

EGYPTIAN POTTERY FROM THE MIDDLE BRONZE AGE LEVANT IN CONTEXT

Chiara Pappalardo - University of Catania

The contribution aims at a reassessment of Egyptian and Egyptianizing pottery from stratified assemblages in the MBA Levant in light of the high chronology supported by the recent 'radiocarbon revolution'. The archaeological context of so-called 'key-types' that allowed previous cross-dates, together with the methods adopted for absolute dating, will be critically evaluated in order to avoid circular reasoning. The study will then attempt a regional synthesis integrating the examined artifacts with the radiocarbon chronology, the historical chronology of Egypt, and the relative sequence of cultural developments of the MBA Levant.

Keywords: Levant; Middle Bronze Age; chronology; Egyptian imports; pottery

1. INTRODUCTION

A coherent chronological framework is the *sine qua non* for the reconstruction of historical narratives. Several research projects have aimed at defining an interregional chronology of the first half of the second millennium BCE in Egypt and the Eastern Mediterranean based mainly on stylistic parallels from stratified assemblages of material culture, but while there is substantial agreement on regional relative sequences, absolute chronology is the subject of ongoing discussion.¹ The beginning of this phase in the Levantine corridor (MB I, known previously as MB IIA)² marked a major cultural unity of urban development.³ While a greater degree of continuity characterizes the urban centers of the so-called Northern Levant,⁴ a more integrated settlement system gradually emerged in the south through processes of societal reorganization and resilience,⁵ following a regional pattern that resulted in a dendritic system of centers with special social and economic functions related to their hinterlands.⁶ Settlement distribution along the major trade routes, together with textual and archaeological evidence, suggest that the network of international relationships played a paramount role in these developments.⁷ A 'low' (e.g., more recent) absolute chronology of these events has been suggested based on stratigraphic cross-dates between the site of Tell el-Dab'a, on the eastern Nile Delta, and key-sites of the Syro-Palestinian area,⁸ shifting the transition from the MB I to the MB II and the subsequent MB III (previously known, respectively, as MB IIB and MB IIC), which saw the apex in terms

¹ See, e.g., Höflmayer 2017 contra Ben-Tor 2018.

² The archaeological phases of the Middle Bronze Age Levant are named according to the modern terminology (MB I, II and III: see Sharon 2014).

³ Dever 1987; Ilan 1995.

⁴ Morandi Bonacossi 2014.

⁵ D'Andrea 2014; Cohen 2017.

⁶ Cohen 2002.

⁷ Marcus 2019.

⁸ Bader 2003; Bader *et al.* 2009; Ben-Tor 2004; Bietak 1989, 97; Doumet-Serhal 2006b; Forstner-Müller-Kopetzky 2006; Forstner-Müller - Kopetzky - Doumet-Serhal 2006; Kopetzky 2011, 2012, 2015; Kopetzky - Forstner-Müller 2009; Marcus *et al.* 2008; Stager - Voss 2011.

of size and number of fortified cities,⁹ of 90 to 120 years later than the traditional chronology.¹⁰ The supposed low chronology placed the end of the Middle Bronze Age between the early 18th Dynasty and the Thutmosid period, hinting at a possible connection of the recurrent destructions of the final MB III with the military campaigns of the Thutmosid kings.¹¹ In recent years, an independent, radiocarbon-backed ‘high’ (e.g., more ancient) chronology has challenged this picture, gaining support by ¹⁴C dates from Tell el-Dab’a itself, with an offset 120 years ca. higher than the historical chronology.¹² Radiocarbon dates modeled through a Bayesian probability approach, which agree substantially at a growing number of Levantine sites,¹³ seem to corroborate this evidence. The new data, coupled with comparative assessment of the material culture, indicate in fact a MB I/II transition around 1800 BCE, a MB II/III transition about 1700 BCE, and different regional trajectories of the MB III, which seems to draw to a close up to a century earlier in some settlements, before the start of the New Kingdom in Egypt.¹⁴

Egyptian specialized products imported in the Levant¹⁵ such as pottery, scarabs, sealings, and an extraordinary abundance of stone vessels, have long been regarded as anchors connecting the relative chronology of the Middle Bronze Age Levant to the political history of Egypt¹⁶. These classes of finds need to be reassessed in light of the ‘radiocarbon revolution’ that, with its unprecedented wealth of scientific data from both Egypt and the greater Levant¹⁷, is remodeling our perception of the cultural history of the Eastern Mediterranean and the Near East. In fact, a major argument supporting the low chronology is that radiocarbon dates are in gross conflict with the archaeological record, mainly represented by Egyptian seriation.¹⁸ To tackle this problem, the contribution will present the corpus of Egyptian and Egyptianizing pottery from the Levant¹⁹ following a regional perspective (fig. 1); find typological parallels to the discussed types, which have been redrawn in comparative tables (figs. 2, 3, 4); and compare the time span of their

⁹ Burke 2008.

¹⁰ Bietak 2013. For the ‘traditional’ chronology, see Dever 1985, 1991.

¹¹ For discussion, see Höflmayer 2019.

¹² When using the high chronology of the Middle Kingdom: Kutschera *et al.* 2012.

¹³ Marcus 2003; Fall - Falconer - Höflmayer 2020; Höflmayer 2017; 2019; 2021.

¹⁴ Höflmayer *et al.* 2016a; 2016b; Höflmayer 2019; Fall - Falconer - Höflmayer 2020.

¹⁵ A major contribution on Egyptian evidence from the Levant in the MBA is in Mourad 2015, 147-185.

¹⁶ Helck 1971; Weinstein 1975; Bietak 1989, 97; Bader 2003; Ben-Tor - Ruhama 2004; Forstner-Müller - Kopetzky - Doumet-Serhal 2006; Doumet-Serhal 2006b; Forstner-Müller - Kopetzky 2006; 2009; Marcus *et al.* 2008; Bader *et al.* 2009; Stager - Voss 2011; Kopetzky 2010-2011; 2011; 2012; 2015b.

¹⁷ Fall - Falconer - Höflmayer 2020; Höflmayer 2017; 2019; 2021; Kutschera *et al.* 2012; Mannings *et al.* 2014; Marcus 2003.

¹⁸ Especially with scarabs and clay seals attributed to the 13th Dynasty, and with the ceramic seriation from Tell el-Dab’a: Bietak 2013; Ben-Tor 2018; Ben-Tor - Bell 2018; Bietak 2020.

¹⁹ Each vessel or sherd is briefly described with the nomenclature of Middle Kingdom shapes in Schiestl - Seiler 2012. For Marl C ceramics, B. Bader types (Bader 2001) are also included, and K. Kopetzky *Formen* (Kopetzky 2004; 2010) are reported for parallels from Tell el-Dab’a. For the ceramic fabric, I refer to the widely affirmed Vienna System (Nordstrom - Borriau 1993). An exception is the Marl DAN E3 fabric, which is not classified in the Vienna System: Seiler 2005, 35.

circulation with the radiocarbon-backed chronology of the Levant²⁰ and the historical chronology of Egypt.²¹ In order to avoid circular reasoning, we will look critically at the method used to date the context of the finds, and finally seek to integrate in a comprehensive synoptic table (tab. 1) the radiocarbon chronology with the historical chronology of Egypt and the relative, artifact-based chronology of the Levant.

2. THE CORPUS OF EGYPTIAN POTTERY FROM THE LEVANT: AN OVERVIEW

2.1 *The Southern Coastal Plain*

Egyptian pottery comes from the Middle Bronze Age strata in the North Slope of Ashkelon,²² where archaeology has uncovered a sequence of four gates and fortification systems with earthen freestanding ramparts and dry moats.²³ The majority are Marl C²⁴ closed vessels, more robust than the Nile clay types and particularly suitable to transportation,²⁵ but there are also cooking pots, bowl rims, imitations²⁶ and hybrid types.²⁷ The repertoire falls within five phases (14-10) attributed to the MB I, II and III.²⁸ Radiocarbon dates from phases 11 (1770-1683 cal. BCE, with an offset of roughly a century compared to the chronology based on the synchronization with dynastic Egypt through Tell el-Dab'a.²⁹) and 10 (1611-1453 cal. BCE),³⁰ attributed respectively to the MB II and III, provide a *terminus ante quem*. The ashy layer of Moat 21,³¹ contemporary with the first gate, provided the material to assess the absolute chronology of Ashkelon in the MB I, in particular more than forty clay seals and imported pottery wares that would make the phase broadly contemporaneous with the beginning of the 13th Dynasty.³² From Phase 14 is the rim of a Marl C Egyptian *zir*,³³ corresponding to Bader type 5, found in Tell el-Dab'a strata G/4 and G/1-3.³⁴ Similar shapes are known also from the West Block Refuse

²⁰ The model proposed for this comparison is the one presented in Höflmayer 2017. The historical chronology of dynastic Egypt adopted for the comparison is the radiocarbon-backed model supporting the high Middle Kingdom chronology (Kitchen 2000; Bronk Ramsey *et al.* 2010; Bronk Ramsey - Shortland 2013).

²¹ The historical chronology of dynastic Egypt adopted for the comparison is the radiocarbon-backed model supporting the high Middle Kingdom chronology (Kitchen 2000; Bronk Ramsey *et al.* 2010; Bronk Ramsey - Shortland 2013).

²² Stager - Voss 2011; Stager - Schloen - Voss 2018.

²³ Voss 2002; Stager *et al.* 2008; Stager - Schloen - Voss 2018.

²⁴ Corresponding to fabric II-c at Tell el-Dab'a: Czerny 1999, 47-50.

²⁵ Marcus *et al.* 2008, 205.

²⁶ Stager - Voss 2011, 124, pl. 2:4.

²⁷ See the *Schalen mit rotem Kreuz* in Stager - Voss 2011, 121-124.

²⁸ Stager - Voss 2011.

²⁹ Bietak *et al.* 2008.

³⁰ Bruins - van der Plicht 2017.

³¹ Needs to recall here what has been noted by F. Höflmayer: «Although the context was published as being an 'ashy fill' of the moat (Stager *et al.* 2008, 224), in a recent paper it was claimed that 'the ash was an intentional lining of the sandstone moat' and not a 'moat fill' (Stager - Voss 2011, 126, n.1). [...] It seems clear that the objects are in secondary or tertiary position and thus are not suitable for a detailed synchronization with finely stratified settlement material such as that from Tell el-Dab'a» (Höflmayer 2015, 286). See also Cohen 2017, 36.

³² Bietak *et al.* 2008; Stager *et al.* 2008; Stager - Schloen - Voss 2018.

³³ Stager - Voss 2011, 121, pl. 1:3.

³⁴ E.g. Bader 2001, 167, fig. 48:d; 170, fig. 49:a.

Deposit in Abydos-South³⁵ and especially from a habitation layer at Lisht North,³⁶ giving a chronology from the final Senwosret III to the 13th Dynasty. Three sherds of Marl C store jar³⁷ (fig. 3:1) have been defined as Bader type 46, with corrugated neck and ovoid body. In Tell el- Dab'a the type seem to span from the second half of the 13th Dynasty to the Second Intermediate Period.³⁸ The body evolves from bag-shaped to ovoid, but since it is often missing, the classification is largely based on rims, and in particular on the uppermost horizontal groove, which tends to slide down in the most recent specimens.³⁹ In such cases it is also virtually impossible to distinguish between this type and the previous type 47, except maybe for a larger diameter of the last one.⁴⁰ If we take into account also the neck orientation, the examples quoted as parallels from Tell el- Dab'a look substantially more everted, almost funnel-like. The Ashkelon sherds have a neck visibly curved inward, maybe closer to an example from 12th Dynasty Elephantine⁴¹ (fig. 3:4), to jars roughly dated to Senwosret I from Abu Ziyar,⁴² and examples from the ceramic complex 6 of the Pyramid of Amenemhet III at Dahshur⁴³ (fig. 3:5). The sherds, consistent with the commingled nature of a fill, could thus have been in use already from Senwosret I and do not support a more accurate synchronization with the beginning of the 13th Dynasty.

From a fill attributed to phase 13⁴⁴ (end of the MB I-transitional MB I-II) is a sherd of a Marl C Egyptian *zir*⁴⁵ described as Bader Type 4/5, but with a more elongated body. A piece of Bader type 46 Marl C store jar from the same phase is more everted than the previous ones⁴⁶ (fig. 3:2). A similar example comes from the late 12th-13th Dynasty fortress at Askut⁴⁷ (fig. 3:6), so that for this type one could suggest either a regional or chronological difference.⁴⁸ Nevertheless, comparisons of the Egyptian sherds do not support a fix date to the half of the 13th Dynasty.

To phase 11, contemporary with Gate 4, belong the sherds of Egyptian *zirs*⁴⁹ found in Street 90, leading from the Footgate to the house identified as the 'Sanctuary of the Silver Calf'.⁵⁰ These have been confronted by the excavators to Bader Type 7 series of water jars, for which a date to Hyksos period was proposed. The shape of the tall and everted rim, though, closely resembles the large Marl C jar or bottle from the Egyptian ceramic assemblage of the 13th Dynasty habitation layer at Lisht North.⁵¹

³⁵ Wegner 2000, 95, fig. 9:34.

³⁶ Arnold - Arnold - Allen 1995, 23, fig. 5:7.

³⁷ Stager - Voss 2011, 121, pl. 1:1.

³⁸ Bader 2001, 128, fig. 29:i, j, k, l.

³⁹ Bietak 1991, 37, fig. 8.

⁴⁰ Bader 2002, 34.

⁴¹ Rzeuska 1999, 200-201, fig. 44:5.

⁴² Darnell - Manassa Darnell 2016, 33, fig. 6:b.

⁴³ Arnold 1982, 32, fig. 8:10, 12.

⁴⁴ Stager - Voss 2011, 122.

⁴⁵ Stager - Voss 2011, 121, pl. 1:5.

⁴⁶ Stager - Voss 2011, 121, pl. 1:4.

⁴⁷ Schiestl - Seiler 2012, 617, II.E.16.b.1:18.

⁴⁸ Bader 2002, 34.

⁴⁹ Stager - Voss 2011, 121, pl. 1:9.

⁵⁰ Stager - Voss 2011, 122-123.

⁵¹ Arnold - Arnold - Allen 1995, 23, fig. 5:8.

In phase 10 the Footgate with the corridor, the street and the Sanctuary of the Silver Calf were buried by rampart fills.⁵² The duration of this phase of the North Slope, although attributed by the excavator to the final MBA because of its association to Tell el- Dab'a, seems uncertain for the long period of disuse and erosion before the construction of a new rampart in the Iron I.⁵³ Notably, the rim of an Egyptian jar found on the summit of the Northern Slope has not been published for comparisons, but it was defined as a late Bader type 46,⁵⁴ reflecting either the prolonged diffusion of pottery that cannot be assumed as exact chronological indicators, or the extremely commingled nature of the fill layers in this part of the tell, with both residual and intrusive material.

Egyptian and Egyptianizing pottery from Tell el-'Ajjul has recently been examined by K. Kopetzky.⁵⁵ The corpus comprises 79 shapes that her parallels with Tell el-Dab'a place especially at the beginning of the 18th Dynasty,⁵⁶ as in the case of Petrie's type 31Y20,⁵⁷ ovoid *zirs* with «*out-turned, elongated and folded rims that were trimmed at the top*».⁵⁸ This consideration led the pottery expert to propose a dating for Palace I of Tell el-'Ajjul to the second half of the MB III.⁵⁹ However, as noted by H. Winter,⁶⁰ these finds lack reliable contextual information due to Petrie's pottery recording, so that the types cannot be adopted as secure indicators to date the different phases of the architectural complex at Tell el-'Ajjul. Winter's reanalysis of Palace I within its broader regional context, instead, supports a late MB I date for this courtyard palace.⁶¹ Diagnostic sherds of Egyptian or Egyptian-style piriform jars and a shallow bowl have been identified in Trech 7 of the 1999-2000 joint Palestinian Swedish expedition. The sherds belong to three phases predating the Thera eruption, Horizon (H) 6, 7 and 8, that seem to fit within the cultural facies of the MB III.⁶² As the project has come to an abrupt halt, these finds have only generally been described as belonging to the Hyksos period, and to its first half in the case of a juglet in H8.⁶³

2.2. The Sharon Plain

At Tel Ifshar radiocarbon analyses have provided absolute dates for the transition between the MB I and the transitional MB I-II phase, which falls around the late 19th or early 18th century BCE.⁶⁴ Egyptian imports, including *zirs*, globular jars and bottles, come from four successive general phases (A, B, C1 and C2) in the Area C *Mittelsaalhaus* complex.⁶⁵ Since in-depth typological comparisons have been recently published,⁶⁶ only

⁵² Stager - Schloen - Voss 2018.

⁵³ Stager - Schloen - Voss 2018.

⁵⁴ Stager - Voss 2011, 123.

⁵⁵ Kopetzky 2011.

⁵⁶ Kopetzky 2011.

⁵⁷ Winter 2018, 16-17; tabs.1, 3.

⁵⁸ Kopetzky 2011, 207.

⁵⁹ Kopetzky 2011, 209.

⁶⁰ Winter 2018, 16-17.

⁶¹ Winter 2018

⁶² Fischer - Sadeq 2002, 133- 134.

⁶³ Fischer 2009, 257.

⁶⁴ Marcus 2013 with bibliography. For discussion, see also Höflmayer 2015; 2017.

⁶⁵ Marcus *et al.* 2008; Marcus 2013.

the types that we have not encountered yet will be recalled. To Phase A 'late'⁶⁷ has been attributed a Marl A4⁶⁸ sherd from below a floor. It was part of the rim and neck of a bottle⁶⁹ with links to globular bottles with rounded base, and it has a parallel in an example from the cemetery of El-Kab (tomb 121), which was fine dated between the late Senwosret I and Senwosret III.⁷⁰ Only to the general development between Senwosret I and Amenemhet III could be attributed the body of a small globular jar of sandy Marl C missing its upper part.⁷¹ To Phase B belong the sherds of an Egyptian globular jar of Marl DAN E3 fabric⁷² (fig. 4:1) with few close parallels in Egypt, all dating to the first half of the 12th Dynasty,⁷³ and a longer circulation in Nubia⁷⁴ (fig. 4:3-5). From the same context are another small globular jar of Marl C2 fabric with a shorter neck⁷⁵ and the fragments of a Marl C1 zir with bag-shaped body, flat base and squat rim of rounded triangular shape⁷⁶ (fig. 2:1). The first, with the round and moderately elongated rim, has no exact parallels with a secure date, but its rim type appears from the reign of Amenemhet III to the early 13th Dynasty in slightly larger examples.⁷⁷ *Zirs* with squat rim of a rounded triangular shape seem to appear first in the second decade of the reign of Senwosret I and circulate until the first half of the 13th Dynasty⁷⁸ (fig. 2:3-4). Parallels for this rim have been found also in the Western Nile Delta, in the late First Intermediate Period/early Middle Kingdom settlement of Abu Ghâlib⁷⁹, where the rounded type and the more angular rim come from the same context.⁸⁰ A duration of this settlement into the late 12th Dynasty has been suggested by comparing the Marl C *zirs* from Trench A2 at the site with the material from Tell el-Dab'a,⁸¹ but the examination of design seals from the excavation seemed to strongly support the previous, early dating.⁸² Recent stratigraphic analyses⁸³ collocate within the destruction of the new building of Phase C a complete Egyptian bottle of Marl A3 fabric⁸⁴ (fig. 4:2). The shape (round-based, ovoid and with a narrow neck) has been associated with a group of Upper Egyptian bottles whose time span is Amenemhet II - Senwosret III (fig. 4:6). Thus, the last year of this

⁶⁶ Marcus *et al.* 2008.

⁶⁷ Marcus 2013, 185.

⁶⁸ Corresponding to fabric II-a at Tell el-Dab'a: Czemy 1999, 47-50.

⁶⁹ Marcus *et al.* 2008, 207, fig. 2:2.

⁷⁰ Schiestl - Seiler 2012, 409, II.A.10:1.

⁷¹ Marcus *et al.* 2008, 207, fig. 2:3. For example of this type, see e.g., Arnold 1988, 134, fig. 74:183-184; Schiestl - Seiler 2012, 386, II.A.3.b.2:4.

⁷² Marcus *et al.* 2008, 207, fig. 3:1.

⁷³ Schiestl - Seiler 2012, 397, II.A.7.b:1, 2.

⁷⁴ Schiestl - Seiler 2012, 397, II.A.7.b:3.

⁷⁵ Marcus *et al.* 2008, 208, fig. 3:2.

⁷⁶ Marcus *et al.* 2008, 208, fig. 3:3.

⁷⁷ Schiestl - Seiler 2012, 386, II.A.3.b; 397, II.A.7.b:2.

⁷⁸ Bader 2001, 16. For parallels, see Schiestl - Seiler 2012, 591, II.E.13.c:4; 595, II.E.13.d:10.

⁷⁹ Bagh 2002, 61, fig. 10.

⁸⁰ Trench A2: Bagh 2002, 39, 60-61.

⁸¹ Bagh 2002.

⁸² Bagh 2004; Ben-Tor - Ruhama 1998.

⁸³ Marcus 2013.

⁸⁴ Marcus *et al.* 2008, 211, fig. 2.

pharaoh has been suggested as possible *terminus ante quem* for the phase.⁸⁵ The decorative features on the bottle, consisting in clay rolls attached to the neck and lines incised on the shoulder, have a slightly wider chronology from the reign of Senwosret I to the 13th Dynasty⁸⁶ (fig. 4:7).

2.3. *The Jezreel Valley*

From Beth Shean is a Marl A4 Egyptian squat jar⁸⁷ or ‘carinated vessel’,⁸⁸ red-slipped and polished. It was retrieved in Stratum R-3,⁸⁹ dating to the final MB occupation phase, that is, according to the pottery examination conducted by A. Maeir, the final MB III.⁹⁰ The vessel was found within a stone pit filled with dense ash and animal bones, together with a fragment of Chocolate-on-White ware.⁹¹ The shape is typical of Upper Egypt and quite rare in the Southern Levant. J. Borriau has suggested a date for the circulation of this form in Egypt from the late Second Intermediate Period to the early 18th Dynasty.⁹²

A large drop-shaped Egyptian-style jar from Tomb 3052, in Area BB of the Chicago Expedition at Megiddo,⁹³ has been described as a clear example of Marl C *zir*.⁹⁴ It belongs, according to the excavators, to Stratum X, corresponding to the Level J-13 of the Tel Aviv University excavation.⁹⁵ The transition between this level and the following J-14 seems to mark the change from the MB III to the LB I cultural horizon, although a certain difficulty in tracing this change is given by a major degree of continuity.⁹⁶ In fact, this jar, together with an increasing number of gold objects in strata X and IX, point towards the intensification of trade contacts with Egypt.⁹⁷ The shape of the body, ovoid and with the maximum diameter in the medial third, together with the small base and the narrow mouth culminating in an upstanding rim with beveled lip, seem to indicate a type dating from the mid-13th Dynasty to the 15th Dynasty.⁹⁸

⁸⁵ Marcus 2013.

⁸⁶ De Garis Davies - Gardiner 1920, pl. XXXIX; Schiestl - Seiler 2012, 519, fig. II.D.a:2, 3, 4.

⁸⁷ Maeir 2007, pl. 27:13.

⁸⁸ According to the typology from Holthoer 1977.

⁸⁹ Mazar - Mullins 2007, 85-110.

⁹⁰ Maeir 2007; 2010, 86-94. The publication of the site, in fact, follows the terminology that divides the Middle Bronze Age in MB IIA and MB IIB: Mazar - Mullins 2007, 12. K. Kopetzky has attributed the vessel to the MB II: Kopetzky 2015a, 313.

⁹¹ Mazar - Mullins 2007, 88-89.

⁹² Bourriau 1981, 30, 41; 1991, fig. 1.18:14, 18. For further discussions on the significance of this vessel, see Maeir 2007, 279-282; 2010, 48-50, 107-111, 128-129; Martin 2011, 66-69.

⁹³ Loud 1948, pl. 43:4; Kempinski 1989, 142.

⁹⁴ Arnold - Arnold - Allen 1995, 26, note 64, with references therein.

⁹⁵ Finkelstein - Ussishkin - Cline 2013.

⁹⁶ Adams - Bos 2013, 133-134.

⁹⁷ Kempinski 1989.

⁹⁸ Arnold - Arnold - Allen 1995, 23, fig. 5:6.

2.4. *The coast of Lebanon*

Egyptian pottery, especially zirs for shipping commodities, has been identified at several sites on the Lebanese coast⁹⁹, notably at Sidon, Beirut, Byblos, Fadous-Kfarabida,¹⁰⁰ Tell Mirhan¹⁰¹, and Tell Arqa.¹⁰² Sidon yielded the largest assemblage of Egyptian pottery so far known from the Levant.¹⁰³ These finds are from a cemetery area at the ‘College Site’, which has produced over a hundred Middle Bronze Age burials, spanning from the early MB I to the MB III and the early LBA.¹⁰⁴ Most of the imports came from the cemetery surroundings, in all probability employed for ritual meals and feasting,¹⁰⁵ while a few of them are from inside the tombs.¹⁰⁶ Through the Egyptian imports in the tomb, and particularly scarab seriation, the excavator has attributed the Levels 1-3 to the MB I; Level 4 to the transitional MB I-II; Levels 5 and 6 to the MB II; and Levels 7 and 8 to the MB III. The repertoire of Egyptian pottery has been published so far mainly according to its fabric and typology,¹⁰⁷ with little contextual indications.¹⁰⁸ Storage facilities include *zirs* from Level 2, with 19 sherds of Egyptian fabric in Level 3, and over 50 Marl C sherds from Level 4. Nile clays appear, according to Kopetzky, at the very end of the MB III,¹⁰⁹ and open shapes have also been presented from the site.¹¹⁰ From a burial in Level 1 was a Marl C globular jar with parallels from Senwoseret I to the late 12th Dynasty.¹¹¹ In Level 2, above an early MB I warrior burial, was a Marl A-2 burnished globular jar with everted rim.¹¹² As seen above, upper Egyptian Marl jars seem restricted in Egypt to the first half of the 12th Dynasty, while their longer circulation at Kerma¹¹³ could be seen as a sign of their enduring popularity. The repertoire of Marl C large-scale storage vessels is formed by globular, bag-shaped, and later ovoid *zirs*.¹¹⁴ These types have a long circulation with occasional overlapping, but we can say that the earlier type has parallels from mainly the 12th Dynasty,¹¹⁵ while the second during the 13th Dynasty¹¹⁶ (fig. 2:2). Similar to the older, globular zir is a storage vessel with trimmed rim and a spout,¹¹⁷ which

⁹⁹ Kopetzky 2010-2011.

¹⁰⁰ Kopetzky 2015a, 313 with bibliography.

¹⁰¹ Kopetzky *et al.* 2019.

¹⁰² Kopetzky 2015a, 313 with bibliography.

¹⁰³ Bader 2003; Forstner-Müller - Kopetzky 2006; 2009; Forstner-Müller - Kopetzky - Doumet-Serhal 2006; Griffiths - Ownby 2006; Bader *et al.* 2009; Genz 2010-2011; Kopetzky 2011; 2012; 2015a.

¹⁰⁴ Doumet-Serhal 2003; 2004a; 2004b; 2006a; 2009; 2012; 2016; Doumet-Serhal *et al.* 2014.

¹⁰⁵ Doumet-Serhal 2010.

¹⁰⁶ Kopetzky 2012, 163.

¹⁰⁷ Kopetzky 2012.

¹⁰⁸ Except for the sherds from Level 4 in Forstner-Müller - Kopetzky - Doumet-Serhal 2006.

¹⁰⁹ Kopetzky 2012, 169, fig. 6:1-9.

¹¹⁰ Kopetzky 2012, 165, fig. 3:1-13.

¹¹¹ Doumet-Serhal 2003.

¹¹² Kopetzky 2012, 164, fig. 2.

¹¹³ Rzeuska 2007, 415; Schiestl - Seiler 2012, 397, fig. II.A.7.b:3.

¹¹⁴ Kopetzky 2012, 166, fig. 4:9, 167, fig. 5:1-6.

¹¹⁵ E.g., Arnold 1988, 134, fig. 74:51; Schiestl - Seiler 2012, 591, II.E.13.c:4, 594, II.E.13.d:5, 595, II.E.13.d:10.

¹¹⁶ See the afore mentioned Egyptian zir from Megiddo and its parallels.

¹¹⁷ Kopetzky 2012, 167, fig. 5:7.

has one of the earliest parallels at the cemetery of El-Lisht,¹¹⁸ in a deposit with material from especially the reigns of Senwosret III-Amenemhet III.¹¹⁹ The repertoire includes medium-sized jars,¹²⁰ which are attested, with a progressive change in body shape from globular to bag-shaped, from post-Senwosret I to the first Hyksos period.¹²¹ Ovoid jars with corrugated neck at Sidon¹²² have also extraordinary large dimension, with mouth diameters above the usual 10 to 16 centimeters. These vessels are in fact particularly fitting to large-scale trade, and in addition to the parallels found by Kopetzky in Tell el-Dab‘a and Helwan¹²³ one similar example comes from tomb 189 of the Kerma cemetery, dating to the Kerma Moyen IV (early - mid 12th Dynasty).¹²⁴ A rare piece is the rather small example of from a tomb attributed to the MB II.¹²⁵ It seems a ceramic version of small calcite or gypsum ointment containers, the drop-shaped alabastra with ridged neck, which were widespread in funerary contexts of Egypt and the Levant from the 12th Dynasty to the Second Intermediate Period, with a few examples surviving in the early 18th Dynasty.¹²⁶ An example from Kom Rabi‘a¹²⁷ level VIIIb of the ‘deliberate dump’ (DD) in the RAT site has been attributed to the late 13th Dynasty, although the case of intrusion and residuality in such a context, as clarified by the excavator, should not be ruled out.¹²⁸

New evidence for Egyptian imports comes from Tell Fadous-Kfarabida, spanning from the EB I to the MB I (Phases I-VI).¹²⁹ The Egyptian assemblage belongs to this last phase, represented on the top of the tell by three tombs, a few pits and surface finds.¹³⁰ The chronology of Phase VI is based both on the material evidence, in particular the ceramic assemblage and a scarab from Tomb 736 attributed to the late 12th-13th Dynasty,¹³¹ and on a radiocarbon date from the same tomb,¹³² suggesting the late 19th-early 18th century BCE, which is in accordance with the scarab and should place the burial, following the radiocarbon-based chronology of dynastic Egypt,¹³³ between Senwosret II and Sobekhotep II.¹³⁴ A carinated bowl with a spout¹³⁵ and a globular cooking pot¹³⁶ have been found in two storage pits.¹³⁷ Basins and bowls with a spout have a long tradition in Egypt and types close

¹¹⁸ Arnold 1988, 134, fig. 74:60.

¹¹⁹ Arnold 1988, 140-143.

¹²⁰ Forstner-Müller - Kopetzky - Doumet-Serhal 2006, 52, fig. 2; Kopetzky 2012, 166, fig. 4:1-3.

¹²¹ Forstner-Müller - Kopetzky - Doumet-Serhal 2006, 52, fig. 2; Kopetzky 2012, 166-167 with bibliography.

¹²² Kopetzky 2012, 166, fig. 4:1-8.

¹²³ Kopetzky 2012, 168 with bibliography.

¹²⁴ Schiestl - Seiler 2012, 617, II.E.16.b.1:18.

¹²⁵ Kopetzky 2012, 166, fig. 4:8.

¹²⁶ Sparks 2007, 25-29.

¹²⁷ Bourriau - Gallorini 2012, 129, fig. 25:63C2.1.

¹²⁸ Bourriau - Gallorini 2012, 109.

¹²⁹ Genz 2010-2011.

¹³⁰ Genz *et al.* 2010a; 2010b.

¹³¹ Genz *et al.* 2010b, 265-266.

¹³² Genz *et al.* 2010b, 268.

¹³³ Bronk Ramsey *et al.* 2010.

¹³⁴ Genz *et al.* 2010b, 268.

¹³⁵ Genz 2010-2011, 132, fig. 14:1.

¹³⁶ Genz 2010-2011, 132, fig. 14:2.

¹³⁷ Genz 2010-2011, 116.

to the afore mentioned example are attested from the late 12th Dynasty.¹³⁸ More fragments of an Egyptian *zir* from this area are mentioned in the reports.¹³⁹

Two Egyptian jars have been published from Tell Arqa, in the ‘Akkar plain.¹⁴⁰ These were found in Level 13 of Area I.¹⁴¹ Radiocarbon dates place the transition to phase N of Level 13, the first of the MBA culture, around the 2000 BCE ca., and the transition to phase M, representing the culture of the MB II,¹⁴² within the date range 1850-1800 BCE.¹⁴³ One was a Marl C2 jar with corrugated neck, everted rim and a body reconstructed as slender and generally ovoid¹⁴⁴ from a good local MB II context, for which parallels can be quoted from the ceramic complex 6 at Dahshur.¹⁴⁵ Another Marl C jar comes from a leveling of an older phase not bounded to architectural features (fig. 3:3). It has a corrugated neck, a square rim folded on the outside and a groove at middle high of the neck¹⁴⁶. A similar large jar with ovoid shape, tall neck and narrow mouth is from Lisht-North,¹⁴⁷ where it seems to be a late Middle Kingdom precursor of a type that will become common in the New Kingdom.¹⁴⁸

Exclusive relationships with Egypt were entertained by the courts of Byblos, Qatna and Ebla, as it is especially noticeable from the luxury Egyptian and Egyptian-style finds from the royal tombs.¹⁴⁹ These prestigious items have been regarded as diplomatic gifts, but a different interpretation as products of Middle Kingdom tombs robbery during the Second Intermediate Period has been proposed within the frame of a recent re-dating of Byblos Royal Tombs.¹⁵⁰ In particular, the synchronization of Tombs I and II with Tell el-Dab’a Phases E/3 and E/2 based on ceramic evidence from the two sites led to a collocation of these tombs within the MB II instead of the MB I, shifting consequently also the sequence of the other Gublite royal tombs. The tombs had been reopened in antiquity, so that with their chronological attribution one must tread carefully, but their relative chronology, that typical local pottery such as horizontally-combed dipper juglets places in the MB I, has also been correlated to the stratigraphy of Tell Mardikh by means of several comparable items.¹⁵¹ Golden bracelets with twisted wire, small stone *unguentaria* with horizontal rim, and the Orange Burnished Ware from the Tomb of the Princess at Ebla make the attribution of the Royal Tombs I and II at Byblos to the MB I cultural horizon, already suggested by

¹³⁸ Arnold 1982, 32, fig. 8:1 and other parallels in Genz 2010-2011, 118.

¹³⁹ Genz 2010-2011, 118.

¹⁴⁰ Thalmann 2006; Charaf 2009; Forstner-Müller - Kopetzky 2009.

¹⁴¹ Charaf 2009, 295.

¹⁴² MB II in current northern Levantine chronology.

¹⁴³ Thalmann 2006.

¹⁴⁴ Charaf 2009, 296, pl. 2:5.

¹⁴⁵ Arnold 1982, 32, fig. 8:8.

¹⁴⁶ Charaf 2009, 296, pl. 2:6.

¹⁴⁷ Arnold - Arnold - Allen 1995, 23, fig. 5:9.

¹⁴⁸ Arnold - Arnold - Allen 1995, 26.

¹⁴⁹ See, e.g., Montet 1928; Scandone Matthiae 1979; 1987; 1997; Matthiae 1984; 1997; Matthiae - Pinnok - Scandone Matthiae 1995; Matthiae *et al.* 2007; Nigro 2009; Pfälzner 2014; Kopetzky 2015b; 2016; 2018; Miniaci 2020.

¹⁵⁰ Kopetzky 2015b; 2016; 2018; Miniaci 2020.

¹⁵¹ Nigro 2009.

Gerstenblith,¹⁵² sound. Prestige items from the Northern Levant urban centers have also been recently framed within a convincing practice of reuse and imitation of imported goods from a ‘globalized’ system of exchange.¹⁵³ Ceramic types such as the large jars for shipping commodities are not attributed to such a category of ‘out-of-time’ objects, and should therefore reflect broadly contemporary economic activities. A *zir* of the later ovoid type¹⁵⁴ is likely to come from Tomb VI,¹⁵⁵ whose relative chronology postdates Tombs I-IV¹⁵⁶ and maybe Tomb VII.¹⁵⁷ This piece is slightly later than the specimen from Megiddo, while its association with a probable piece of Chocolate-on-White ware recalls the MB III context of the Egyptian vase at Beth-Shean,¹⁵⁸ so that the MB III horizon suggested by K. Kopetzky could fit the prolonged use of the Royal Tombs.

3. CERAMIC ‘KEY TYPES’ AND RADIOCARBON DATES: FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

A few vices in the operation of archaeological cross-dates need to be addressed here. The habit to infer the archaeological phase of strata or architectures in the Levant from the chronology attributed to a specific site, i.e., Tell el-Dab‘a, has been noticed several times. This praxis can be said to come from the often-biased association between archaeological facies and absolute dating, that is, between cultural phenomena and chronology. Instead, the two semantic domains should be kept well separated, as they pertain to two different questions we ask to the archaeological record: what and when. It is to avoid the recurrent confusion that the term ‘cultural genome’ has been recently proposed to indicate archaeological periods.¹⁵⁹ Archaeological phases should ultimately refer to the sole relative chronology of a site, to its social, cultural and economic facts, which absolute dating methods collocate in time and history, but the other way around cannot be accepted. Secondly, the conventional association between material culture and regnant sequences requires major attention. Although typological seriation of stratified samples is an important step to establish a site relative chronology, changes in pottery shapes, especially when they do not involve substantial technological innovations, cannot be assumed as sharp chronological indicators. Concerning our case study, this is especially visible in the prolonged, and often overlapped, attestation of the marl C shapes for long distance trade with minor and gradual changes of the rim and body. The habit of a strict association between material culture and pharaohs regnal years should instead be integrated by other absolute dating methods, as the trajectory of cultural change has proved not to parallel the events of political history.¹⁶⁰ One last problem concerns the context function of our findings, with special regard to domestic and funerary contexts. For tombs that are not clearly associated with contemporary settlement strata, or disturbed tombs as the Gublite

¹⁵² Gerstenblith 1983, 103.

¹⁵³ Miniaci 2020.

¹⁵⁴ Kopetzky 2016, 156, fig. 18: 3.

¹⁵⁵ Kopetzky 2016, 155-156.

¹⁵⁶ Nigro 2009, 165, tab. 2. For a different model, see Kopetzky 2016, 147, fig. 4, 148, fig. 5.

¹⁵⁷ Kopetzky 2016, 154-155.

¹⁵⁸ Kopetzky 2016, 155.

¹⁵⁹ Nigro 2019. The contribution refers to the EBA Levant, but the methodological proposal is relevant here.

¹⁶⁰ On this topic in the late MK and SIP, see especially Seiler 2005.

ones, the attribution to specific cultural facies is quite problematic,¹⁶¹ and the association with chronological indicators such as scarabs can provide only a *terminus post quem*.

With these premises, some final considerations can be drawn through a synoptic table (tab. 1) where the ceramic ‘key-types’ seen above (bag-shaped and ovoid *zirs*, storage jars with corrugated neck from recurved to everted and with lowering first groove, globular bottles and carinated bowls) are distributed according to the time span of their circulation in Egypt outside the site of Tell el-Dab’a. In order to allow a synthetic view, the table includes the absolute chronology emerging in the southern Levant,¹⁶² the historical chronology of Egypt, and the relative chronology of the Middle Bronze Age, together with the stratigraphic units of provenance of the vessels examined from the Levant. A reassessment of the Egyptian pottery from phases 14 and 13 of the ashy fill of Moat 21 at Ashkelon, that had been employed to synchronize the MB I horizon at the site with the 13th Dynasty, has proven that in Egypt it was in circulation already at the time of the 12th Dynasty and maybe as early as during the reign of Senwosret I. The parallels dating to the first half of the 12th Dynasty that have been suggested for the fragmentary marl C store jars from the commingled assemblage of phase 14 are in accordance with the Egyptian synchronism advanced for the material from the MB I *Mittelsaalhaus* complex at Tel Ifshar (Phases A, B, C1 and C2). The MB I cultural phase at the two sites of the southern Levant would thus align with the initial MBA at Sidon (Levels 1, 2 and 3) in the coastal Lebanon, while a slightly longer duration of the MB I horizon seems to emerge from the last phase at Tell Fadous-Kfarabida (Phase VI), although this is only attested in «surface contexts, a few pits, and three tombs».¹⁶³ Notably, the finds examined from Tell Arqa suggest a synchronism of the MB II at the site (Phase M) with the second half of the 12th Dynasty. The other site with Egyptian pottery from this phase is Ashkelon in the Southern Coastal Plain, where parallels from assemblages dated to the 13th Dynasty have been advanced for the fragments of water jars from MB II layers (Phase 11). Although the largest assemblage of Egyptian pottery from the Levantine coast comes from Sidon, those finds cannot be considered here for the lack of contextual information relative to this phase, for which only a 13th Dynasty parallel has been discussed. The integration of the aforementioned cross-dates to the radiocarbon chronology has a significant impact on the interpretation of Egyptian-Levantine interactions in the first two centuries of the 2nd millennium BCE. In fact, it supports the synchronization of a transition to the MB II in the Levant with the middle of the 12th Dynasty, contrary to the mid-13th Dynasty horizon suggested by the low chronology. The documentation of Egyptian pottery from different sites across the Levant in the MB I and the transitional MB I-II seems to reflect the wide range of the Egyptian economic interests in the Levant that is expressed especially in the Mit Rahina¹⁶⁴ inscription and in the recently discovered fragments of inscription from the mastaba of Khnumhotep III in Dahshur.¹⁶⁵ Since multiple lines of evidence suggest that Byblos was an important trading partner of Middle Kingdom

¹⁶¹ A different point of view is in Bietak 2020.

¹⁶² According to the scheme proposed in Höflmayer 2017.

¹⁶³ Genz 2010-2011, 116.

¹⁶⁴ Marcus 2007.

¹⁶⁵ Allen 2008.

Egypt,¹⁶⁶ the lack of Egyptian pottery from the site in the MB I has been regarded as suspicious.¹⁶⁷ However, this is not entirely the case if we look at the large jars for shipping commodities from the Royal Tombs as proxies that reflect ongoing economic activities, and thus maintain the attribution of the Gublite royal tombs I and II to the MB I cultural horizon. A high chronology of the MB I-II as supported by radiocarbon dates and archaeological cross-dates would also admit a ‘maximalist’ interpretation of the rich corpus of toponyms contained in the late Middle Kingdom Execration Texts, that would thus reflect not a distant memory of the Early Bronze Age city-states, as suggested by minimalist interpretations, but the historical reality of the fortified cities of MB II Palestine¹⁶⁸. Interesting information on the synchronization between Egypt and the MB III Levant emerge by crossing the data from the sites of Beth-Shean (Stratum R-3), Megiddo (Level J-13 / Stratum X), and Byblos (Tomb VI). The drop-shaped Marl C *zir* from the last MB III level at Megiddo has Egyptian parallels from the mid-13th to the 15th Dynasty.¹⁶⁹ For this reason, it has been described as a probable heirloom by the supporters of the low chronology,¹⁷⁰ but the high chronology would allow for it to reflect broadly contemporary international trading activities. The Egyptian squat jar from a late MB III context at Beth-Shean started circulating in Egypt during the late Second Intermediate Period, and the ovoid *zir* that is likely from the Royal Tomb VI at Byblos seems to have been produced between the late Second Intermediate Period and the early New Kingdom.¹⁷¹ Considering the different chronological length of the MB cultural horizon through the Levant,¹⁷² these data seem to fit the recently defined picture of an MB-LB transition that started to take place already during the Second Intermediate Period, while probably continuing into the Egyptian early New Kingdom.¹⁷³ A first breakdown of the evidence therefore indicates that the integration of Egyptian and Egyptian-style pottery from the Levant with the radiocarbon and the political chronology can furnish additional support to the ongoing revision of the historical narrative in the light of the new, ‘high’ absolute dates.

4. CATALOGUE

4.1 *Zirs* (fig. 2)

2.1: Marl C1 rim and upper part of a large-scale storage jar (*zir*) with squat, rounded-triangular rim. From Tel Ifshar, Area C, Phase B (MB I) (Marcus *et al.* 2009, 208, fig. 3:3).

2.2: Marl C Egyptian ovoid *zir*. From Sidon, ‘College Site’ (MB II) (Kopetzky 2012, 167 fig. 5:4-5).

¹⁶⁶ Kopetzky 2010-2011.

¹⁶⁷ Kopetzky 2010-2011, 169.

¹⁶⁸ Streit 2017.

¹⁶⁹ Arnold - Arnold - Allen 1995, 23, fig. 5:6.

¹⁷⁰ Kopetzky 2007, 29.

¹⁷¹ Kopetzky 2016, 155.

¹⁷² Maeir 2010.

¹⁷³ Höflmayer 2019.

2.3: Marl C large storage jar with bag-shaped body and flat base. From Lisht, Pyramid complex of Senwosret I (southwall deposit I, second decade of Senwosret I) (Schiestl and Seiler 2012, 591, II.E.13.c:4).

2.4: Marl C large storage jar From Lisht, Pyramid complex of Senwosret I (early 12th Dynasty) (Arnold 1988, 134, fig. 74:51).

2.5: Marl C *zir* with elongated rim and probably ovoid body. From Lisht – North, House A3.3, NK fill that had been taken from an existing late MK dump (13th Dynasty) (Arnold - Arnold - Allen 1995, 23, fig. 5:5).

4.2 *Ridged-neck jars* (fig. 3)

3.1: Two sherds of Marl C1 Egyptian store jars with ridged, slightly recurved neck (Bader *type 46*). From Ashkelon, phase 14 (MB I) (Stager and Voss 2011, 121, pl. 1:1).

3.2: Sherd of a Marl C Egyptian store jar with ridged, everted neck (Bader *type 46*). From Ashkelon, phase 12, although maybe from phase 13 (transition from the MB I to the MB II) (Stager and Voss 2011, 121, pl. 1:4).

3.3: Marl C jar, probably medium-sized, with a square rim folded on the outside and a groove at middle high of the neck. From Tell ‘Arqa, Phase N of Level 13 (MB I) (Charaf 2009, 301, pl. 2:6).

3.4: Marl C Egyptian store jar with ridged, slightly recurved neck. From Elephantine (12th Dynasty) (Rzeuska 1999, 200-201, fig. 44:5).

3.5: Marl C Egyptian store jar with ridged neck (Bader *type 46*). From Dahshur, ceramic complex 6 of the pyramid of Amenemhet III (1825 - 1760 BCE) (Arnold 1982, 32, fig. 8:10).

3.6: Marl C Egyptian store jar with ridged neck (Bader *type 46*). Found at Askut, fortress (from the late 12th to the 13th Dynasty) (Schiestl and Seiler 2012, 616, fig. II.E.16.b.1:13).

3.7: Marl C jar with two grooves on the corrugated, everted neck. From Lisht - North, House A3.3, NK fill that had been taken from an existing late MK dump (13th Dynasty) (Arnold - Arnold - Allen 1995, 23, fig. 5:8).

4.3 *Globular jars and bottles* (fig. 4)

4.1: Rim, base and body of a Marl DAN E3 globular jar with short, slightly everted neck and triangular-shaped modelled rim. From Tel Ifshar, area C, Phase B (MB I) (Marcus *et al.* 2009, 208, fig. 3:1).

4.2: Marl A3 ovoid bottle with clay rolls attached on the long neck and incised lines on the shoulder. From Tel Ifshar, area C, Phase C2 (MB I) (Marcus *et al.* 2009, 211, fig. 4:2).

4.3: Marl A4 globular jar with short, everted neck and triangular-shaped modelled rim. From at Dra' Abu el-Naga, Area H, tomb K03 (possibly first half of the 12th Dynasty) (Schiestl and Seiler 2012, 397, fig. II.A.7.b:1).

4.4: Marl A4 globular jar with short, everted neck and triangular-shaped modelled rim. From El-Kab, Middle Kingdom Cemetery, tomb 34 (mid-12th Dynasty) (Schiestl and Seiler 2012, 397, fig. II.A.7.b:2).

4.5: Marl A2 globular jar with short, everted neck and triangular-shaped modelled rim. From Kerma, cemetery sector CE 14, tomb 22 (mid-12th - early 13th Dynasty) (Schiestl and Seiler 2012, 397, fig. II.A.7.b:3).

4.6: Marl DAN E3 ovoid bottle, with clay rolls attached on the long neck and incised lines on the shoulder. From El-Kab, Middle Kingdom Cemetery, tomb 84 (Amenemhet II - Senwosret III) (Schiestl and Seiler 2012, 519, fig. II.D.a:1).

4.7: Neck of a Marl A bottle with clay rolls. From Askut fortress (late 12th - 13th Dynasty) (Schiestl and Seiler 2012, 519, fig. II.D.a:3).

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Fig. 1 - Egyptian and Egyptianizing pottery from the Levant mentioned in the text.

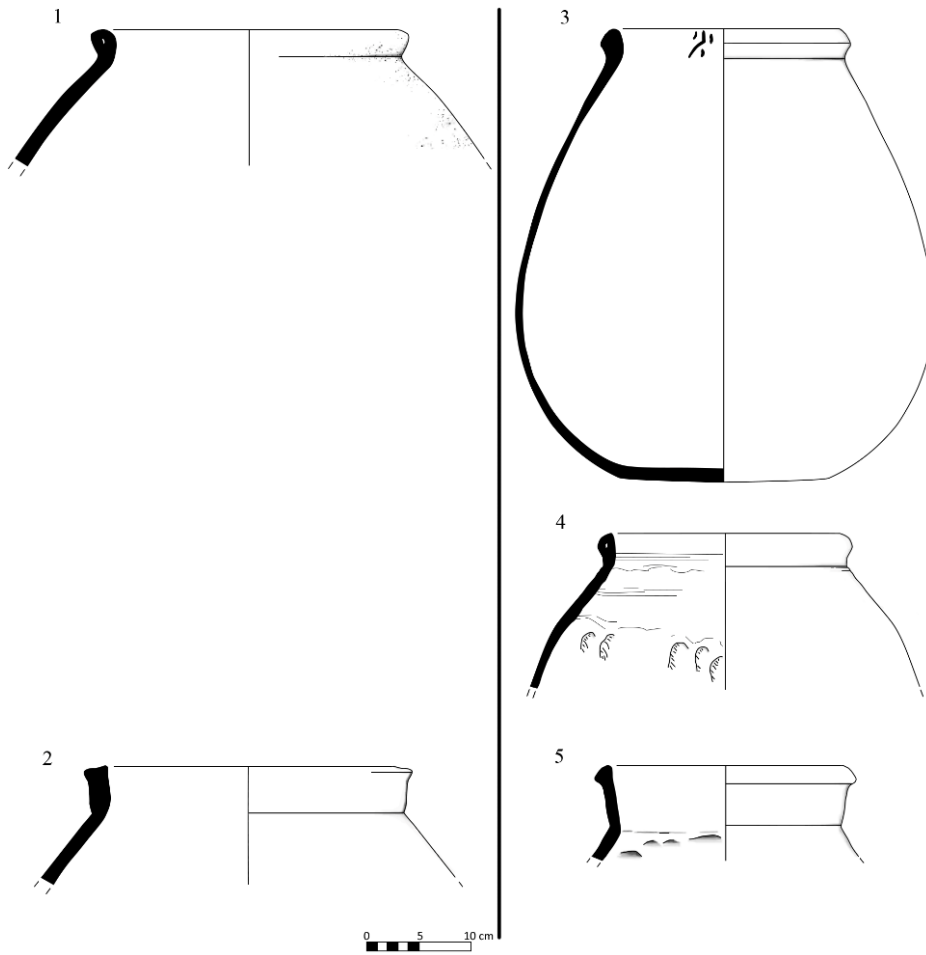


Fig. 2 - Egyptian *zir* from the Levant (left) with parallels from Egypt (right).

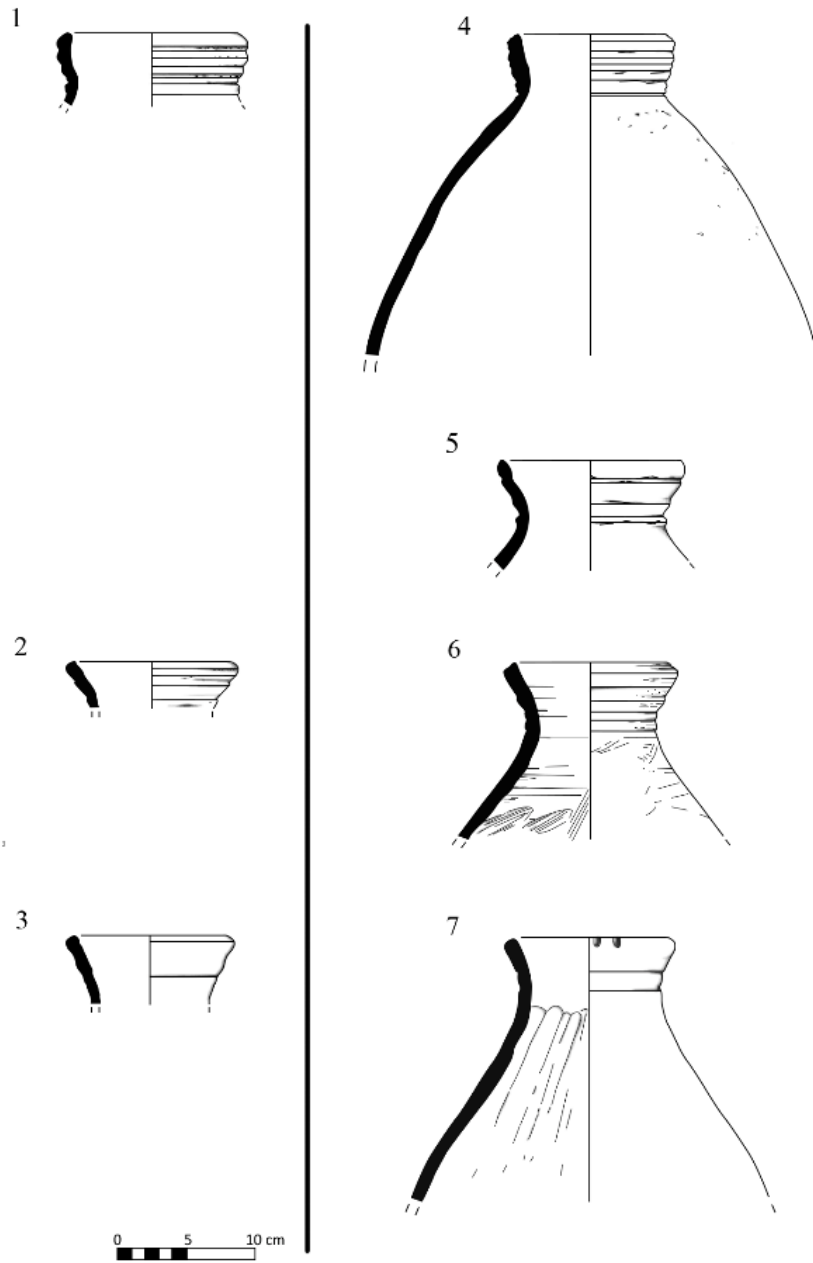


Fig. 3 - Egyptian ridged-neck jars from the Levant (left) with parallels from Egypt (right).

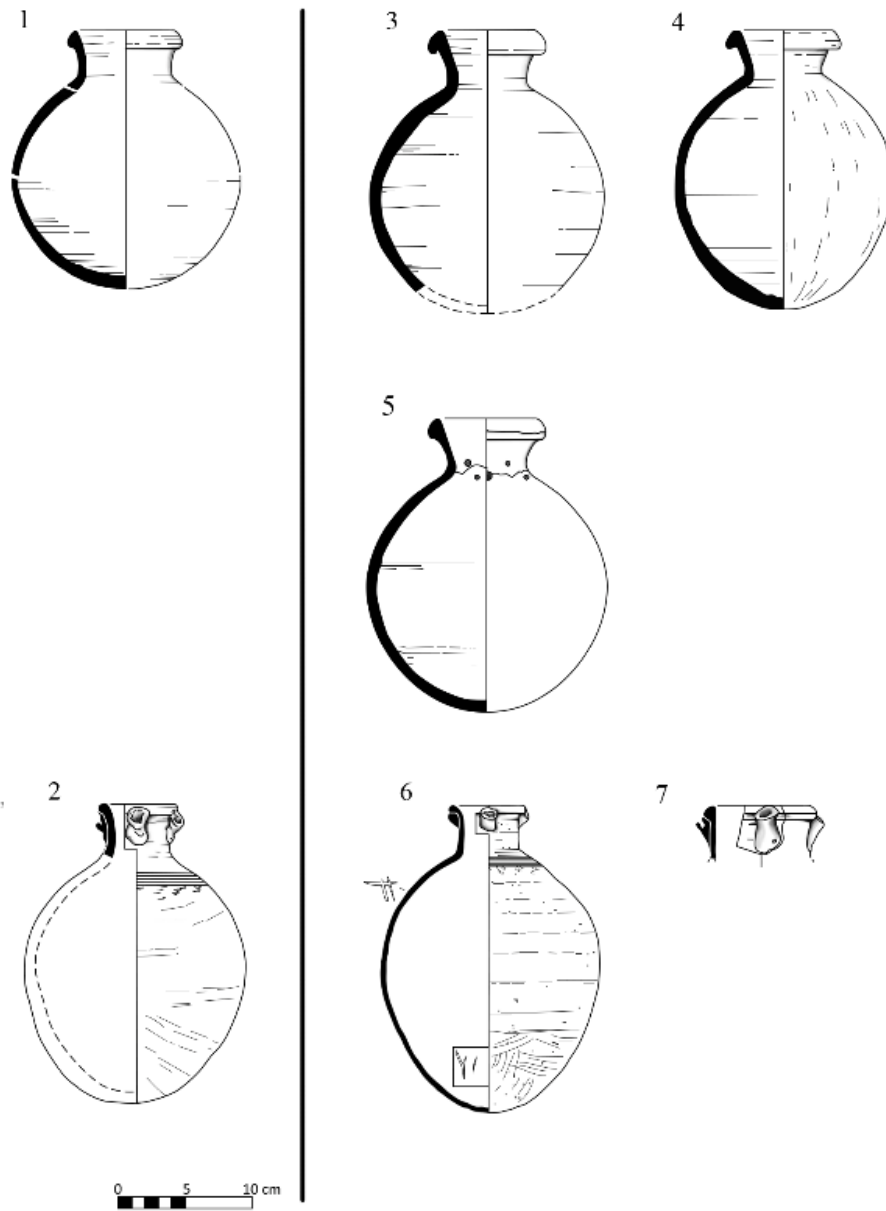


Fig. 4 - Egyptian globular jars and bottles from the Levant (left) with parallels from Egypt (right).

ABSOLUTE CHRONOLOGY	EGYPT HISTORICAL CHRONOLOGY	LEVANT RELATIVE CHRONOLOGY	SOUTHERN COASTAL PLAIN		SHARON PLAIN	JEZREEL VALLEY		COASTAL LEBANON			EGYPTIAN CERAMIC SHAPES	
			ASHKELON	TELLEL-AJULI	TELFESHAR	BETH SHEAN	MEGIDDO	SIDON	TELL FADOUS-KEFARABIDA	ARQA		BYBLOS
ca. 1600 BCE	Mid-late 15th Dynasty	Transition to the LB I	H6 H7 H8				Level J-13 (Stratum X)	Level 8				Mari C zirr type 4/5 Mant C zirr type 9 Mant C store jar type 47/46 (with recurved/funnel-like neck) Mant A4 globular round-based bottle Mant A3 ovoid round-based bottle With clay rolls Mant globular jar Carinated bowl with a spout
							Stratum R-3	Level 7				
								Level 6				
								Level 5				
ca. 1700 BCE	Mid 13th Dynasty	Transitional MB II-II						Level 4	Phase VI			
								Level 3	Phase III			
ca. 1850/1800 BCE	Mid-late 12th Dynasty	Transitional MB I-II	Pallace I		Phase C3 Phase C1 Phase B Phase A			Level 2				
ca. 2000/1900 BCE	Late 11th/ early 12th Dynasty	MB I						Level 1	Phase N			

Tab. 1 - Synoptic table of the Egyptian ceramic shapes compared with the absolute, historical, and relative chronologies.