



SAMAR SHAMMAS

Tell el-Yahudiyeh Ware in the Northern Levant



MÜNCHENER ABHANDLUNGEN ZUM ALTEN ORIENT
BAND 10

Münchener Abhandlungen zum Alten Orient

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PEWE-VERLAG
2023

Bibliografische Information der Deutschen Nationalbibliothek

Die Deutsche Nationalbibliothek verzeichnet diese Publikation in der Deutschen Nationalbibliografie; detaillierte bibliografische Daten sind im Internet über <http://dnb.dnb.de> abrufbar.

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Layout und Prepress: Simon M. Halama, Peter Werner

Umschlaggestaltung: PeWe-Verlag, Gladbeck

Umschlagabbildung: Tell el-Yahudiyeh Ware vessels from Tell Sakka © Ahmad Taraqji

Druck und Bindung: Hubert & Co – eine Marke der Esser bookSolutions GmbH

Gedruckt auf alterungsbeständigem Papier

Printed in Germany

ISBN: 978-3-68985-004-3

*Dedicated to my parents Hawla Assfoura and Nabil Shammass
and my teacher Ahmad F. Taraqqi*

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Preface and Acknowledgements

Writing these final pages after years of dedicated work on Tell el-Yahudiyeh Ware vessels brings me immense pleasure. Despite facing numerous challenges in accessing material from Syria, I am delighted that I was ultimately able to introduce this missing component into the broader understanding of Tell el-Yahudiyeh Ware. This study has contributed new insights into pottery production in the Levant and shed light on the archaeology and chronology of the Middle Bronze Age in southern Syria.

This monograph is a revised version of my PhD dissertation, defended in January 2020 at the Institute for Near Eastern Archaeology at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (LMU). The dissertation was patiently supervised by Professor Adelheid Otto, to whom I express my gratitude for believing in this research from the first moment, for her support and encouragement throughout the last years, and for accepting the manuscript to be published in the *Münchener Abhandlungen zum Alten Orient* series. I am equally grateful to Professor Manfred Bietak (University of Vienna, Austrian Academy of Science), my second supervisor, whose fruitful discussions and valuable advice enriched my research. Special thanks also go to Professor Bietak and Dr. David A. Aston (Austrian Academy of Science) for sharing a copy of their book on Tell el-Yahudiyeh Ware. I am also grateful for the comments and encouragement of my third examiner in the defense committee, Professor Carola Metzner-Nebelsick (LMU Munich, Institut für Vor- und frühgeschichtliche Archäologie und Provinzialrömische Archäologie).

This endeavour would not have been possible without the generous support of various institutions, colleagues, and friends. The Graduate School Distant Worlds at LMU generously funded my dissertation and provided an ideal research environment, full of encouragement from professors, colleagues and administrators, of whom I would particularly like to thank Dr. Isabella Wiegand and Nicole Schüler. The “LMU Mentoring Excellence Programme” of the Fakultät für Kulturwissenschaften kindly funded most of the printing costs of the book and part of the digitizing of the pottery drawings. My heartfelt thanks go to

my mentor, Professor Salvatore Ortisi. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to friends and colleagues in the Institute for Near Eastern Archaeology at LMU, especially to Dr. Anna Kurmangaliev, Christoph Fink, and Dr. Berthold Einwag, who helped me with some technical aspects.

I am indebted to several individuals who played critical roles in this research. Dr. Michel al-Maqdissi (Department of Near Eastern Archaeology in the Louvre Museum) offered invaluable support during the early stages of my research. Dr. Ahmad Ferzat Taraqqi (Directorate General of Antiquities and Museum in Damascus) provided me with the opportunity to be part of the Syrian team at Tell Sakka, allowing me to work with amazing Levantine objects of the Second Millennium BCE. I must express my appreciation to the members of the Tell Sakka team, with special mention to Salah Shaker and Iman al-Baʿini for their dedicated assistance in searching for sherds and restoring juglets of Tell el-Yahudiyeh Ware.

My sincere gratitude goes to many institutions and colleagues who graciously allowed me to study and publish photographs of objects from their collections. In Syria, I thank Muyassar Fattal and Laila al-Sammak (Damascus Museum), Qassem Mohammad and Ayham al-Zoʿbi (Darʿa Museum), Nashʿat Kiwan, Nawal Jrera (Sweida Museum), and Abdallah Merʿi es-Sayyed (Quneitra Museum). I also express my warm appreciation to Dr. Basam Jamous, Professor Maamoun Abdulkarim, and Nazir Awad from the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums in Damascus for granting permission to study several collections in Syrian museums and to publish related photographs. I am thankful to Dr. Ahmad Deeb for providing access to photographs of vessels from the Darʿa collection of Tell el-Yahudiyeh Ware, which were not available during the study period. Regarding the Lebanese material, I am grateful for the support of Dr. Claude Doumet-Serhal (British Museum, Sidon excavation) and her team at Sidon, as well as Dr. Leila Badre, Dr. Nadine Panayot, Aimée Bou Rizk (The American University of Beirut Archaeological Museum), Professor Hermann

Genz, Professor Hélène Sader (American University of Beirut), and Professor Jens Kamlah (Tübingen University). Thanks are also due to Dr. Ariane Thomas, Dr. Sophie Cluzan, and Mahmoud Assi (Louvre Museum, Department of Near Eastern Archaeology).

I express my appreciation to Professor Friedhelm Hartenstein and Professor Martin Arneth of the Evangelisch-Theologische Fakultät at LMU for providing an excellent environment to complete my dissertation and gain teaching experience.

The drawings and photographs in this book were primarily created by me, with additional contributions credited accordingly. Dr. Rahaf Orabi and Bettina Springer-Ferazin meticulously digitized the drawings, and their efforts are greatly appreciated. Dr. Rachel Iannacone did an exceptional job proofreading the English text. Special thanks go to Salama Kassem (Bonn University) for valuable discussions on the section on the production centres in southern Syria. I had the pleasure of working with the publisher Dr. Peter Werner (PeWe Verlag), who provided the layout and facilitated the production of a high-quality book.

My gratitude knows no bounds for Rahaf Orabi, who went above and beyond to obtain the best results for the coloured plates and the realisation of the maps. I am also deeply indebted to Dr. Simon M. Halama, who exhibited immense patience and care while reading, correcting, and

offering valuable insights on the entire work and was responsible for its typesetting.

This journey would not have been possible without the boundless love and support I received from my family and friends. To my dear friends who accompanied me over the years, including Rahaf Orabi, Katharina Schmidt, Ahmad Ferzat Taraqqi, Oussama Nofal, Anna Kurmangaliev, Eszter Khalit-Huszár, Andreas Stahl, Andrea Raat, Andrew and Hannah-Joy Bowden, James Hamrik, Daniela Heilmann, and Amany al-Dabouki, thank you for sharing both the challenging and joyful moments. As for my family, I owe my fascination with cultures to my mother. And my father's passion for Arabic calligraphy nourished my appreciation for ancient handicrafts. The love and belief of my sister Maha have always inspired me. I cherish the memories of my brother Tammam†, who digitized the first drawings before his passing. Your memory is eternal.

Lastly, words cannot adequately express my profound gratitude to my husband, Simon. Not only did he provide meticulous proofreading and dedicate countless hours to typesetting the book, but his motivation and enthusiasm for archaeology continuously inspire me and instil confidence and joy in my pursuits.

Samar Shammas
Munich, 17.07.2023

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	DAR 45	© DGAM		BRE 26	Abou Trabeh 2014, 28: fig. 31: 6 (Courtesy of the DGAM)
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Plate 24	DAR 64	© DGAM	Plate 32	DAR 48	© DGAM
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Plate 25	DAR 28	S.Sh. 2014 (Courtesy of the DGAM)	Plate 33	DAR 55	© DGAM
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	AUB 02 (GHA 03)	S.SH 2016 (Courtesy of the AUB Museum)
	RSH 06	S.SH 2014 (Courtesy of the DGAM)

Abbreviations

Bibliographical Abbreviations

AAAS: Les Annales Archéologiques Arabes Syriennes
AASOR: The Annual of the American Schools of Oriental Research
AHL: Archaeology and History in the Lebanon
AJA: American Journal of Archaeology
Ä&L: Ägypten und Levante
AOAT: Alter Orient und Altes Testament
ASOR: American School of Oriental Research
BAAL: Bulletin d'Archéologie et d'Architecture Libanaises
BAH: Bibliothèque archéologique et historique
BaM: Baghdader Mitteilungen
BBVO: Berliner Beiträge zum Vorderen Orient
BMB: Bulletin du Musée de Beyrouth
BSAK: Studien zur Altägyptischen Kultur, Beihefte
BSFE: Bulletin de la Société Française d'Égyptologie
CMO: Collection de la Maison de l'Orient Méditerranéen
EI: Eretz-Israel
HASO: Heidelberger Studien zum alten Orient
IEJ: Israel Exploration Journal
Ifpo: Institut français du Proche-Orient
JEA: The Journal of Egyptian Archaeology
JPOS: Journal of the Palestine Oriental Society
LÄ: Lexikon der Ägyptologie
NABU: Nouvelles Assyriologiques Brèves et Utilitaires
NEA: Near Eastern Archaeology
NCS: Notes de Céramologie Syrienne
OBO: Orbis biblicus et orientalis
OIP: Oriental Institute Publications
OLA: Orientalia Lovaniensia Analecta
PEF: The Palestinian Exploration Fund
PEFQS: Palestine Exploration Fund, Quarterly Statement
PEQ: The Palestine Exploration Quarterly
QDAP: Quarterly of the Department of Antiquities in Palestine
RIA: Reallexikon der Assyriologie
SBZA: Saarbrücker Beiträge zur Altertumskunde
SVA: Schriften zur Vorderasiatischen Archäologie
SCE: Swedish Cyprus Expedition

WVDOG: Wissenschaftliche Veröffentlichungen der Deutschen Orient-Gesellschaft
ZÄS: Zeitschrift für Ägyptische Sprache und Altertumskunde
ZDPV: Zeitschrift des Deutschen Palästina-Vereins

Abbreviations of Sites and Museum Collections

AFU: Afula
ARD: Ardé
ARQ: Tell Arqa
AUB: Archaeological Museum of the American University of Beirut
BUR: Tell el-Burak
BYB: Byblos
DAM: Damascus Museum
DAR: Dar'a Museum
DAT: Deir 'Atya Museum
DHI: Dhibin
FAD: Tell Fadous-Kfarabida
GHA: Tell Ghassil
GIN: Ginosar
HAM: Hama
HAZ: Hazor
HIZ: Tell Hizin
JAR: Kafr Jarra
JERU: Jerusalem
KAB: Tel Kabri
KAM: Kamid el-Loz
MAJ: Majdalouna
MAR: Tell Mardikh
MSH: Mishrifeh
MTO: Mtoune
NAH: Nahariya
NAB: Tell Nab' es-Sakhr
RSH: Ras-Shamra
SAK: Tell Sakka
FIL: Sin el-Fil
SID: Sidon
BRE: Tell Debbet-Brekeh
TAB: Tabet Collection (Louvre Museum)

TAW: Tell Tawil
TAY: At-Ṭaybeh
TUR: Tur'an

Other Abbreviations

AUB: The American University of Beirut
DGAM: Directorate-General of Antiquities & Museums/
Damascus-Syria
EBA: Early Bronze Age
IAA: Israel Antiquities Authority
IDA: Israel Department of Antiquities
LBA: Late Bronze Age
LPW: Levantine Painted Ware
MBA: Middle Bronze Age
TeY: Tell el-Yahudiyeh

Abbreviations of Measurements in the Catalogue

BD.: Base diameter
H.: Height
MD.: Maximum diameter
PH.: Preserved height
RD.: Rim diameter

Acronyms of draftspersons

A.F.T.: Ahmad Ferzat Taraqqi
B.S.F.: Bettina Springer-Ferazin
R.O.: Rahaf Orabi
S.Sh.: Samar Shammas
T.Sh.: Tammam Shammas †

1. Introduction

Dark, burnished juglets with incised and punctured decoration, mostly filled with a white paste, are known as Tell el-Yahudiyeh (TeY) Ware. This ware was distributed in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Nile Valley between the nineteenth and sixteenth centuries BCE.

Early studies of this pottery class associated it with the Hyksos in Egypt and questioned its origin. Was it Egyptian or Levantine? It is possible to understand that suggestions diverged as they were based on limited and disparate corpora of material. These only represented some of the many variants of TeY Ware that had developed during its prolonged and widespread use in the Levant and Egypt. When Egyptologists conducted the earliest work on TeY Ware in the Nile Valley, they mostly discovered vessels belonging to what is now labelled as “Late Egyptian TeY Ware” and indeed originates from Egypt. However, the early excavated examples from the Levantine coast belong to the “Early Levantine” or “Levanto-Egyptian” groups of TeY Ware and originate from the Levant.

From the 1980s onwards, the first comprehensive studies of TeY Ware appeared, which tried to establish a classification of the general repertory of TeY Ware as a whole, both in the Levant and the Nile Valley, to investigate the origin of TeY Ware and to arrange these vessels in appropriate classifications and typologies. Among the primary studies with this concern is the work of Maureen Kaplan (1980), who established a typology of the general repertory of TeY Ware. Thereafter, Manfred Bietak (1986, 1989) suggested a classification related to the geographical regions from which TeY Ware vessels originate. The significance of Bietak’s studies is that they are based on the controlled stratigraphy of his excavations at Tell el-Dab’a, where hundreds of TeY Ware vessels were found. The current study follows the refined classification system that Bietak published with D. Aston in 2012.

Further studies focusing on the TeY Ware were restricted to specific archaeological sites, such as Tell el-Dab’a. We are still missing more detailed studies on how

TeY Ware emerged and developed in each region, the Levant and Egypt.

In this respect the region of the northern Levant and its corpus of TeY Ware are worth devoting a special study to, in order to understand the development of the TeY Ware for two reasons. At first, it is now known that TeY Ware emerged in the northern Levant at two different sites: Afula in northern Palestine and Byblos in the center of the Syro-Palestinian coast (Chap. 7.2). Second, the whole corpus of TeY Ware that was discovered over the last decades in southern Syria is still largely unpublished and therefore absent from the discussion on the TeY Ware. Scholars suggested that there was a “Syrian” TeY Ware (Aston/Bietak 2012, 200; Nigro 2003, 254–255). Since few vessels have appeared in publications, we know very little about their appearance, how it looked like, how they reached southern Syria, and where they fit in the TeY Ware’s development. This study intends to fill this gap in scholarship.

1.1 The aim of this study

This study aims to investigate the corpus of TeY Ware so far discovered in northern Levantine sites, focusing on the region of southern Syria where TeY Ware was never systematically studied and classified before. The primary purpose of this study is to define Syrian TeY Ware, its forms and typological features, decorative style, geographical distribution, and chronology. This classification informs a discussion of Syrian TeY Ware origins; for example, from which branch of TeY Ware it developed and through which path it reached inland southern Syria.

1.2 Methodological approach

This study catalogues the whole corpus of TeY Ware vessels discovered in the northern Levant thus far. This research focuses on the geographical region that stretches from Tell Mardikh, Ras-Shamra, and the Orontes Valley to the north to the edge of Carmel Mountain in the south, including Upper and Lower Galilee (Fig. 1). It is essential to include Galilee as its **MBA** pottery production is closely related to that of western Syria. This study is bound to the west by the Levantine coast of the Mediterranean, and the east, by Tell Mardikh and the western edge of Jebel Haurān. The TeY Ware of Cyprus, more closely related to the Nile Delta than Syro-Palestine, is excluded from this study. This geographical region under examination here can be subdivided into the following units: the Orontes-Valley, the Syro-Palestinian coast (up to Haifa in the south), Beqaa, Damascene, Haurān, Jebel Haurān, Julān Heights and Galilee.

The period covered in this study depends on the complete time of use of TeY Ware and includes the first half of the Second Millennium BCE, which corresponds to the **MBA** in the Levant and the Thirteenth Dynasty and the Second Intermediate Period in Egypt. The chronology used in this study is the Middle Chronology system developed and recently proposed based on the sequence at Mishrifeh. According to this system, the **MBA** is divided into three periods as follows:

MB I	MB IA	c. 2000–1850 BCE
	MB IB	c. 1850–1770 BCE
MB II	MB IIA	c. 1770–1700 BCE
	MB IIB	c. 1700–1600 BCE
MB III		c. 1600–1500 BCE

Table 1: The Chronology of the **MBA** used in this study, after Iamoni/Morandi Bonacossi 2010–2011, 184: tab. 1.

I personally worked on the corpora from southern Syria (Fig. 2): The vessels discovered at Tell Sakka in Damascus and the collections of the Damascus, Quneitra, and Dara' Museums. The latter consists of vessels from the Dar'a tomb and Tell al-Ash'ari. Due to the current situation in Syria, only half were studied before they were packed and transferred to a secure location. Further

on, I also accessed the corpus of Tell Debbet-Brekeh discovered before 2014 and stored in the Sweida Museum, the TeY Ware corpora in the Louvre (from Ras-Shamra, Byblos, and Kafr Jarra), the Archaeological Museum of the American University of Beirut (from various places in Lebanon and Palestine), and the corpus discovered at Sidon and stored in the excavation house there.

The Dar'a Museum collection and the vessels discovered at Tell Debbet-Brekeh in 2014 or later were not accessible. I relied on photographs or preliminary reports kindly given to me by the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museum in Damascus. I relied on published records for the remaining corpora, including the northern Palestinian sites.

All accessible vessels were described, photographed, drawn (when no drawings were extant), and given a code according to the name of the site of origin or the museum collection where they are stored. Since many vessels from southern Syria were inaccessible and are important to understand various features of the Syrian TeY Ware, it was necessary to make provisional drawings from photographs and add them to the plates, accounting as much as possible for the scale and acknowledging the limitations of this procedure.

The method of typological classification applied in this study depends on the classification published by Aston and Bietak in 2012, which is based on geographical distribution, body forms, and the chronological development of TeY Ware. Chapter 4 deals with the typology of northern Levantine TeY Ware according to this classification and suggests additions and modifications where necessary.

The Syrian material that was previously unknown is integrated into this classification system in the position proposed by Aston and Bietak (Branch K) and is subdivided into six main type-groups according to its forms, but also taking into consideration its chronological development. This material is presented in Chapter 5. The catalogue is arranged to the typological classification presented in Chapters 3 and 4.

Chapter 6 discusses the archaeological contexts of northern Levantine sites and introduces several **MBA** sites from southern Syria about which only sporadic information has been published.

Chapter 7 discusses and summarizes the results concerning the chronology, production centres, decoration, and usage of northern Levantine TeY Ware.



Fig. 1: MBA sites in the northern Levant with finds of TeY Ware (S. Shamas / R. Orabi 2023).

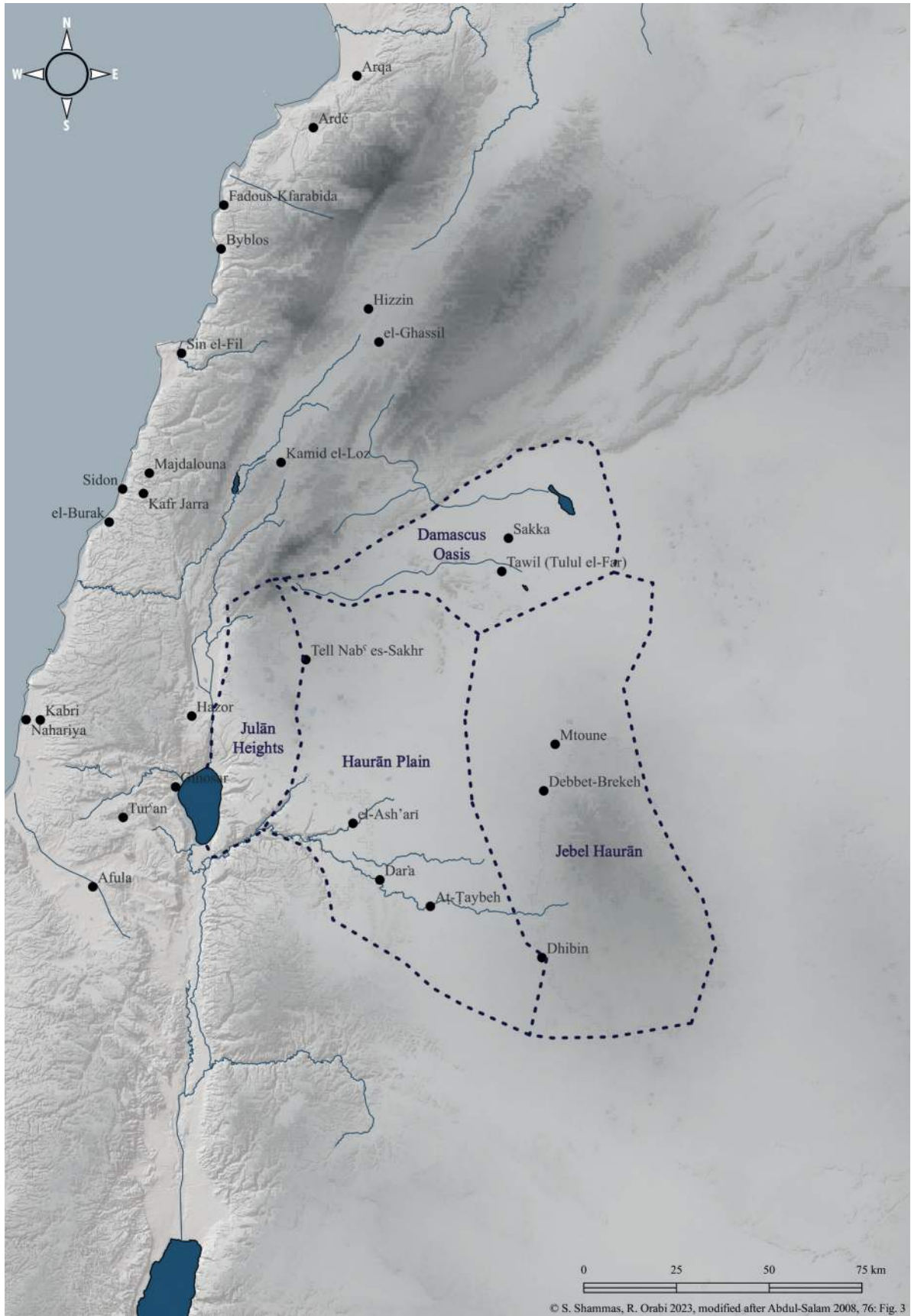


Fig. 2: Map with designations of geographical regions in southern Syria (S. Shammas / R. Orabi 2023 after Abdul-Salam 2008, 76: fig. 3).

1.2 Methodological approach



Fig. 3: Map of sites in the Levant mentioned in the text (S. Shammas / R. Orabi 2023).

1. Introduction



Fig. 4: Map of sites in the Nile Valley mentioned in the text (S. Shammas / R. Orabi 2023).

2. Overview of earlier studies of TeY Ware

D. Aston recently reviewed the earlier research on TeY Ware typology in 2008. This detailed study was republished in 2012 as a part of his collaborative work with M. Bietak (2012, 25–55). Therefore, only a brief overview of earlier research is given, focusing on the evolution of the classification and the different opinions concerning the origin of TeY Ware.

TeY Ware was first systematically studied and given its name by W. F. Petrie (1906, 11–16, Pls. V, VII–VIII) after his excavations at Tell el-Yahudiyeh in the eastern Nile Delta (Fig. 4). However, TeY Ware juglets had been collected previously by E. Naville and F. Ll. Griffith. Both excavated at the same site before Petrie and described the vessels as “black pots” (Naville 1887, 21–22), pots “ornamented with punctured patterns” (Griffith 1890, 40, pl. XI: 1–6, pl. XIX: 16), or vessels “ornamented with white dots” (Naville 1890, 9).

However, it was Junker (1921) who first classified the TeY Ware material by establishing a typology based on dividing the body form into five main groups (from a to e). He argued that TeY Ware originated in Nubia (Junker 1921, 2–5). As noted by Kaplan, Aston, and Bietak, his last group (e) should be excluded as it consisted of vessels that belong to Nubian pottery traditions and not to TeY Ware (Aston/Bietak 2012, 26, 27: fig. 1; Kaplan 1980, 6, 125: footnote 5). Two years later, Reisner added one more criterion for classifying the ware when he pointed to the existence of delineations lines into the decorated zones. Furthermore, he argued that the high number of TeY vessels in burial contexts denotes a symbolic meaning (Reisner 1923, 381–388). Bonnet instead suggested that the ware reached Egypt during the Hyksos period, and its origin should be sought in Near Eastern territories (Bonnet 1924, 119–121). Explaining that TeY Ware was the pottery class that characterises the Hyksos era in Egypt, Engberg also emphasised the correlation between this ware and the Hyksos (Engberg 1939, 18, 25–30). This opinion was challenged afterwards by Säve-Söderbergh, who warned of the association of an ethnic movement with the emergence of a new pottery class, which might oc-

cur due to trade exchange as well (Säve-Söderbergh 1951, 57). Säve-Söderbergh added that TeY Ware was already known in Syria-Palestine; it arrived in Egypt before the rise of the Hyksos and remained in use after their defeat. Nevertheless, he admitted that it probably was favoured by the Hyksos and imported in significant numbers into Egypt (Säve-Söderbergh 1951, 57).

In 1928, R. Dussaud asserted that this ware originated in the Levant, as it occurred in Syria-Palestine, where vessels were made according to MBA Levantine body forms as early as the Twelfth Dynasty. However, he incorrectly attributed juglets with painted decoration to this category (Dussaud 1928, 147–150). The embedment of TeY Ware in the Levantine tradition was also emphasised by H. Otto, who argued that its ancestors could be traced in the pottery repertoires of the EB III–IV at Tell Beit Mirsim and Jericho. He added that vessels of TeY Ware should be burnished and geometrically decorated, pointing out that in some cases, these vessels could be found together with other juglets that were plain burnished without incised decoration (Otto 1938, 168–169, Taf. 5).

As Aston and Bietak point out, Åström innovated a new and elaborate typological classification for TeY Ware in 1957. He was the first to refer to some similar features between TeY Ware and the Cypriote Black Slip III (Aston/Bietak 2012, 302), an issue that sometimes confuses the differentiation between those two pottery types.¹ Åström’s classification was based on TeY Ware vessels found in Cypriote contexts. He divided them according to body shapes into seven categories of jugs (from a to g) (Åström 1957, 130–132, Fig. XXX: 21–24; Aston/Bietak 2012, 35: fig. 3).² Types b, d, e, and f respectively parallel Kaplan’s classifications: piriform, grooved (gashed),

1 As in a Cypriote Black Slip III from Ras-Shamra that is incorrectly attributed to the TeY Ware (see Al-Maqdissi 2006–2007, 66: fig. 12: 71; in this research RSH 06).

2 Note that in this Aston/Bietak 2012, fig. 3 vessels e and f must be switched to match Åström’s description.

cylindrical and globular (Kaplan 1980, 15–29). Åström's last type (g) was assigned to a juglet of an ichthyomorphic shape, and he also described the decoration pattern which predominates among the Cypriote TeY vessels as consisting of two thick horizontal bands of chevrons that cover the vessels' bodies and separated by a plain burnished band located at the area where the body's carination occurs (Åström 1957, 132). This decoration motif is the standard for almost all TeY vessels belonging to the biconical type, the predominant type found in Cyprus.

Later, Van Seters returned to the idea of attributing TeY Ware to the Hyksos despite admitting that the occurrence of this pottery class within the material culture of the Levant during MB II B-C (in his terminology) confused this attribution (Van Seters 1966, 49). Moreover, he divided TeY Ware vessels into a Syrian group for the piriform juglets, whereas the cylindrical and squat piriform were placed into a Palestinian group (Van Seters 1966, 50; fig. 9).

R. Amiran also tried to explain the differences between TeY Ware vessels depending on their regional distribution. She differentiated between the “coastal plain” and the “interior part of Syria” (Amiran 1957, 93–95). However, the issue in this division is that the only examples she attributed to the second region were three sherds found in Level (H) at Hama, which she then excluded from TeY Ware. Therefore, she concluded that production was restricted to Palestine, with peripheral centres in the coastal regions of Cyprus and Lower Egypt (Amiran 1957, 96). Amiran, in her monograph *Ancient Pottery of the Holy Land* (1969), classified TeY Ware juglets into two main groups: cylindrical and piriform, pointing out that these vessel shapes experienced the same development as juglets of other pottery classes in the MBA in the Levant. She also proposed that the earliest examples of TeY Ware date back to MB IIA, while it saw its fluorescence during MB IIB and MB IIC, according to her terminology (Amiran 1969, 118–120).

R. Merrillees, after discovering a tomb of the Middle Cypriot III period in Arpera on Cyprus, argued that juglets with incised decoration that date earlier than the known TeY Ware vessels from Egypt constituted a special category labelled by him as El-Lisht Ware³ after the site El-Lisht in Egypt where many vessels of this group were found. He found that vessels of this “El-Lisht Ware” were distributed in the Nile Valley and the Levant and

regarded them as the ancestor of TeY Ware generally (Merrillees 1974, 59–74, 48: fig. 31: 14–16, 55–56: figs. 38–40).

Thereafter, Merrillees worked on the material of the Archaeological Museum of the American University of Beirut and suggested dividing the vessels into three chronological categories, El-Lisht Ware (for the early phase), Transitional El-Lisht/TeY Ware (for the intermediate phase), and TeY Ware (for the last occurrence of TeY Ware). He argued that his classification corresponded to the chronology of the material found at Tell el-Dab'a (Merrillees 1978, 76). Though his chronological scheme was not yet accurate, his attempt to establish the chronological evolution of TeY Ware pointed out its diversity and the existence of several lines in the development of TeY Ware.

The study published by Kaplan in 1980 was the first comprehensive study investigating TeY Ware in all regions of its distribution: in the Levant and the Nile Valley. Kaplan pointed out the difficulty of defining TeY Ware. Or in other words: What criteria should be used to classify a vessel as TeY Ware? Earlier studies, in some cases, included non-decorated juglets or even painted vessels (Kaplan 1980, 1). Kaplan also established a new typological system based mainly on body shapes using a sophisticated computation system that processed gathered data to produce analysis clusters depending on body proportions (Kaplan 1980, 8–10).

The resulting typology divided TeY Ware juglets into five main types: cylindrical, globular, piriform, biconical, and ovoid (Kaplan 1980, 16: fig. 3). Other minor types were assigned as well, such as quadrilobal, miniature, bird-shaped, and ichthyomorphic. Two types were set apart based on decorative variations: grooved and vessels with naturalistic designs.⁴ The main critique of Kaplan's method was that, in many cases, the attribution of vessels to certain types was not convincing (Aston/Bietak 2012, 47). Furthermore, Kaplan applied Neutron Activation Analysis to most vessels she investigated. As a result of these analyses, she defined four main chemical groups. Two can be assigned to an origin in the Levant, the red filed and the limestone hill⁵, and two groups to the Nile Valley, Nile alluvium and Nile mixture, with smaller chemical

3 These vessels belong to the Levanto-Egyptian branch in the terminology of Aston/Bietak 2012, 152, 169.

4 See the complete discussion of these types (Kaplan 1980, 15–39).

5 Terms “Red field” and “Limestone hills” are used to differentiate between two different types of clay in southern Levant. These terms firstly used by D. W. Brooks (1975) from her analysis on pottery samples from the fields or the hills in southern Levant which turned into red filed (red clay) and limestone hill (yellow clay) respectively, the terms are adopted from Kaplan in her study (Kaplan 1980, 56–57 and footnote 25).

groups including samples analysed from Ras-Shamra (Kaplan 1980, 55–59, 224–233; tables. 1–4). Unfortunately, Kaplan incorrectly concluded that the TeY Ware originated from Egypt, arguing that the early vessels found in the Levant were “Egyptian imports” (Kaplan 1980, 122; Aston/Bietak 2012, 551).

Based on the excavations at Tell el-Dab’a, M. Bietak made the most significant contributions to the study of TeY Ware. Based on the controlled stratigraphy at Tell el-Dab’a, Bietak’s contributions successfully reached what Merrillees already envisioned: to relieve TeY Ware from its “sociological connotations” with the Hyksos and re-constitute it to its “historical significance” (Merrillees 1978, 76).

In two articles on TeY Ware M. Bietak evaluated previous typologies and classifications and this work ultimately led to the “chronologically workable typology” of TeY Ware (Aston/Bietak 2012, 49). The first article was published in the *Lexikon der Ägyptologie* in 1986 (Bietak 1986). In this study, Bietak suggested that the origin of this pottery was embedded in the MBA material culture, as its earliest occurrence at Tell el-Dab’a dated to the first half of the 18th century B.C.E (Stratum d/1) (Bietak 1986, 335). In his first classification Bietak divided the Ware into six main types:

1. The Palestinian Group: described as ovoid, with narrow horizontal bands of decoration (Bietak 1986, 336).
2. The Syro-Egyptian Group: corresponding to the so-called el-Lisht Ware of Merrillees and was later developed into the Levanto-Egyptian branch I. It embraces Kaplan’s Piriform type 1 and Ovoid type 4. Bietak described this group as having four, and later only two, decoration bands covering the bodies of most vessels. In the development of this group, vessels tend to become smaller in size, handles become single-strapped rather than tripartite, and bases are simple button bases (Bietak 1986, 336, 345, 339; Abb. 2).
3. Egyptian Group: developed from the Syro-Egyptian Group, with more simplified horizontal or vertical decoration zones (Kaplan’s Piriform 2a, 2b and Globular) (Bietak 1986, 345).
4. Special forms: containing vessels with naturalistic designs, such as lotus blossoms, fish, or birds, and all anthropomorphic, animal- or fruit-shaped vessels which were found in Egypt and on the Levantine coast (Bietak 1986, 347).
5. Jugs with painting: containing what Bietak described as yellow surface juglets with red decoration, which came to Tell el-Dab’a as MB IIA imports (Bietak 1986, 347). As no figure accompanies this description, these vessels cannot be independently assessed but supposedly belong to the so-called LPW and not TeY Ware.
6. Undecorated Groups: consisting of vessels that should not be categorised to this pottery class but to the plain burnished pottery categories.⁶

Bietak pointed out that many undecorated black or red, plain burnished juglets with similar body forms to the TeY Ware juglets were distributed in the Levant and Egypt. He also suggested the popularity of the fluid carried in these vessels to be the reason for its widespread interregional distribution (Bietak 1986, 335).

In a second article by Bietak (1989), he evaluated Kaplan’s new typology and methods. He remarked that this study lacked insights into relative and absolute chronology, yet, based on the stratigraphic sequence of Tell el-Dab’a, this problem could be solved, and the chronological sequence of TeY Ware established (Bietak 1989, 7–8). The new classification introduced in this phase of Bietak’s research consisted of these groups:

1. Primaeval Group (Kaplan’s Ovoid 1): According to Bietak, jugs that belong to this group had the typical typological attributes of jugs of MB IIA (here **MB IB**) traditions, found in Byblos, ‘Afula, Tell el-Dab’a in Stratum d/1, and other Levantine contexts.⁷
2. Early Palestinian Group (Kaplan’s Ovoid 2, 3, and 4): This group was found exclusively in northern Palestine. Vessels were made of local clay (especially red field clay) and date to the transitional period MB IIA/MB IIB (here **MB IB/MB IIA**). Bietak assumed this group to have developed into the Late Palestinian Group in MB II B-C (here **MB IIB-MB III**) (Kaplan’s Piriform 3) (Bietak 1989, 10–11, 23; Abb. 6, 32; Abb. 15).
3. Syro-Egyptian Group (Kaplan’s Piriform 1): According to the chronology of Tell el-Dab’a, this group was divided into three subgroups: a, b, and c, distributed in many regions of the Levant and the northern Nile Valley and dated to late MB IIA (here **MB IB**). A group named “Egyptian” had directly emerged from this

⁶ Afterwards those types 5 and 6 were excluded from Bietak’s typology (Bietak 1989) and the latest Aston/Bietak classification, where also a clear remark concerning this point is made (Aston/Bietak 2012, 50).

⁷ Bietak describes these attributes to be the ovoid body, the neck and the bipartite (or more stranded) handle (Bietak 1989, 9–10, 22; Abb. 5), the most important feature must be the ridged rim, which is a main characteristic of juglets dating to **MB IB** (see Amiran 1969, 118: Photos 115, 117–118).

group (Kaplan's Piriform 2, Biconical, Globular, Quadrilobal and Cylindrical 1) (Bietak 1989, 8, 11-17, 25-31: Abb. 8-14).

4. Handmade Globular Group: This group includes vessels that combine Egyptian clay with Cypriote techniques (Bietak 1989, 19: Abb. 1).

Recently Aston and Bietak (2012) developed a new classification system depending mainly on material discovered at Tell el-Dab'a in the last few decades. Their "chronologically workable typology" is used in this research to classify the northern Levantine repertory of TeY Ware and therefore is discussed in detail in chapter 3.1.

3. Typological Analysis of Tell el-Yahudiyeh Ware in the northern Levant

3.1 Methodology of classification

In this study, the method of dividing and classifying the TeY Ware repertoire of the northern Levant into different branches, type-groups, and smaller groups, follows the method created primarily by M. Bietak (1989) and then developed recently by him and D. Aston into the classification published in Tell el-Dab'a VIII (Aston/Bietak 2012). The main aim of their classification was to produce a new "chronologically workable typology" for this pottery class by correlating the Tell el-Dab'a repertoire of approximately 650 pieces with other corpora of TeY Ware found along the Levant and in the Nile Valley (Aston/Bietak 2012, 23). Tracing the chronological and stratigraphic sequence at Tell el-Dab'a helps explain the shortcomings of a shapes-only typology (Aston/Bietak 2012, 54). For example, Kaplan's typology (1980) failed to produce reliable chronology outcomes due to its reliance on shapes. Any classification system of TeY pottery must include other characteristics, especially decoration styles.

The Aston/Bietak classification is built on first separating vessels into major divisions based on the "genetic mainstreams in the development of the Tell el-Yahudiyeh ware". These are Branches A, B-C, E, H-I, K, and L (Fig. 5). The following step groups the forms "outside of the main development" into Branches G, J, and M-Q. Branch N is reserved for the "Handmade Globular" vessels, discovered only at Egyptian sites (Aston/Bietak 2012, 58).

According to this classification, the corpus of TeY ware vessels is divided into:⁸

Branch A: The Primeval Group
Branch B: The Early Palestinian Group
Branch C: The Middle Palestinian Group

Branch D: The Late Palestinian Group
Branches E-H: The Early Levantine Group
Branch I: The Levanto-Egyptian Group
Branch J: Levanto-Egyptian Vessels with Naturalistic Designs
Branch K: The Late Syrian Group
Branch L: The Late Egyptian Group
Branch M: Hybrids
Branch N: Handmade Globular
Branch O: Jars
Branch P: Open Vessels

Since this method emphasises the geographical context from which vessels originate, it is appropriate for the current study. Moreover, this classification is significantly valuable regarding the chronological development of TeY Ware as it is aligned with the chronological sequence of TeY ware discovered over the last fifty years at Tell el-Dab'a.

Therefore, following the Aston/Bietak classification helps to solve many chronological problems when dealing with corpora that come from unknown provenances, such as the TeY Ware corpus preserved in the Damascus Museum, or vessels discovered in MBA tombs, which were in use over long periods, often from the late EB IV to late MB II and early MB III, as is the case for many tombs excavated at Tell al-Ash'arī in southern Syria. Thus, this classification system facilitates the incorporation of unpublished material from southern Syria, labelled here "The Syrian TeY Ware" (Fig. 6). As the following pages will show, it is possible to trace the main paths, or "mainstreams" in the parlance of Aston/Bietak, along which TeY Ware was developed and the relations between inhabitants of the Levant and Egypt that contributed to the TeY Ware's wide distribution.

Even though this study follows the typology of Aston/Bietak (2012), some modifications are suggested, including new branches or type-groups, such as the Early

⁸ See the whole discussion of this new classification in Aston and Bietak 2012, 57–334.

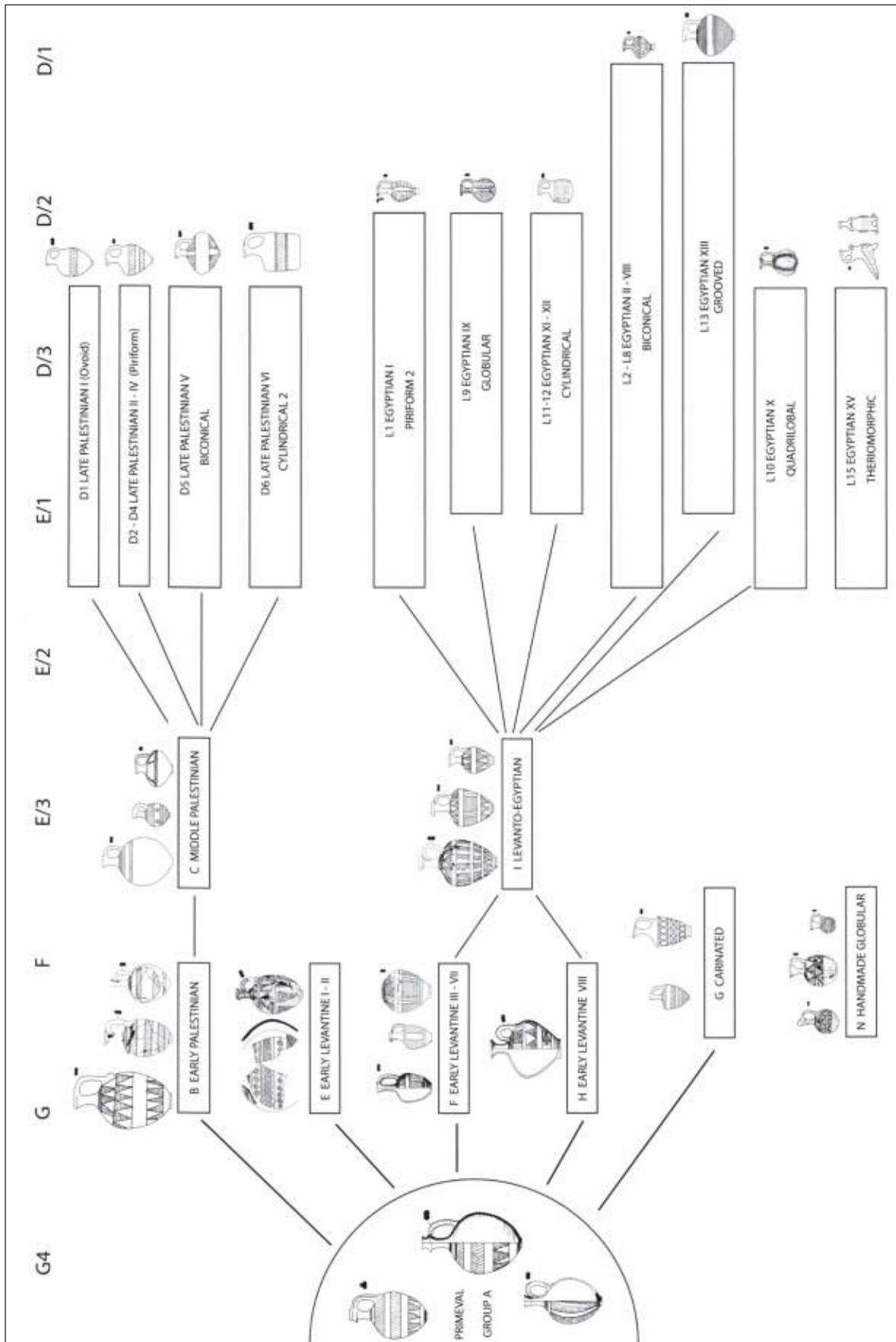


Fig. 5: Typology of TeY Ware according to Aston and Bietak (Aston/Bietak 2012, 53: fig. 10).

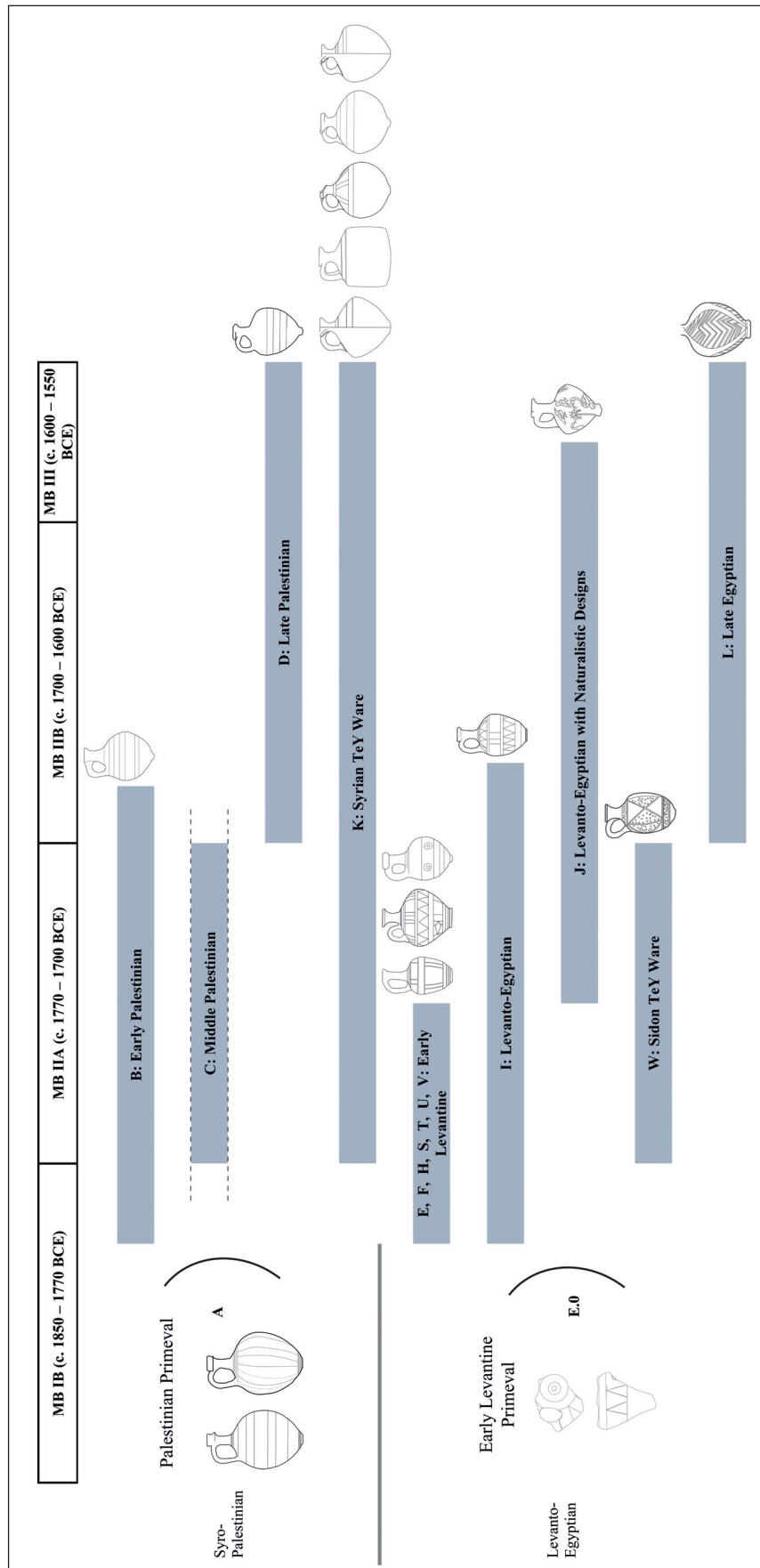


Fig. 6: Typology of TeY Ware in the northern Levant (S. Shammas; digitizing: R. Orabi)

Levantine Branches S, T, U, V and Branch W: **Sidon TeY Ware** (see chapter 4.12). By contrast, a suggestion is made to cancel branch G (see chapter 4.5.3). This revised classification system recategorises carinated vessels into more suitable branches. Moreover, some vessels are moved from a type-group or sub-type to another when it is typologically more convincing. For example, Branch C: Middle Palestinian is now absent from the northern Levantine repertory of TeY Ware. Its vessels are moved to Syrian TeY Ware and Early Levantine branches. These changes are detailed and substantiated below.

3.2 The northern Levantine corpus of TeY Ware

The corpus introduced in this research includes all TeY Ware pieces discovered at northern Levantine sites. It consists of 318 complete or incomplete vessels as well as sherds. Geographically, this material comes from the Syro-Palestinian coast from Ras-Shamra in the north to Nahariya in the south, from inland Syria and Galilee.

More than half of this corpus consists of unpublished material from southern Syria. These vessels form the Syrian TeY Ware, which emerged and developed from the Middle Palestinian Branch and not from the Levanto-Egyptian as formerly suggested by Aston/Bietak. Due to the lack of publications of Syrian TeY Ware, Aston/Bietak assigned a separate empty branch to the Syrian corpus calling it Branch K, “Late Syrian,” to be filled by future scholars (Aston/Bietak 2012, 65, 200). Therefore, Syrian TeY Ware is called here Branch K. However, the label “Late Syrian” is inappropriate as vessels of this branch appear as early as MB IIA. Therefore, the relabelled branch K will be added as an extension to the Aston/Bietak classification to complete our understanding of TeY Ware (see chapter 5).

Unfortunately, many vessels were inaccessible and thus could not be studied personally. More than half of the Darʿa Museum vessels and many Tell Debbet-Brekeh vessels fall into this category.⁹ Only modest-quality photographs are available of many of these objects; nevertheless, they are included since they carry significant information regarding chronology, body forms, and un-

sual decoration patterns. Drawings were made based on these pictures to understand and interpret these vessels as best as possible.

3.3 Terminology

Before analysing this northern Levantine corpus, it is necessary to discuss the terminology used in the coming pages. The term “jugs” refers to vessels more than 17 cm in height, “juglets” are those between 10–17, and “miniature juglets” are vessels whose height does not exceed 10 cm (see below). Six main body forms appear within the typology; a definition is assigned to each shape for categorisation purposes. Nevertheless, shape definitions sometimes overlap, making it difficult to categorise certain vessels, especially the ovoid and piriform types.¹⁰

The definitions of the six main shapes are as follows:

Ovoid: The maximum diameter occurs slightly above or in the middle of the body. Unlike the piriform type, the ovoid type lacks a clear transition from shoulder to body.

Piriform: The maximum diameter occurs on the upper part of the body, where a curve or angle marks the transition from shoulder to body.

Globular: The maximum diameter occurs slightly below or at the middle of the body, which has a spherical shape.¹¹

Cylindrical: The body shape has two angles, one near the shoulder and one near the base. Between those angles, a cylinder or truncated cone forms the body.

Biconical: The maximum diameter occurs at the carination angle in the middle of the body.

Miniature: Smaller copies of normal-sized juglets with a height of not more than 10 cm.

Three juglets are categorised as miniature vessels, although their height exceeds 10 cm. These are the juglet from Tell el-Ghassil **GHA 01** (10.4 cm; **Cat. No. 120**) and two from the Damascus Museum group **DAM 21** (10.7 cm; **Cat. No. 292**) and **DAM 08** (10.3 cm; **Cat. No. 291**). Their form and proportions imply their attribution to the miniature category. On the contrary, an incomplete biconical juglet from Darʿa Museum collection **DAR 42** (**Cat.**

9 These are the vessels **DAR 30–DAR 65** from the Darʿa Museum collection, which were part of the permanent exhibition. Working on them could not be finished due to the political situation in Syria after 2011. Those from Tell Debbet-Brekeh (**BRE 21–BRE 29**) were discovered in 2014 after my last visit to the Sweida Museum and were documented in a report to the DGAM kindly provided to me by Ahmad F. Taraqji in 2016.

10 For example, **DAR 04**, **DAR 11**, and **DAR 23**.

11 Note here that this definition of “globular” is different from the bag-shaped vessels, designated as globular in previous publications of TeY Ware (see below the discussion of the type-group Globular K.III of Syrian TeY Ware).

No. 289) measuring less than 10 cm in height cannot be considered a miniature. Its wide diameter suggests a normal-sized juglet with an extremely squat body.

Additionally, since the differentiations in the typological attributes (rim shapes, base, and handles) are of significance, especially when trying to date the vessels of

unknown provenance belonging to the Syrian TeY Ware, visualisations are presented here to show the typological development and shifts that this material experienced through its lifespan (Figs 7–8). The evolution of the candlestick rims, a hallmark of the transition to **MB IIB/MB III** (see Fig. 7), is especially significant.

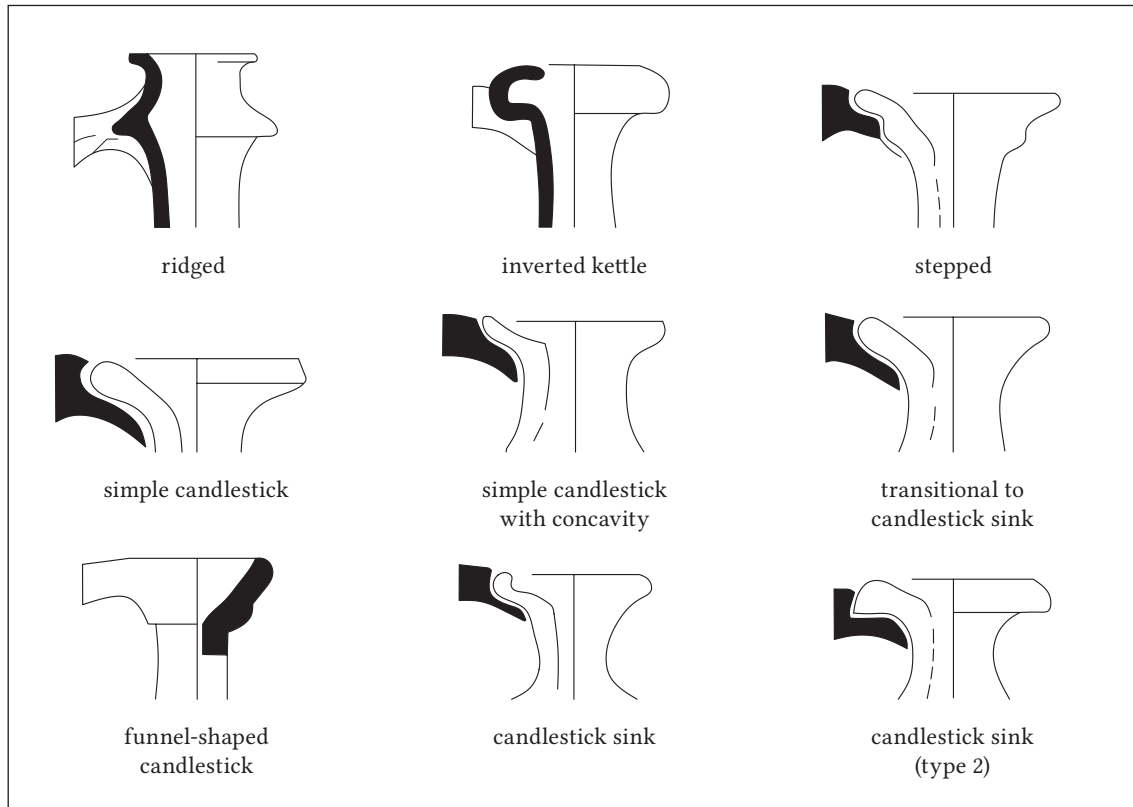


Fig. 7: Classification of TeY Ware rims in the northern Levant

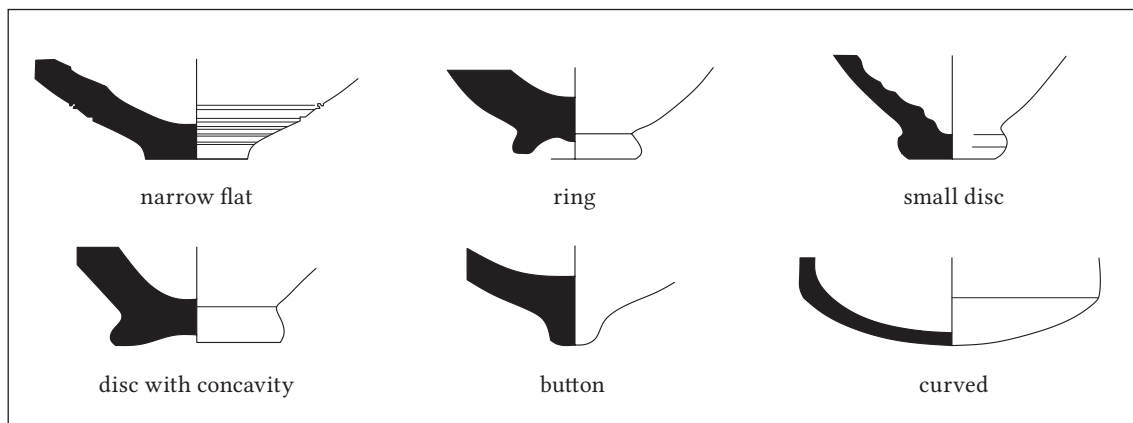


Fig. 8: Classification of TeY Ware bases in the northern Levant

4. Typology of TeY Ware in the northern Levant

This chapter will focus on the classification of the north Levantine TeY Ware corpus. All branches will be treated here except for **Branch K: The Syrian TeY Ware**, comprehensively introduced in Chapter 5. As mentioned in Chapter 3, the classification of the corpus is based mainly on the classification of Aston and Bietak (2012). However, new branches and sub-types are added in this study, or certain branches are newly labelled according to the results and perspectives followed in this study. Justifications clarifying these modifications are mentioned in the text. Branches present in the region of study are always written in bold.

4.1 Branch A: The Palestinian Primeval Group (Cat. Nos. 01–42)

42 exemplars:

AFU 01, AFU 02, AFU 05, AFU 06, AFU 07, AFU 18, AFU 19, AFU 26, AFU 27, AFU 30, AFU 10, AFU 11, AFU 12, AFU 13, AFU 14, AFU 15, AFU 16, AFU 23, AFU 24, AFU 25, AFU 28, AFU 29, AFU 03, AFU 04, AFU 08, GIN 02, AFU 17, TUR 01, AFU 21 (includes 14 unbaked sherds from kiln)

The Palestinian Primeval Group can also be called Archaic TeY Ware (Fig. 60). Most of the vessels included in this branch were found in situ at the potter's workshop at Afula (Zevulun, 1990; see here Fig. 9), in addition to one vessel coming from Ginosar **GIN 02** (Epstein 1974, 27: fig. 8:19) and another vessel from Tur'an tomb **TUR 01** (Gershuny/Eisenberg 2005, 13: figs. 11–12).

Aston/Bietak also attribute to this branch A two sherds from Byblos **BYB 12** (Merrillees 1978, 78: fig. 1:2) and two other sherds found in Tell el-Dab'a and made of Levantine clay (Aston/Bietak 2012, 59). Although these sherds belong to the earliest examples of TeY Ware, they were removed from this branch to a new type-group of the Early Levantine branch named **E.0 Early Levantine primeval group** (chapter 4.5.1). Several features of these

sherds place them outside of Branch A: the thin band near the neck, standing triangles on the upper part of the body, and how the decoration is applied by a single-pointed tool, instead of a comb-like tool, as in the Afula vessels, Ginosar **GIN 02**, and the Inland Syro-Palestine vessels. Moreover, recent analyses in Lebanon indicate that the region of Byblos was an (early) production centre of TeY Ware (Charaf/Ownby 2012, 600). This conclusion conforms with Aston/Bietak's assertion that the earliest TeY Ware comes from the Northern Levant but "evolved independently" in Syria-Palestine (Aston/Bietak 2012, 552). Therefore, it seems conclusive at the current stage of TeY Ware research to split the primeval branch into two groups.

Vessels of Branch A generally have general light-coloured and burnished surfaces, ranging from beige to brown, like the vessels of Afula, or a reddish unburnished surface, as **GIN 02**, or a slipped surface as **TUR 01** (see below: A.2). From the typological perspective, vessels of Branch A date to **MB IB** according to the relatively long and narrow necks and the ridged or stepped rim (Amiran 1969, 119).

Vessels of this branch are to be arranged into two groups **A.1** and **A.2**. Vessels of **A.1** are subdivided into three sub-types, which agrees with the remark of Zevulun that the Afula vessels belong to three separate groups according to their size and decoration style (Zevulun 1990, 107*).

The decoration in all type-groups of this Palestinian Primeval group A covers the vessel's body, a feature not popular in the later branches of the Syro-Palestinian assemblages.¹² Furthermore, the vessels are marked by having parallel horizontal incised lines at the neck's terminus and above the base. Decoration always consists

12 Decoration in Middle Palestinian C and Syrian K, for example, occurs almost always on the vessel's upper part, whereas it is very common to be applied on the lower part of many vessels in Late Palestinian D.



Fig. 9: Vessels from the Afula Workshop (Cohen-Weinberger 2016, 44–45: fig.7).

of three zones, or horizontal bands, separated by plain zones. These bands are filled with chevrons or rows of punctures; in four cases, the lower band is filled with standing or pendant triangles.¹³ Applying the decoration with a comb-like tool is adopted in the later Syro-Palestinian branches.

A.1.1 (Cat. Nos 01–10) (Aston/Bietak A.1.1 and A.1.2)

Exemplars:

AFU 01, AFU 02, AFU 05, AFU 06, AFU 07, AFU 18, AFU 19, AFU 26, AFU 27, AFU 30

Jugs of this subtype are ovoid and large-sized, ca. 18–20 cm in height. They are characterized by having an inner ridged rim and a bipartite handle (except for the tripartite handle of AFU 18). Bases are narrow and flat.

In two cases, among this subtype, the middle band of the decoration shows a distinctive design. AFU 06 has

¹³ AFU 02, AFU 06, and AFU 18 have pendant triangles, while AFU 05 has a standing triangles motif.

wavy incised lines, a design rare in the TeY Ware repertoire but widespread in ornamenting medium-sized jars of other wares of the MBA. The same situation is found at AFU 07, where the middle band has a butterfly motif. This motif otherwise is found among TeY Ware vessels of the Northern Levant only on the Tur'an jug (TUR 01) and on two juglets from Sidon (see below, groups A.2 and Branch W), but it is well known from other pottery classes such as LPW and Syro-Cilician Ware (see Bagh 2013, 25: fig. 2, 255: fig. 59: j, 287: fig. 80: a, 321: fig. 105: d).

A.1.2

Vessels of this subtype are smaller than the previous subtype (around 16 cm high on average) and are divided into two smaller groups depending on their decoration style.

A.1.2a (Cat. Nos 11–22) (Aston/Bietak A.1.3, A.1.4)

Exemplars:

AFU 10, AFU 11, AFU 12, AFU 13, AFU 14, AFU 15, AFU 16, AFU 23, AFU 24, AFU 25, AFU 28, AFU 29

Vessels in this group have stepped rims,¹⁴ except for the kettle rim in AFU 12. Necks are shorter and broader than vessels of subtype A.1.1; handles are (round section), and bases are narrow and flat. The decoration consists of vertical bands, which cover the body, and are filled with vertical rows of punctures or vertical chevrons. This decoration style is also exclusive for this type-group of the Afula assemblage and has never been found elsewhere.¹⁵ All bands are delineated, and those filled with chevrons have an incised line that passes in the centre of the chevron pattern.

¹⁴ Contra Aston/Bietak rims in this group and the group A.1.2b are described here as stepped rims and not candlestick rims (2012, 59).

¹⁵ This decoration could be compared to a piriform juglet coming from Arpera in Cyprus, that belongs to the type-group I.4: Levanto-Egyptian IV (Aston/Bietak 2012, 169, 176: fig. 111, 179: fig. 114). It is also possible to observe incised lines at the neck's terminus and one line near the base, but rows of punctures are applied horizontally on the Arpera jug and not vertically as on the Afula vessels. Also see for this jug: Merrillees 1974, 48: fig. 31: 16, 40; Kaplan 1980, fig. 41: c.