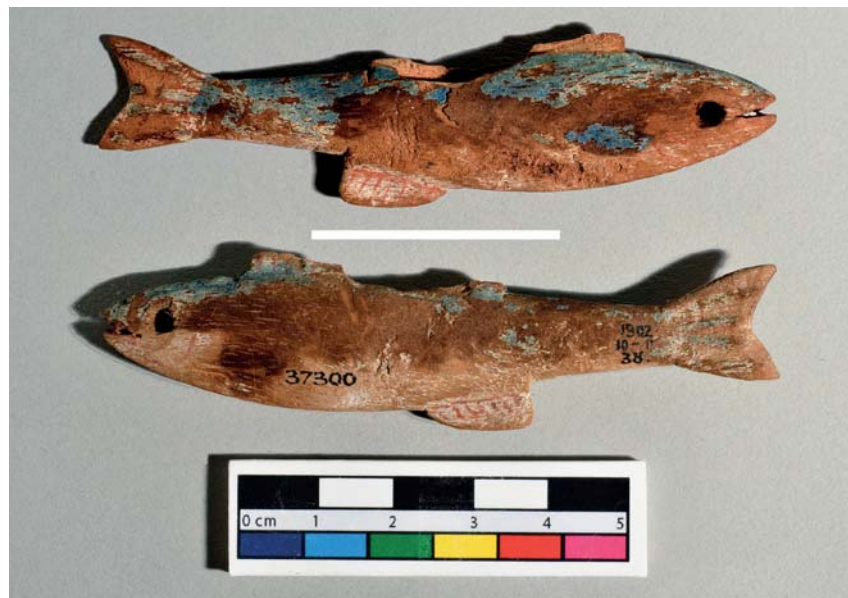
Pl. 4: Standing lion on hind legs/ frontal lion-maned/-eared figure (prototype of Aha/Bes figure?) (BM EA 37297, see no. 1.4): different views. © The Trustees of the British Museum. Photos: Gianluca Miniaci.



Pl. 5: Pregnant female (?) grotesque human figure, probably a dwarf (BM EA 37298, see no. 1.5): different views.  
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Pl. 6: A squatting caprid (goat or antelope) (BM EA 37299, see no. 1.6): different views. © The Trustees of the British Museum. Photos: Gianluca Miniaci.



Pl. 7: Wooden fish (BM EA 37300, see no. 1.7): different views.  
© The Trustees of the British Museum. Photos: Gianluca Miniaci.



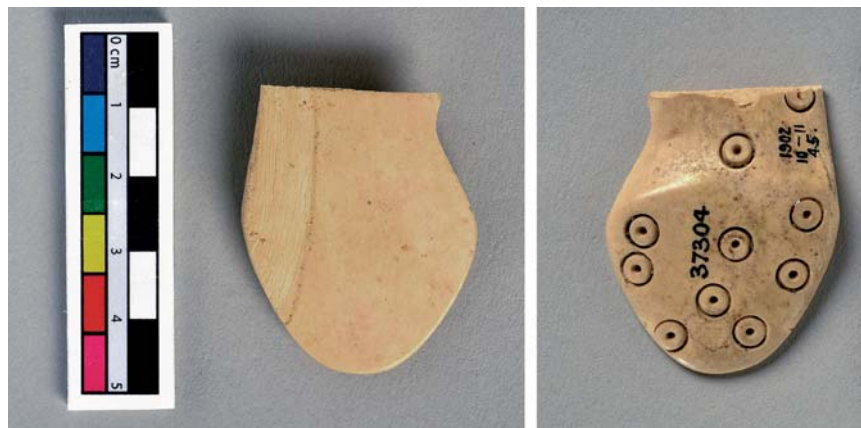
Pl. 8: Pair of curved clappers (EA 37301, see no. 2.1): front and back. © The Trustees of the British Museum.  
Photos: Gianluca Miniaci.



Pl. 9: Pair of straight clappers decorated with dotted circles (EA 37302, see no. 2.2): front and back. © The Trustees of the British Museum.  
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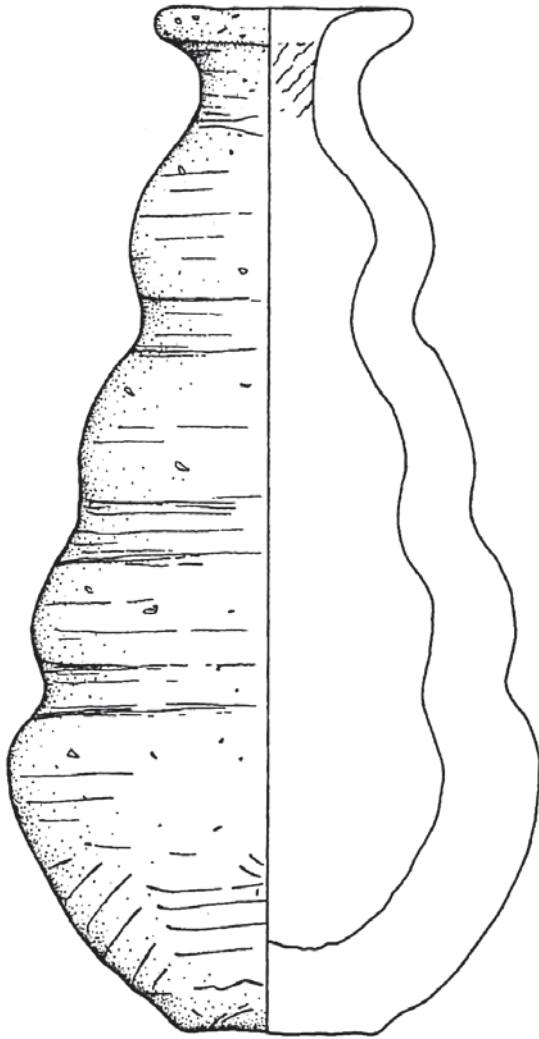
Pl. 10: Pair of straight clappers decorated with criss-cross pattern on the wrists (EA 37303, see no. 2.3): front and back. © The Trustees of the British Museum. Photos: Gianluca Miniaci.



Pl. 11: Butt end of an ivory clapper (EA 37304, see no. 2.4): front and back. © The Trustees of the British Museum. Photos: Gianluca Miniaci.



Pl. 12: Copper bowl (BM EA 37311, see no. **3.1**):  
two views © The Trustees of the British Museum.  
Photos: Gianluca Miniaci.



Pl. 13: Wavy neck pottery jar with flat base in the National Museum of Ireland, NMI 1902.484. From Schiestl and Seiler 2012, 697, no. 9.



Pl. 14: Wavy neck pottery jar in the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology, UC 19026. © The Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology.



Pl. 15: Cylinder vessel (EA 37286, see no. 4.1).  
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Photo: Gianluca Miniaci.



Pl. 16: Cylinder vessel (EA 37287, see no. 4.2).  
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Photo: Gianluca Miniaci.





Pl. 17: Cylinder vessel (EA 37288, see no. 4.3). © The Trustees of the British Museum. Photo: Gianluca Miniaci.



Pl. 18: Globular vessel (EA 37289, see no. 4.4). © The Trustees of the British Museum. Photo: Gianluca Miniaci.



Pl. 19: Kohl-pot (EA 37290, see no. 4.5). © The Trustees of the British Museum. Photo: Gianluca Miniaci.



Pl. 20: Calcite lid (BM EA 37291, see no. 4.6): front and back views. © The Trustees of the British Museum. Photos: Gianluca Miniaci.



Pl. 21: Shouldered jar (BM EA 37292, see no. 4.7). © The Trustees of the British Museum. Photos: Gianluca Miniaci.



Pl. 22: Kohl-pot (BM EA 37293, see no. 4.8). © The Trustees of the British Museum. Photo: Gianluca Miniaci.



Pl. 23: Green porphyry lid (BM EA 37290, see no. 4.9): different views. © The Trustees of the British Museum.  
Photo: Gianluca Miniaci.



Pl. 25: Gilded wooden amulet in the shape of a *wedjat*-eye (BM EA 37305, see no. 5.1): both sides. © The Trustees of the British Museum. Photos: Gianluca Miniaci.



Pl. 24: Bronze mirror (BM EA 37307, see no. 4.10): different views. © The Trustees of the British Museum.  
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Pl. 26: Wooden spacer-bar (BM EA 37306, see no. 6.1): different views.  
© The Trustees of the British Museum. Photos: Gianluca Miniaci.



Pl. 27: Finger-ring: obsidian scarab mounted in gold wire (BM EA 37308,  
see no. 6.2): different views. © The Trustees of the British Museum.  
Photos: Gianluca Miniaci.



Pl. 28: Finger-ring: lapis lazuli scarab bezel mounted in silver wire (BM EA 37309,  
see no. 6.3): different views. © The Trustees of the British Museum.  
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Pl. 29: Silver torque (BM EA 37310, see no. 6.4).  
© The Trustees of the British Museum.  
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Pl. 30: Beads: eight cowrie shells (BM EA 37319, see no. 6.5). © The Trustees of the British Museum.  
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Pl. 31: Beads (BM EA 37312, see no. 6.6). © The Trustees of the British Museum.  
Photo: Gianluca Miniaci.



Pl. 32: Beads (BM EA 37313, see no. 6.7). © The Trustees of the British Museum. Photo: Gianluca Miniaci.



Pl. 33: Beads (BM EA 37314, see no. 6.8). © The Trustees of the British Museum. Photo: Gianluca Miniaci.



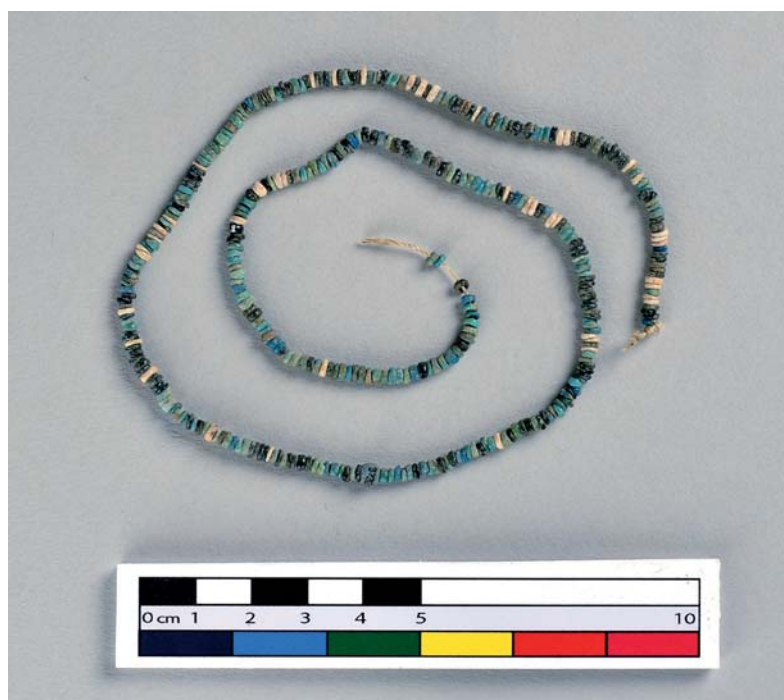
Pl. 34: Beads (BM EA 37315, see no. **6.9**). © The Trustees of the British Museum. Photo: Gianluca Miniaci.



Pl. 35: Beads (BM EA 37316, see no. **6.10**). © The Trustees of the British Museum. Photo: Gianluca Miniaci.



Pl. 36: Beads (BM EA 37317, see no. **6.11**). © The Trustees of the British Museum. Photo: Gianluca Miniaci.



Pl. 37: Beads (BM EA 37318, see no. **6.12**). © The Trustees of the British Museum. Photo: Gianluca Miniaci.