

Joachim ŚLIWA

EGYPTIAN FAIENCE VESSELS IN THE COLLECTION
OF NATIONAL MUSEUM IN CRACOW

In the modest collection of ancient pottery from Egypt, now in the possession of the Cracow National Museum (17 items), a considerable part is formed by faience objects (eight items)¹. They are small containers of different shapes, dated at the period from the New Kingdom to the Late Period inclusive.

The small group of faience objects listed below in the catalogue originate from the famous Czartoryski Collection and was collected during the period from 1880 to 1890 (purchases made in Egypt mainly by S. Marusieński at Wł. Czartoryski's request)².

NOTES

¹ Concerning the Egyptian pottery in the Cracow collections see the general remarks: J. Śliwa, Ägyptische und nubische Keramik in den Krakauer Sammlungen [in:] Recherches Archéologiques de 1978, Kraków 1979, pp. 70-74.

² Cf. K. Moczulska, J. Śliwa, Identyfikacja zabytków egipskich ze zbiorów Czartoryskich z wykazami zakupów z lat 1884 i 1885 [in:] Prace Archeologiczne 14, Kraków 1972, pp. 85-104 (List II, No. 16 - see below Cat. No. 5).

CATALOGUE

1. Faience juglet with an ovoid body and tall cylindrical neck.

Slightly modelled spout on the rim. Single vertical handle ranging above the rim. On the blue faience background black-painted decoration: at the base a rosette composed of eight triangular petals (moreover in the centre of the rosette a painted ring), separated with horizontal line on the height of the mid-body from the shoulders; in the lower part of the neck four horizontal lines are visible, to which several elongated triangles with a single vertical line are adjacent and hanging down at the surface of the shoulders. Around the rim three horizontal lines; to the last one a series of narrow hanging triangles is adjacent, covered with black paint. On the handle four horizontal painted rings. New Kingdom.

Blue faience, partially oxidized. H. - 10.5 cm, D. - 6.5 cm. Inv. No. MNK XI - 1132 (Czartoryski Collection). Purchased in Egypt about 1890.

Bibliography: K. Bula s, CVA Pologne 2, pl. 2(56)3a, b.

Cf.: W. F. von Bissing, Fayencegefäße (Cat. gén.), Vienna 1902, p. 8, No. 3636.

2. Small faience amphoriskos with a slender ovoid body, funnel neck and two lug-handles. New Kingdom.

Blue-greenish faience, porous surface. H. - 9.3 cm, D. - 3.7 cm. Inv. No. MNK XI - 108 (Czartoryski Collection). Purchased in Egypt about 1880.

Bibliography: K. Bula s, CVA Pologne 2, pl. 2(56)2."

3. Small faience cup of straight, divergent contour; flat base...

Slightly below the rim, framed between two horizontal lines, a hieroglyphic inscription made in black ink was running around the vessel. The inscription is only partially preserved, in some places effaced. The legible part is as follows:

n. j - swj. t sš Rdjn-nht nb [...]

"The royal scribe Rdjn-nht ... "

New Kingdom - Late Period.







Blue faience, partially oxidized; rough surface. Considerable part of the rim broken off. H. - 2.7 cm, D. - 3.7 cm. Inv. No. MNK XI - 1133 (Czartoryski Collection). Purchased in Egypt about 1890.

Bibliography: K. B u l a s, CVA Pologne 2, pl. 2(56)6a, b.

4. Small faience cup of straight, divergent contour; flat base.

In a rectangular frame occurs a hieroglyphic inscription in two columns, separated by a vertical line. The inscription made in black ink is as follows:

Wsjr hrj. t wr. t hnrwt. t n jmn js hnsu m3^c - hrw

"Osiris, the greatest lady in the palace of Amun, Eskhons, true of voice".

Because of the occurrence of the name Eskhons here, the vice-reine of Kush, wife of Pinezem, High Priest, this object can be undisputably related to the group of finds deriving from the royal cache, discovered in 1881 in the Theban tomb No. 320 (Queen Inha^cpi) with the objects from the times of the XXIst dynasty (cf. PM I, 2, 1964, pp. 664-665). Till now 70 cups with the name of Eskhons were identified, dispersed in many collections all over the world (there is also one in the National Museum in Warsaw, from the Czartoryski Collection of Gołuchów, cf. K. B u l a s, CVA Pologne 1, pl. 2(2)6, p. 6). Theban necropolis. XXIst dynasty.

Blue faience. H. - 6 cm, D. - 7 cm. Inv. No. MNK XI - 1183 (Czartoryski Collection). Purchased in Egypt about 1890.

Bibliography: K. B u l a s, CVA Pologne 2, pl. 2(56)7; PM I, 2, 1964, p. 665.

5. Small faience kohl container, carinated, with flattened rim and flat base. Interior in the shape of a tubular hole. Flat faience lid. New Kingdom - Late Period.

Blue faience. H. - 3.5 cm, D. - 3.5 cm. Inv. No. MNK XI - 692 (Czartoryski Collection). From Karnak; purchased in 1885 (S. Marusieński).

Bibliography: K. B u l a s, CVA Pologne 2, pl. 2(56)8.

6. Small faience vessel in the shape of a kneeling woman figure holding with both hands a storage vessel in front of her.

In the place of its orifice there is a sitting frog with the open mouth. The bottom is modelled in the shape of a flat rectangular base with front side rounded. The kneeling figure has a considerably thickened belly; at her back she has 17 blackishbrown spots in three rows, two spots on the shoulders and, of the same colour, two more in the place of her breasts. In blackish-brown colour are also marked the bracelets on her hands, the edge of the base, the orifice of the vessel (the frog on it), the eyes of the frog and the line on its back. The woman's face is broad, framed with hair (blackish-brown as well) falling on her shoulders at the back, reaching her breasts in front, with the "Hathor" locks at the ends. On the head of the figure there is a slim palm capital composed of seven petals. In the capital topping the head, there is a narrow orifice of the vessel.

The described object consisting of two elements joined together (the figure hollow inside and the vessel she holds in front of her) is a specific type of containers with two openings (in the capital on the head of the figure and the mouth of the frog) functioning as a "siphon". It was probably used as a scent bottle or the container of water for the special purpose (the Nile water, "eau de jouvence").

Probably an East-Greek product (Rhodos?), dated to the VIth century B. C. (XXVIth dynasty) with some Egyptian features (the deity from the sphere of Hapi/Nile) and with the Near East elements. According to V. Webb's classification (1978) our object belongs to the group of double vases - the leopard spot group, and within this type to the IInd, standard complex (with "Hathor" locks).

Blue-greenish faience. H. 11.2 cm, base dimensions 2.8 x 5.3 cm. The front part of the storage vessel is slightly damaged. Inv. No. MNK XI - 39 (Czartoryski Collection). Purchased in Egypt about 1880.

Bibliography: K. Bulas, CVA Pologne 2, pl. 2(56)5.

Cf.: A. Rathje, A group of "Phoenician" faience anthropomorphic perfume flask, Levant VIII (1976), pp. 96-106; E. Lagarce, J. Leclant, Une fiole pour eau de jouvence [in:] Fouilles de Kition II. Objets égyptiens et égyptisants, Nicosia 1976, pp. 238-242; V. Webb, Archaic Greek Faience. Miniature scent bottles and related objects from East Greece, 650-500 B. C., Warminster 1978, p. 11ff.

7. Small spherical aryballos with a flattened base. On the body an impressed cartouche "Hm-ib-R^C" (Amazis, 568-526 B. C.), topped by two ostrich feathers and a sun disc. The impressed details were filled up with faience of different colour (in the cartouche ring some traces of oxidized blue faience).

The vessel belongs to the group of objects imitating in shape the Corinthian aryballoi while the decoration is Egyptian in character as well as the material and technique. Usually the lower part of the handle was decorated with a reversed palmette (here not preserved). According to V. Webb (1978) three aryballoi with the Amazis cartouche are known so ours would be the fourth one of this type. The vessels of this type, according to V. Webb, were produced in Naucratis. XXVIth dynasty (about the middle of the VIth century B. C.).

Bibliography: unpublished.

Cf.: V. Webb, Archaic Greek Faience, p. 114 ff.

8. Spherical aryballos imitating in shape a ripe pomegranate.

The surface of the vessel is divided into ten flutes of uneven width with a lotus flower in relief in the upper part of each flute. In the surface of each flower 2-3 engraved lines. A small hollow in the centre of the base from which radiantly part the convex ribs of the flutes. The neck is very short with the flattened, thick mouth. Vertical, broad handle joins the edge of the mouth with the body.

According to V. Webb's classification (1978) the discussed object belongs to the early, fine group of spherical aryballoids, group III - vases in the undoubted form of fruit. Most probably a Rhodian product (Camirus); VIth century B. C. (XXVIth dynasty).

Greenish faience with grey spots. H. - 5.5 cm, Max. D. - 5.9 cm, rim diam. 4.1 cm, orifice diam. 0.9 cm. Inv. No. MNK XI - 38 (Czartoryski Collection). Purchased in Egypt about 1880.

Bibliography: K. Bułas, CVA Pologne. 2, pl. 2(56)4.

Cf.: V. Webb, Archaic Greek Faience, p. 113, pl. XVIII, 758.

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Zdzisław J. KAPERA

BIBLICAL REFLECTIONS OF THE STRUGGLE FOR PHILISTIA AT THE END OF THE EIGHTH CENTURY B. C.

Part II

ANALYSIS OF THE CHAPTER XX OF THE BOOK OF ISAIAH*

The biblical texts are the only non-Assyrian documents to provide information on the history of Yamani's revolt in Ashdod about 712 B. C. However, it must be emphasized that only Is 20, 1-6 is relevant; all other texts sometimes regarded as contemporary with the events are of merely secondary importance both because of their disputed chronology and because they represent a special literary genre, oracles against foreign nations, which are one kind of prophetic speeches.

Chapter 20 of the Book of Isaiah, dealing with the defeat of Ashdod, is among those passages of the prophet's extant writings whose genuineness and historical value are beyond question¹. It is generally firmly believed that it contains the description of a real albeit unusual action undertaken by Isaiah at the time of the anti-Assyrian uprising in Ashdod. However, attempts to determine the date of origin of the passage and of its inclusion in the prophet's writings (i.e. Chapters 1-39) are controversial. S. Morinckel believes that the chapter belongs to the third collection of the prophecies of Isaiah, written down by a disciple conventionally designated as R³ about the year 640 B. C.² J. H. Eaton counts the passage among the writings from the 7th century B. C.³ R. B. Scott classifies it as a record written down immediately upon the prophet's death⁴. Recently, the matter has been taken up again by G. Fohrer, who places it on an entirely new