Cave 169 at Marisa: The Imported Ptolemaic Red Ware

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Hellenistic Marisa[1], the Greek form of the Hebrew name Maresha mentioned several times in the Bible, is located in the Shephelah, the foothills of the Judean Mountains, 40 km to the south-west of Jerusalem. The Hellenistic city was inhabited by Greeks, Sidonians, indigenous Idumeans[2] until captured and completely destroyed by Hyrcanus I in 112/111 BCE or shortly thereafter[3]. Marisa comprises a substantial number of subterranean complexes[4], most filled with unstratified anthropogenic debris, representing either habitation material dumped from the surface or from collapsed dwellings[5]. To date, Subterranean Complex 169 (henceforth SC169, **figs. 1–2**) represents the most opulent assemblage of diverse objects of daily use and cultic material, tableware and utility pottery, oil lamps, terracotta figurines, incense altars, chalk phalli, amulets and jewellery, game boards, glass and faience objects, votive plaques, Aramaic divination texts, Greek ostraca, coins, seals and sealings, loom weights and whorls[6]. The bulk of ceramic finds, dating from the 3rd to the late 2nd cent. BCE, documents a well-to-do population, linked to existing Eastern Mediterranean trading networks.

The imported fine tableware, comprising Egyptian red- and black-gloss fabrics, Campana A Ware, Pergamene vessels, the Ivy Platter Group and Eastern Sigillata A Ware reached Marisa mainly during the 2nd cent. BCE at a time when Attic imports no longer played a central role[7]. A similar picture emerges from the ceramic imports at Alexandria[8]. Ptolemaic Red Ware (henceforth PRW) and Ptolemaic Black Ware (PBW) represent a category rarely recorded in archaeological excavations in the southern Levant. The SC169 assemblage

1 Tsafrir et al. 1994, 179–180 s.v. Marisa.

2 Stern 2012, 57 points out that the onomasticon based on theophoric names reflects a population of Idumeans, Phoenicians, Judeans, Nabateans and others.

3 For a historical outline and overview of the excavations see Kloner 2003, 1–30.

4 For an overview see Kloner – Zissu 2013.

5 Since 2000, many subterranean complexes have been explored under the direction of I. Stern and B. Alpert.

6 See the contributions by different scholars in Stern 2019, 11. 92. 105. 111. 131. 163. 208. 221.

7 Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2019. Thanks to Andrea Berlin and Aaron Greener the ceramics have been uploaded to the LCP, see https://www.levantineceramics.org/sites/1624-maresha-marisa. The present paper entails the correction of some errors.

8 Élaigne 2012, 67–68; Élaigne.2013, 213.

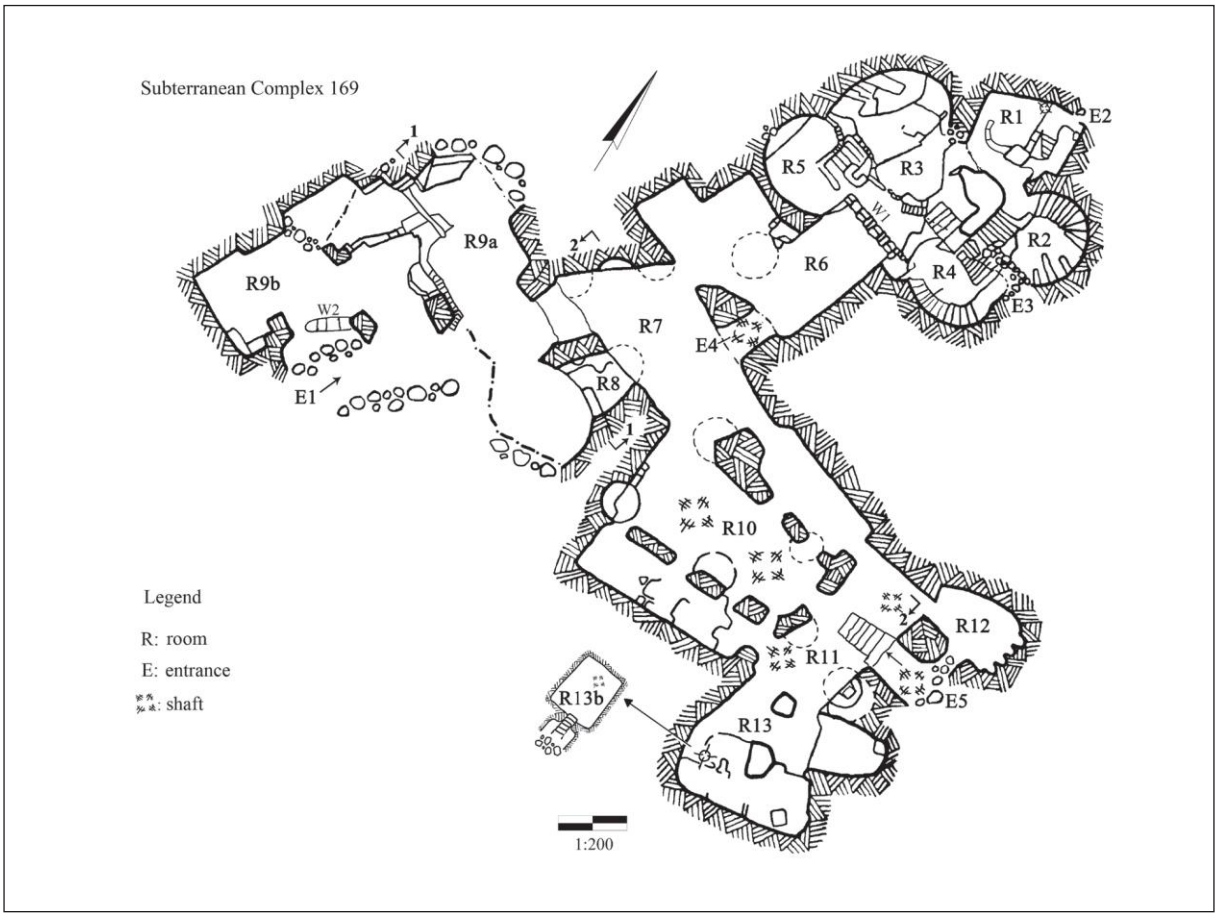


Fig. 1: Plan of SC169 (Stern 2019, 4 fig. 1.3; courtesy Ian Stern).

documents substantial imports of other black-gloss ceramics besides PBW and fewer imports of PRW and ESA. The much smaller quantity of the latter might be due to Maresha's conquest and abandonment at a time when these wares had not yet come to the fore in Idumea. The long-distance trade appears to be the result of connections between merchants in Italy, Attica, the Aegean and western Asia Minor, Cyprus[9], Egypt and Maresha. In the Levant, Egyptian pottery is rare, as only sporadic finds from coastal sites like Ashkelon[10], Akko-Ptolemais[11] and Beirut-Berytus[12] are recorded[13].

PRW is much more appealing to the eye than PBW. The Delta silt fabric / Delta Ware is generally micaceous; the paste is fired red or reddish-brown and gray in closed vessels; plates can have a gray core. Before firing a homogenous red slip[14] was applied to parts of the vessels,

9 Hayes 1991, 126–126; Hayes 2003, nos. 28. 39–40. 158; Ballet 2009; Lund 2015, 202–204. 206; Młynarczyk 2009, 210 fig. 20.1 bottom.

10 Johnson 2008, 99. 103 no. 317. See **no. 11**.

11 Berlin – Stone 2016, 149 fig. 9.25, 8.

12 Élaigne 2007, 110 fig. 8, PBW carinated bowl and two ring feet with rouletted decoration, produced in the Buto workshop, 3rd cent. BCE; 2013, 226.

13 See the map in Élaigne 2013, 227 fig. 13, where the major 2nd-cent. BCE production centres together with long-distance trade connections and regional distribution are indicated; amazingly, in this publication the southern Levant is a blind spot.

14 Scholars use also the term glaze. However, J. R. C. Gill pointed out that glaze is not an appropriate term, considering the technical process involved in achieving a shiny surface (Gill 2012, 16 note 7).

Fig. 2: Room 13 (Courtesy Ian Stern).

rarely in and out, which turned lustrous in firing. After the firing the vessels were polished or burnished, creating striation / strips / bands. The highly polished brilliant surfaces can also have a few burnished bands. All PRW vessels imported to Maresha include very fine flecks of mica, and it is most likely that they were produced in Delta workshops. However, without visual examination by a fabric specialist (which I am not) and without petrographic analyses there can be no attribution to specific workshops. Hence, references[15] generally refer to red-slipped parallels, with different fabrics noted.

To date, there are several basic studies on pottery production in Ptolemaic Egypt, focusing on aspects such as the imitations of Greek Hellenistic ceramics and the interdependence between Greek and local Egyptian pottery[16]. In contexts at Egyptian sites, PBW occurs consistently with imported black-glazed ware; it could be considered a cheap imitation of the Greek high-quality tableware, and some warped vessels indicate that high-quality production was not intended[17].

The PRW repertoire in SC169 comprises tableware, some twenty-one plates and bowls/saucers of forms widespread and prevalent in the Mediterranean world, namely the rolled-rim plate, the carinated bowl with outturned rim and the echinus bowl (**nos. 1–4**). These forms are predominant in the Egyptian workshops both in PBW and PRW[18]. In addition, the SC169

15 To provide a full comparanda list is not the target.

16 Gill 2016, 46. For recent publications see Élaigne 2000; Élaigne 2002; Élaigne 2012; Élaigne 2013; Ballet 2001; Ballet 2002; Harlaut 2002; Ballet – Południkiewicz 2012; Gill 2012; David 2016; Harlaut – Hayes 2018.

17 Gill 2012, 16.

18 Charlesworth 1967, 151; Élaigne 2012, 199; Harlaut 2018, 111.

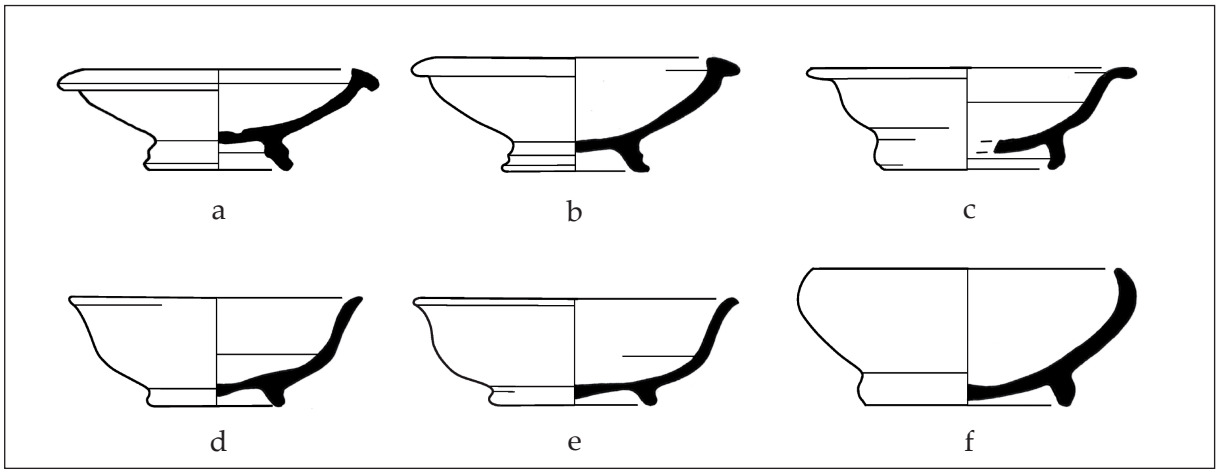


Fig. 3: PBW. a–f. Projecting rim saucers; d–e. Bowls with outturned rim and carinated wall; f. Echinus bowl (Drawings Yulia Rudman; M 1 : 3)

repertoire includes about half the number of small vessels for pouring and dipping (**nos. 5–13**), and cookware, chytrai and lids (**nos. 14–17**). With regard to the proportion between open and closed vessels Alexandrian assemblages present a similar picture, one-hundred-four open vessels against forty-five closed vessels[19]. In SC169 it is not the quantity but the variety of vessels which is striking. Many of the vessels could be restored, suggesting that they had been discarded still intact or after having been broken intentionally. With a restricted number of vessels retrieved it cannot be ruled out that they were used at a one-time occasion. Taking into consideration the contextual evidence pointing to a cultic / ritual function of several find categories from SC169, deposited in proximity to a shrine / temple in nearby Area 800, the Egyptian ceramics as well as the other imported tableware are plausibly connected with special or festive occasions like symposia. It is suggested here tentatively that in the two cooking pots with their fitting lids food was prepared and also brought to the table, taking the place of kraters, then consumed in the open dishes, while the contents of the small closed vessels, containing oils, sauces, seasonings and relish, added flavour. The more numerous saucers and bowls in PBW were also part of dining sets[20], either representing an earlier phase of activities or contemporaneous with the PRW vessels. It is noticeable that the open dishes in both PRW and PBW are relatively small, and with none of them exceeding a diameter of 20 cm small portions appear to have been consumed (**fig. 3**).

The Hellenistic manufacture of PBW and PRW is the result of Egyptian potters introducing morphological and technical innovations by following models or prototypes of Attic and Italian black glaze vessels in a first production phase and eastern red glaze vessels in a second phase[21]. Production centres have been identified in the Delta region at Alexandria, Tel el-Fara'in-Buto, Kom Dahab[22], Tell Atrib-Athribis, and at Tebtynis in the Fayum. For contextualizing the PRW from SC169, relevant assemblages of the 3rd–2nd cent. BCE from Alexandria, Naukratis, Athribis and Tebtynis were consulted.

For Alexandria the recent publication by C. Harlaut and J. W. Hayes provides a corpus of dated contexts, and motivated by this publication, I decided to look again at the PRW

19 Harlaut 2018, 62 Table B.2. The author speaks of open vessels for drinking and serving food, yet the numerically dominant echinus bowls in the SC169 assemblage are not suited for drinking because of the incurved rims.

20 See Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2019, 52 fig. 3.4, 1–14.

21 Ballet 2003, 234. 243; Élaigne 2012, 65–66. 181.

22 The Kom Dahab potters most likely supplied the inhabitants of nearby Naukratis with their products, Berlin 2001, 45.

assemblage in SC169. The early Hellenistic phase features Attic imports, followed by Phase 2, ca. 300–270/260 BCE, with deposits C–G. The 2nd century is represented by the four ceramic phases H–K, extending perhaps no later than 125 BCE, possibly until the end of the century[23]. The workshops at Athribis produced a great variety of PBW and PRW and other vessels and a rich output of figured vessels and figurines. Two strata are relevant: 1) early Ptolemaic, including the reign of Ptolemy V (205–180 BCE); 2) mid-Ptolemaic, the reign of Ptolemy VI (180–145 BCE) and the second half of the 2nd cent. BCE[24]. In the fills of a Ptolemaic villa, probably built around the mid-3rd cent. and used at least until the beginning of the 1st cent. BCE, when destroyed by fire, more than fifty tableware vessels of Egyptian manufacture were retrieved[25]. At Tebtynis in the Fayum, dark gray-brown/black fabric is attested from the first half of the 3rd cent. BCE onward, copying Greek prototypes[26], and the local production in several red fabrics with or without mica inclusions[27] adheres to Eastern Sigillata A[28]. Naukratis (Kom Dahab) provides an early 3rd cent. date for the production begin of echinus bowls and a late 3rd cent. for the rolled-rim plate (thickened rim saucer) in the red-sipped Delta silt fabric[29].

The chronological spread of the period of manufacture in Egypt underlines the difficulty in setting a close date for the Maresha imports. However, a post-mid-2nd cent. date is most likely, based on evidence from the Alexandrian chora. C. Harlaut documented that the relatively short Phase 2 ended with a reorganization of workshops and production, and with a sort overlap was replaced by Phase 2 in the mid-3nd cent. when two fabrics, calcitic and alluvial, became conical for the region of Alexandria[30]. The alluvial fabric tallies with Élaigne's Egyptian Group Alluvial 1[31]. However, the external evidence still leaves a potential time span of a century and a half for the Maresha assemblage.

Historical sources, architectural structures and economic activities document intensive contacts between Egypt and Idumea. Maresha was under Ptolemaic rule until the battle of Paneas in 198 BCE. At Memphis, Idumeans served as members of a military detachment, machairophoroi, in the late 2nd cent. BCE[32]. Yet the time of their arrival and the reason for their migration are disputed, and of the two possibilities, as prisoners of war under Ptolemy I Soter, following his Syrian campaigns in the late fourth cent. or as refugees in the wake of the Hasmonean activities in Idumea between 114 and 107 BCE; the latter date is now considered plausible[33]. The Hellenistic cave burials and their painted decorations display Alexandrine influence, in particular the early 3rd cent. Tomb A at Shatby[34]. In the Zenon papyri, dated 259–257 BCE, commercial activities between Egypt, the Levantine coastal cities and Marisa are recorded[35]. It is suggested that the construction of columbaria for raising pigeons and producing meat and fertilizers for agriculture was introduced from Egypt to Maresha and Judea in the

23 Harlaut – Hayes 2018, 163.

24 Myśliwiec – Abu Senna 1995, 206; Myśliwiec 2009, 33. 41–59.

25 Myśliwiec 1988, 192. 196.

26 Ballet – Południkiewicz 2012, 12, fabric F IV.

27 Ballet – Południkiewicz 2012, 11–13, fabrics F I, II; F V, VI, the last two fabrics can be micaceous. Striation marks are common on F I and lacking on F VI.

28 Ballet – Południkiewicz 2012, 10.

29 Berlin 2001, 28 Table 2.1.

30 Harlaut 2018, 109.

31 Élaigne 2012, 202.

32 Thompson 1988, 86. 99–103; Honigman 2003, 66. 86

33 Honigman 2003, 66 note 22.

34 Erlich 2009, 61–62. 80.

35 Abd al-Ghani 1995, 19; Kloner 2003, 5. In PCairZen 59015 Marisa in Idumea is mentioned in connection with slave trade, see the translation in Muir 2009, 65–66.

early Hellenistic period[36]. Dating from the 3rd and 2nd cent. BCE some 85 columbaria have been identified so far, together with 27 oil presses in the subterranean complexes[37]. The export of olive oil to Egypt was a branch of Maresha's economy[38]. Such ties entailed mutual trading networks, and Egyptian merchants most likely settled in the city. It is tempting to ascribe the imports of PRW and PBW to Egyptian dwellers, yet there is no contextual evidence. The same question is posed with regard to PBW in Egypt – was the ware produced for and acquired by the local Greek population or by Hellenized Egyptians[39], or by both?

To sum: The SC169 assemblage with a wealth of imported ceramics, not paralleled in other subterranean complexes, documents that the residents of Maresha were living comfortably enough to participate in long-distance trade networks in order to acquire and use outstanding tableware when compared to the local output, the standard of which was set by Athenian manufacturers and taken over by various Mediterranean producers. Located on the periphery of the Classical realm the Maresha community was able to import diverse and qualitative vessels for serving food and for individual drinking and eating, participating in the Hellenistic ceramic koine. However, in view of the ethnic (and religious) diversity of the population it is at present impossible to attribute specific imported ceramics to a specific ethnic group or groups.

In her introduction to »Pottery Markets in the Ancient Greek World« A. Tsingarida addresses the issue of exporting fine ware, considering the economic role versus the cultural value and the reason for demand and supply related to social practice in a defined area[40]. Primarily, research should focus on the interpretation of the contextual evidence derived from local assemblages. The incentive to acquire foreign ceramics, in particular fine tableware and lamps, is motivated by sociological, cultural, even ideological and religious as well as economic and functional considerations – with the exception of containers with certain commodities like wine, oil, fish-sauce, perfumed oils, medicines and ointments. Hence, while the view expressed by S. Élaigne that the large-scale distribution of standardized ceramics such as Eastern Sigillata A or Campanian A[41] points to economic interests rather than a cultural impulse is adequate for a general picture of the Hellenistic koine, differentiation is required for every excavated find complex.

36 Zissu 1995, 65.

37 Kloner – Zissu 2013, 52–53.

38 Kloner – Sagiv 2003, 71. In one of the Zenon papyri the customs duty on olive oil is mentioned in a consignment of goods from Syria through the Customs House of Pelusium on their way to Alexandria and a charge on imported oil in another document, see Abd el-Ghani 1995, 17. 20 notes 65 and 69.

39 Gill 2012, 19.

40 Tsingarida 2013, 116–117.

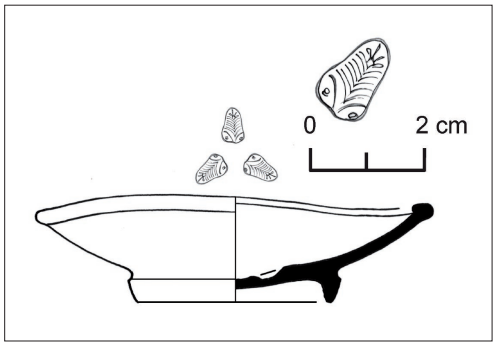
41 Élaigne 2013, 219–220.

Catalogue

(Drawings Yulia Rudman, photos Gabi Laron)

All drawings are reproduced in a scale of 1 : 3. The dimensions in the catalogue are given in cm.

1. Plate with rolled rim



D. 17.5; base D. 8.5.

The complete plate was restored from seven fragments. Patchy lustrous slip. Warping is noticeable on the rim. At centre of plate three impressed palmettes.

The shape of the plate, prevalent in both PRW and PBW[42], is most likely a derivation of the Attic rolled rim plate[43]. The rims vary: rolled, thickened or flattened rims. The vessels attributed to the earliest local production are present in contexts dated to the first third of the 3rd cent. BCE[44].

Alexandria: Lamarche 2002, 170 pl. 5, 22; 176 pl. 11, 52; 177 pl. 12, 59–60; 185 pl. 20, 97 (all complete plates); Élaigne 2012, 419–420 figs. 64–65 with some examples; Élaigne 2013, 225 fig. 11, 4503-12. 10123-8. 10101-21; Harlaut 2018, 141 fig. 21, 122–123, thickened rim plate (first third of 3rd cent. BCE); Harlaut – Hayes 2018, 243 pl. 7, D'3; 263 pl. 27, H13–14 (about 200–180 BCE); 252 pl. 16, E'5, ring foot and wall with close palmettes, two out of three preserved (about 250, or 250–230 BCE?); 279 pl. 43, J9–10; 291 pl. 55, J'4 (around 160 BCE); *Tel Fara'in-Buto*: Ballet 2003, 239 fig. 12, 1; *Naukratis*: Berlin 2001, 51 fig. 2.1, 20–23, thickened rim saucer (Fabric IA)[45]; *Kom Dahab*: Coulson – Wilkie 1986, 71. 72 fig. 18, E11.101.29, rolled rim plate with thin red slip. It was the was common shape in the debris inside the kiln, some plates warped in firing. *Athribis*: Myśliwiec 1988, 193 fig. 4c (= Ballet 2001, 135 fig. 9); 194 fig. 5 (= Myśliwiec 2009, 38 figs. 23. 25), well fired clay to a brown, sometimes red colour, inner surface usually »has a layer of burnished self-slip which sometimes appears as concentric stripes of various width«, plates with rolled rim are more frequent than others, from the Ptolemaic villa dated ca. 250–150 BCE. For fragmentary bowls/plates with four stamped palmettes around a fine groove/circle see Harlaut – Hayes 2018, 251 pl. 15, E6; 257 pl. 21, G13.

At Maresha warping is found also on locally produced vessels, for example a plate in SC70 and an echinus bowl, two saucers or lids, a plate and a fish plate in SC90[46]. These vessels attest to domestic use, a large locally produced plate with warping from a burial cave in the

42 Harlaut 2018, 79.

43 Rotroff 1997, 142–145.

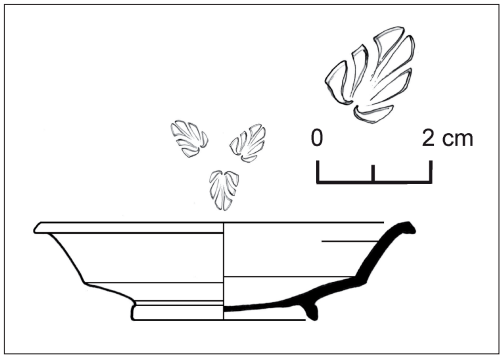
44 Harlaut 2018, 61, Phase 2.

45 The reference in Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2019, 55 is to be modified. At Naukratis the slipped PRW version is defined ›Field Fabric IA‹ (Leonhard 2001, 222): for unslipped vessels see Berlin 2001, fig. 2.1, 1–19; Leonhard 2001, 221–222 ›Field Fabric I‹, plain red ware, in which micaceous inclusions are quite frequent. For the Kom Dahab kiln products see Coulson – Wilkie 1986, 70, vessels fired to various shades of red, with red or white slips and occasional light burnishing.

46 Levine 2003a, 81 fig. 6.2, 27; Stern – Osband 2015, 188 fig. 2.3, 4. 6–8. 10; fig. 2.4, 6. See also 183. 202 fig. 2.12, 4. 6–7 for dishes with warping from L103, a small chamber with 112 vessels dispersed on a shelf and on the floor.

vicinity of Maresha is among the grave goods[47]. At Nea Paphos a locally produced large plate has a warped rim[48]. These finds document that warped vessels were not discarded, but still considered adequate for daily use and export.

2. Bowl with outturned rim and carinated wall



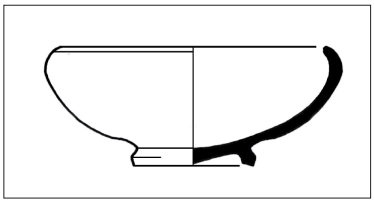
D. 16.5; base D. 8.

Half of the bowl was preserved. At centre of bowl three stamped palmettes. Five more bowls were found.

In the Alexandrine production carinated bowls are less common than echinus bowls[49].

Alexandria: Élaigne 2012, 419–420 figs. 64–65 (some examples); Élaigne 2013, 225 fig. 11, 11045-1. 11012-4; Harlaut 2018, 138 fig. 18, 105 (PBW; first third of 3rd cent. BCE); Harlaut – Hayes 2018, 279 pl. 43, J11; 280 pl. 44, J13, banded variant of PRW (around 160 BCE); *Naukratis:* Berlin 2001, 69 fig. 2.10, 1. 5–16 (Fabric IA); *Tebtynis*: Ballet –Południkiewicz 2012, 45–46 nos. 101–108. 246 pl. 8 (the ›classic‹ group, red and black fabrics in contexts dating to the 3rd and 2nd cent. BCE); 47 nos. 110–117. 247 pl. 9 (variants, in contexts dates 2nd cent. BCE to the 1st cent. CE); *Athribis*: Myśliwiec 1988, 187 fig. 3b = Myśliwiec 2009, 40 figs. 26–27, local, find-spot and fabric like rolled rim plates (see **no. 1**). For fragmentary bowls/plates with four stamped palmettes around a fine groove/circle see Harlaut – Hayes 2018, 251 pl. 15, E6; 257 pl. 21, G13.

3. Echinus bowl



D. 12.5; base D. 5.2.

On exterior close to rim banded slip. Ten more of the medium-sized bowls with diameters ranging from 10 to 13 cm.

At Alexandria echinus bowls represent the most popular form in both PRW and PBW in the local production[50].

Alexandria: Lamarche 2002, 167 pl. 2, 7–8; 171 pl. 6, 26; 175 pl. 10, 49; 182 pl. 17, 82–84; Élaigne 2012, 419 fig. 64 (some examples); Élaigne 2013, 225 fig. 11, 4469-86. 11077-1; Harlaut 2018, 141 fig. 21, 118–119 (first third of 3rd cent. BCE); Harlaut –Hayes 2018, 271 pl. 35, H'14–15 (first half of 2nd cent. BCE); *Tel Fara'in-Buto*: Charlesworth 1967, 153 fig. 2, 1; Ballet 2003, 239 fig. 12, 6; *Naukratis*: Berlin 2001, 61 fig. 2.6 (Fabric I). 63 fig. 2.7 (Fabric IA); *Kom Dahab*: Coulson – Wilkie 1986, 71. 72 fig. 18, E11.101.4; *Athribis*: Myśliwiec 2009, pl. 16, 2–3 both left.

47 Kloner et al. 1992, 34* fig. 11, 6. The burial cave in the Judean Shephelah is situated 6 km east of Maresha.

48 Hayes 2003, 475 no. 151.

49 Harlaut 2018, 72. See note 193, in the contexts of Deposit C on Nelson Island there were 42 echinus bowls compared to 7 carinated bowls.

50 Harlaut 2018, 71.

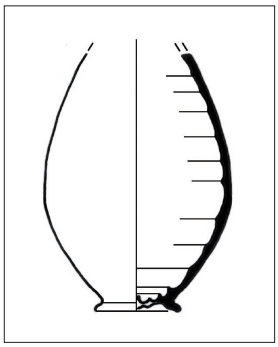
4. Echinus bowl

D. 6; base D. 4.4.

Three joining fragments. Small module with high ring foot. Two more bowls with a diameter of 5 to 6 cm were found.

In the Athenian Agora the small echinus bowls, usually with a diameter of 7–8 cm, are included in the salt cellar category[51].

5. Olpe[52]



P. H. 11.5; base D. 3.7.

Twelve joining and some non-joining fragments. Rim and handle missing. Wheel-ridging on interior.

Alexandria: Lamarche 2002, pl. 21, 105; Ballet 2009, 168 figs. 17.19–17.20, H. 14 cm; *Athribis*: Myśliwiec 2009, pl. 17, 6 right, locally produced, 2nd cent. BCE (p. 71). The complete vessel documents that the handle starts below the flaring rim; *Tebtynis*: Ballet – Południkiewicz 2012, 111 no. 463, pl. 52, only upper half preserved, everted rim, end of 2nd cent. BCE; 112 no. 468. 290 pl. 52, H. 13, slightly everted rim, upper body section burnished, end of the 3rd cent. BCE. Both vessels are local (fabric F VII, pp. 7. 13).

The Egyptian vessels comprise two variants, the first with a ring foot and a more globular body like no. 5, the second with a flat base and a body gently flaring upward (compare the two olpai of equal size and hence with the same capacity from Alexandria in Ballet 2009, figs. 17.19–17.20)[53]. Comparing trends in the ceramic production between Alexandria and Cyprus, P. Ballet emphasizes the uniformity of olpai produced in Alexandria with locally produced vessels from Nea Paphos. In his opinion they document the adherence of Alexandrine potters to the Hellenistic ceramic koine on the one hand and the morphological and technical conformity with products of eastern Mediterranean workshops on the other hand[54]. The Cypriot vessels have flat bases[55] and are of poorer quality. It was the flat base which lead me to have a look at the so-called Maresha juglets. Prevalent in the subterranean complexes, they are local products and uncommon at other sites in the southern Levant[56]. Their distinct feature is the disk base, and there are several shape variants, one recalling in form and size the imported PRW juglet from SC169. With an estimated height of ca. 13 cm and a maximum body width of 8 cm it tallies with two complete Maresha vessels with a height of 13.7 and 13.4 cm and a width of 7.9 and 7.7 cm[57]. Additional juglets are recorded in nearly every subterranean complex, mostly

51 Rotroff 1997, 167 nos. 1075–1089.

52 In the final report, the vessels nos. 5–6 have been erroneously classified a jug, Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2019, 55.

53 In the Athenian Agora, the olpai are 15–16 cm high and have a high strap handle, see Rotroff 1997, 128–129, fig. 37, 502–504.

54 Ballet 2009, 168. 173.

55 Ballet 2009, 169 figs. 17.22–17.24.

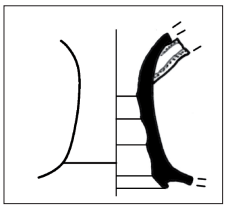
56 Kloner 1994; Levine 2003a, 110–112. 111 fig. 6.13, 133–138; Levine 2003b, 133; Regev 2003, 170 Form 37.

57 Levine 2003a, 111 fig. 6.13, 136–137.

with string-cut bases, a distinct local feature[58]. The clays are fired reddish and reddish-brown, and a red slip can be applied to the upper exterior part of the body or to most of the exterior surface[59].

It is tentatively suggested here that the Maresha juglets served as functional equivalents to the better quality PRW juglets and that their fabrication is the result of merging Egyptian inspiration with local ceramic craftsmanship. In particular, it is the Egyptian shape which is imitated, while the flat disk base is a local tradition. The surface treatment with a red slip on a number of vessels is not necessarily due to Egyptian influence, as it is a prevalent feature of the local tableware. A. Kloner, followed by T. Levine, suggests that the juglets were used in drawing liquids from the collecting vats of oil presses at Maresha[60]. Yet, there is no unequivocal evidence for this interpretation, and the varied find categories from SC169 point to their function »on festive occasions or possibly in ritual contexts such as symposia«[61] as vessels for pouring and dipping.

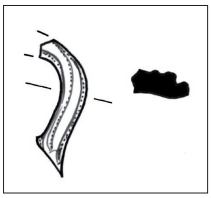
6. Olpe



Different form. Neck fragment with top of strap handle. Several non-joining body fragments. The rim missing; the high, narrow neck probably had a flaring mouth. The handle starts below the rim. Wheel-ridging on interior.

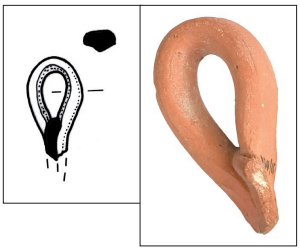
Tebtynis: Ballet – Południkiewicz 2012, 111 no. 464. 290 pl. 52, for close shape, fabric and date unknown.

7. Handle[62]



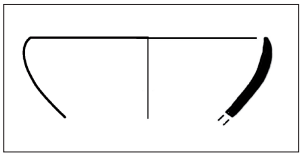
Triple-grooved handle, not slipped. The size points to a juglet handle, yet no parallels were found.

8. Kyathos, handle



Loop-handle, not slipped.

9. Kyathos (?)



D. 10.

Cup, not slipped.

58 Some additional examples: Kloner – Hess 1985, 131 fig. 3, 8–9. 11–12 (SC21); Stern – Osband 2015, 198 fig. 2.9, 10 (SC90); Stern et al. 2016, 45 fig. 4, 18 (SC147); Stern 2019, 30–32. 31 fig. 2.8, 36–37 (SC169).

59 Levine 2003a, 111 fig. 6.13, 138; Stern 2019, 31 fig. 2.8, 37. Parallels from other sites include Stager 1991, 37 top row left (from Ashkelon); Guz-Zilberstein 1995, 307. 377 fig. 6.28, 1–3 (from Dora).

60 Kloner 1994, 270; Levine 2003a, 110. For a discussion of the Maresha oil presses see Kloner – Sagiv 1993 and for the oil press in SC44, see Kloner – Sagiv 2003, 69–71.

61 Stern 2019, 405.

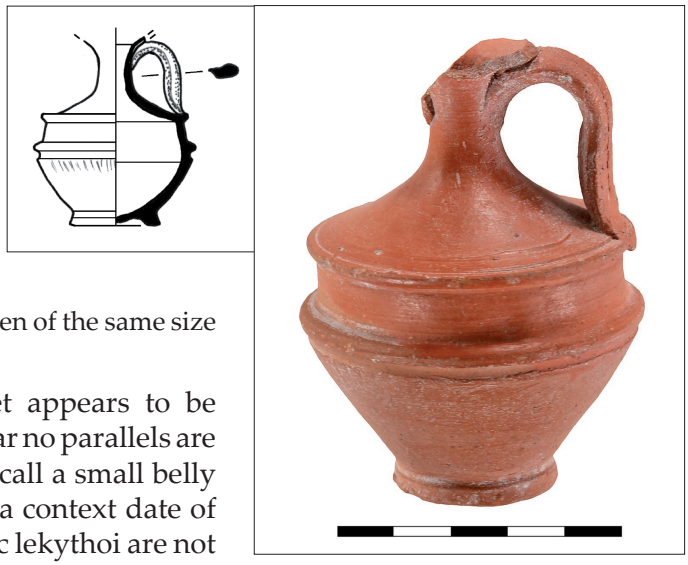
62 In the final report the handle has been attributed to olpe no. 6, which is unlikely in view of its shape, Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2019, 54 fig. 3.5. 6.

Nos. 8–9 are identified as loop-handled dippers, their forms with different profiles varying from site to site. At Nea Paphos, two unslipped kyathoi in orange fabric were recorded, the first with pottery finds predominantly of the early 1st cent. BCE, the second from Well 11 with an estimated date to the mid-2nd cent. BCE or slightly later, ca. 150–140/30[63]. In the excavations at the hill of Agios Georgios, Nicosia the suggested date range for the kyathoi is from the early 3rd through the mid-2nd cent. BCE[64]. In the Athenian production they are fairly common in the 2nd cent. BCE, while rarely attested elsewhere. All specimens are glazed. The cups are 3–5 cm high[65]. Similar loop-handles occur on small globular juglets at Tebtynis[66].

10. Juglet (lekythos?)

P. H. 8; max. W. 7.

Lustrous slip on neck, shoulder and between ridges. Globular body with two external ridges on the upper body; the greatest width at mid-height. Wide low ring foot and narrow neck with flaring mouth, the rim missing. Grooved strap handle. The handle of a second specimen of the same size came to light.



This tiny, elegantly shaped juglet appears to be unique, for the external ridges in particular no parallels are known to me. Size and globular body recall a small belly lekythos from the Athenian Agora with a context date of 100–86 BCE[67]. Rotroff points out that Attic lekythoi are not glazed inside, indicating that the oil was not expected to remain in them for a long time, which tallies with their function during dining. Lekythoi with globular body from workshops in Alexandria and Buto are 12 cm high[68]. At Tebtynis several larger lekythoi with globular body lack neck and rim, dated from the end of the 2nd cent. BCE to the 2nd cent. CE (ca. 14–15 cm high)[69].

63 Hayes 1991, 122 no. 5. 159 no. 46.

64 Berlin – Pilacinski 2003, 219–220 fig. 6, 100–101; see p. 201 for the date.

65 Rotroff 1997, 133–134 nos. 556–568.

66 Ballet – Południkiewicz 2012, 132 nos. 580–581. 298 pl. 60.

67 Rotroff 1997, 351 no. 1124. The vessel is slightly larger, H. 12.3; est. D. 10.7.

68 Lamarche 2002, 168 fig. 3, 13 (the height estimated); Ballet 2003, 240 fig. 13, 4.

69 Ballet – Południkiewicz 2012, 114–115 nos. 479–484. 291 pl. 53.

11. Aryballos

H. 8; max. W. 10.5.

Globular squat body with wide low disk base. Low narrow neck with cup-shaped, saucer-like mouth with tiny hole at centre. Strap handle. Inside the vessel is an item that rattles when the vessel is jolted, yet impossible to identify through the tiny opening. A small terracotta ball was identified inside some of the aryballoi and askoi found at Athribis, its function considered to control the flow of oil from the vessel[70]. The distinct feature of the aryballoi from Maresha and of their parallels is the tiny hole at the top, recalling the locally produced titros / klepsydra from SC169, a specific vessel type for drawing liquids[71].

12. Aryballos, neck and handle

Fragment of a second vessel. The top of a third was recovered.

Alexandria: Harlaut – Hayes 2018, 285 pl. 49, J34, »filter-vase«, upper part with grooved handle (around 160 BCE); *Athribis*: Południkiewicz 1992, 98 fig. 5; Myśliwiec – Bakr Said 1999, 195 fig. 12a. 204; Ballet 2001, 135 fig. 12; Wodzińska 2010, 40 ›Ptolemaic 38‹ (all illustrate the same vessel). Altogether, several vessels are recorded, covered with a polished self-slip imitating a lustrous glaze, their context date is the 2nd cent. BCE; *Tebtynis*: Ballet – Południkiewicz 2012, 114 nos. 476–477. 291 pl. 53, vessel no. 476 is dated to the end of the 3rd cent. BCE, no. 477 might have been produced in a Tell el-Fara'in-Buto workshop; *Ashkelon*: Johnson 2008, 99. 103 no. 317. The single specimen identified in the southern Levant is attributed by visual examination to Nile Delta clay.

At Athribis aryballoi and askoi[72] are considered oil vessels, which together with lagynoi came to light in a deposit with fragments of burnt plastered bricks and painted wall plaster from a bath complex, constructed in the mid–2nd cent. in the reign of Ptolemy VI (180–145 BCE) in parts of the artisan quarter. It is suggested that the specific vessels might be related to lagynophoria or other ceremonies connected to the cult of Dionysos, which may have taken place in the public bath complex[73].

In the Athenian Agora publication, aryballoi were considered vessels for storing and pouring oil[74], while in the Tebtynis report, a use for precious liquids like unguents and perfumes is assumed[75].

70 Myśliwiec – Bakr Said 1999, 204.

71 Stern 2019, 32 and fig. 2.8, 41–43 on p. 31.

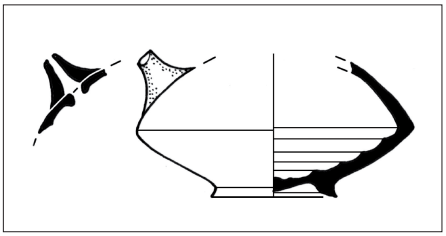
72 Myśliwiec – Bakr Said 1999, 195 fig. 12b–c.

73 Myśliwiec – Bakr Said 1999, 190. 204.

74 Rotroff 1997, 171.

75 Ballet – Południkiewicz 2012, 114.

13. Guttus



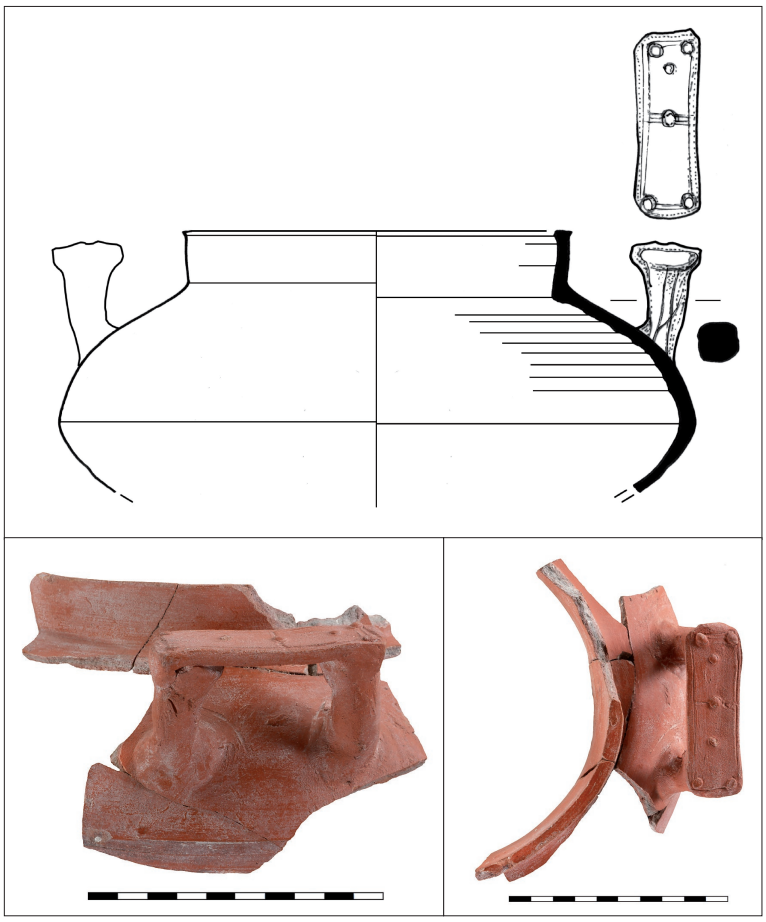
P. H. 6.5; max. W. 12.

Two non-joining fragments. Biconical body and wide ring foot. Spout. Wheel-ridging on interior below carination.

This interesting vessel combines the body shape of a guttus and the spout of a filter jug or feeder. Analogy to Athenian prototypes indicates that the specimen had a high, narrow neck with a flaring mouth[76].

14. Chytra with high neck, flanged rim, and broad ledge handles[77]

P. H. 11.5; rim D. 17;
max. W. 28.



Restored from several fragments. The even and smooth red slip is shiny. The vertical high neck has a rim with a slim inner and outer flange. Two high and broad rectangular handles, flat on top and decorated with raised circles, are placed transversely on the shoulder. The capacious bi-convex body has its maximum width at half-height, marked by a carination. Wheel-ridging on interior upper wall. Soot on bottom below carination. Rim and neck fragments of a second pot were retrieved.

The fabric leaves no doubt about the Egyptian manufacture of the singular vessel, yet no exact parallels are known to me for the form with a bi-convex body, divided by the carination into two equal or nearly equal halves. Close parallels comprise fragmentary pots with the upper parts preserved.

Alexandria: Harlaut – Hayes 2018, 295 pl. 59, K16, near-vertical neck, stump of a transverse (?) handle visible on shoulder (130–120 BCE); *Naukratis*: Berlin 2001, 33. 85 fig. 2.18, 1–4 (Fabric IA). 10–22 (Fabric IA), both Delta silt red fabric with slip. Of the »tall ledge rim cooking pots« only the upper third or the necks are preserved, the handles are vertical strap handles. Wasters from Kom Dahab indicate local production; the surface treatment

76 Rotroff 1997, 172–174, resembling nos. 1148. 1150, with squat body.

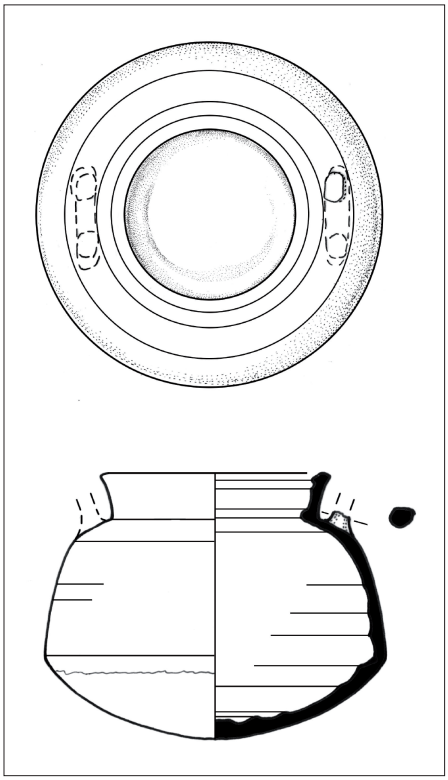
77 In the final report the vessel has erroneously been classified as angled-rim cooking pot, Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2019, 56. 57 fig. 3.6, 1.

includes thin red slips and occasional burnishing[78]; *Tebtynis*: Ballet – Południkiewicz 2012, 142 no. 626; 302 pl. 64 (Fabric VIII. 2, p. 14), context date from the end of the 2nd to the early or mid-1st cent. BCE. The vessel termed »jarre-marmite« has the same neck as **no. 14**, though the preserved upper half of the cooking pot suggests a globular body. The authors point out that the type was used primarily for storage, though the occasional soot suggests the boiling of food or liquids (p. 141). The characteristic feature of the fabric is the relatively dense orange-reddish-brown shiny slip, the surface burnished and banded. For cooking pots with transverse handles see Ballet – Południkiewicz 2012, 77 nos. 257–260. 261 pl. 23, the neck and upper shoulder profiles close to **no. 14**.

15. Small angled-rim chytra

H. 12; rim D. 10; max. W. 15.

Complete except for damage on rim and two missing handles (preserved is the stump of one and the imprint of the other). The pot has a slightly everted high neck, constricted at the junction of neck and shoulder and an interior flange. The rim is angled on the outer and inner edge. The two missing handles were transverse handles with round section. The wall carination is set at the lower third of the body. There is wheel-ridging on the exterior and interior.



The common Egyptian angled-rim cooking pots are specifically Hellenistic, with the earliest parallels from the 3rd cent. BCE in Coptos[79]. *Alexandria*: Harlaut 2002, 268 fig. 5e (2nd cent. BCE); Harlaut – Hayes 2018, 251 pl. 15, E7 (about 250 BCE); 254 pl. 18, F6, no real slip (third quarter of 3rd cent. BCE); 273, pl. 37, H'33–34 (first half of 2nd cent. BCE); *Naukratis*: Berlin 2001, 81 fig. 2.16, 1–8. None are complete, all are made of Delta silt and mostly slipped (Fabric IA); *Athribis*: Myśliwiec 1996, 14 and pl. 10, 1, H. 14 cm. The complete pot with two transverse handles from, dated to the 3rd or beginning of the 2nd cent. BCE, is defined as imitation ceramics of the Hellenistic koine; *Tebtynis*: Ballet – Południkiewicz 2012, 76 no. 250. 261 pl. 23, complete vessel of close shape, though with vertical handles, with a suggested date from the mid-1st cent. BCE onward. The authors note that the paste texture of the globular cooking pots is quite fine, covered with a pink slip.

Egyptian cookware was imported to Nea Paphos, where it came to light in the theatre and in the Tombs of the Kings[80], find-spots which do not provide contextual evidence for its use.

The small squat angular cooking pots with vertical handle(s), produced locally at Maresha, is a near form to **no. 15**[81]. The pots occur in SC90, with nine specimens identified,

78 Coulson – Wilkie 1986, 73 and fig. 18, E11.12.9 on p. 72. The authors mention cooking pots with transverse handles, yet none are illustrated.

79 Berlin 2001, 32–33.

80 Ballet 2009, 172.

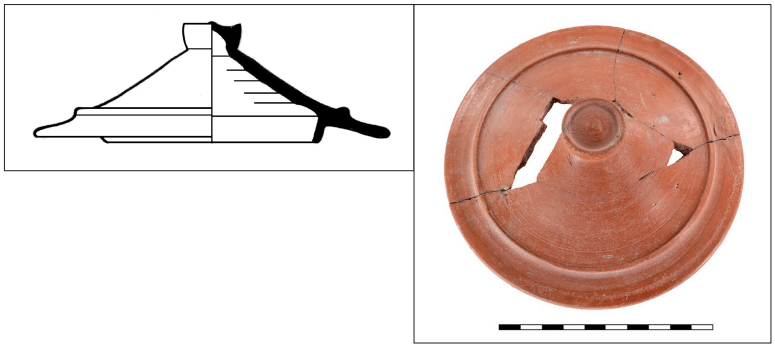
81 Levine 2003a, 94–95. 93 fig. 6.6, 72–76. No. 72 has a single handle, no. 76 has no handles; Stern 2019, 26 fig. 2.6, 15.

and in SC147, the latter with a single handle[82]. In the Hellenistic strata 3–2 at Ashdod two red-slipped pots were retrieved[83]. While form and size are similar, the convex body profile is different and there is no inner recess. However, the globular wide-mouthed cooking pot is a generic form, long-lived and wide-spread, and even with complete vessels it is generally impossible to provide evidence for mutual inspiration within the many local and regional production centres[84].

16. Reversible lid

H. 5.5; D. 15.5.

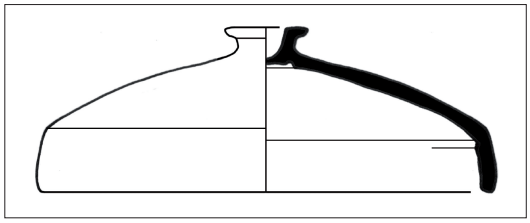
Restored from five fragments. Sloping top ending in broad flange, set off by pronounced ridge. Inner vertical flange to fit neck of cooking pot. Hollow narrow knob. Wheel-ridging on interior.



17. Reversible lid

H. 7.5; D. 20.

Restored from three fragments. Convex wall with vertical edge and narrow knob in the form of a ring foot.



For the two reversible lids, I did not find parallels in Egypt, yet the distinct fabric is undoubtedly PRW. At Nea Paphos the imported lids in brown ware (Nile Delta products) are different[85]. None of the locally produced lids from Maresha resemble the PRW lids[86].

Large and small reversible lids were popular in the Athenian Agora, particularly in the late Hellenistic period[87]. Often painted in West Slope technique, their function was multi-purpose; as toiletry articles they were used to cover pyxides, others probably served as covers for lekanides or could have been used in the cult of Isis. Their characteristic feature is the vertical edge like lid **no. 17**, while the knobs are broader. The local and imported cookware lids in the Athenian Agora display considerable variation with conical profiles or of flat shape, with solid knobs or knobs in the form of a ring foot[88]. None of the Athenian lids has the inner vertical flange like lid **no. 16**, with the exception of an imported lid of possibly Pergamene origin[89]. Even though the two lids fit the two cooking pots, the lack of soot makes it unlikely

82 Stern – Osband 2015, 182 Table 2.33; 194 fig. 2.6, 11; Stern et al. 2016, 44 fig. 4, 10; 45 »pale brown clay, H. 8.8 cm; max. D. 10.7 cm«.

83 Kee 1971, 144. 170–171 fig. 80, 5–6. No. 5 »brown clay, pinkish-grey core, grey grits, red slip«; no. 6 »brown clay, white and grey grits, red slip«. The slip is applied to the upper two-thirds of the vessels.

84 Compare for example the cooking pots of the southern Levant, Berlin 2015, 635 – 636. 650 – 653 pls. 6.1.7–8, with Egyptian products, Harlaut 2018, 146 fig. 26; Ballet – Południkiewicz 2012, 261–267 pls. 23–29.

85 Hayes 2003, 455 no. 28; 457 nos. 39–40.

86 Stern – Osband 2015, 194 fig. 2.6, 10 (SC90); Stern 2019, 26 fig. 2.6, 19–20 (SC169).

87 Rotroff 1997, 192–197.

88 Rotroff 2006, 195–199.

89 Rotroff 1997, 410 no. 1660.

that they were exposed to fire. At Tebtynis many of the cooking pots in red fabric turned brown after having been exposed to fire[90]. On the Island of Geronisos, Cyprus the fragment of an imported PRW saucer/lid is blackened on the outer surface, suggesting that it was used as lid for a cooking pot[91]. However, in case the two cooking pots were used also as serving dishes the lids would have kept the food warm after cooking and before serving.

Table 1

Cat. no.	Vessel type	Reg. no.	Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2019
1	Plate: rolled rim	4361/05-169-50-976	Fig. 3.5, 1
2	Bowl: carinated	4361/05-169-67-1215	Fig. 3.5, 2
3	Echinus bowl	4361/05-169-65-1198	Fig. 3.5, 3
4	Echinus bowl	4361/05-169-67-1228-S1	Fig. 3.5, 4
5	Juglet	37/15 + 7015/14-169-197-2769 + 187-2631 + 187-2579	Fig. 3.5, 5
6	Juglet, neck fragment	4687/06-169-93-1456	Fig. 3.5, 6
7	Juglet, handle	4687/06-169-93-1456	Fig. 3.5, 6
8	Kyathos, handle	4361/05-169-59-901	Fig. 3.5, 7
9	Kyathos (?)	4687/06-169-68-1321	Fig. 3.5, 8
10	Juglet	4687/06-169-67-1267	Fig. 3.5, 9
11	Aryballos	4361/05-169-67-1042-S1	Fig. 3.5, 10
12	Aryballos	3567/02-169-18-476	Fig. 3.5, 11
13	Guttus	4361/05-169-67-1162	Fig. 3.5, 12
14	Chytra	4361/05-169-39-946	Fig. 3.6, 1
15	Chytra	4099/04-169-36-668-S1	Fig. 3.6, 2
16	Reversible lid	3567/02-169-20-442	Fig. 3.6, 3
17	Reversible lid	4099/04-169-31-614-S1	Fig. 3.6, 4

90 Ballet – Południkiewicz 2012, 12–13, cookware fabric F Va–b.

91 Młynarczyk 2009, 211.

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