

## **The Early Imperial Fortress of Berkou, Eastern Desert, Egypt**

Jennifer Gates-Foster<sup>1</sup>, Isabelle Goncalves<sup>2</sup>, Bérangère Redon<sup>3</sup>, Hélène Cuvigny<sup>4</sup>, Mariola Hepa<sup>5</sup>, and Thomas Faucher<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Classics, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
<jgatesfoster@unc.edu>

<sup>2</sup>Université Lumière Lyon 2/HiSoMA, Lyon  
<isabelle.goncalves@mom.fr>

<sup>3</sup>Centre National de Recherche Scientifique/HiSoma, Lyon  
<berangere.redon@mom.fr>

<sup>4</sup>Centre National de Recherche Scientifique, Paris  
<h.cuvigny@gmail.com>

<sup>5</sup>Institute of Palaeoanatomy, Domestication Research and the History of Veterinary Medicine, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München  
<Mariola.Hepa@lmu.de>

<sup>6</sup>Centre National de Recherche Scientifique/IRAMAT, Bordeaux  
<thomas.faucher@u-bordeaux-montaigne.fr>

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## 1. POTTERY CATALOG<sup>1</sup>

### Thin-walled wares (Fig. 13)

*Bulbous bowl with everted plain rim.* Parallels: Syene, T 85 Schale/Becher Typ 17.3,<sup>2</sup> where primarily 1st c. CE in Aswan fineware; Form T 605b,<sup>3</sup> late 1st c. CE. Mons Claudianus: thin-walled ware bowl type 33-107, concentrated at Hydreuma, mid-1st c. CE and Trajanic+;<sup>4</sup> Porphyrites fort, late 1st to mid-2nd c. CE.<sup>5</sup>

Fig. 13.1. Tan surfaces, red to black paint on exterior. Aswan. SU 106.02.01.

Fig. 13.2. Pink surfaces with dark brown paint on exterior. Aswan. SU 106.05.01.

*Carinated bowl with plain rim.* Molded lower half and base with rouletting in imitation of sigillata. Dark brown paint unevenly applied to carination on exterior. Parallels: Mons Claudianus: bowl type 15-522, mid-1st c. from Hydreuma;<sup>6</sup> Syene: Form T 44 Schale Typ 10.1, with wide date range from 2nd to 7th c. CE;<sup>7</sup> Form T 601, 1st to 2nd c. CE.<sup>8</sup>

Fig. 13.3. Light brown surfaces. Aswan. SU 111.02.01.

*Beaker with upright grooved rim, ledged shoulder and straight walls.* Similar to Mons Claudianus thin-walled ware beaker type 18, where it is rare.<sup>9</sup>

Fig. 13.4. Two preserved parallel rows of horizontal barbotine; one row of upright ovoids above a row of dots. Aswan. SU 102.01.02.

*Globular double-handled beaker with everted, slightly thickened or plain rim, ledged shoulder and flat base.*

Fig. 13.5. Two parallel rows of horizontal barbotine; one row of angled ovoids above a row of dots. Light tan surface with white decoration. Aswan. SU 110.01.15.

Fig. 13.6. Double-grooved handles spring from the shoulder and attach just above lower register of large dots. Six parallel rows of barbotine; two rows of large dots surrounded by rows of small dots. Mottled tan to orange surfaces with white decoration. Aswan. SU 107.03.12.

*Globular double-handled beaker with everted triangular rim and sloping shoulder.*

Fig. 13.7. Double-grooved handles spring from the rim and attach at the shoulder. Three parallel rows of barbotine; two rows of angled ovoids above a festoon of small dots. Orange to brown surface with white with white decoration. Aswan. SU 108.07.01.

*Globular vessel of unknown type with two round handles.*

Fig. 13.8. Seven parallel rows of barbotine; two rows of small dots alternating with a single row of large dots. Light tan surface with white decoration. Aswan. SU 102.01.01.

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<sup>1</sup> The abbreviation SU refers to stratigraphic unit throughout the text. Images cited in the pottery and small finds catalogs and select ostraca can be found in the main text of the article.

<sup>2</sup> Rembart 2020, 56, fig. 60.

<sup>3</sup> Gempeler 1992, 124, fig., 70.17–18.

<sup>4</sup> Tomber 2006, 36, fig. 1.10.

<sup>5</sup> Tomber 2001, 254, fig. 6.3.8.

<sup>6</sup> Tomber 2001, 101–2, fig. 1.39.

<sup>7</sup> Rembart 2020, 47–48, fig. 2.

<sup>8</sup> Gempeler 1992, 122, fig. 70. 6–7.

<sup>9</sup> Tomber 2006, 32, fig. 1.8.

### **Hemispherical and carinated bowls (Fig. 14)**

*Bowl with flat ledge rim.* Imitation of ESA form 57-59, early 2nd c. CE.<sup>10</sup> Parallels: Porphyrites North West Village for ESA import of similar type.<sup>11</sup>

Fig. 14.1. Alluvial fabric with glossy black to dark brown burnished metallic surfaces. SU 100.01.01.

*Hemispherical bowl with inset, out-turned rim and hand-modeled walls with flat base.* Imitation of indented glass beaker of Early Imperial/Julio-Claudian date. At Syene glass vessels of this type occur from the end of the 1st c. CE and later.<sup>12</sup>

Fig. 14.2. Alluvial fabric. SU 116.01.16.

*Incurved rim hemispherical bowl with footring base and upright plain rim, based on Hellenistic form.* Parallels: Mons Claudianus, small bowl type 3-499, mid-1st c. CE and later, rare and only at Hydreuma;<sup>13</sup> Porphyrites, as marker for the Trajanic era and earlier also at Bradford Village in first half of 1st c. CE.<sup>14</sup>

Fig. 14.3. Alluvial fabric. SU 115.01.18.

*Incurved rim hemispherical bowl with low footring base, thick walls and plain in-turned rim.* Parallel: Mons Claudianus, small bowl type 4-501/502, mid-1st to Trajanic+, identified only at Hydreuma.<sup>15</sup>

Fig. 14.4. Poorly fired, alluvial fabric. SU 106.03.04.

*Incurved rim hemispherical bowl.* Parallel: Mons Claudianus, small bowl type 1-496, present throughout sequence.<sup>16</sup>

Fig. 14.5. White marl with med quartz and sand. Yellowish to cream matte slip with gritty, pitted surfaces. SU 100.01.02.

*Hemispherical bowl with triangular rim.* Often with red paint over rim and below rim. Parallels: Mons Claudianus, dish type 94, although Ghozza examples are deeper than illustrated examples from that site, Trajanic and earlier;<sup>17</sup> Porphyrites, mid-1st c. CE at Southwest village.<sup>18</sup>

Fig. 14.6. Aswan. SU 113.03.04.

Fig. 14.7. Aswan. SU 106.03.02.

Fig. 14.8. Aswan. SU 113.02.02.

*Hemispherical Bowl with straight walls and internally beveled rim with light brown slip on exterior and over rim to the internal ledge.* Parallels: Syene, T 109 Schale Typ 29, rare and poorly dated from the 2nd c. BCE to the 1st c. CE.<sup>19</sup>

Fig. 14.9. Calcareous fabric, probably Aswan. SU 113.03.05.

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<sup>10</sup> Hayes 1985, 39–40, fig. VII.

<sup>11</sup> Tomber 2001, 274, fig. 6.16.1.

<sup>12</sup> Keller 2017, 329 n. 472 and 345; fig. 10.5, G5.

<sup>13</sup> Tomber 2006, 99, fig. 1.38

<sup>14</sup> Tomber 2001, 245, fig. 6.1.6; 269, fig. 6.13.4–5.

<sup>15</sup> Tomber 2006, 99, fig. 1.38.

<sup>16</sup> Tomber 2006, 98, fig. 1.38.

<sup>17</sup> Tomber 2006, 122, fig. 1.47.

<sup>18</sup> Tomber 2001, 279, fig. 6.17.16.

<sup>19</sup> Rembart 2020, 61, fig. 5.

*Carinated bowl with plain slightly in-turned rim and footring base.* Parallels: Mons Claudianus, small bowl type 15, mid-1st c. to Severan, usually from Aswan;<sup>20</sup> Porphyrites, Bradford Village, first half of 1st c. CE.<sup>21</sup>

Fig. 14.10. Aswan. SU 106.12.03.

Fig. 14.11. Blackened on exterior. Aswan. SU 114.02.02.

*Carinated bowl with plain everted rim, slightly undercut.* Light ridging on exterior. Parallel: Mons Claudianus, small bowl type 22-23, mid-1st c. CE to Severan.<sup>22</sup>

Fig. 14.12. Red-slipped alluvial fabric (ERS) with black painted bands on body. SU 113.03.02.

### **Flanged bowls and dishes (Fig. 15)**

*Flanged bowl with low footring base and upright or slightly in-turned plain rim.* Short, horizontal flange at carination. Imitation of ESA Forms 46-47, early 1st to 60/70 CE.<sup>23</sup> Parallels: Mons Claudianus, small bowl type 30, mid-1st c. to Severan but less frequent in Trajanic and Severan periods;<sup>24</sup> Syene, GT 200, marker for the Flavian period.<sup>25</sup> Porphyrites, Fort, 1st to 2nd c. CE.<sup>26</sup>

Fig. 15.1. Aswan. SU 106.02.02.1

Fig. 15.2. Red paint over exterior rim. Aswan. SU 113.02.01.

Fig. 15.3. Burned. Alluvial fabric. SU 107.01.01.

*Flanged bowl with low footring base and slightly everted plain rim.* Short, horizontal flange at carination. Imitation of ESA Form 50, 60/70-100 CE.<sup>27</sup> Parallel: Mons Claudianus, similar but not identical to small bowl type 31, 1st c. CE and Trajanic+.<sup>28</sup>

Fig. 15.4. Soft, friable alluvial fabric. SU 107.03.07.

*Bowl with double-lip rim, rouletted below rim.* Imitation of Cypriot Sigillata Form P40.<sup>29</sup> Parallel: Mons Claudianus, small bowl type 35, most common in 2nd c. but present by 100 CE or earlier.<sup>30</sup>

Fig. 15.5. Finely sorted alluvial fabric with fine sand and small voids. SU 100.03.01.

*Carinated dish with flared plain rim and enlarged wall at the carination.* Imitation of ESA form 38, mid-1st c. CE.<sup>31</sup> Parallels: Mons Claudianus, variant of dish type 75 but more outturned, mid-1st c. to Hadrianic;<sup>32</sup> Porphyrites, the Fort and Workers Village, late 1st to mid-2nd c. CE.<sup>33</sup>

Fig. 15.6. Overfired calcareous fabric. Dark red, wiped surfaces. SU 107.02.01.

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<sup>20</sup> Tomber 2006, 101–2, fig. 1.39.

<sup>21</sup> Tomber 2001, 270, fig. 6.13.7.

<sup>22</sup> Tomber 2006, 104, fig. 1.39–40.

<sup>23</sup> Hayes 1985, 34–35, fig. VI.

<sup>24</sup> Tomber 2006, 105–7, fig. 1.40.

<sup>25</sup> Martin-Kilcher and Wininger 2017, 248–50, fig. 7.4.

<sup>26</sup> Tomber 2001, 256, fig. 6.4.31.

<sup>27</sup> Hayes 1985, 37, fig. XIII.

<sup>28</sup> Tomber 2006, 107, fig. 1.40

<sup>29</sup> Hayes 1985, 88, fig. XXI.

<sup>30</sup> Tomber 2006, 107, fig. 1.41.

<sup>31</sup> Hayes 1985, 31, fig. V.

<sup>32</sup> Tomber 2006, 118, fig. 1.46.

<sup>33</sup> Tomber 2001, 256, fig. 6.4.34; 262, fig. 6.7.6.

*Dish with splayed, slightly thickened rim and slight groove on exterior below carination. Base not preserved, but likely a flat base. Parallel: Mons Claudianus, dish type 88, poorly dated but some examples Trajanic+ and later.*<sup>34</sup>

Fig. 15.7. Two black concentric circles painted in center. Burned. Alluvial fabric with red slip (ERS). SU 115.01.19.

*Dish with rounded walls, plain slightly in-turned rim and low footring base. Parallels: Mons Claudianus, dish type 92, Trajanic+ but found only at the Hydreuma;*<sup>35</sup> *Syene, Form T 102b, 2nd-3rd c. CE.*<sup>36</sup>

Fig. 15.8. Aswan. SU 106.03.01.

*Dish with rounded walls, in-turned plain rim and inset base. Parallels: Mons Claudianus, dish type 90 at Hydreuma in Trajanic + deposits;*<sup>37</sup> *Syene, GT 100/102, as marker for the Flavian and Trajanic eras;*<sup>38</sup> *Form T 100a, possibly 1st c. CE;*<sup>39</sup> *T 147 Teller Typ 8, early to middle Imperial period.*<sup>40</sup>

Fig. 15.9. Aswan. SU 109.01.01.

Fig. 15.10. Aswan. Inv 107.02.03.

Fig. 15.11. Heavily ridged on interior. Aswan. SU 106.12.04.

*Bowl with widely splayed walls and a footring base.*

Fig. 15.12. Alluvial fabric. SU 102.02.02.

Fig. 15.13. Burned. Alluvial fabric. SU 114.02.04.

### **Lids (Fig. 16)**

*Small conical lid with plain everted rim. Handle is knobbed and body is smooth. Parallel: Mons Claudianus, lid type 10, mid-1st c. to Severan.*<sup>41</sup>

Fig. 16.1. Friable, coarse alluvial fabric. SU 114.02.06.

*Lid with thick undulating walls and broad flat handle. Plain or slightly beveled rim. Parallel: Mons Claudianus, lid type 6, mid-1st c. to Severan.*<sup>42</sup>

Fig. 16.2. Friable, coarse alluvial fabric. SU 200.04.01.

Fig. 16.3. Friable, coarse alluvial fabric. SU 102.02.01.

### **Casseroles (Fig. 16-17)**

*Rounded casserole with horizontal plain rim and smooth walls. Parallel: Mons Claudianus, variant of casserole type 62 but lacking a bead rim. Rare, found only at Hydreuma in Trajanic+ levels.*<sup>43</sup>

Fig. 16.4. Alluvial cookware. SU 100.01.12.

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<sup>34</sup> Tomber 2006, 121, fig. 1.46.

<sup>35</sup> Tomber 2006, 122, fig. 1.47.

<sup>36</sup> Gempeler 1992, 61, fig. 3.11–12.

<sup>37</sup> Tomber 2006, 121–22, fig. 1.47.

<sup>38</sup> Martin-Kilcher and Wininger 2017, 248–50, fig. 7.4.

<sup>39</sup> Gempeler 1992, 60, fig. 3.1–2.

<sup>40</sup> Rembart 2020, 69, fig. 8.

<sup>41</sup> Tomber 2006, 135, fig. 1.52.

<sup>42</sup> Tomber 2006, 135, fig. 1.52.

<sup>43</sup> Tomber 2006, 116, fig. 1.44.

*Rounded casserole with horizontal, slightly flanged and reeded rim, and smooth walls.* Parallel: Mons Claudianus, variant of casserole type 62. Rare, found only at Hydreuma in Trajanic+ level.<sup>44</sup>

Fig. 16.5. Alluvial cookware. SU 116.01.15.

*Rounded lightly ribbed casserole with broad flat rim, slightly oriented towards the outside of the vessel.* Parallel: Mons Claudianus, casserole type 59, present throughout sequence but particularly common in the 1st c. CE and Trajanic periods.<sup>45</sup>

Fig. 16.6. Alluvial cookware. SU 107.03.10.

*Rounded casserole with ledge rim angled towards the outer part of the vessel and overlapping the interior wall.* Parallel: Mons Claudianus, casserole type 60. Rare, Trajanic+.<sup>46</sup>

Fig. 16.7. Calcareous, gritty fabric with much mica and chaff. SU 113.01.02.

*Rounded casserole with rim angled towards the interior of the vessel.* Light ribbing on the lower half of the vessel. Variant of Mons Claudianus casserole type 63, 1st c. CE to Trajanic.<sup>47</sup>

Fig. 16.8. Alluvial cookware. SU 107.01.02.

*Carinated casserole with broad undulating rim slightly angled towards the inside of the vessel.* Light ribbing only on the bottom half of the vessel. Variant of Mons Claudianus casserole type 57 (Tomber 2006, Fig. 1.44). Type is present throughout sequence but particularly common in the 1st c. CE and Trajanic periods.

Fig. 16.9. Alluvial cookware, sandy. SU 109.02.04.

*Carinated casserole with horizontal, reeded rim and smooth walls.* Some examples have a single groove while others have two. Parallel: Mons Claudianus, casserole type 52. Type is present throughout sequence but particularly common in the 1st c. CE and Trajanic periods.<sup>48</sup>

Fig. 16.10. Alluvial cookware. SU 106.03.08.

Fig. 16.11. Alluvial cookware. SU 106.03.07.

*Small, carinated casserole with tapering, slightly dropped concave ledge rim.*

Fig. 16.12. Lightly ribbed below carination. Alluvial cookware. SU 118.01.01.

*Carinated casserole with horizontal ledge rim with bead, reeded rim and smooth walls.* Sometimes tapering in profile. Parallels: Mons Claudianus, variant of casserole type 48, most common from mid-1st c. to Trajanic+;<sup>49</sup> Porphyrites, Northwest Village, late 1st to 2nd c. CE.<sup>50</sup>

Fig. 16.13. Alluvial cookware. SU 115.07.02.

Fig. 16.14. Burned, alluvial cookware. SU100.02.12

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<sup>44</sup> Tomber 2006, 116, fig. 1.44.

<sup>45</sup> Tomber 2006, 115, fig. 1.44.

<sup>46</sup> Tomber 2006, 115, fig. 1.44.

<sup>47</sup> Tomber 2006, 116, fig. 1.45.

<sup>48</sup> Tomber 2006, 113, fig. 1.44.

<sup>49</sup> Tomber 2006, 111, fig. 1.42.

<sup>50</sup> Tomber 2001, 275, fig. 6.16.21.

*Carinated casserole with rounded rim angled away from the body.* Vessel is thickest at the shoulder and has smooth exterior. Parallel: Mons Claudianus, casserole type 38, particularly common in Trajanic period but also appears later.<sup>51</sup>

Fig. 16.15. Alluvial cookware. SU 102.01.06.

*Sharply carinated casserole with beveled, lid-seat rim angled towards the interior of the vessel and smooth walls.* Parallels: Syene, broadly similar to Hellenistic T475 kasserolle type 2.1<sup>52</sup> but Ghozza example certainly later by context and state of preservation; Mons Claudianus, possible earlier variant of casserole type 44<sup>53</sup> but the Ghozza vessels are thinner-walled and with a more pronounced concave upper surface and interior lip. The Mons Claudianus iteration is present throughout the Mons Claudianus sequence but is most common from the Hadrianic period and following. Not found at the Hydreuma. Porphyrites, South Sebak, Trajanic+ and earlier.<sup>54</sup>

Fig. 17.1. Alluvial cookware. SU 115.01.01.

Fig. 17.2. Alluvial cookware. SU 118.01.02.

Fig. 17.3. Alluvial cookware. SU 115.07.03.

### **Cookpots with everted rims (Fig. 17)**

*Globular wide-mouth jar or cooking pot with plain slightly everted rim, smooth body.* Parallel: Porphyrites, Northwest Village, late 1st to mid-2nd c. CE.<sup>55</sup>

Fig. 17.4. Calcareous, cream-colored fabric with pink to white wiped surfaces. SU 100.01.08.

*Wide-mouth jar or cooking pot with sharply everted, flanged rim.* Groove just below shoulder. Parallels: Mons Claudianus, cookpot type 62, mid-1st c. to Severan;<sup>56</sup> Syene, T 421 Topf Typ 45.2, 1st-2nd c. CE.<sup>57</sup>

Fig. 17.5. Aswan. SU 200.02.03.

*Globular cookpot with everted, lid seat rim and round base.* Handles are round and attach to the rim and the shoulder. Ridged from the shoulder to just above the base. Parallels: Mons Claudianus, cookpot type 40, mid-1st c. CE through Severan;<sup>58</sup> Porphyrites, Bradford Village and Foot Village, as part of an assemblage dating to the first half of the 1st c. CE;<sup>59</sup> Syene, GK 409-410, of similar date.<sup>60</sup>

Fig. 17.6. Alluvial cookware. SU 100.01.10.

Fig. 17.7. Alluvial cookware. SU 102.03.02.

Fig. 17.8. Alluvial cookware. SU 107.14.10.

*Globular, necked cookpot or jar with everted concave lid seat rim.* Groove at shoulder delineates body from shoulder, lightly grooved on body.

Fig. 17.9. Aswan. SU 113.03.14.

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<sup>51</sup> Tomber 2006, 109, fig. 1.42.

<sup>52</sup> Rembart 2020, 131, fig. 32.

<sup>53</sup> Tomber 2006, 110–11, fig. 1.43.

<sup>54</sup> Tomber 2001, 247, fig. 6.1.19; 265, 6.7.26.

<sup>55</sup> Tomber 2001, 276, fig. 6.16.17.

<sup>56</sup> Tomber 2006, 116, fig. 1.44.

<sup>57</sup> Rembart 2020, 120–21, fig. 28.

<sup>58</sup> Tomber 2006, 82, fig. 1.30.

<sup>59</sup> Tomber 2001, 270, fig. 6.13.11; 273, fig. 6.15.7.

<sup>60</sup> Martin-Kilcher and Wininger 2017, 250, fig. 7.4.

*Globular, wide mouth cooking pot with everted rim and inside lid seat groove.* Vertical round to square handles attached at rim and shoulder. Body lightly ridged below shoulder. Parallels: Mons Claudianus, variant of cookpot type 40, mid-1st c. to Severan;<sup>61</sup> Porphyrites, Bradford Village, first half of 1st c. CE.<sup>62</sup>

Fig. 17.10. Alluvial cookware. SU 118.15.02.

Fig. 17.11. Alluvial cookware. SU 111.03.05.

Fig. 17.12. Alluvial cookware. SU 100.03.05.

*Globular wide mouth cooking pot with sharply everted broad rim, slightly angled towards interior of the vessel.* Vertical handles attach at rim and shoulder. Body lightly ridged below shoulder. Parallel: Mons Claudianus, variant of cookpot type 59, although Ghozza example has vertical rather than applied horizontal handles, mid-1st c. to Trajanic+.<sup>63</sup>

Fig. 17.13. Alluvial cookware. SU 115.07.04.

### **Necked cookpots (Fig. 18)**

*Globular, tall necked cooking pot with plain, gently everted rim.* Parallels: Mons Claudianus, variant of cookpot type 31, mid-1st c. through Severan, but likely from first half of the sequence;<sup>64</sup> Porphyrites, Northwest village, a marker of the Trajanic period or earlier.<sup>65</sup>

Fig. 18.1. Alluvial cookware. SU 100.01.11.

*Globular double-handled tall necked cooking pot with plain, straight rim and smooth body.* Handles are joined to the neck and attach at the top of the shoulder. Handle profile is flattened and ovoid, sometimes with a single groove. Parallels: Mons Claudianus, cookpot type 31, mid-1st c. through Severan, but likely from first half of the sequence;<sup>66</sup> Porphyrites, Northwest village, a marker of the Trajanic period or earlier.<sup>67</sup>

Fig. 18.2. Alluvial cookware. SU 108.06.04.

Fig. 18.3. Alluvial cookware. SU 113.02.08.

*Globular double-handled necked cooking pot with upright rim and slightly enlarged lip, grooved on top.* Handles are circular to square in profile and attach at the rim and top of the shoulder. Smooth body. Parallels: Mons Claudianus, variant of cookpot type 35 where most examples lack groove on upper rim, mid-1<sup>st</sup> c. to Severan but most abundant in the Trajanic period;<sup>68</sup> Porphyrites, Southwest Village, late 1st to mid-2nd c. CE.<sup>69</sup>

Fig. 18.4. Alluvial cookware. SU 113.03.17.

Fig. 18.5. Alluvial cookware. SU 111.01.08.

*Double-handled globular wide-mouth necked cooking pot with ledge rim, slightly angled towards the interior of the vessel.* Horizontal handles are round and oriented upright, extending to just below the rim and attached at

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<sup>61</sup> Tomber 2006, 82, fig. 1.30.

<sup>62</sup> Tomber 2001, 270, fig. 6.13.11.

<sup>63</sup> Tomber 2006, 86, fig. 1.32.

<sup>64</sup> Tomber 2006, 78, fig. 1.29.

<sup>65</sup> Tomber 2001, 245, fig. 6.1.8.

<sup>66</sup> Tomber 2006, 78, fig. 1.29.

<sup>67</sup> Tomber 2001, 245, fig. 6.1.8.

<sup>68</sup> Tomber 2006, 80, fig. 1.29.

<sup>69</sup> Tomber 2001, 277, fig. 6.17.11.



the top of the shoulder. Body is lightly ribbed from shoulder. Parallel: Mons Claudianus, cookpot type 57, primarily a Trajanic form.<sup>70</sup>

Fig. 18.6. Alluvial cookware. SU 106.02.04.

Fig. 18.7. As above, but smooth-bodied and with a rounder body profile. Alluvial cookware. SU 202.05.01.

### Flagons (Fig. 19)

*Globular, double-handled flagon with short neck and everted, slightly concave rim.* Handles are rectangular in profile, joining below the rim and terminating on the upper shoulder. Body is lightly ridged with triangular footring base. All examples of flagons in white to cream calcareous fabric with thick yellow slip, sloppily applied. Parallels: Mons Claudianus, flagon type 34, mid-1st c. to Severan and most common in the 1st c. CE to Trajanic periods;<sup>71</sup> Porphyrites, Bradford Village, first half of the 1st c. CE.<sup>72</sup>

Fig. 19.1. SU 102.01.10.

*Globular, double-handled flagon with short neck and everted, flattened rim.* Handles are ovoid in profile and join below the rim.

Fig. 19.2. SU 107.14.08. Variant of Mons Claudianus type 34, as above.

*Globular, double-handled flagon with short neck and triangular rim, sometimes grooved on upper surface.* Handles are rectangular in profile, joining below the rim and terminating on the upper shoulder. Smooth body. Parallel: Mons Claudianus, Variant of flagon type 38, mid-1st c. CE to Trajanic+.<sup>73</sup>

Fig. 19.3. SU 100.02.06.

Fig. 19.4. SU 115.02.05.

### Strainer jugs (Fig. 19)

*Double-handled strainer with slightly concave rim, lipped inside and out, with single spout on the upper shoulder.* Strainer partially cut away. Handles are oval in profile and attach below the rim and at upper part of the shoulder. Body is smooth with triangular footring base. All examples in white to cream calcareous fabric with thick yellow slip, sloppily applied. Parallels: Mons Claudianus, strainer type 63, Trajanic through Severan;<sup>74</sup> Porphyrites, the Fort and Southwest village, late 1st to mid-2nd c. CE.<sup>75</sup>

Fig. 19.5. SU 115.07.13\_14.

Fig. 19.6. SU 113.02.10.

Fig. 19.7. SU 118.15.01.

Fig. 19.8. SU 114.05.03.

Fig. 19.9. SU 113.03.22.

### Jars and kegs (Fig. 19)

*Small, globular necked jar or beaker with thickened, slightly everted rim and smooth body.* Groove on interior of rim. Handles are flat in profile with slight depression and attach at the rim and the shoulder. Parallel: Mons

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<sup>70</sup> Tomber 2006, 86, fig. 1.31.

<sup>71</sup> Tomber 2006, 57, fig. 1.21.

<sup>72</sup> Tomber 2001, 268, fig. 6.13.2.

<sup>73</sup> Tomber 2006, 58, fig. 1.21.

<sup>74</sup> Tomber 2006, 65, fig. 1.24.

<sup>75</sup> Tomber 2001, 254, fig. 6.3.9; 277, fig. 6.17.4.

Claudianus, jar type 89, Trajanic to Severan.<sup>76</sup>

Fig. 19.10. Aswan. SU 102.03.01\_102.01.03.

*Large storage jar with everted rim, deeply grooved on top.* Calcareous fabric with cream slip. Parallel: Mons Claudianus, jar type 83, mid-1st c. CE.<sup>77</sup>

Fig. 19.11. SU 111.01.03.

*Keg spout with bead rim.* Parallel: Mons Claudianus, keg type 96, mid-1st c. CE through Severan, especially 1st c. CE.<sup>78</sup>

Fig. 19.12. Aswan. SU 115.07.19.

### **Imported amphorae (Fig. 20)**

*Peacock and Williams Class 10 or Dressel 2-4 wine amphora.* The north Campanian fabric is most common at Mons Claudianus and Ghozza in contrast with sites like Berenike where the Campanian 1 (Vesuvian) fabric is common, corresponding with the earlier date of widespread activity at that site. The Campanian 2 fabric is generally Domitianic and later. Egyptian imitations in northwest-coastal fabric (Mons Claudianus type 28, not illustrated here) were also recorded at Ghozza but in small numbers with many more in alluvial fabric. The form in general was comparatively rare at the site. Parallel: Mons Claudianus, amphora type 42, Trajanic and later.<sup>79</sup>

Fig. 20.1. Campanian fabric 2, from the northern source. SU 115.02.11.

### **Egyptian amphorae (Fig. 20-21)**

*Spindle-shaped amphora (AE3) with long straight thin neck and rounded shoulders.* Rim is thin and curves inward. Loop handles are oval in section, joining just below the rim and terminating high on the neck. Smooth-bodied. Parallels: Mons Claudianus type 1, mid-1st c. to Severan;<sup>80</sup> Myos Hormos, Tiberian;<sup>81</sup> Berenike, Flavian;<sup>82</sup> Didymoi forme I, 1st-2nd c. CE.<sup>83</sup>

Fig. 20.2. Not pitched. Dark brown alluvial fabric, micaceous with powdery surface and planar breaks. SU 115.02.10.

Fig. 20.3. As above. SU 115.12.03.

Fig. 20.4. As above. SU 108.06.13.

Fig. 20.5. As above, but slightly thickened and more upright rim. SU 100.01.19.

*Amphora (AE3) with long straight thin neck and slightly beveled or flattened rim.* Smooth surface. Parallel: Mons Claudianus, type 2, mid-1st c. to Severan, especially Trajanic.<sup>84</sup>

Fig. 20.6. As above. SU 100.01.20.

Fig. 20.7. Dark brown, powdery alluvial fabric. Not pitched. SU 200.01.03.

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<sup>76</sup> Tomber 2006, 94, fig. 1.35.

<sup>77</sup> Tomber 2006, 92, fig. 1.35.

<sup>78</sup> Tomber 2006, 97, fig. 1.37.

<sup>79</sup> Tomber 2006, 161, fig. 1.63. For description of Campanian Fabric 2, see Tomber 2006, 161.

<sup>80</sup> Tomber 2006, 143, fig. 1.55.

<sup>81</sup> Tomber 2007, 528–29, fig. 1.3.

<sup>82</sup> Tomber 2007, 528–29, fig. 2.2.

<sup>83</sup> Brun 2007, 507, fig. 3.1.

<sup>84</sup> Tomber 2006, 143–45, fig. 1.56; Tomber 2007, 528–29, fig. 2.6–7.

*Amphora (AE3) with flattened, in-turned lip and smooth surfaces.* Parallel: Mons Claudianus, amphora type 8, mid-1st c. CE to Severan.<sup>85</sup>

Fig. 20.8. Dark brown alluvial fabric. SU 116.01.14.

*Ribbed amphora (AE3) with long neck and sloping, rounded shoulders.* Bead rim is slightly flattened on upper surface. Short, loop handles are roughly-shaped and square to round in profile, attaching below rim and high on the neck with a distinctive narrowing at the base of the handle. Ribbing begins at join of the upper handle and ends at the shoulder. Parallels: Form combines features of ribbed (ribbing, handle form) and plain (rim form) AE3 amphora at Mons Claudianus<sup>86</sup> but marl fabric suggests different, possibly Upper Egyptian, source and date in the 1st c. CE; Tebtynis, late 1st to early 2nd c. CE.<sup>87</sup>

Fig. 21.1. Calcareous fabric with cream wash on exterior. SU 201.06.01.

*Amphora base in the form of a short banded, solid spike with a pronounced knob at the base and a broad lower wall.* Slight depression in base (not illustrated). Associated with SU 115.02.10 AE3 amphora type. Parallels: Mons Claudianus, amphora base type 34.18–19, mid to late 1st c. CE;<sup>88</sup> Myos Hormos, late Augustan to Tiberian.<sup>89</sup>

Fig. 21.2. Dark brown alluvial fabric. SU 112.02.02

Fig. 21.3. As above, smaller size. SU 108.07.03.

*Short, rounded amphora base with splayed walls.* Ribbed on exterior above the base. Parallel: Syene, T 679 Bodentyp 2, rare, 2nd c. BCE to 1st c. CE.<sup>90</sup>

Fig. 21.4. Dark brown alluvial fabric. Pitched inside. SU 107.03.05.

### **Miniature vessels (Fig. 21)**

*Miniature globular jar or ointment pot with flat base, short neck and plain, slightly flattened rim.*

Fig. 21.5. Red paint stripes on neck and upper shoulder. SU 106.03.03.

*Miniature globular jar or inkwell with flat base and plain everted rim.* Parallel: Mons Claudianus, inkwell type 2.<sup>91</sup>

Fig. 21.6. SU 100.02.03.

### **Reworked vessels (Fig. 21)**

*Mug or drinking cup made from reduced AE3 alluvial amphora base.* Base and rim are cut and filed. Parallel: Mons Claudianus, reworked vessel type 2, mid-1st c. CE to Severan.<sup>92</sup>

Fig. 21.7. SU 107.03.33.

Fig. 21.8. SU 108.20.03.

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<sup>85</sup> Tomber 2006, 146, fig. 1.57.

<sup>86</sup> Tomber 2006, 143–48, fig. 1.55–57.

<sup>87</sup> Ballet and Południkiewicz 2012, 181, fig. 87.787–88. See discussion in Tomber 2007 of Neronian-Trajanic amphorae from the Eastern Desert.

<sup>88</sup> Tomber 2006, 156–57, fig. 161.

<sup>89</sup> Tomber 2007, 528–29, fig. 1.9.

<sup>90</sup> Rembart 2020, 163, fig. 43.

<sup>91</sup> Tomber 2006, 138, fig. 1.53.

<sup>92</sup> Tomber 2006, 186–87, fig. 1.71.

## 2. SMALL FINDS CATALOG (Fig. 22-25)

### Glass vessels (Fig. 22)

- Fig. 22.1. Unguentarium, base in green-blue glass. Isings type 28a. GHO\_039, 085, 092, 015; SU 114.02.  
Fig. 22.2. Flask, rim in milky green glass with one ribbed handle. Isings type 51. GHO\_083a; SU 111.03.  
Fig. 22.3. Beaker, base with footring in white glass. Isings type AR 40. GHO\_083b; SU 111.03.  
Fig. 22.4. Bowl, base in white glass. GHO\_073, 087; SU 115.01.  
Fig. 22.5. Flask(?) body sherds in green glass with horizontal cutting lines. Similar to Isings type 51. GHO\_091; SU 114.09.

### Ceramic lamps (Fig. 23)

- Fig. 23.1. Neo-hellenistic "frog" lamp, alluvial clay. GHO\_068; SU 113.03.  
Fig. 23.2. Globular lamp with palm motifs, calcareous clay, Greek inscription on the base, post-firing: ελι. GHO\_018; SU 102.02.  
Fig. 23.3. Globular lamp with palm motifs, Aswan pink clay. GHO\_042; SU 114.04.  
Fig. 23.4. 'Boss' lamp, alluvial clay. GHO\_053; SU 106.03.  
Fig. 23.5. Lamp with pierced handle, alluvial clay, similar to type Loeschcke IX. GHO\_055; SU 106.03.

### Metal implements (Fig. 24)

- Fig. 24.1. Bronze netting needle. GHO\_027; SU 111.02.  
Fig. 24.2. Iron knife. GHO\_028; SU 107.01.

### Stone vessels, objects and tools (Fig. 25)

- Fig. 25.1. Granite bowl. GHO\_038; SU 115.03.  
Fig. 25.2. Granite bowl. GHO\_140; SU 100.02.  
Fig. 25.3. Granite bowl. GHO\_140; SU 100.02.  
Fig. 25.4. Granite grinding bowl. GHO\_044; SU 107.01.  
Fig. 25.5. Soapstone grinding stone. GHO\_034; SU 108.06.  
Fig. 25.6a-e. Soapstone tools. a. GHO\_019; SU 110.02; b. GHO\_022; SU 108.06; c. GHO\_023; SU 100.01; d. GHO\_020; SU 106.02; e. GHO\_021; SU 108.06.  
Fig. 25.7. Rectangular soapstone palette. GHO\_037; SU 114.04.

### 3. OSTRACA CATALOG

#### 1-2. Dated ostraca

Two dated ostraca were found in the *praesidium*. Although they were written at an interval of one year, they come from the same stratigraphic unit. Hands are different.

1 (Suppl. Fig. 1)	inv. 54	90 CE, September 14 (12 Greg.)
GHO_113.03	9.3 x 11.5 cm	Nile silt

Lower part of a faded ostrakon. Since there is no *formula valedicendi*, but a date, it was either an order of delivery or a receipt.

-----  
↓ εἰς λόγον καμή[λων  
ὕδροφορούντων [ἐν Σαβελ-]  
βει. (ἔτους) ἰ Δομ[ι]τιαγοῦ  
4 μηνὶ Θωθ ἰζ̄.

3 L

“... on account of (*n*?) camels of the water-carrying service in Sabelbi. 10<sup>th</sup> year of Domitian, month of Thoth, 17.”

1. καμή[λων: presumably followed by a number. Or καμη[λιτῶν, since the subject of ὕδροφορεῖν can also be a person, as in O.Claud. inv. 1759, 5-6: κόμισ{σ}αι παρὰ Πετησίου τοῦ δεκανοῦ τοῦ μέλ[λ]οντος ἐν τῷ Κλαυδιανῶ ὕδροφορεῖν, “receive from Petesios, the *dekanos* who will do water-transport in Claudianus, ...”
- 2-3. [ἐν Σαβελ-]|βει. For the restitution of ἐν (instead of εἰς), cf. previous note as well as O.KaLa. inv. 803, 5 : ἐν Μέλανι Ὅρει ὕδροφοροῦσι (the subject of the verb is missing) and further, lines 8-9: καμή[λους 1-2<sup>2</sup>] ἀφήκαμεν ἐν Σαβελβι ὕδροφορεῖν, “we have left *n* camels in Sabelbi for them to carry water” or rather “we have left *n* camels to carry water in Sabelbi.” “Carrying water in Mons Claudianus” is easily understandable, since the *metallon* was a large district inside which camels would shuttle between the wells and various sites, but how should we interpret “carrying water in Melan Oros, in Sabelbi”, when these sites are only *praesidia*? Does it mean that these camels were administratively attached to Melan Oros and to Sabelbi, the water from which they carried to neighboring sites?



part. Only three secure occurrences in Trajanic ostraca from Claudianus: O.Claud. inv. 555 (note of the *thesaurophylax* of Raïma), inv. 1538, 9 (*thesaurophylax* of barley),<sup>93</sup> inv. 7896 (receipt by a *thesaurophylax* of loads of chaff). And two occurrences in letters from Umm Balad (O.KaLa. inv. 624 and 772 [Domitianic or Trajanic]).

3. [παρέλαβον] may be too long (cf. restitution at line 5).  
ἀπὸ καμη. One expects here *παρὰ σοῦ* (rather than *ἀπὸ σοῦ*), as in other receipts from Claudianus or Umm Balad issued to camel drivers. Restoring *καμή(λων)* or *καμη(λιτοῦ)* does not lead to any usual formula. Perhaps *ἀπὸ καμή-[λων number]*, but the number of pack-animals is never given in receipts from the Eastern Desert (camels are reckoned only in accounts of *hydrophoria* from Claudianus and Umm Balad). Or *ἀπὸ καμη-[λίτου]*, which would be redundant. Or *ἀπὸ Καμή*, “from Kames”? In that case, the camel driver would have brought grain sent by two different persons, Kames and the *vexillarius* (*comm. CE* 5). But the name *Καμή* is not attested in the Eastern Desert, and the genitive *Καμή* is late.
4. In the lacuna at the beginning of the line, one expects the nature of the grain.
5. οὐηξιλλαρίου. This rank is seldom attested in the Eastern Desert, see *O.Did.*, 16–17. In *O.Did.* 346 (77–92 CE) as well as in *SB XXVIII 17089* (Maximianon, 76–125 CE), they are defined as “the *vexillarius* of such *praesidium*.” The word seems to be on the same level as *ἀπὸ καμη*. It should refer to grain sent by the *vexillarius* or meant for the *vexillarius*.

### 3–8. Berkou

3 (Fig. 28) GHO_117.02	inv. 1 16 x 12.5 cm	Domitianic Nile silt
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*Titulus* on the shoulder of an AE3 with the shipping address. Stylized hand which foreshadows Roman chancery writing (cf. especially the two omicrons, the first high and narrow, the second one very small).

→ Δόλης ἰππεύς.  
εἰς Βερκου.

“Doles, horseman. To Berkou.”

1. Δόλης. With one exception, all the occurrences of this Thracian name in Egypt are found in the *praesidia* of the Eastern Desert (*OnomThrac*, 159). With a shipping address, one would expect a dative. A few examples of the nominative are attested in such amphora *tituli* from the *praesidia*, especially in Umm Balad (O.Claud. inv. 7551, *O.Did.* 243, O.KaLa. inv. 9; 32; 281; 290; 965).

4 (Suppl. Fig. 2) GHO_113.02	inv. 56 8 x 7.5 cm	Domitianic Nile silt
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<sup>93</sup> Cuvigny 2005.

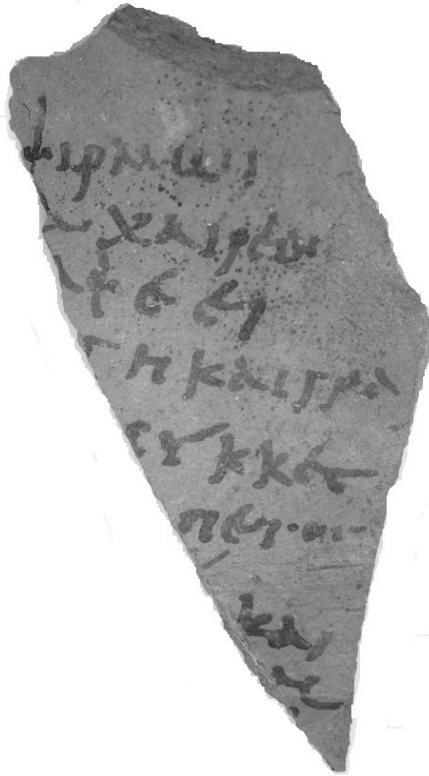
*Titulus* on the lower part of the neck of an AE3.

→           ] Βερκου [             
              ] τύρμ(ης) • Σερην[             
              ] Ἰούλιος [             
              - - - - -

2 τυρ<sup>α</sup>

“Berkou. Iulius [*cognomen*], of Serenus' squadron.”

1. The wide blank before Βερκου suggests that there was no preposition before the toponym, as in 5 and 6. It is not unparalleled in the *tituli* of the Eastern Desert. Instances from Umm Balad are O.KaLa. inv. 183, 192, 319, 327, 363, 401, 521, 622, 686, 962 (most concern amphorae belonging to the association of quarrymen, not to individuals).
2. Σερήν[ου] or, less probably, Σερην[ιανῆς]. On the inversion of the name of the soldier and that of his squadron or century, see *O.Krok.* I 102, introduction.



Suppl. Fig. 2. Ostrakon 4. (A. Bülow-Jacobsen/MAFDO.)



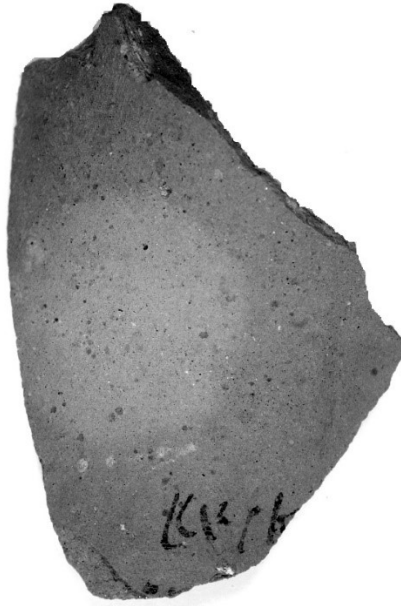
5 (Suppl. Fig. 3)  
GHO\_115.07

inv. 74  
8 x 9 cm

Domitianic  
Nile silt

*Titulus* on the lower part of the neck of an AE3.

→ Βερκου  
.. [   
- - - -



Suppl. Fig. 3. Ostrakon 5. (A. Bülow-Jacobsen/MAFDO.)

6 (Suppl. Fig. 4)  
GHO\_109.02

inv. 19  
h. 20 x max. diam. 19 cm

Domitianic  
Nile silt

*Titulus* on the shoulder of an AE3.

→ Βερκου  
.. λ ε . ι . . ρ . . .

2. The two faded letters before λ ε may be an illusion. The owner's name may begin at Λ ε-.



Suppl. Fig. 4. Ostrakon 6. (A. Bülow-Jacobsen/MAFDO.)

7 (Suppl. Fig. 5)  
GHO\_113.03

inv. 64  
13.5 x 7.5 cm

Domitianic  
Nile silt

*Titulus* on the shoulder of an AE3. The hand is coarse.

→ εἰς Βερκο[υ]  
Ἄριστο[ ]  
-----



Suppl. Fig. 5. Ostrakon 7. (A. Bülow-Jacobsen/MAFDO.)

The shipping address has been inserted in the upper margin.

↗ ] Οὐαλερίω ἱππὶ εἰς Βερκου  
]ος Οὐαλερίω τῷ ἀδελφῷ  
] πλεῖστα χαίρειν.  
4 [καλῶς ποιήσεις ταχέως μοι  
[πέμψα]ς τὰ δ̄ μυροβρ[ο-]  
[χία κα]ὶ δύο θυ.[  
]μοι α[  
8 ] .[

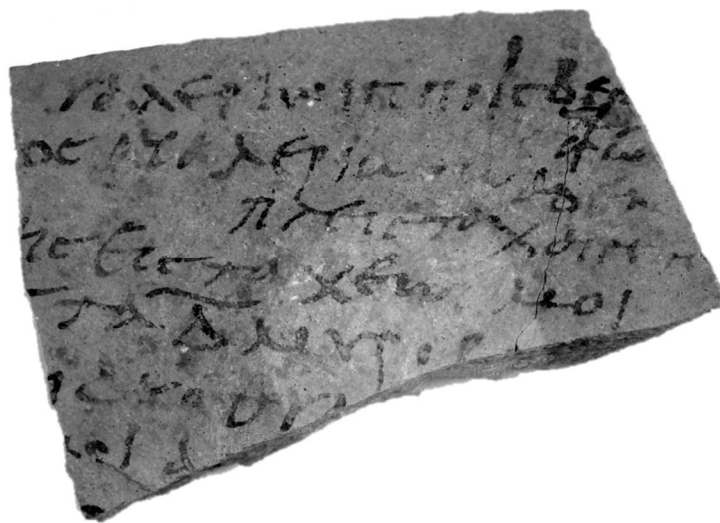
1 *l.* ἱππεῖ, εἰς

“To [*praenomen?*] Valerius, horseman, at Berkou.

[...]os to Valerius, his brother, many greetings. You will do well to send me quickly the four unguent containers and two ...”

5-6. μυροβροχία. This compound is attested only in private letters from the Eastern Desert, mainly in Umm Balad (O.KaLa. inv. 89, 238, 243). The simple βροχίον occurs once in Egypt, in SB X 10241, r<sup>o</sup>, 10 (Oxyrhynchos, ca. 45 CE) : τὸ βροχίον τοῦ μέλανος, “the ink-pot.” Apart from Umm Balad, there is an occurrence in Maximianon (O.Max. inv. 1160 [ca. 150–175 CE]).

6. θυρ[ or θυμ[. Incense-burners?



Suppl. Fig. 6. Ostracón 8. (A. Bülow-Jacobsen/MAFDO.)

## 9–10. Sabelbi

9 (Suppl. Fig. 7)  
GHO\_102.02

inv. 29  
10 x 12.5 cm

Domitianic  
Nile silt

Faded and broken to the right. The missing part of the first lines may be long and the object of this letter remains obscure. The name of the sender is characteristic of imperial administrative personnel in the quarries. The addressee is a curator, presumably of Berkou.

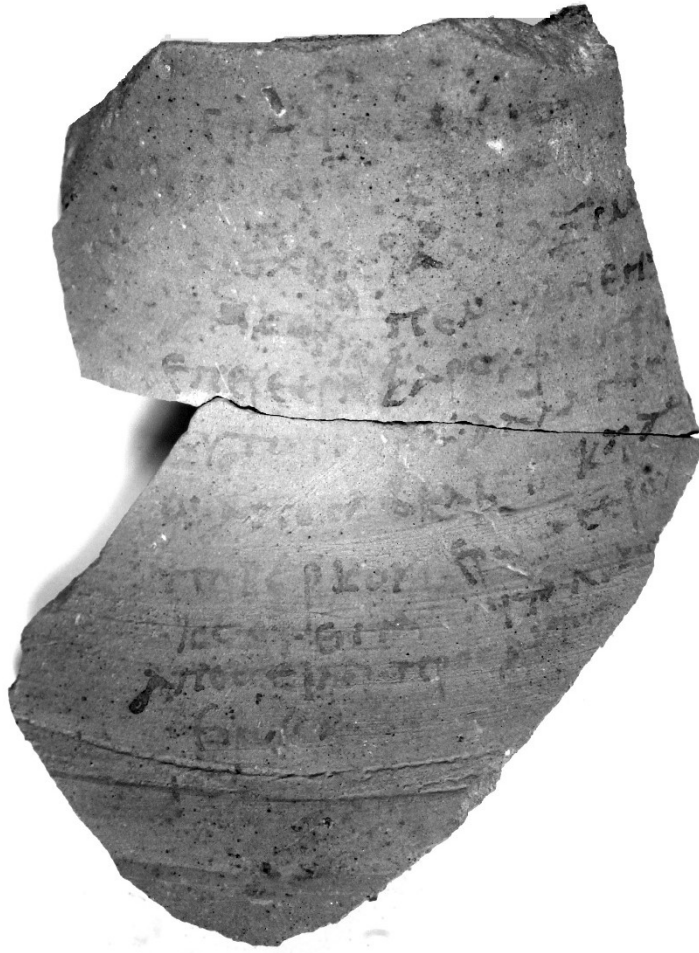
→ Ἐπαφρόδειτος [ ]  
... φ. . . . κουρά[τορι  
εἰ ἔχεις ἀλλαξιμ[ ]  
4 ἀσκούς πέμψον ἕνα [ ]  
ἐπεὶ εἴρηκα Ῥούφω περὶ [ ]  
αὐτῶν . . . ἀλλα . . . [ ]  
οἱ ἀπὸ Σαβελβει . καὶ α . [ ]  
8 ἀπὸ Βερκου. ἐρωτᾷ σε Ἰού-  
λις σ . . . εἴτα . . . Ἰταλικόν  
ἀποστεῖλαι πρὸς αὐτόν.  
ἔρρωσο.

4 α[ ] σ[ ]κους

3. ἀλλαξιμ[ ]. Probably ἀλλάξιμος and not ἀλλαξιμάριον, which is not attested before the 5th or 6th c. CE. ἀλλάξιμος qualifies a stater coin in *O.Did.* 319, 10–11.<sup>94</sup> Could it have the same meaning here as when it refers to clothes, “changes of raiment” (LSJ). If it refers to ἀσκούς (which is doubtful, because of the lacuna to the right), perhaps “spare water-skins.”
7. οἱ ἀπὸ Σαβελβει . The letter after the *iota* may belong to the place-name which presents sometimes an extra final letter.<sup>95</sup> Does ἀπό mean that these persons have come from Sabelbi, or is it used as in the expression of the *origo*: then, it would be people who are posted at Sabelbi. The same strange phrase is found in *O.KaLa.* inv. 785 and 811, where it seems to refer to people in authority at Sabelbi: the author of both letters asks that a messenger tells “those at Sabelbi” that a horseman should be (or was) sent out to escort a camel.
9. One cannot say if the letters between Ἰού-λις and Ἰταλικόν correspond to one or two words (in the latter case, the first word would be a cognomen, unless the pronoun σοῦ).

<sup>94</sup> The meaning is discussed in Cuvigny and Lach-Urgacz 2020, 327.

<sup>95</sup> Cuvigny 2018, §168.



Suppl. Fig. 7. Ostracum 9. (A. Bülow-Jacobsen/MAFDO.)

10 (Fig. 29)  
GHO\_107.03

inv. 55  
7 x 7.2 cm

Domitianic  
Nile silt

Left side of a letter written by Iulius, centurion. The missing part may be considerable, especially if, as we shall see, we are to surmise at line 1 the names of two addressees and their title. What is left indicates that the letter concerns Barbarians. The adverb ἀναγκαίως and the adjective ἀσφαλείς suggest that the affair is serious. The plurals ἀσφαλείς as well as ἴν' εἰδῆτε at line 3, suggest that there is more than one addressee. The first named may be Ignatius, known as curator of Sabelbi (*comm. CE 1*), while the second one would be the curator of Berkou. This text should be compared with O.KaLa. inv. 847 (ca. 91–100 CE), a fragmentary letter addressed by Iulius Rufus (title in lacuna) to Bassus curator [of Umm Balad?], informing him of some action of *n* Barbarians that took place [in] Berkou (is this Iulius Rufus the same as the centurion Rufus known at Umm Balad under Domitian or Trajan?). By contrast with the situation in the Desert of Berenike, Barbarians do not appear as a danger in the Porphyrites-Claudianus district before the reign of Antoninus.<sup>96</sup> Hand influenced by the Latin cursive.

<sup>96</sup> Cuvigny 2014, 169–70 and 173.

↘            Ἰούλιος (κεντυρίων) Ἰγ[νατίω<sup>?</sup>  
                  ἀναγκαίω[ς  
                  ἕν' εἰδῆτε • βαρβ[αρ-<sup>?</sup>  
 4            περὶ Σαβελβεῖ[  
                  ἀσφαλεῖς η . . [

•κ̄γ̄•

1 ρ̄

1.    Ιγ[. An Ignatius, curator of Sabelbi, is mentioned as the sender of several letters found in Umm Balad, always addressed to the centurion Iulius Proculus and stratigraphically dated to ca. 91–100 CE. The latter is unlikely to be the same persons as the sender here, since in the three letters authored by the centurion Iulius Proculus which were found in Umm Balad, his cognomen is never omitted.
- 2-3. ἀναγκαίω[ς. Because of ἕν' εἰδῆτε at line 3, this adverb relates probably not to an order (“by all means”), but to a verb meaning “to inform.” Cf. the business letter *P.Col. X 282*, 9-11 (3rd to 4th c. CE): ἀναγκαίως ἐπιστέλλω σοί, φίλτατε, ἕν' εἶδος καὶ πρόνοιαν τούτου ποιήσης.
5.    η . . [ ἦτε?
6.    The date (the 23rd of an unknown month)? But the number is furnished with unusual signs. Perhaps the two dots aim only at highlighting (but the first one may actually be a slash).

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