

Cover Page



Universiteit Leiden



The handle <http://hdl.handle.net/1887/20292> holds various files of this Leiden University dissertation.

Author: Konstantinidou, Alexandra

Title: Pots for monks : ceramics and life in the Old Monastery of Baramus (Wadi al-Natrun, Egypt) 4th - 9th c.

Issue Date: 2012-12-12

LIST OF FIGURES

- Fig. 1.1: Principles of transliteration of the Arabic words used in the present study (IFAO_études Arabes_Recommandations).
- Fig. 2.1: Map of Egypt (after Sampsell 2003, Fig. 13.1)
- Fig. 2.2: Wādī al-Naṭrūn: the lakes.
- Fig. 2.3: Wādī al-Naṭrūn: concentration of natron in the lakes (photo by the author)
- Fig. 2.4: Dayr al-Baramūs: plan of the excavation site (until the 2006 season).
- Fig. 2.5: Dayr al-Baramūs, plan of the excavation site: selected contexts.
- Fig. 3.1: Map of the Mediterranean.
- Fig. 3.2: Map of Egypt.
- Fig. 3.3: Production zones of Nile silt vessels.
- Fig. 3.4: Baramūs Nile fabric variants.
- Fig. 3.5: Production zones of calcareous fabric vessels.
- Fig. 3.6: Baramūs calcareous fabric variants.
- Fig. 3.7: Production zones of Aswān kaolinitic fabric vessels.
- Fig. 3.8: Map of Tunisia: production zones of African red slip wares marked by an asterisk (after Bonifay 2003, Fig. 1).
- Fig. 3.9: African red slip vessels found in the Old Baramūs (Nos. 1-12).
- Fig. 3.10: Stamped sherds of African red slip vessels found in the Old Baramūs (Nos. 13-17).
- Fig. 3.11: Late Roman 'D' vessels found in the Old Baramūs (Nos. 18-36).
- Fig. 3.12: Phocaean red slip vessels found in the Old Baramūs (Nos. 37-39).
- Fig. 3.13: Aswān red slip vessels found in the Old Baramūs (Nos. 40-44).
- Fig. 3.14: Aswān red slip vessels found in the Old Baramūs: knobbed-rim bowls groups 1-2 (Nos. 45-57).
- Fig. 3.15: Aswān red slip vessels found in the Old Baramūs (Nos. 58-73).
- Fig. 3.16: Aswān red slip vessels found in the Old Baramūs (Nos. 74-81).
- Fig. 3.17: Aswān red slip dishes found in the Old Baramūs (Nos. 82-83).
- Fig. 3.18: Aswān red slip vessels found in the Old Baramūs: dishes with everted stepped rim (Nos. 84-87).
- Fig. 3.19: Aswān red slip dishes found in the Old Baramūs (Nos. 88-91).
- Fig. 3.20: Aswān red slip vessels found in the Old Baramūs (Nos. 92-95).
- Fig. 3.21: Aswān white slip vessels found in the Old Baramūs (Nos. 96-106).
- Fig. 3.22: Aswān white slip vessels found in the Old Baramūs (Nos. 106-118).
- Fig. 3.23: Aswān white slip base-sherds (Nos. 119-125) and painted vessels (Nos. 126-132) found in the Old Baramūs.
- Fig. 3.24: Nile fabric red slip vessels found in the Old Baramūs (Nos. 133-143).
- Fig. 3.25: Nile fabric red slip vessels found in the Old Baramūs (Nos. 144-153).
- Fig. 3.26: Open painted table wares found in the Old Baramūs (Nos. 154-156).
- Fig. 3.27: Mouths of closed painted table wares found in the Old Baramūs (Nos. 157-178).
- Fig. 3.28: Bodysherds of closed painted table wares found in the Old Baramūs (Nos. 179-210).
- Fig. 3.29: Bases of closed painted table wares found in the Old Baramūs (Nos. 211-224); jug (No. 225).
- Fig. 3.30: Gouged table wares found in the Old Baramūs (Nos. 226-229).
- Fig. 3.31: Open plain table wares found in the Old Baramūs (Nos. 230-239).
- Fig. 3.32: Closed plain table wares found in the Old Baramūs (Nos. 240-256).
- Fig. 3.33: Early glazed table wares found in the Old Baramūs (Nos. 257-263).

- Fig. 3.34: Cooking wares found in the Old Baramūs: frying pans and casseroles (Nos. 264-279).
- Fig. 3.35: Cooking wares found in the Old Baramūs: casseroles *E114-E116* (Nos. 280-289).
- Fig. 3.36: Cooking wares found in the Old Baramūs: casseroles *E114-E116* (Nos. 290-294).
- Fig. 3.37: Cooking wares found in the Old Baramūs: cooking-pots (Nos. 295-307).
- Fig. 3.38: Cooking wares found in the Old Baramūs: cooking-pots (Nos. 308-320).
- Fig. 3.39: Cooking wares found in the Old Baramūs: cooking-pots and jars (Nos. 321-334).
- Fig. 3.40: Cooking wares found in the Old Baramūs: cooking- jars (Nos. 335-336).
- Fig. 3.41: Casserole lids (*E347-E349*) found in the Old Baramūs (Nos. 337-359).
- Fig. 3.42: Painted troughs found in the Old Baramūs (Nos. 360-362).
- Fig. 3.43: Painted jars found in the Old Baramūs (Nos. 363-372).
- Fig. 3.44: Painted jar found in the Old Baramūs (No. 367).
- Fig. 3.45: Gouged jars found in the Old Baramūs (No. 373-374).
- Fig. 3.46: Anthropomorphic jar found in the Old Baramūs (No. 375).
- Fig. 3.47: Undecorated medium-sized bowls found in the Old Baramūs (Nos. 376-389).
- Fig. 3.48: Large bowls / basins found in the Old Baramūs (Nos. 390-393).
- Fig. 3.49: Closed utilitarian wares found in the Old Baramūs (Nos. 394-407).
- Fig. 3.50: Main *Late Roman* amphora types.
- Fig. 3.51: *LRA1* found in the Old Baramūs (Nos. 408-410).
- Fig. 3.52: *LRA1* found in the Old Baramūs (No. 411).
- Fig. 3.53: *LRA1* found in the Old Baramūs (Nos. 412).
- Fig. 3.54: *LRA1* found in the Old Baramūs (Nos. 413-420).
- Fig. 3.55: *LRA4* found in the Old Baramūs (Nos. 421-431).
- Fig. 3.56: *LRA4* found in the Old Baramūs (Nos. 432-437).
- Fig. 3.57: *LRA3* found in the Old Baramūs (Nos. 438-439).
- Fig. 3.58: Palestinian *bag-shaped* amphorae (*LRA5*) found in the Old Baramūs (Nos. 440-441).
- Fig. 3.59: African amphorae found in the Old Baramūs (Nos. 442-446).
- Fig. 3.60: Late *bitroncoconical* amphorae found in the Old Baramūs (Nos. 447-459).
- Fig. 3.61: *Egyptian Amphorae 7* found in the Old Baramūs (Nos. 460-464).
- Fig. 3.62: *Egyptian Amphorae 7* found in the Old Baramūs (Nos. 465-470).
- Fig. 3.63: *Egyptian Amphorae 7* found in the Old Baramūs (Nos. 471-476).
- Fig. 3.64: *Bag-shaped* amphorae: the Kellia typology (after Egloff 1977).
- Fig. 3.65: *Egyptian Bag-shaped* amphorae. Calcareous. Types: 1, 2A, 2C, 2D (Nos. 477-495).
- Fig. 3.66: *Egyptian Bag-shaped* amphorae. Calcareous. Types: 3B, 3D, 5 (Nos. 487-496).
- Fig. 3.67: *Egyptian Bag-shaped* amphorae. Nile fabric. Types: 1, 2B, 2C, 2D (Nos. 497-506).
- Fig. 3.68: *Egyptian Bag-shaped* amphorae. Nile fabric. Types: 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D (Nos. 507-516).
- Fig. 3.69: *Egyptian Bag-shaped* amphorae. Nile fabric. Types: 4A, 4B, atypical, 5 (Nos. 517-533).
- Fig. 3.70: *Egyptian Bag-shaped* amphorae. Nile fabric. Types: 6, 7, 8 (Nos. 534-542).
- Fig. 3.71: *Egyptian Early Arab Amphorae 1A and 1B* from Saint Macarius Monastery.
- Fig. 3.72: *Egyptian Early Arab Amphorae 1A and 1B* found in the Old Baramūs.

- Fig. 3.73: *Egyptian Early Arab Amphora 2* from Saint Macarius Monastery and the Old Baramūs (Nos. 548-555).
- Fig. 3.74: *Egyptian Early Arab Amphorae 3A and 3B* from Saint Macarius Monastery.
- Fig. 3.75: *Egyptian Early Arab Amphorae 3A and 3B* found in the Old Baramūs (Nos. 556-559).
- Fig. 3.76: Wares containing Holy substances from Abū Mīnā found in the Old Baramūs (Nos. 561-564).
- Fig. 3.77: Flagons from the Saint Macarius Monastery and the Old Baramūs (Nos. 565-575).
- Fig. 3.78: Lamps found in the Old Baramūs (Nos. 576-606).
- Fig. 3.79: Censers (Nos. 607-610) and lids (Nos. 611-620) found in the Old Baramūs.
- Fig. 3.80: Lion-handle (No. 621) and re-worked objects (Nos. 622-639) found in the Old Baramūs.
- Fig. 3.81: Rates of functional categories in the tower (contexts 1, 2, 3, 4).
- Fig. 3.82: Rates of functional categories in the cells (contexts 7, 9, 10).
- Fig. 3.83: Rates of functional categories in the filling of the underground bin (context 6).
- Fig. 3.84A: Rates of functional categories in the late 4th – 5th c.
- Fig. 3.84B: Rates of red slip wares in the late 4th – 5th c.
- Fig. 3.84C: Rates of table wares in the late 4th – 5th c.
- Fig. 3.84D: Rates of amphorae in the late 4th – 5th c.
- Fig. 3.85A: Rates of functional categories in the 6th c.
- Fig. 3.85B: Rates of red slip wares in the 6th c.
- Fig. 3.85C: Rates of table wares in the 6th c.
- Fig. 3.85D: Rates of amphorae in the 6th c.
- Fig. 3.86A: Rates of functional categories in the 7th c.
- Fig. 3.86B: Rates of red slip wares in the 7th c.
- Fig. 3.86C: Rates of table wares in the 7th c.
- Fig. 3.86D: Rates of amphorae in the 7th c.
- Fig. 3.87A: Rates of functional categories in the 8th c.
- Fig. 3.87B: Rates of red slip wares in the 8th – 9th c.
- Fig. 3.87C: Rates of table wares in the 8th c.
- Fig. 3.87D: Rates of amphorae in the 8th c.
- Fig. 3.88A: Rates of functional categories in the 9th c.
- Fig. 3.88B: Rates of table wares in the 9th c.
- Fig. 3.88C: Rates of amphorae in the 9th c.
- Fig. 3.89: Comparative percentages of red slip wares in time.
- Fig. 3.90: Comparative percentages of amphorae in time.
- Fig. 4.1: Woman selling *κωθώνια*. Detail from the procession of the icon of the Virgin Hodhegetria, late 13th c. Arta, Vlacherna Monastery, narthex (after Acheimastou-Potamianou 2009, Fig. 52).
- Fig. 4.2: *Zal'a* (photo: Imke Fleuren).
- Fig. 4.3: Modern day glazed *māḡūr* (photo: abūna Makary al-Baramūsi).

LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.1: Selected contexts.

Table 3.1: Size of inclusions.

Table 3.2: *Egyptian bag-shaped* amphorae: the Nile fabric groups.

Table 3.3: Concordances between Egloff 1977 and Pieri 2005 *bag-shaped* amphora types.

Table 3.4 The lamps found in the Old Baramūs.

Table 3.5A: Context 1: amounts of functional categories (sampling).

Table 3.5B: Context 1: amounts of significant classes / types (sampling).

Table 3.6A: Context 2: amounts of functional categories (sampling).

Table 3.6B: Context 2: amounts of significant classes / types (sampling).

Table 3.7A: Contexts 3 / 4: amounts of functional categories (sampling).

Table 3.7B: Contexts 3 / 4: amounts of significant classes / types (sampling).

Table 3.8: Context 5: number of finds (until 2007).

Table 3.9A: Context 6: amounts of functional categories.

Table 3.9B: Context 6: amounts of significant classes / types.

Table 3.10A: Context 7: amounts of functional categories.

Table 3.10B: Context 7: amounts of classes / types.

Table 3.11: Context 8: number of finds.

Table 3.12: Context 9: amounts of significant classes / types (sampling).

Table 3.13A: Context 10: amounts of functional categories.

Table 3.13B: Context 10: amounts of significant classes / types.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

It does not happen very often that one's question comes as the answer to someone else's question: with these words Dr. Karel C. Innemée answered to the unknown Greek student, who was in search for a ceramic assemblage from an Egyptian site to study. After almost a year of deception and unfruitful efforts in Greece, a door was finally open in... The Netherlands! And the long trip for the preparation of this volume was set in motion...

Karel C. Innemée comes first in the list of acknowledgments, as without his consent and warm support this research would have not existed – at least not in its present structure and form. I am not aware of many such cases, when a professor eagerly accepts the request of an unknown student, coming from a totally different academic environment. For giving me the chance, supporting me by all means, trusting me, advising and correcting me, eventually for being a true friend, I thank him.

Meanwhile, the one who actually fed me with patience throughout the periods of hardship that preceded is the Assistant Prof. Dr. Platon Petridis. During the numerous times that I was ready to quit, being assured that I was waiting in vain and that the chance would never come, it was him who urged me to continue the fight. For his moral support, his advices during our long talks about ceramological and other issues, the friendship and love of his and his family I express my deep gratitude.

Since 2009 my collaboration with the promoter of this thesis, Prof. Dr. John Bintliff, started. From the very beginning he showed special interest in my research and helped me with his remarks and guidance. Without his contribution, this thesis would be much different. I am, therefore, very grateful.

One year earlier, Prof. Dr. Pascale Ballet, warmly welcomed me in her apartment in Paris, and patiently discussed with me issues that puzzled me, as well as questions that awaited a specialist's answers. I was very eager to include her in the examining committee and finally extremely pleased, when she accepted my proposal. Her generosity and punctual comments after reading the thesis were an invaluable help.

Special thanks go to Prof. Dr. J. Van der Vliet, who took the time to exhaustively correct my mistakes and advise me as for the right attitude towards literary sources, providing me with updated bibliography. Without his contribution chapters 2 and 4 would have been significantly different.

Likewise I am indebted to all the members of the examining committee, Prof. Dr. P. Sijpesteijn and Prof. Dr. J. Zanggenberg from Leiden University, as well as Prof. Dr. J. Poblome from the Catholic University of Leuven, who accepted to read and comment my work. Their corrections were seriously taken into consideration and thanks to them I approached a personal goal: I gained knowledge.

I could not forget here the academic environment that provided me with all the necessary knowledge to carry out a doctoral research that is the University of Athens. Heartfelt thanks go especially to my Professors Maria Panagiotidi-Kessisoglou and Sofia Kalopissi-Verti, not only for their overall contribution in the formation of my academic skills from the very first years of my studies, but also because it is thanks to them that my interest in Egyptian Christianity was ignited.

Attraction to Egypt was not solely dictated by scientific interest. Great love for the country and its people is a standard motive that augments as time goes by; and the Egyptian experience is proven substantial as on its way I was enriched by coming

across people and colleagues, who were willing to share unconditionally. Their unimpeded and valuable help within a common journey of knowledge is what I keep as the foremost outcome of my effort. The list of names is really long:

For the excellent treatment our mission had, I am grateful to the Egyptian authorities: the Inspector General, the General Director of Foreign Missions Affairs and P. Committees, the Director of the Wādī al-Naṭrūn Inspectorate and the inspectors, who supervised our work.

For the arrangement of all necessary documents and permissions I would like to thank the director of the Dutch and Flemish Institute in Cairo (*NVIC*) Dr. Kim Duistermaat, the office manager Ms. Tilly Mulder, and the liaison officer Ms. Shahdan Ibrahim. For all the services during my stays in the apartment of the *NVIC*, before or after the missions, I am grateful to the housekeeper Mr. Khaled Hussein Ahmed. For the comfortable transportation from Cairo to the Wādī al-Naṭrūn I thank Mr. Mushir Mikhail Tawfiq and his family.

For the impeccable collaboration and friendship that was gradually developed during the fieldwork in Dayr al-Baramūs I would like to thank the pottery expert Anetta Łyżwa, and the restorer Lara Aladina Carvalho Rodriguez. I also appreciate the help of the restoration team working on the detachment and consolidation of the paintings of the church of Virgin Mary in Dayr al-Sūryan, as well as that of the students that worked in the Dayr al-Baramūs excavation campaigns in 2005, 2006 and 2007.

In times, when unexpected problems did not allow me to work in Dayr al-Baramūs, I enjoyed the lunches served in the Monastery of Dayr al-Sūryan. I am therefore thankful to the monks and the brothers of this Monastery as well, especially abūna Ekladios al-Sūryani and abūna Hilarion al-Sūryani.

The scholarship I received from the French Institute of Oriental Archaeology (*IFAO*) in 2009, at the time of the directorship of Prof. Dr. Laure Pantalacci, was a unique occasion for me to meet specialists, who helped me to enrich my knowledge and experience. The ceramologist of the *IFAO*, Sylvie Marchand, urged me to follow a seminar on petrography given by the geologist Prof. Dr. Paul De Paepe, which solved a lot of questions and helped me to better understand issues of fabrics' descriptions and identification. During my stay at the *IFAO* in May 2009, I met and largely benefited from the experience and advises of researchers (cited in alphabetical order), such as Prof. Dr. Sylvie Denoix (director of studies, *IFAO*), Dr. Delphine Dixneuf, Dr. Victor Ghica, Dr. G. Hadjiminaglou, Dr. Marie Legendre, Dr. Julie Monchamp, Dr. Maria Mossakowska-Gaubert, and Dr. Georges Soukassian.

My special thanks go to Dr. G. Hadjiminaglou, for offering me a position in the Bawīt archaeological mission that she leads on behalf of the *IFAO* in collaboration with the Louvre Museum. Working in Bawīt was the occasion to meet and collaborate with Dr. Anna Południkiewicz, who unconditionally shared with me her knowledge and long experience in the Egyptian field. The current director of the *IFAO*, Prof. Dr. Béatrix Midant-Reynes, expressed her full support in all my future projects that may relate with the Institute she is running.

I owe gratitude to Dr. Francine Blondé for her constant encouragement, support and trust in my skills. Exchanging ideas with her, during our missions on Thasos Island (ThANAr) was valuable during periods of doubt and despair.

I was lucky enough to discuss, take valuable advice and refresh my ideas thanks to long discussions with colleagues and friends, such as Dr. Gertrud van Loon, Dr. Clara ten Hacken, Dr. Sobhi Bouderbala, Dr. Spyridon Moschonas, Dr. Sophia

Germanidou, Dr. George Pallis, Ms. Nicoletta Pirrou, Ms. Eleni Barbaritsa, Mr. Vassilis Korossis, Mr. Thierry Blanco.

Even colleagues, some of whom I have never met so far, were kind enough to provide me with very useful feedback, when I asked for it. For their cooperation in this respect, I would like to thank (cited in alphabetical order) Dr. Laurent Bavay, Dr. Elizabeth O'Connell, Dr. Sandrine Marquié, Dr. Howard Middleton Jones, Prof. Dr. Dominique Pieri, Dr. Paul Reynolds and Dr. Hany Takla.

I am indebted to Lisa Agaiby for correcting my English, after having thoroughly read my manuscript. Apart from correcting the language, her comments on certain issues I discuss were really valuable. I deeply appreciate her help and friendship.

The contribution of Joanne Porck in the preparation of the present volume was decisive. I deeply appreciate her great help in the digitalisation of numerous drawings, for the preparation of the cover, for her ideas and advices. Dr. Hans Kammermans also made things clear as for whatever I need to do for the publication of my book.

Last, but not least, I would like to thank my good friends Ingrid Heijen and Wouter van der Meer, Karin Schuitema and her parents, Herman and Anita, for their hospitality and love, as well as Vivian Mossad for her friendship, and Lisa Retetangos for her patience and compassion! I cannot forget how Dr. Flora Vafea warmly offered me a place to stay in Heliopolis, Cairo, after a mission in 2008, without having met me before! And I thank Nicolas Papatzikos for his moral support, patience and help, during the difficult last stages of my study.

During the preparation of this volume I received financial support from the G. A. Leventis Foundation (Scholar's Association) in 2007 and the Vassilis and Eliza Goulandris Foundation in 2008. These two scholarships allowed me to fully concentrate on my work and organise my trips to Egypt for the study of the ceramics.

The love, care and help that I enjoyed during my work in the Monastery of Virgin Mary of Baramūs gave me the strength to go on, despite the difficulties that often occurred and the sometimes hard conditions of life in the Wādī al-Naṭrūn. I consider this doctoral thesis as a collective work that would have not been accomplished without the unlimited support of the bishop Abba Isidorus al-Baramūsi and that of the monks and the brothers: those who greeted me kindly, those who helped in the preparation of my meals, those interested in my work, those helping me with explanations and ideas (I mean here abūna Makary, abūna Mattāus and abūna Ishā) and even those that I have never come across... Especially abūna Makary al-Baramūsi exhaustlessly made more than every possible effort to facilitate every aspect of my daily life and work. His support and contribution to the completion of the study of the pottery were decisive. But very important for me, was the fact that he honoured me with his friendship. In addition, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the doctors of the Monastery, abūna Hermina al-Baramūsi and abūna Būlis al-Baramūsi, who very often provided me with medicine and advices for my good health. I also feel deep gratitude to many of the workers of the Monastery for their important help *e.g.* in carrying crates and other heavy material, as well as to the carpenter who was working in the Monastery in 2009, for creating a wooden case with drawers, where some of our restored and other objects and sherds are kept.

As a minimum reciprocation I dedicate this thesis to the Monastery of Virgin Mary of Baramūs that throughout all these years has become my second family, a big Egyptian family, which will never cease occupying an important place in my heart.

And of course this volume is dedicated to my parents, for their unlimited love, patience and constant support – especially during these periods of hardship and

economic crisis. For letting me follow my heart, despite the worries that my 'alternative' choices might have caused them...

CURRICULUM VITAE

Alexandra Konstantinidou was born in Athens on June 3rd, 1977. In 2000, she graduated from the Faculty of History and Archaeology (School of Philosophy in Athens University) with a major in Archaeology and History of Art (four-year studies). In 2003 she studied in the University of Paris I Panthéon / Sorbonne (program Erasmus Mundus) under the supervision of J.-P. Sodini and followed a professional stage in the Louvre Museum (Department of Egyptian Antiquities – Coptic Section) directed by C. Lyon-Caen. In 2004 she obtained a Master's Degree in Byzantine Archaeology at Athens University, during which she delved in issues of Byzantine and Frankish art and archaeology; her thesis entitled *Pottery Production in Egypt (4th – 7th c.)* was supervised by professors M. Panayotidi and P. Petridis.

Alexandra has worked as field archaeologist or pottery expert in several excavations and survey projects in Greece and Egypt. In 2005 she worked for the Greek Archaeological Service (5th Ephorate of Byzantine Antiquities, Patras). The main projects she is currently engaged are: the excavation in the Old Monastery of Baramūs and the survey in the environs of the Monastery of Saint Macarius in the Wādī al-Naṭrūn (Egypt) (Leiden university; field director K. C. Innemée); the excavation in the site of the Monastery of Abba Apollo in Bāwīt (IFAO and the Louvre; field director G. Hadjiminaglou); the excavation in the area north of Artemision in Limenas (Thasos) (EFA, the University of Lille and Athens University) and the project 'THALLIS' for the publication of the recent fieldwork and finds in Ancient Alasarna (Kardamaina) (Kos) (Athens University). At the moment she works under contract for the 26th Ephorate of Byzantine Antiquities (Kalamata).

Her chief academic interests concern: a) aspects of Byzantine, 'Coptic', 'Islamic' and Frankish art and archaeology, mostly minor arts with a focus on ceramics; b) Eastern Mediterranean monasticism (life and material culture); c) the transitional period from the seventh to the tenth century in the Mediterranean; d) the Mediterranean *koine*, its origins and development since the late Roman until the late Byzantine period.