

## Preliminary report on the pottery at Tell Timai (Thmuis)

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Approximately 4,500 kilograms of pottery were recovered and processed at Tell Timai in the eastern Delta during the 2010 and 2011 University of Hawaii excavations directed by Robert Littman and Jay Silverstein.<sup>1</sup> While most of this pottery came from mixed contexts, five discrete deposits were documented from three different locations on the tell that provide valuable typological and contextual information about the Ptolemaic and Early Roman phases at the site. This report is the first and preliminary analysis of those deposits, representing as they do the best archaeological contexts encountered so far at the site that yielded pottery that was more or less internally consistent within each deposit. The deposits include a late Persian level associated with ceramic kilns in Area O7, a large floor deposit from a Hellenistic structure in Area N6, a sealed 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC fill in Area O7-15, a late 2<sup>nd</sup> century dump in Area O7-15, and the contents of a large pit cut into the floor of a later Ptolemaic structure in Area R13 (fig. 1A).

The assemblages presented in this report are composed of sampled pottery taken from each context. The late Persian and early 2<sup>nd</sup> century material is relatively well dated, but uncertainties remain for the rest. This report is intended to be a preliminary report of all the contexts and should not be taken as being inclusive all vessels or forms found in each deposit. Comprehensive analyses of the late Persian and early 2<sup>nd</sup> century assemblages are in preparation and so are presented here in a truncated form. Further excavation and analysis is needed to more fully understand and contextualize the other material, but because the quantity of the pottery from each context is significant, a more

detailed discussion and analysis is presented than for the earlier material.

The deposits and their proposed dates:

I. Area O7-11 and 12	Late Persian	Late 4 <sup>th</sup> c. BC
II. Area N6-5	Ptolemaic	Early 2 <sup>nd</sup> c. BC
III. Area O7-15	Ptolemaic	2 <sup>nd</sup> c. BC
IV. Area O7-15	Late Ptolemaic	1 <sup>st</sup> c. BC
V. Area R13-1	Late Ptolemaic/Early Roman	Late 1 <sup>st</sup> c BC/1 <sup>st</sup> c AD

A note on Fabric vs. Ware

The use of the terms fabric and ware throughout this report are not to be understood as interchangeable. Fabric is used to refer specifically to the clay body used to create vessels. Ware is used to refer to a combination of physical characteristics of a class of pottery. Ware includes fabric,

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but also considers what is done with that fabric, including surface treatments, firing processes, and decoration.

### I. Late Persian kiln contexts (late 4<sup>th</sup> c. BC)

The late Persian pottery comes from the lowest contexts associated with a series of kilns excavated in Area O. Typologically, the pottery consists of forms that are typical of the fourth century BC preceding the Ptolemaic Period. The absence of Hellenistic forms, with the exception of what appears to be a precursor to the familiar Hellenistic casserole (I.10), suggests a pre-Ptolemaic date on the cusp of the Hellenistic era. The most securely datable ceramic find from these contexts is a small body sherd of an Attic Red Figure krater that certainly dates to the fourth century BC, but can perhaps be narrowed down to the second half of the century (fig. 1B).<sup>2</sup>

The most striking feature of the assemblage is a series of fine perfume bottles produced in a very fine desert Marl. Several examples of these bottles were wasters, having cracked and warped during the firing process, suggesting they were produced at Tell Timai. During the 2010 season, two imported amphoras were found in a nearby context. The contents of one of these amphoras proved to be raw fine clay with similar properties to the fired perfume bottles. XRF analysis of samples of the fired bottles and raw clay in 2011 revealed the two have similar chemical compositions. Our current assessment of the raw clay is that it was imported from Upper Egypt, possibly from the Esne-Edfu region, and used to produce small perfume bottles at Tell Timai.<sup>3</sup>

Generally, the late Persian assemblage is best understood within its production context. The kiln context in which the pottery was found and the identification of several wasters in the assemblage help characterize the assemblage as part of the production tradition at Tell Timai in the fourth century BC. The identification of the pottery as a production assemblage rather than a domestic assemblage is strengthened by the ratio of functional classes that are present, where personal vessels such as the perfume bottles make up forty percent of the entire assemblage, an unusual proportion for a domestic assemblage. As a production context, the assemblage offers a glimpse at the production tradition at the end of the Dynastic tradition in Lower Egypt and specifically for Thmuis and Mendes.<sup>4</sup>

Deposit dates:

The assemblage is given date of the late 4<sup>th</sup> century BC. Evidence for such a date comes in part from the small body sherd of an Athenian Red-figure krater. Additional evidence comes from the vessels types within the assemblage, nearly all of which belong to the pre-Ptolemaic 4<sup>th</sup> century. The exception is the presence of a Greek-style casserole. The presence of the Greek casserole and the

<sup>2</sup> For similar published examples see MOORE 1997, nos. 524, 533, and 539, mid to second half 4<sup>th</sup> century BC.

<sup>3</sup> The analysis of the clay and perfume bottles is currently being prepared for publication by N. HUDSON and J. TRAMPIER.

<sup>4</sup> For a complete presentation of the pottery from these contexts see HUDSON, "Late 4<sup>th</sup> century BC pottery from Tell Timai (Thmuis)," forthcoming.

date of the late 4<sup>th</sup> century BC.

## II. Hellenistic floor deposits (early 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC)

Three stratigraphically and contextually linked deposits of pottery were found resting on floors of rooms belonging to a large Hellenistic structure in Area N6. The two best preserved deposits, situated in rooms adjacent to one another, yielded 34 vessels *in toto*. While many vessels were intact, others were crushed against the hard packed dirt floors. The deposits appear to be the result of a large destruction event that completely destroyed the structure in which they were found. The destruction is marked in part by fire, though the conflagration does not appear to have been complete. Evidence that the event was violent is suggested by the presence of several small limestone ballista balls found in associated contexts. Additional evidence suggests that the building debris was cleared away and the area leveled after the destruction event, resulting in cleanly cropped mud brick walls with relatively uniformly preserved heights. The clearance was not so low and complete as to clear away all the material remains of the structure, leaving behind the *in situ* floor deposits from which the Hellenistic material presented here is assembled.

The assemblage includes a full range of familiar Hellenistic forms. Table vessels are well represented by the common incurved rim bowl, present in both the Egyptian black slip *terra nigra* (II.1), probable products of Buto (Tell el-Farâ'in),<sup>5</sup> and more commonly in local red-fired Nile silt present in small, medium, and large versions (II.2-4). Everted rim bowls are also present, though less common, in both *terra nigra* (II.5) and local red Nile silt (II.6-7). Locally produced thickened rim saucers are present in both small (II.8-9) and large versions (II.10).

Wine service is represented by a large painted column krater (II.11) in Nile silt. The elaborately painted decoration, with scrolling vines and thin horizontal bands, is exceptionally fine within the Egyptian corpus. In Athens, painted coarse ware kraters cease to be elaborately decorated by 175 BC.<sup>6</sup> If Athenian pottery can be used as a generalized marker for the broader Hellenistic world, the painted krater helps anchor the assemblage to the early 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC. Another vessel that can perhaps be associated with wine service is a large table amphora or water jar (II.12). The top half of the amphora is covered in a thick, mat white slip, and the bricky, porous fabric may indicate that it was used to hold and keep water cool, perhaps to be mixed with wine in the column krater.

Kitchen vessels are represented by various large bowls for mixing, including a large overhanging rim krater (II.13), a hemispherical bowl (II.14), and a deep carinated bowl (II.15). All are in Nile silt and are well formed. Like most of the plain table and coarse wares in the assemblage, they are assumed to be local productions, perhaps of the kiln area in Area O that appears to have remained active until the same event that destroyed the structure housing the floor deposits.

<sup>5</sup>On the *terra nigra* workshops at Buto, see CHARLESWORTH 1967, 1969, 1970.

<sup>6</sup>ROTHOFF 2006, p. 106.

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Cooking vessels from the assemblage include a variety of cooking pots and broad and shallow casseroles. The best preserved example is a large casserole with a flaring rim and four horizontal strap handles attached to and pressed against the underside of the rim (II.16). A lid from the same context fits the casserole neatly (II.17). Both the casserole and lid were found in fragmentary states but were mendable to preserve nearly the entire vessel. Less well preserved are cooking pots, as represented by the short necked variety with a large horizontal loop handle attached to the shoulder (II.18).

With the exception of the two examples of *terra nigra*, all vessels are presumed to be local productions. The presence of ceramic kilns in Area O indicates production at the site during the Hellenistic period, and it is likely that the assemblage from the floor deposit originated from these workshops. Production is consistent and of good quality for Nile silt. Lines are carefully described and surfaces are generally well smoothed. Table, kitchen, and cooking vessels can all bear a thin, mat red slip, though the slip is not always present. The impression one has is that production at the site was good quality and on a large enough scale to produce consistent results.

### Deposit Dates:

The floor deposits can be securely dated thanks in part to coin finds. A small cache of Ptolemaic bronze coins was found beneath one of the floors yielding deposits. The latest coin in the cache, which numbered thirteen in all, is an issue of Ptolemy IV (221-205). The small hoard can be interpreted either as a quick concealment of household wealth by the occupants, perhaps acting on the impending attack of the town that destroyed the structure in which they were found. Alternatively, similar hoards of bronzes of the same period are not uncommon in Egypt, and a current theory holds that households buried away bronzes of this series when they underwent sudden and dramatic devaluation at the end of the third century.<sup>7</sup> If the latter scenario is the case, the cache need not be associated with the destruction event. In either case the coins provide a *terminus post quem* for the destruction of the end of the third century BC.

Additional numismatic evidence comes from the thin lens of soil that covered the deposits. This lens can be associated with the leveling event that occurred after the destruction. The coin is a small bronze depicting Alexander wearing an elephant headdress. The particular issue is from Ptolemy V, and likely dates to the first half of the second century BC.<sup>8</sup>

The coin evidence along with the presence of the elaborately decorated column krater that likely dates no later than 175 BC provides a date for the deposit of the first quarter of the second century BC.

<sup>7</sup>My thanks to Thomas Faucher, membre scientifique of the IFAO for sharing his expertise and thoughts on the hoard and for informing me of this new interpretation. On the devaluation phenomenon, see SEGRE, 1942 and REEKMANS, 1949.

<sup>8</sup>My thanks again to Thomas Faucher of the IFAO for sharing his new dating scheme of Ptolemaic bronzes before publication.

### III. Sealed fill in Area O7-15 (Ptolemaic, 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC?)

A sealed fill recovered from beneath a thick mud brick collapse in a sondage in Area O7-15 produced a small group of Hellenistic pottery. The pottery presented here is not a living context assemblage, but because the fill produced a distinct series of deep vertical-walled cups, or beakers decorated in a variety of fashions, a sample of the homogenous fill is presented here. While it is not possible to pinpoint a date for the group beyond Hellenistic based on other forms within the deposit, the beakers are interesting enough to warrant an initial observation.

The bulk of the pottery from the deposit that produced the beakers was utilitarian in nature. Only one sherd from the deposit could be identified with confidence as a table vessel. This was a small painted hemispherical bowl (III.1). Utilitarian examples from the deposit include large plain ware incurved rim bowls (III.2), plain ware kraters (III.3-4), coarse pitchers (III.5), and cook pots (III.6-7. The incurved rim bowls from the deposit are a familiar shape in the Hellenistic assemblage at Tell Timai as well as throughout Egypt and the entire Hellenistic East. The examples from the lower O7-15 deposit are produced in a coarser fabric than usually found among smaller table vessels, for example in the early second century floor deposits in Area N6. Instead, the fabric has more in common with the Hellenistic cooking wares found at Tell Timai. The large size of the bowls makes

them likely candidates for kitchen vessels. The plain ware overhanging rim kraters from the deposit (III.3-4) are also common components of Egyptian Hellenistic assemblages, but not until the second century BC.<sup>9</sup> The plain ware pitcher from the deposit, found intact except for the missing handle, is made of a coarse, porous fabric and covered with a thin white wash. The form is reminiscent of Hellenistic 'oinochoe' commonly found in Ptolemaic levels in Egypt, but is simpler and heavier in form, reflecting its probable function as a kitchen vessel. The dominant type of cook pot in the deposit is a broad mouth pot with an outward angled rim and small inner lip (III.6-7). Similar form cook pots are found in 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC contexts at Naukratis and in late 2<sup>nd</sup>-1<sup>st</sup> century contexts at Tebtynis.<sup>10</sup>

The beakers in the closed lower deposit in Area O7-15 are of a distinct and repetitive form (III.8-15). All are characterized by tall vertical walls with slightly incurving rims that terminate in a slight point, with the exception of III.15, which has an outwardly folded rim. A sharp point of carination at about 12 cm below the rim creates a steep vessel floor that descends to a well-defined ring foot whose diameter is only slightly small than the mouth of the beaker (ca. 8 cm).

Two distinct groups of beakers are present in the deposit. The groups are defined by different wares. The first is consists of beakers in a fine, hard-fired, densely packed Nile silt that is slightly micaceous. Rare small white inclusions are present in section, as are rarely observed medium-sized lumps of lime. The core is consistently fired bluish grey (GLEY 2 4/10B) sandwiched between outer bands of reddish brown (2.5YR 4/4). Exterior surfaces are covered in a reddish brown slip (5YR 5/4) that has been carefully smoothed, leaving occasional thin burnishing streaks in places. Dark reddish

<sup>9</sup> BERLIN 1998, 41.

<sup>10</sup> Naukratis – BERLIN 1998, 32. Tebtynis – BALLETT and POŁUDNIKIEWICZ 2012, no. 283.

brown (10R 3/3) horizontal bands are carefully applied with crisp, well-defined edges. Bands as waves and simple guilloche designs can also be present (III.8-11, 15).

Beakers in the second group are distinctly coarse compared to those in the first group. These are produced in a porous, hard-fired slightly micaceous Nile silt that has a bricky texture to it. Small shallow voids from chaff are common in section and on surfaces. Vessels are fired red (2.5YR 4/6) with a thick grey core. Exterior surfaces have a thin white wash applied to the top two thirds or more

of the vertical walls above the point of carination. The wash drips carelessly down the body in line that often reach the foot of the vessel. Thin, transparent horizontal bands of black are applied over the wash. Simple guilloche designs were also observed (III.12-13).

A single example of a marl beaker with painted decoration came from the fill (III.14) and is assumed to be an import from Upper Egypt.

Deposit dates:

The character of the pottery within the thick, pottery-rich stratum sealed beneath the mud brick collapse in Area O7-15 suggests something other than a cumulative fill. Vessels are relatively well-preserved with many large fragments and many joins. While clearly not a primary context, the material may well be a secondary deposit of pottery possibly from a single source and event. However, the forms present in the deposit do not allow for a clear dating scheme. The large incurved rim bowls of the assemblage are of a general Hellenistic form, loosely of the Greek echinus type, but for kitchen rather than table use. Indeed, their large size, coarse nature, and simple form is reminiscent of the large bowls from the Late Persian context (I.5). The ambivalent form of the bowls, lacking clear typo-chronological markers does little to aid in dating the deposit. Similarly, the coarse pitcher does not permit for a specific phase within the Hellenistic tradition. The angled rim cook pots have parallels that span the 3<sup>rd</sup> through 1<sup>st</sup> centuries BC, whereas the overhanging rim kraters are not common until the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC. Because of the consistency with which this particular form of krater is found in contexts nor earlier than the 2<sup>nd</sup> century, it seems reasonable to propose a general 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC date for the deposit. However, the typological differences of the deposit with the early 2<sup>nd</sup> century deposit (deposit II) and the 1<sup>st</sup> century deposit (deposit IV) makes the chronological scheme uncertain. Specifically, there are no tall beakers in the earlier assemblage, and deposit III lacks the heavy grey ware table vessels that dominate deposit IV. Rather than try to narrow the date range for deposit III to the mid-2<sup>nd</sup> century, I propose a broader 2<sup>nd</sup> century date.

#### IV. Single period dump in Area O7-15 (1<sup>st</sup> century BC)

A thick stratum consisting of densely packed pottery was partially excavated as a sondage in Area O7-15. The portion of the stratum that was explored was excavated down to a thick layer of mud brick collapse, beneath which the assemblage of deposit III was found. The two assemblages are



typologically distinct, though a few commonalities are present, including the continued presence of the tall beakers, though with changes. The material from the upper stratum is interpreted as a single phase dump of debris based on the typological consistency within the deposit, the density of material within the stratum, and the frequency of large sherds and joins. The assemblage from the dump includes vessels for the table, cooking, service, kitchen, and storage.

Table vessels consist entirely of Delta productions. Three forms in particular allow for a general dating of the deposit to the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC. A thin walled, carefully tooled incurved rim bowl (IV.1) likely belongs to the later stages of the form. A ‘footed bell cup’ from the deposit is similar to examples from 1<sup>st</sup> century assemblages throughout the eastern Mediterranean (IV.2). In Athens, ESA examples (*Atlante II* form 42) are found in contexts dating to ca. 75-1 BC.<sup>11</sup> A large vertical rim dish that appears to be an imitation of ESA *Atlante II* form 3 (late 2<sup>nd</sup>-end 1<sup>st</sup> century BC) adds support for a 1<sup>st</sup> century BC date for the deposit (IV.4). The dish follows the ESA form closely and is produced in a well-levigated Nile silt with a thin red slip that has been lightly burnished to a smooth, slightly lustrous shine. No examples of actual ESA were found in the deposit, even though the ware is readily found as surface finds, including early forms within the production series, such as form 3.

The dominant table ware in the assemblage is a reduction-fired grey ware (IV.5-10). The ware is relatively coarse and cannot be confused with the quality of *terra nigra* vessels produced at Buto. The fabric is a moderately sandy and loosely packed Nile silt. All observed examples were fired completely grey throughout, including the entirety of the biscuit. The ware is moderately soft, resulting in denuded surfaces. A thin, slightly lustrous black slip was observed on some better preserved examples. Dull, matt examples of the slip were more commonly observed. Exterior walls tended to be left plain and were often abraded by larger inclusions being dragged across the surfaces while on the wheel. A distinct feature of the ware is the thickness of the walls, which frequently measure greater than 1cm in thickness. The ware was observed in both everted rim bowls and large, heavy thickened rim saucers. Only large versions of the everted rim bowls were found in the dump. A small version in the same ware was found as one of two vessels placed in a burial of a small child in Area R13-1 (IV.24). Vessels of similar description have been found in late 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC contexts at Alexandria where the same shapes are found along with the more common incurved rim bowl of the same ware.<sup>12</sup> The frequency with which the ware was found during the 2011 season, both in the later dump in Area O7-15 and as residual material in the Early Roman pit in Area R13-1, may indicate a

local production, though the current excavations have not provided evidence of this.

Table vessels for drink service consist of small pitchers in a well-levigated Nile silt (IV.11). Three examples were recovered from the sondage in O7-15, none of which were preserved to provide a complete profile. However, an intact example of the same type was found a grave offering for a small child and is included here as an exemplar of the form (IV.25).

<sup>11</sup> HAYES 2008, Nos. 117-119.

<sup>12</sup> HAYES and HARLAUT 2002, figs. 12-15.

Tall beaker like those found in the deposit III assemblage are also present in the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC dump. While the form is the same, there are significant differences in the wares in which they appear. There continues to be a coarse and fine version of the form, but the characteristics of each has changed. The fine version is made of a clean, well-packed slightly sandy Nile silt with scattered tiny silver mica. The section has a thin grey core but is otherwise fired red (10R 5/6). The exterior and upper inner walls are covered in a thin, slightly lustrous red slip (2.5YR 4/6) that has been slightly burnished. Sharply defined and carefully applied bands of dark red (2.5YR 3/4) and cream (7.5YR 7/4) alternate on the rim and mid-body (IV.12). Unlike the fine examples from the earlier context, which have simple pointed rim, the fine examples in deposit IV have a flattened rim with two carefully defined, rounded grooves on the exterior just below the rim.

The coarse, bricky version with a white wash and thin black painted decoration from deposit III are absent in the later context. Instead, the coarse version in deposit IV is made of a hard, bricky Nile silt with frequent small white lumps of lime that are commonly burnt out in section, leaving grey, sooty voids. Surfaces are fired a dusky red (10R 4/4) and left plain except for thin bands of burnishing that are irregularly spaced around the exterior (IV.13). Rims are less pointed than their earlier counterparts, though the coarser versions in the later deposit are not as neatly formed as the fine versions.

Cooking vessels in the deposit include cook pots and casseroles. The most common a large cook pot with very high neck and an angled rim with a small drooping external flange (IV.16-17). The neck meets the body sharply, creating a slightly offset shoulder. Thick vertical strap handles join from

the rim to the shoulder. Similar cook pots, called 'stew pots' by Berlin, can be found in 2<sup>nd</sup> century contexts at Naukratis.<sup>13</sup> Similar forms are found in later 2<sup>nd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> century contexts at Alexandria and Coptos, whereas at Tebtynis the form is present in later 3<sup>rd</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> century contexts.<sup>14</sup> Few casseroles were present in the deposit, consisting of a single type reminiscent of earlier Hellenistic angled rim types, but with vertical strap handles attached from the rim to the body at the midpoint of the rim to point of carination (IV.19). Similar casseroles at Alexandria are dated to the late 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC.<sup>15</sup>

Lids, most likely for the cooking vessels, were common in the deposit. All are of plain Nile silt and have simple string-cut base handles (IV.14-15, 18). Larger lids are represented by a wide variety of typological characteristics, whereas smaller lids were consistently of a single type. These are characterized by steep walls terminated in a shallow scalloped rim (IV.15). The small lids are in a very coarse Nile silt. They tend to be poorly formed, though consistent within their rim treatments. The small size makes them less useful to serve as lids for cook pots and it may be that they were intended as lids for jars or equally as simple all-purpose bowls. The type is common in later Hellenistic fills in the areas so far excavated in the northern part of Tell Timai.

<sup>13</sup>BERLIN 1998, p. 33-34, fig. 2.19.

<sup>14</sup>See catalogue, IV.16

<sup>15</sup>HAYES and HARLAUT 2002, no. 28, fig. 29.

Few amphora were present in the deposit (IV.20-21), all Egyptian. Parallels can be found in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> century contexts at Buto.<sup>16</sup>

Deposit dates:

A 1<sup>st</sup> century BC date is proposed for deposit IV based on the preponderance of forms with parallels from Egyptian contexts dated to the later 2<sup>nd</sup>-1<sup>st</sup> century. The deposit date is pushed to the 1<sup>st</sup> century due to the fine table vessels that may be imitations of ESA forms with productions anchored in the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC.

A large quantity of well-preserved pottery was recovered from the fill of a large well-defined pit that cut through a floor of a structure in Area R13-1. The stratigraphy within the pit consisted of strata alternating between matrices of densely packed pottery with figurines, and strata with a lower density of material culture in which quantities of mud brick were present. The pit cut through an ashy layer of about 12 cm that covered much of the surrounding floor, suggesting the pit was part of a secondary use of the room in which it was situated. A burial of a small child was found resting on the ashy layer a short distance away from the edges of the pit, further suggesting the room had been abandoned by the time the pit was cut through the ashy level and floor.

The ceramic contents of the pit included a series of intact or wholly mendable carinated bowls in a fine, hard-fired alluvial clay (V.1-4). The bowls are strongly reminiscent in form to Eastern Sigillata A *Atlante II* form 39, generally dated to the second half of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD. The bowls from the pit differ from the ESA form in that they are deeper and have a more steeply inclined wall from the foot to the point of carination. They also differ in their ware, which is distinct. The bowls are produced in a finely levigated Nile silt with few visible inclusions except for occasional small sub-angular bits of lime that can rupture the surface. The fabric is slightly micaceous, with tiny gold flecks visible in section and on the surface in direct sunlight. The bowls appear to have been fired at a high temperature, producing a very hard ware that produces conchoidal fractures on occasion. A thick light grey-blue core may also indicate reducing conditions in the kiln through most of the firing process (which would contribute to the hardness of the ware) before the atmosphere was oxidized near the end of the process to turn the surfaces a rich, deep red color.<sup>17</sup> The surfaces of the bowls are all carefully smoothed and covered in a thin red slip. The slip is evenly, but thinly applied and bonds with the body of the vessels, rather than sit on the surface. Several bowls have several horizontal bands of light burnishing that run around the exterior of the vertical walls above the point of carination.

Two other forms produced in the same ware were found with the carinated bowls. One is a squat, broad beaker (V.5) that appears to be the descendent of the Hellenistic forms found in deposits III

<sup>16</sup> HARTUNG ET AL. 2003, Abbs. 20-21.

<sup>17</sup> On the effects of oxidization on vessel hardness, see RICE 1987, p. 354.

and IV. The rim treatment of the beaker, with two well-tooled grooves on the exterior below the rim, is strongly reminiscent of the fine tall beaker in the late Hellenistic deposit in O7-15. However, the lines on the squat beaker are cleaner and better define, especially of the foot, which is carefully finished and tooled on the interior. The exterior surface is finely smoothed and the slip is lightly and evenly burnished, but otherwise without decoration. The interior is unslipped except for the upper portions around the rim and a few patches where the slip dripped down during the slipping process. Examples of at least three other beakers identical to the well-preserved example presented here were found in the pit fill. The repetition with which the specific typological features of the beaker (the grooves below the rim and smooth, hard surfaces) suggests a high level of standardization for the type in the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD.

As in the other deposits that yielded beakers, the pit fill contained a counterpart 'coarse ware' version alongside the fine version (V.6). The coarse version is similar to the fine beaker in that it is relatively thin-walled and well-tooled, with a cleanly defined rim and a neatly described groove below the rim and another further down on the body. The fabric is markedly different from the fine version. It is a well-levigated Nile silt that has a slightly brickly texture with some small chaff and noticeable gold mica scattered throughout. The observed example from the pit has a thick grey core and the exterior is covered in a thin, dull red slip (10R 4/5). A thin white wash is applied in a well-defined band just below the vessel lip.

A pitcher in the same ware as the fine beaker and carinated bowls is reminiscent of Hellenistic oinochoe (V.7). The entire vessel is preserved in many small to medium sherds and appears to be part of the set of whole carinated bowls and the fine beaker. Like the squat beaker, the rim and base of the pitcher are well-tooled and clean of line. A well-formed handle is attached at the rim and extends down to the shoulder. Two shallow grooves located on the shoulder just above the join of the handle. Two thin grooves are cut into the surface on the lower belly. The exterior surface is completely slipped and the upper half of the vessel has thin lines of uneven and haphazard burnishing, as if quickly and roughly done with a smooth pebble.

The carinated bowls, squat beaker, and fine pitcher are the best preserved vessels found inside the pit (fig. 9A). Their uniformity and completeness is suggestive of an intentional deposition, possibly as part of a votive offering. This interpretation seems more likely when some of the other contents of the pit are considered. The most striking elements within the pit are a series of fine figurine lamps, including several of African acrobats performing handstands on a table (fig. 9B). The most direct parallel for the subject is a marble statue of an African boy in a handstand on top of a crocodile currently housed in the British Museum. The marble group is dated loosely to the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC-1<sup>st</sup> century AD.<sup>18</sup> The fine quality of the figurines, their concentration and relative state of

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preservation, and the quantity of whole fine vessels in the pit strongly suggests an intentional and possible cultic deposition.

No other pottery from the pit could be associated with an intentional deposition by virtue of its preservation. Most of the ceramic material appears to be part of the fill used to cover the votive deposit and consists of small to medium sized sherds. Much of the pottery is residual with parallels from deposits II-IV, especially the heavy grey ware vessels from deposit IV. Occasionally large sherds were found, or vessels with many joins. A small sample of these are presented here as possible types that belong to the same phase as the deposition in the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD. Of chronological interest is a deep ledge rim casserole (V.8) of a type dated to the mid-1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD at Mons Claudianus.<sup>19</sup> The dates for the type at Mons Claudianus conform well with the suggested dates for the votive deposit and filling of the pit of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD.

A painted table amphora and large painted basin are presented as part of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD deposit, though their place in the assemblage is uncertain (V.9-10). The two vessels share similar decorative motifs and are produced in the same heavy Nile silt with abundant small to medium bits of chaff and occasional large lumps of lime. The surfaces are unslipped and pocked with frequent small to medium sized elongated voids from burnt out chaff. The black and white painted decoration is thinly applied, more like a thin wash that absorbs into the vessel surface. The overall shape and general character of the painted decoration of the table amphora is reminiscent of Hellenistic painted amphorae at Tell Atrib dated to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC and may well be part of the residual material in the pit.<sup>20</sup> However, the example from the pit in R13-1 may simply be a Ptolemaic typological carryover in the Early Roman assemblage. Multiple medium and large joining sherds were recovered from the pit fill, which may indicate it closer to its primary context at the time of deposition than the smaller worn residual Hellenistic sherds scattered throughout the pit fill matrix.

Deposit dates:

A deposition date of the second half of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD is proposed. The suggested date range rests on few chronological markers, principally the carinated bowls of a form similar to ESA *Atlante II* form 39 and the deep ledge rim casserole. The fine figurine lamps offer little precision for dating the deposit as the overall stylistic attributes can be assigned to the late Hellenistic or Early Roman tradition. As such, the fine ware bowls in the pit, which follow the typological characteristics of the ESA prototype, provide the best dating evidence for the deposit of not before the mid-1<sup>st</sup> century AD.

## Discussion

<sup>19</sup> TOMBER 2006, carinated casserole type 55.

<sup>20</sup> POLUDNIKIEWICZ 1992, p. 100, no. 9.

The five deposits presented here provide the first ceramic assemblages to come from the University of Hawaii mission at Tell Timai. The presentation and discussions of the deposits' contexts are all preliminary in terms of the assessment of the types of contexts they come from and the chronological framework for each. Additionally, the material presented in this article is a small sampling from each context. Even with these caveats, certain attributes for each assemblage stand out and characterize the period to which it belongs. In the most general terms, these attributes can be summarized as follows.

The late Persian period assemblage is characterized by a preponderance of small perfume bottles. This is likely a reflection of the production context from which the assemblages was culled, but is also reflects the burgeoning perfume industry of the mother-city of Mendes. The assemblage also contains a relatively high proportion of vessels in desert marls.<sup>21</sup> The proportion of desert marls in the assemblage is striking only in comparison to the Hellenistic and Roman assemblages, which are dominated by Nile silt and contain hardly any vessels in marls. A possible interpretation of this may be that in pre-Ptolemaic 4<sup>th</sup> century BC, Thmuis-Mendes was more economically connected with the south, where most sources of desert marl pottery are found in Egypt. The paucity of desert marl

vessels in the succeeding Hellenistic and Roman phases may in turn indicate a more northerly, Mediterranean outlook at the site.

The early 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC assemblage from the destruction deposit in Area N6-5 is made up of ceramic forms that suggest the household in which the deposits were found was highly Hellenized. The assemblage includes a rich range of Hellenistic table vessels, including an elaborately painted column krater and many small drinking bowls/cups, both of which are essential for the traditional Greek symposium. Missing in the assemblage, and missing from all Hellenistic levels and fills thus far observed at Tell Timai, is the lagynos, the most characteristic of Hellenistic pouring vessels associated with wine and the Hellenistic symposium. Susan Rotroff has argued that the popularity of lagynoi corresponds with the decreased use of the krater as part of the symposium during the Hellenistic period. She suggests that the personal nature of the lagynos, which may have been used by individuals to bring and consume their own wine at symposia, should be associated with a shift within the social uses of the symposium as an institution, shifts that precluded the need for kraters.<sup>22</sup> The early 2<sup>nd</sup> century assemblage at Timai seems to work against this model, and it may well be that the owners of the assemblage (and perhaps the occupants of Timai, by virtue of an absence of observed lagynoi) chose to practice an older, more traditional symposium, where wine is mixed communally and consumed as part of a formalized, hierarchical social ritual.

Deposit III is poorly placed within the Hellenistic period, though its stratigraphic context indicated that it must predate deposit IV. Typological comparisons of the deposit III assemblage with deposit II and IV suggests that the assemblage represents a separate phase. Most striking, the tall

<sup>21</sup> A more detailed presentation of the Late Persian pottery from Tell Timai will be published separately.

<sup>22</sup> ROTROFF 1996.

painted beakers from deposit III are not present in the late 2<sup>nd</sup> century assemblage, though they are in deposit IV. Similarly, the heavy grey ware table vessels that characterize the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC assemblage of deposit IV are not present in deposit III. The most significant typological development within the assemblage are the tall painted beakers whose advent must be some time in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC. The chronological range of the heavy grey ware in the deposit IV assemblage extends back to at



least the later 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC at Alexandria,<sup>23</sup> which may help narrow the date of deposit III, which lacks the ware, to some time before the later part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC.

The most distinct typological features of the assemblage from deposit IV are the heavy grey ware table vessels and the continuation, with adaptation, of the tall beakers. The frequency with which the grey ware table vessels were found in the deposit and their relatively coarse nature in sandy Nile silt may point to a local production for the ware, though there is currently no other evidence to back up a Thmuisian origin. The beakers in the assemblage are less diverse in decoration than those from deposit III, possibly indicating a formalization of the type in the ceramic corpus at Tell Timai. The fine ware version from the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD in deposit V, with its clean, well-tooled lines that are repeated across multiple examples would seem to back up such an interpretation of the type's developing formalization in the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC.

Deposit V, which likely represents a votive or otherwise cultic offering, is best characterized by the fine bowls, beaker, and pitcher. The hard-fired vessels with carefully slipped and smoothed surfaces and clean lines are a sharp departure from the Hellenistic tradition and admirably reproduce a version of the Early Roman sigillata tradition in Nile silt. The typological character of the fine ware vessels present both new forms that are in line with Early Roman traditions (i.e., the carinated bowls) and echo the later Hellenistic tradition (i.e., the beaker and pitcher).

The five assemblages presented in this preliminary report represent the beginning of a long term study of the pottery at Tell Timai. The first two full excavation seasons of 2010 and 2011 have demonstrated that the tell will produce stratigraphy and associated ceramic deposits. Analysis of the assemblages have identified trends specific to period as well as trends that span multiple periods. Uncertainties remain, especially regarding the Early Roman assemblage, and the Late Roman and Early Christian phases of the site have yet to be encountered. Future analyses and reports hope to fill in the gaps. The long term goal of the ceramic studies at Tell Timai is to recover and identify the sequence of pottery that spans over fifteen hundred years of constant habitation. The preliminary report presented here offers a beginning to what we hope will be a long and fruitful study.

<sup>23</sup> HAYES and HARAULT 2002

Late Period Pottery (Deposit I)

I.1.

Small carinated bowl (O7-12-483; TM10.0256); intact. D. 10; H. 2.5-4.0; D.base 3.5; Wth 0.6. Nile silt with small to medium sized sub-angular lumps of what appears to be lime. Common small elongated voids from chaff. Fired brownish red (2.5YR 5/6). Parallels: Tebtynis, Late Period-beginning Ptolemaic (MARCHAND 1996: fig. 15, p. 180); Tanis, 30th Dynasty (MARCHAND and ROUSSEL 1994: no. 7); el-Muqdam, late 5th c BC (REDMOUNT and FRIEDMAN 1997: fig. 9a).

I.2

Small carinated bowl (O7-12-483; TM10.0257); intact. D. 10; H. 4; D.base 2.5; Wth 0.6. Fabric as 1.

I.3.

Bowl/cup (O7-12-483; TM10.0299); intact. D. 8.5; H. 3.1; D.base 6; Wth. 0.5. Fabric as 1. Parallels: Mendes, "Late Period," (WILSON 1982: XIV.II; Tebtynis, not later than last quarter 4th century BC (MARCHAND 1996: fig. 1); Tanis, 30th Dynasty (MARCHAND and ROUSSEL 1994: no. 8).

I.4.

Bowl/cup (O7-12-483; TM10.0300); one half preserved. D. 6.8; H. 3.2; D.base 4; Wth 0.4. Fabric as 1.

I.5

Large deep bowl (O7-12-483; TM10.0295); multiple sherds preserve whole vessel. D. 22; H. 14.9; D.base 8.5; Wth 0.8. Fabric as 1. Parallels, general shape: Mendes, "Late Period" (WILSON 1982: fig. XVII.4); Tanis, 30th Dynasty (MARCHAND and ROUSSEL 1994: no. 25; Saqqara, first half 4th century BC (FRENCH and GHALY 1991: nos. 57-60.

otherwise plain with sandy texture. Fully fired red (2.5YR 5/8).

Parallels: Saqqara, first half 4th century BC (FRENCH and GHALY 1991: no. 30).

I.7

Small bottle (O7-11-329; TM10.0060 (top), TM10.0065 (base)) non-joining, possibly same vessel. D. 1.9; PH neck 3.5; Wth 0.25; D.base 3.5 PH base 4.3. Very fine desert marl, no visible inclusions, some vitrification of clay particles. Exterior highly polished and fired yellowish red (5YR 6/6).

Parallels: Egypt: Tell el-Herr, generally 4<sup>th</sup>-1<sup>st</sup> century BC (GRATIEN and SOULIÉ 1988: fig. 6.g); Mendes, "Late Period," (WILSON 1982: fig. XVIII.6); Saqqara, first half 4th century BC (FRENCH and GHALY 1991: fig. 38); Thebes, painted versions dated 4th-2nd century BC (SCHREIBER 2003: nos. 60-65). Israel: Tell el-Hesi, Late Persian Period (COOGAN 1975: fig. 8.2).

I.8

Small bottle (O7-11-492; TM10.0264), whole up to neck, missing handle. PH 8.3; D.base 2.9; Wth 0.4. Sandy marl, loosely packed matrix. Fully fired in section, red (5YR 6/4). Exterior fired pale yellow (7.5YR 7/3).

I.9

Small bottle (O6-21?-cleaning; TM10.0269); intact except for missing neck and handle. PH 8.2; D.base 3.6; Wth 0.3. Fabric as 1.

I.10

Casserole with two (?) horizontal handles (O7-12-489; TM10.0304); single large sherd. D. 30; PH 10; Wth 0.8. Hard, sandy Nile silt with few visible inclusions. Fully fired brown (5YR 5/4).

I.6  
Small jar with flaring neck and stump foot (O7-12-493; TM10.0305); near whole. D. 8; H. 12.7; D.base 1.8; Wth 0.4-0.5. Gritty, loosely packed Nile silt with frequent tiny angular white inclusions, possibly crushed shell. Infrequent small angular voids from chaff. Surface smoothed with spatula,

L11  
Cooking bowl with two horizontal ribbon handles (O7-12-493; TM10.0321); 3 large rim sherds preserve aprox. half diam. D. 32; PH 7; Wth. 0.6. Hard, sandy Nile silt with some small rounded white inclusions. Fired dark red (10R 4/6) with thin grey core. Large, irregular patch of black (burning? pigment?) on exterior below rim and horizontal ribbon handle.

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### Hellenistic pottery (Deposit II)

II.1  
Incurved rim bowl (N6-5-1212; TM11.0052); multiple fragments preserve near whole vessel. D. 12-13.5; H. 5.4; D. base 5.4; Wth 0.4. Terra Nigra. Surfaces covered in thick, lustrous black slip.

II.2  
Incurved rim bowl (N6-5-1212; TM11.0061); Several large fragments preserve complete vessel. D. 10.5; H. 4.8; D. base 4.5; Wth 0.7. Moderately well-levigated Nile silt with some small round and sub-angular grey mineral inclusions. Occasional medium-sized white lumps of lime which rupture surface. Small gold flecks of mica present, more visible on surface. Under-fired, moderately soft; brown throughout (7.5YR 5/4). Surfaces plain.

II.3  
Incurved rim bowl (N6-5-1212; TM11.0058); whole vessel. D. 14; H. 6.6; D. base 6.5; Wth 0.5-0.6. Fabric as II.2. Fully fired red (2.5YR 5/6). Interior covered in think matt orange-red slip (2.5YR 5/8). Slip extend to top third of the exterior below the rim.

Parallels: Tebtynis, 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC (BALLET and POŁUDNIKIEWICZ 2012: no. 108).

II.7  
Everted rim bowl (N6-5-1213; TM11.0104); Three large joining sherds preserve near whole vessel. D. 9; H. 3.3; D. base 3.5; Wth 0.4. Fabric as II.2. Interior covered in thin orange-red slip (2.5YR 5/8). Exterior plain.

II.8  
Thickened rim saucer (N6-5-1212; TM11.0064); near whole. D. 18; H. 4; D. base 7; Wth 0.6. Fabric as 2. Fired reddish-brown (2.5YR 4/3). Surfaces smoothed but left plain. Parallels: Tebtynis, 3<sup>rd</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> century BC (BALLET and POŁUDNIKIEWICZ 2012: nos. 177-178).

II.9  
Thickened rim saucer (N6-5-1212; TM11.0054); near whole. D. 18; H. 4.3; D. base 8.5; Wth 0.5-0.7. Fabric similar to 2, slightly finer with fewer inclusions, but with evenly distributed small lumps of lime. Surfaces covered in thin, matt orange-red slip (2.5YR 5/8).

II.4  
Incurved rim bowl, large (N6-5-1212; TM11.0063); whole vessel. D. 26; H. 9.8; D. base 10; Wth. 0.6-1.0. Fabric as II.2. Interior and top third of exterior covered in thin, matt orange-red slip (2.5YR 5/8).

II.5  
Everted rim bowl (N6-5-1212; TM11.0053); multiple fragments preserve approx. 2/3 vessel. D. 17; H. 4.8; D. base 8; Wth 0.4-0.5. Terra Nigra. Surfaces covered in thick, lustrous black slip.

II.6  
Everted rim bowl (N7-3-257; TM10.0188); near whole. Burnt from fire. D. 12; H. 3.4; D. base 5; Wth. 0.4-0.5. Fabric as 2. Entire interior and vertical portion of exterior walls covered in thin, matt red slip (10R 5/6). Bricky Nile silt with many small to medium white and grey mineral inclusions. Many small and medium shallow angular voids from chaff. Thick grey core sandwiched between bands of red (2.5YR 4/8). Interior covered in thin, matt orange-red slip (2.5YR 5/8).

Parallels: Tebtynis, 3<sup>rd</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> century BC (BALLET and POŁUDNIKIEWICZ 2012: nos. 177-178).

II.10  
Thickened rim platter (N7-3-257; TM10.0184 & 186); multiple fragments preserve approx. 1/2 vessel. Burnt from fire. D. 39; H 8.2-8.8; D. base 11. Coarse, bricky Nile silt with many small to medium white and grey mineral inclusions and much vegetable matter. Section fired red (2.5YR 4/8) with thick dark grey core. Interior covered with thin mat red slip (2.5YR 5/8) and covered with many small to large elongated shallow voids from chaff. Exterior surface badly denuded but appears as interior where preserved.  
Parallels: Tebtynis, 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC (BALLET and POŁUDNIKIEWICZ 2012: no. 169).

II.11  
Column krater (N6-5-1212; TM11.0118); multiple fragments preserve entire vessel. D. 25.5; H. 34.5; D. base 12; Wth 0.7. Fabric as 2. Exterior covered in thin matt red slip (2.5YR

5/6). Painted decoration dark reddish-brown (2.5YR 3/4).  
Parallels: Thebes, late 3<sup>rd</sup>-early 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC (SCHREIBER 2003: no. 41)

II.12  
Water jar (?) (N6-5-1212; TM11.0067); multiple fragments preserve entire vessel. D. 12; H. 44.5; D. base 11; Wth 0.7. Sandy, light weight and porous Nile silt, slightly micaceous, common small white lumps of lime (?). Fully fired red (2.5YR 4/6). Top two-thirds of extior and interior of neck covered in thick yellowish-white matt slip (10YR 7/3). Neat, deliberate line where slip terminates on

Parallels: Naukratis, "beveled lip casserole," 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC (BERLIN 1998: 34; fig. 23.11).

II.17  
Casserole lid (N6-5-1213; TM11.0070); many small to medium size joining sherds preserve near whole vessel. D. 29; H 8.5; D. handle 7.5; Wth 0.5-0.7. Fabric as II.2, under-fired, brown (7.5YR 5/4).

II.18  
Cook pot (N7-3-257; TM10.0219); single large rim sherd with handle. D. 17; PH 6.1; Wth 0.4. Fabric as 11. Thin, matt red slip (2.5YR 5/6) present on surviving exterior

the body is accidentally smeared across much of the lower body.

#### II.13

Overhanging rim krater (N7-3-257; TM10.0202); D. 33; PH 7.0; Wth 0.6. Fabric as II.2. Surfaces left plain, but smoothed.

Exterior fired brown (5YR 5/4). Interior fired pale red (2.5YR 5/4).

Parallels: Naukratis, 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC (Berlin 1998: 41, see for general history of the type in and beyond Egypt).

#### II.14

Hemispherical plain ware bowl (N6-5-1213; TM11.0107); Five large joining sherds preserve near complete vessel. D. 16; H 8.6; D. base 6; Wth 0.6-0.7. Fabric as II.2, surfaces plain. Fired reddish-orange (2.5YR 5/6).

#### II.15

Carinated plain ware bowl (N6-5-1211, 1213; TM11.0080); Two large joining sherds. D. 20; PH 6.9; Wth 0.7. Fabric as II.2, surfaces plain. Fired reddish-orange (2.5YR 5/6).

Parallels: Tebtynis, early 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC (BALLET and POŁUDNIKIEWICZ 2012: no. 327).

#### II.16

Casserole (N6-5-1213; TM11.0069); multiple fragments preserve whole vessel. D. 30; H. 10; D. at point of carination 27; Wth 0.6. Nile silt with occasional small angular mineral inclusions. Hard, fully fired orange-red (5YR 5/6). Interior smoothed and covered with thin red slip (2.5YR 6/6) that carries over to top half of the vessel and applied to lower portion. Middle exterior wall left plain.

surface and interior of neck.

Parallels: Naukratis, "Angled rim cooking pot," (BERLIN 1998: fig. 2.16).

## Hellenistic Pottery (Deposit III)

### III.1

Hemispherical bowl (O7-15-1078; TM11.0168); single rim sherd. D. 12 (est.); PH 5.7; Wth 0.6. Sandy Nile silt, light weight and porous. Fired reddish-brown (5YR 5/4) with red core (2.5YR 4/6). Surfaces covered with thin, matt yellow-red slip (5YR 6/6) with a thin band of black applied to the exterior below the rim and on the interior low on the surviving body.

### III.2

Incurved rim bowl (O7-15-1078; TM11.0173); two joining sherds preserve entire profile. D. 22; H. 10.8; D. base 9; Wth 1.0. Bricky Nile silt with frequent small and large angular voids in section. Little chaff. Fired red (2.5YR 4/6) with thick grey core. Surface left plain.

### III.3

Overhanging rim krater (O7-15-1518; TM11.0186); single large rim sherd. D. 32; PH 10; Wth 1.1. Bricky Nile silt with frequent small to medium-sized mineral inclusions, abundant small to medium elongated and rounded voids. Much chaff. Fired brownish-red (5YR 5/6) with thick black core. Exterior of rim covered with thin mat red slip (10R 5/6).

### III.4

Overhanging rim krater (O7-15-1518; TM11.0187); single large rim sherd. D. 28; PH 10.6; Wth 0.9. Bricky Nile silt with frequent small bits of chaff and small bits of lime. Fired brown (7.5YR 5/5) with thick red core (10R 4/6). Interior covered with thin, matt red slip (10R 5/6). Exterior plain. Evidence of burning on interior surface.

### III.5

Pitcher (O7-15-1078; TM11.0162), intact except for handle and denuded foot. D. 7.5; PH 16.6; D. base 6.5 (est.); Wth 0.6. Bricky, porous Nile silt with frequent tiny to small white, red, and black mineral inclusions. Some small chaff. Fired red (2.5YR 4/8) with thin

Parallels: Tebtynis, end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC (BALLET and POŁUDNIKIEWICZ 2012: no. 463).

### III.6

Cook pot (O7-15-1078; TM11.0166); large rim sherd. D. 18; PH 7.7; Wth 0.5. Hard, bricky Nile silt with frequent tiny to small white and grey mineral inclusions and some small chaff. Fired red (10R 4/6) with thin grey core. Exterior covered in thin, matt red slip (10R 5/6). Slip extends over rim to upper portion of interior. Plain interior surface fired brown (5YR 5/4).

### III.7

Cook pot (O7-15-1078; TM11.0165); medium rim sherd. D. 18 (est.); PH 4.7; Wth 0.5. Fabric as 9, but poorly fired, resulting in softer ware and thin black core.

### III.8

Beaker (O7-15-1518; TM11.0182 (base), TM11.0169 (rim)); two non-joining sherds. D. 10; PH rim 7.2; D. base 7.5; PH base 8.5; Wth 0.5. Very hard, clean, densely packed Nile silt, slightly micaceous. Rare small white mineral inclusions and rare medium lumps of lime. Fired reddish-brown (2.5YR 4/4) with thick blue-grey core (GLEY 2 4/10B). Exterior covered smooth, reddish-brown slip (5YR 5/4) that has been carefully smoothed, leaving occasional thin burnishing lines. Painted decoration is dark reddish-brown (10R 3/3).

### III.9

Beaker (O7-15-1078; TM11.0183); single large rim sherd. D. 9; PH 11.3; Wth 0.4. Fabric as III.8. Exterior covered with thin, smoothed, lightly polished red slip (10R 4/6). Painted decoration is black.

### III.10

Beaker (O7-15-1078; TM11.0159); single rim sherd. D. est. 11; PH 4.6; Wth 0.5. Fabric as III.8. Exterior and inner lip covered with thin red slip (2.5YR 5/6) and lightly burnished.

weak red core (10R 5/4). Exterior top two-thirds covered with thin white wash (7.5YR 8/3).

Two thin black horizontal bands carefully applied to upper wall.

### III.11

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Beaker (O7-15-1518; TM11.0184); single rim sherd. D. 11; PH 4.1; Wth 0.4. Fabric similar to III.8, but less densely packed. Fired reddish-brown (5YR 5/6) with thin weak red core (10R 5/4). Exterior completely covered with thin red slip (10R 5/6) that has been lightly burnished. Slip extends to top of interior wall, but is not burnished on interior. Thin bands of black decoration.

### III.12

Beaker (O7-15-1078; TM11.0160); several joining sherds preserve entire profile. D. 9; H. 13; D. base 6.5; Wth 0.5. Brickly, porous Nile silt with common tiny to small angular white mineral inclusions and frequent small chaff. Fully fired red (2.5YR 4/6). Top two-thirds covered with a thin white wash (7.5YR 8/3) that drips down to the foot. Four black bands applied over white wash. The bands of black are thinly applied so that the white wash is clearly visible beneath.

### III.13

Beaker (O7-15-1078; TM11.0172); several joining sherds preserve profile from rim to

foot. D. 9; H. 12.7; D. base 7; Wth 0.7. Fabric and surface treatment as III.12.

### III.14

Beaker (O7-15-1518; TM11.0209); single small rim sherd. D. est. 10; PH 4.7; Wth 0.4. Sandy desert marl. Light pink (5YR 6/4), slightly granular texture with no visible inclusions. Where left plain, surfaces fired yellowish-white (10YR 7/3). Decoration consists of three thin horizontal bands of dark red (10R 3/3), a single thick band of red (10R 4/6) over which is applied irregular pattern of undulating lines in dark red (10R 3/3).

### III.15

Beaker with everted rim (O7-15-1518; TM11.0115); single rim sherd. D. 10; PH 4.3; Wth 0.5. Fabric as III.11. Fired brownish-red (5YR 5/6) with weak red core (10R 5/4). Exterior covered with thin red slip (10R 4/6), lightly burnished. Thin black bands and leaf(?) painted on surface.

Hellenistic pottery (Deposit IV)

IV.1

Incurved rim bowl (O7-14-1014; TM11.0009); single large sherd preserves complete profile. D. 12; H 4.5; D. base 6; Wth 0.5. Hard, sandy Nile silt with dark grey core. Surfaces smoothed with a dull self slip fired dark brownish red (10R 4/4).

Parallels: Tebtynis, late 2<sup>nd</sup>-early 1<sup>st</sup> century BC (BALLET and POŁUDNIKIEWICZ 2012: no. 49, in form only).

IV.2

‘Footed bell cup’ (O7-15-1014; TM11.0039); single large sherd preserves complete profile. D. 10; H. 5.5; D. base 4; Wth 0.3. Clean, well-packed Nile silt with some tiny silver mica scattered throughout. Fired red in section (2.5YR 4/6). All surfaces carefully smoothed and bear a thin, dull slip that binds with the body. Fired brownish-red (2.5YR 4/4).

Parallels: Alexandria, late 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC (HAYES and HARLAUT 2002: fig. 14).

IV.6

Knob rim dish (O7-15-1014; TM11.0003); approx. 2/3 vessel. D. 18; H. 4.8; D. base 6; Wth 0.7-1.5. Nile silt with fine sandy texture and occasional large vegetable matter. Surface covered in thin, mat slip that bonds with the surface. Interior surface lightly burnished, exterior left rough. Surfaces fired dark grey. Parallels: Tebtynis, shape only, Ptolemaic (BALLET and POŁUDNIKIEWICZ 2012: no. 179).

IV.7

Large knob rim dish (O7-15-1064; TM11.0138); single large sherd preserves profile from rim to foot. D. 22; H. 4; D. base 11; Wth 1.0. Fabric as IV.6. Interior smoothed,



Parallels: In form only, ESA *Atlante II* form 42 (ca. 10 BC-AD 20/30); Athens, in contexts dated 75-1 BC (HAYES 2008, nos. 117-119); Tebtynis, mid-Ptolemaic-1<sup>st</sup> century AD (BALLET and POŁUDNIKIEWICZ 2012: nos. 113-116).

#### IV.3

Dish with knob rim (O7-15-1050; TM11.0134); single sherd preserved complete profile. D. 18.5; H. 3.6; D. base 8; Wth 0.8. Well levigated Nile silt, fully fired. Moderately thick slip on interior, lightly burnished and cracked on surface. Slip fired brownish-red (2.5YR 4/4).

#### IV.4

Imitation ESA *Atlante II* form 3 (O7-15-1014; TM11.0010); small rim sherd. D. 22; PH 3.2; Wth 0.5. Finely levigated Nile silt, fully fired. Surfaces covered with thin, evenly applied brownish-red slip (2.5YR 4/4) that has been lightly burnished. Parallels: form similar to ESA *Atlante II* form 3, late 2<sup>nd</sup>-late 1<sup>st</sup> century BC.

#### IV.5

Large carinated bowl; (O7-15-1014; TM11.0002); several joining sherds preserve approx. 2/3 vessel. D. 22; H. 5.3; D. base 12; Wth 1.0. Fabric as 6. Interior smoothed, exterior left rough. Surfaces fired dusky grey-green (5Y 4/2).

exterior left rough. Surfaces fully fired deep reddish-brown (2.5YR 3/3). Larger inclusions pulled across lower exterior, abrading lower wall.

Parallels: Alexandria, late 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC (HAYES and HARLAUT 2002: fig. 12-13).

#### IV.8

Large knob rim dish (O7-15-1064; TM11.0135); single large sherd preserves profile from rim to foot. D. 30.5; H. 6; D. base 18; Wth 1.4. Fabric as IV.6. Interior smoothed, exterior left rough. Surfaces fully fired brown (7.5YR 4/3)..

Parallels: Alexandria, late 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC (HAYES and HARLAUT 2002: fig. 12-13).

#### IV.9

Large knob rim dish (O7-15-1050; TM11.0133); two large joining sherds preserve profile from rim to foot. D. 34; H. 5.3; D. base 22; Wth 1.2. Fabric as IV.6. Interior smoothed, exterior left rough. Surfaces fully fired dark grey. Larger inclusions pulled across lower exterior, abrading surface of foot.

#### IV.10

Large knob rim dish (O7-15-1014; TM11.0001); single large sherd preserves rim to foot. D. 31; H 5.2; D. base 16; Wth 1.0. Fabric as IV.6. Interior smoothed, exterior left rough. Fired fully dark grey.

Parallels: Alexandria, late 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC (HAYES and HARLAUT 2002: fig. 12-13).

#### IV.11

Pitcher (O7-15-1014; TM11.0023); single sherd preserves approx. 1/2 vessel. D. base 4; PH 9.3; Wth 0.3. Fabric as 21 with thick red

PH 11.7; Wth 0.5. Hard, gritty Nile silt with small mineral temper. Fired brown (5YR 4/4) with thick red core (10R 4/6). Exterior smoothed and fired red (2.5YR 5/4).

Parallels: Alexandria, “marmite à collerette,” 1<sup>st</sup> century BC (HARLAUT 1998: 74, pl. 23-24); Coptos, late 2<sup>nd</sup>-early 1<sup>st</sup> century BC

core (2.5YR 4/6). Exterior wet-smoothed and fired pale reddish-brown (5YR 5/4). Form and fabric similar to intact pitcher from infant burial (see no. IV.24).

#### IV.12

Beaker (O7-15-1014; TM11.0051); 4 joining sherds preserve rim to point of carination. D. 11; PH 11.3; Wth 0.3-0.5. Clean, well-packed, slightly sandy Nile silt. Fired red (10R 5/6) with thin grey core. Thin, slightly lustrous red slip (2.5YR 4/6) applied to exterior and upper portion of interior. Bands of dark red (2.5YR 3/4) and cream colored (7.5YR 7/4) paint. Parallels: Tebtynis, second half 3<sup>rd</sup>-beginning 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC (BALLET and POŁUDNIKIEWICZ 2012: nos. 531-532).

#### IV.13

Beaker (O7-15-1014; TM11.0042); single large sherd preserves profile from rim to foot. D. 10; H 13.2; D. base 8.5; Wth 0.5. Hard, bricky Nile silt with frequent small white lumps of lime (?). Fired red (2.5YR 4/6) with thin light red core (10R 5/4). Surfaces plain except for thin burnishing lines irregularly spaced and applied. Surface fired dusky red (10R 4/4).

#### IV.14

Lid (O7-15-1014; TM11.0014); single sherd preserves approx. 1/2 vessel. D. 16; H 6.3; D. base/handle 5; Wth 0.5. Hard, sandy Nile silt with frequent small to medium voids from chaff. Surfaces plain. Fully fired red (10R 3/6).

#### IV.15

Lid (O7-15-1014; TM11.0037); approx. 2/3 vessel preserved. D. 11; H 4.5-5.3; D. base/handle 4.5; Wth 0.7. Nile silt with much small chaff and frequent small sub-angular white inclusions. Surfaces plain. Fired brown (7.5YR 5/5).

#### IV.16

Cook pot (O7-15-1014; TM11.0021); three sherds preserve rim to shoulder. D. 16 (est.);

(HERBERT and BERLIN 2003: H3.39-41); TEBTYNIS, second half 3<sup>rd</sup>-beginning 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC (BALLET and POŁUDNIKIEWICZ 2012: nos. 264-288).

#### IV.17

Cook pot (O7-15-1014; TM11.0019); single sherd preserves rim to shoulder and handle. D. 11 (est.); PH 7.1; Wth 0.4-0.5. Fabric as 19. Fired red (10R 4/4) with weak red core (10R 5/4). Parallels: as IV.16

#### IV.18

Lid (O7-15-1014; TM11.0015); single large sherd preserves approximately 1/2 of vessel. D. 18; H 5.4; D. handle 6; Wth 0.9. Nile silt with abundant small chaff. Section fired red throughout (10R 5/6). Surfaces fired brownish pink (5YR 5/6).

#### IV.19

Casserole (O7-15-1014; TM11.0044); single large sherd preserves rim, handle, and point of carination. D.22; PH 7.8; Wth 0.5-0.6. Hard, bricky Nile silt with some small chaff and tiny silver mica throughout. Occasional small white sub-angular lumps in section (lime?). Section fired red (10R 4/6). Surfaces fired reddish brown (2.5YR 4/4).

#### IV.20

Amphora (O7-15-1014; TM11.0031); D. 12; PH 7.6; Wth 0.8. Coarse Nile silt with abundant chaff. Section fired red (2.5YR 4/4). Exterior fired brown (7.5YR 4/4). Parallels: Buto, 2<sup>nd</sup>-1<sup>st</sup> century BC (HARTUNG ET AL. 2003, Abb. 20,2).

#### IV.21

Amphora (O7-15-1014; TM11.0032); D. 14; PH 10.8; Wth 0.9. Fabric as IV.20. Surface fired pale reddish-pink (7.5YR 6/4). Parallels: Buto, 2<sup>nd</sup>-1<sup>st</sup> century BC (HARTUNG ET AL. 2003, Abb. 20,2).

#### IV.22

Amphora (O7-15-1014; TM11.0050); D. 12; PH 15.3; Wth 0.8-0.9. Hard bricky Nile silt with some medium white lime inclusions and tiny silver mica visible in section and on surface. Fired red (10R 5/6) with thick grey core.

Parallels: Buto, 2<sup>nd</sup>-1<sup>st</sup> century BC (HARTUNG ET AL. 2003, Abb. 21,2).

#### IV.23

Amphora/jar (O7-15-1014; TM11.0030); D. 10 ; PH 9.2 ; Wth 0.4. Poorly fired Nile silt with abundant small chaff. Section brown (7.5YR 4/4). Exterior and upper portion of interior covered in orangish-brown slip (7.5YR 6/4).

#### Burial

#### IV.21.

Pitcher (R13-1-1717; TM11.0083); intact except for small chips on rim  
D. 4.5; H 12.8; D. base 4.2; Wth 0.3. Well-levigated Nile silt with occasional small sub-angular lumps of lime, which occasionally rupture the surface. Exterior wet-smoothed and fired red (2.5YR 4/6) with mottling to brown (7.5YR 5/4).

#### IV.5.

Small carinated bowl (R13-1-1717; TM11.0082); intact  
D. 13.5; H. 4.5; D. base 5.5; Wth 0.6. Nile silt with fine sandy texture. Surface covered in thin, mat slip that bonds with the surface. Interior surface lightly burnished, leaving thin burnishing lines. Fired completely dark grey.  
Parallels: Alexandria, late 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC (HAYES and HARLAUT 2002: fig. 14).

Late Hellenistic/Early Roman Pottery (Deposit V)

V.1

Carinated bowl (R13-1-1724; TM11.0656); intact. D. 13.5; H. 5.7; D. base 6.5. Surfaces carefully smoothed and covered in thin, matt red slip (2.5YR 4/6). Slip covers entire interior and exterior except for lower portion of walls below point of carination and the foot. Unslipped surfaces fired dark red (10R 4/6). Parallels: Imitation ESA *Atlante II* form 39, ca. AD 60-80/100 (HAYES 1985: tav.V.16); form similar to Mons Claudianus, Trajanic (TOMBER 2006: fig. 1.46:73-659).

V.2

Carinated bowl (R13-1-1727; TM11.0124), whole vessel. D. 17.5; H. 6.5; D. base 9; Wth 0.5. Very hard fired, well-levigated Nile silt. Matrix densely packed with few small sub-angular bits of lime that occasionally rupture the surface. Section fired light grey (GLEY 2 5/5 PB). Interior carefully smoothed and covered in thin, matt red slip (2.5YR 4/6). Exterior less evenly slipped from rim to foot, color same. Interior and vertical portion of exterior surfaces lightly and irregularly

V.6

Beaker, coarse (R13-1-1727; TM11.0154); medium rim sherd. D. 10; PH 3.3; Wth 0.3. Hard, slightly bricky Nile silt with some small chaff. Thick grey core. Surfaces covered in thin, matt red slip (10R 4/5). A thick bank of white wash is applied to the exterior just below the rim.

V.7

Pitcher (R13-1-1727; TM11.0126); near whole. D. 8; H. 16-7; D. base 8.3; Wth 0.4. Fabric as 2. Exterior surface covered in thin red slip (2.5YR 4/6) from rim to foot. Irregular burnishing of upper half of the exterior leaves thin polished bands.

V.8

Carinated casserole (R13-1-1727; TM11.0136). D. 21; PH 8.3; Wth 0.7. Well-levigated, well-packed and hard fired Nile silt. Fired red (2.5 YR 4/6) with thin grey core. Parallels: Mons Claudianus (TOMBER 2006: carinated casserole type 55), mid-1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup>

burnished, leaving thin burnishing streaks.

#### V.3

Carinated bowl (R13-1-1727; TM11.0127); whole vessel. D. 18; H. 7.2; D. base 9.5; Wth 0.5. Fabric and surface treatment as V.2.

#### V.4

Carinated bowl (R13-1-1727; TM11.0123); whole vessel. D. 17; H. 7.1; D. base 9; Wth 0.5. Fabric and surface treatment as V.2.

#### V.5

Beaker, fine (R13-1-1727; TM11.0125); whole vessel. D. 10.8; H. 9.7; D. base 8.1; Wth 0.3-0.4. Fabric as V.2. Exterior covered in thin, matt red slip (2.5YR 4/6), which extends over rim to upper portion of interior. Occasional drips of slip present on interior walls.

Parallels: Mons Claudianus, Trajanic (TOMBER 2006: fig. 1.38:16-532).

century AD.

#### V.9

Painted amphora (R13-1-1727; TM11.0132); multiple sherds preserve complete profile except rim. PH Neck, shoulder, and body 33.5; PH base 9.1; D. base 14; Wth 0.9. Nile silt with frequent small to medium-sized bits of chaff. Occasional large lumps of lime. Dark grey core, surfaces fired red (2.5YR 4/4). Decorated in black and white bands, vines, and arches.

#### V.10

Painted basin (R13-1-1727 and 1729; TM11.0196); several joining large rim and body sherds. D. 32; PH 20.4; Wth 1.8. Fabric as 11. Surface decorated with black and white bands, wave pattern, and swooshes.

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FIGURE 1: A) Map of the Nile Delta with Tell Timai inset; B) Attic Red Figure from Deposit I context.

FIGURE 2: Deposit I, later 4<sup>th</sup> century BC

FIGURE 3: Deposit II, early 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC



FIGURE 4: Deposit II, early 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC

FIGURE 5: Deposit III, 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC

FIGURE 6: Deposit III, 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC

FIGURE 7: Deposit IV, 1<sup>st</sup> century BC





FIGURE 8: Deposit IV, 1<sup>st</sup> century BC

FIGURE 9: Deposit V, 1<sup>st</sup> century AD

FIGURE 10: Deposit V, 1<sup>st</sup> century AD