Completing the study and documentation of pottery finds from previous campaigns was the chief objective of the season. Concurrent excavation work provided some interesting material – either new types from periods that are already well attested or pottery from periods we have not yet recorded in the West Saqqara necropolis to date.

**POTTERY OF THE 3RD-4TH DYNASTY**

Finds from the area near the enclosure wall of the mortuary complex of Netjerikhet included, beside the well-known types (e.g. beer jars, bread moulds, plates) of the Sixth Dynasty, also some sherds of vessels dating to the early Old Kingdom – the first time that a bigger assemblage of ceramics from this period has been found in the necropolis. Unfortunately, the vessels came from mixed archaeological contexts and neither their original provenance nor exact dating is known. Attribution to the Third-Fourth Dynasties is possible based on parallels. It seems that originally the pottery came from the step pyramid complex.

The identifiable repertoire is limited to three types, i.e., collar beer jar, jar with modeled rim with internal groove and bowl with internal ledge below the rim. The beer jars are handmade of Nile silt B2 or C. The clay is relatively compact and, compared to the Sixth Dynasty beer jars, contains fewer inclusions, such as straw, lime, mica and sand. Organic inclusions are also more finely chopped. The surface is left untreated. The jars are usually fired in an oxygen atmosphere, so the color is brown or reddish brown, the hardness is 2-3 on the Mohs scale. The vessels from West Saqqara represent various types depending on the shape of the collar, which can be either shallow or deep with more or less sharp edges. Nothing can be said about the bottom as no complete jars have been found.

Collar beer jars are well attested at the Memphite necropolis, sometimes in well dated contexts, e.g. at Saqqara (funerary complex of Netjerikhet; mastabas of the Fourth Dynasty near the causeway of the

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1) For the 2001 excavations, see report by K. Myśliwiec in this volume.
2) Objects, possibly deriving from the Netjerikhet complex, have been found in the West Saqqara necropolis in the past, cf. Et. Drioton, J.-Ph. Lauer, "Un groupe de tombes à Saqqarah: Icheti, N e f e r-K houou-Ptah, S é b e k-em-K het et A nkh i", A S A E 55 (1957), 220-222.
3) C. M. Firth, J. E. Quibell, The Step Pyramid (Le Caire 1935), pls. 25, 102, nos. 18, 20.
Fig. 1. Pottery of the Third-Fourth Dynasty, assorted fragments (not to scale)
(Drawing T. Rzezeka)
Unas pyramid),4) Dashur (tomb of Netjer-aperef),5) and Giza (early mastabas).6)

The jar with modeled rim and internal groove is rarer. The only rim found in this campaign (SQ 01-999, Fig. 1) was made of Marl C1 clay. The rim was thrown, while the rest was handmade. Jars of Marl C clay, but dating from the Sixth Dynasty, were shaped in the same way.7) Rims of a similar shape, but made of Marl A or Nile B, were found in the previous seasons. Parallels come from Dashur.8)

Bowls with internal ledge below the rim constitute the third recognized type.

Shaft 51 contained a secondary filling composed of mud brick - probably from the mastaba superstructure - and several sherds.13) Their original provenance is not known. All of the pots are dated to the early Sixth Dynasty. The beer jars are like those from the complex of Meref-nebef.

A broken vessel (SQ 01-1035) (Fig. 2) was found in the burial chamber, east of the sarcophagus. It seems to have been part of the original tomb equipment. It is a globular jar with flat base, a collar on the shoulders, probably narrow neck and vestigial loop handle. It was handmade of at least four parts, joined at the shoulder and the lower part of the body. The base is shaped with a tool (knife?) and the outside surface is red-slipped and burnished. There are five vertical marks on the lower body, made with a rope impressed into the leather-hard clay before firing. The clay is hard, dense and contains a quantity of

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7) This method was still in use during the Middle Kingdom, as revealed in the present author’s study of Middle Kingdom material from Elephantine, Qubett el-Hawa.
9) J. E. Quibell, The Tomb of Hesy (Le Caire 1913), pl. 27.
13) For details, see contribution of K. O. Kuraskiewicz in this volume.
white and gray particles, visible in the section and on the plain inner surface. The vessel is an example of Palestinian Red Burnished of the Early Bronze Age III.  

Morphologically, Palestinian Red Burnished (Early Bronze III) seems to be a late form of the Abydos Ware (Early Bronze II). Vessels imported to Egypt during the Predynastic Period were found in the royal complexes at Umm el-Qaab in Abydos and in Nagada. The vessel shape evolved toward a lower, squatter shape.

Fig. 2. Jar from the burial chamber of Shaft 51 (Drawing T. Rzeuska)
Fig. 3. Assorted examples of pottery from the New Kingdom assemblage (not to scale) (Drawing T. Rzeuska)
version, the body becoming more ovoid than globular, the bottom wider. The piece from the West Saqqara necropolis, recorded there for the first time, falls in the very end of the sequence - it is definitely the youngest such vessel known from Egypt to date. R. Amiran has suggested that they served as containers for oil imported from Palestine.  

Parallels include the following: Palestine – Jericho, jug from tomb A (light red, red burnished slip); Egypt – Giza (seven jars); Dashur (tomb of Netjeraperef).

**NEW KINGDOM**

Single New Kingdom sherds have been found in previous seasons, but never in a closed context. The assemblage appeared in the area north of the brick platform excavated in 1999. Connections have been found between the material discov-

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18) Amiran, op. cit., 75-77, pl. 20, no. 15.  
19) Reisner’s B-LII a: One-handled pitcher, no. 32-12-13, from mastaba G 2170 A, burnished red wash: Reisner, Giza I, op. cit., fig. 274; Reisner, Giza II, op. cit., 74, fig. 95, pl. 53f.  
21) K. Myśliwiec, PAM XI, Reports 1999 (2000), 93-95, fig. 5.
The pottery presented above reflects types hitherto unknown or little known from the West Saqqara necropolis. Sherds of the Third-Fourth Dynasties likely originated from the funerary complex of Netjerikhet. A jar found in situ in the burial chamber of Shaft 51 represents a rare import from the Lebanese coast, confirming trade contacts with this region in the Late Old Kingdom. An unresolved issue is the New Kingdom pottery, which surely came from some as yet unknown structure.

22) C. A. Hope, Pottery of the Egyptian New Kingdom. Three Studies (Burwood 1989), fig. 3 a (beer jars), e (red-slipped jars), fig. 4 a-b (amphorae), pl. 7c (marl-clay amphorae).
23) Hope, op. cit, fig. 10, b.
Fig. 5. Assorted pottery of New Kingdom date (not to scale)
(Drawing T. Rzeuska)