

# The Pottery from Second Intermediate Period and New Kingdom from tomb QH33 of Qubbet el-Hawa (Aswan, Egypt)

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In 2008, the University of Jaen started to work in tomb QH33, the first hypogeum where the project could start its research at the necropolis of Qubbet el-Hawa, located in Aswan, Egypt. This region was the border between Egypt and Nubia, and it played an important role due to its strategic position. Since then, the Qubbet el-Hawa Project has developed different multidisciplinary works: archaeological, anthropological, epigraphical, geological, topographical, architectural, carpological and restoration.

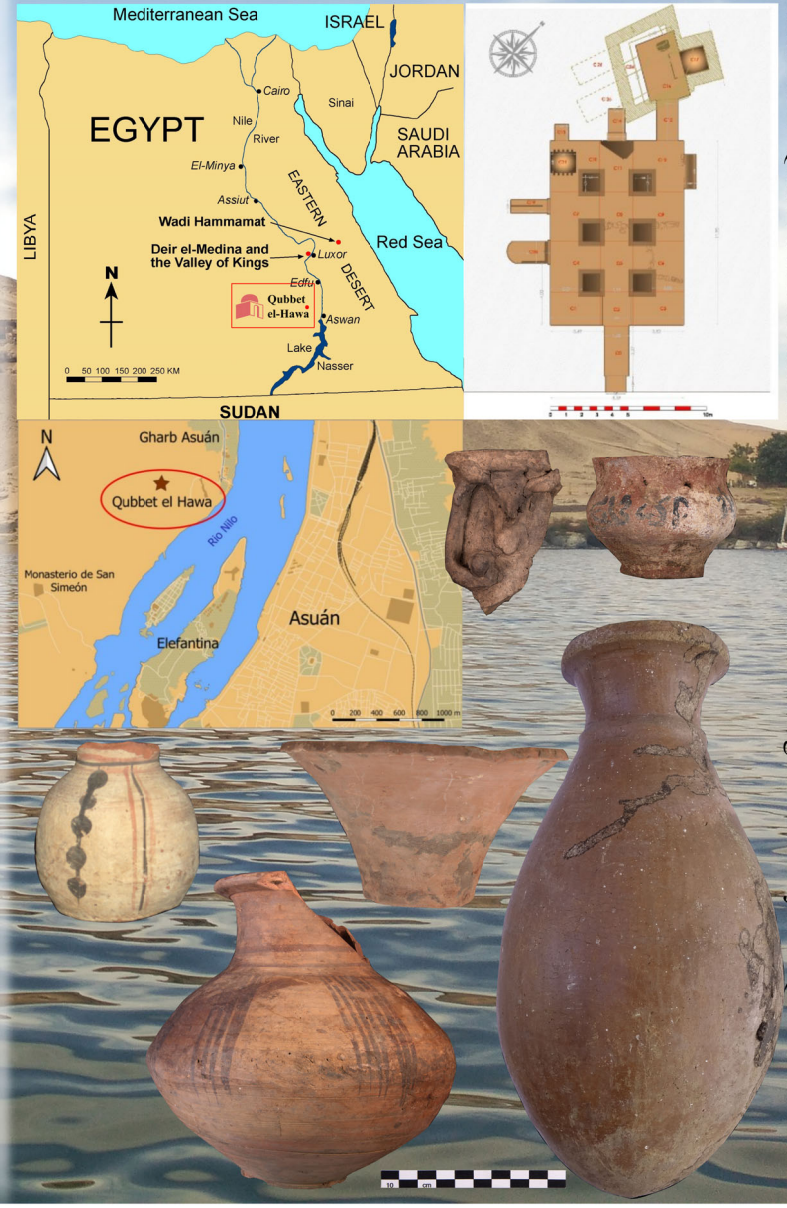
The main goal of the current study was the study of the pottery found in tomb QH33 and dated to the Second Intermediate Period (1759-1539 B.C) as well as the New Kingdom (1539-1077 B.C.). This pottery belonged to a phase of re-occupation of the hypogeum, because the tomb was built around two centuries before, between the reigns of Senwoset III and Amenemhet III, at the end of the 12th Dynasty (1939-1760 B.C.). Nevertheless, thanks to the pottery typology and other archaeological artifacts, we know that the tomb was reoccupied afterwards. Hence, the main purpose of our study was to understand different aspects of the re-occupation of the tomb: concrete the re-occupation phases, who were the re-occupants as well as the origin of the ceramic funerary equipment.

We organised the ceramic material according to the model proposed by Rotislav Holthoer (1977: 71) as follows:  
- Open Forms. Plates, bowls, Flower Pots.  
- Closed Shapes: jars, bottles, vases and amphorae.  
- Other Forms: spice racks, lids and stands.

After the study and classification of the pottery, we obtained some preliminar conclusions:  
Tomb QH33 follows the same occupation pattern as the rest of the tombs on the hill of Qubbet el-Hawa:

- Middle Kingdom (1800-1760 BC).
- Second Intermediate Period (1759-1539 BC).
- New Kingdom (1539-1077 BC), especially the first half of the 18th Dynasty, until the rule of Pharaoh Thutmose III (1479-1425 BC).
- Third Intermediate Period (1076-723 BC).
- Late Period (722-332 BC).

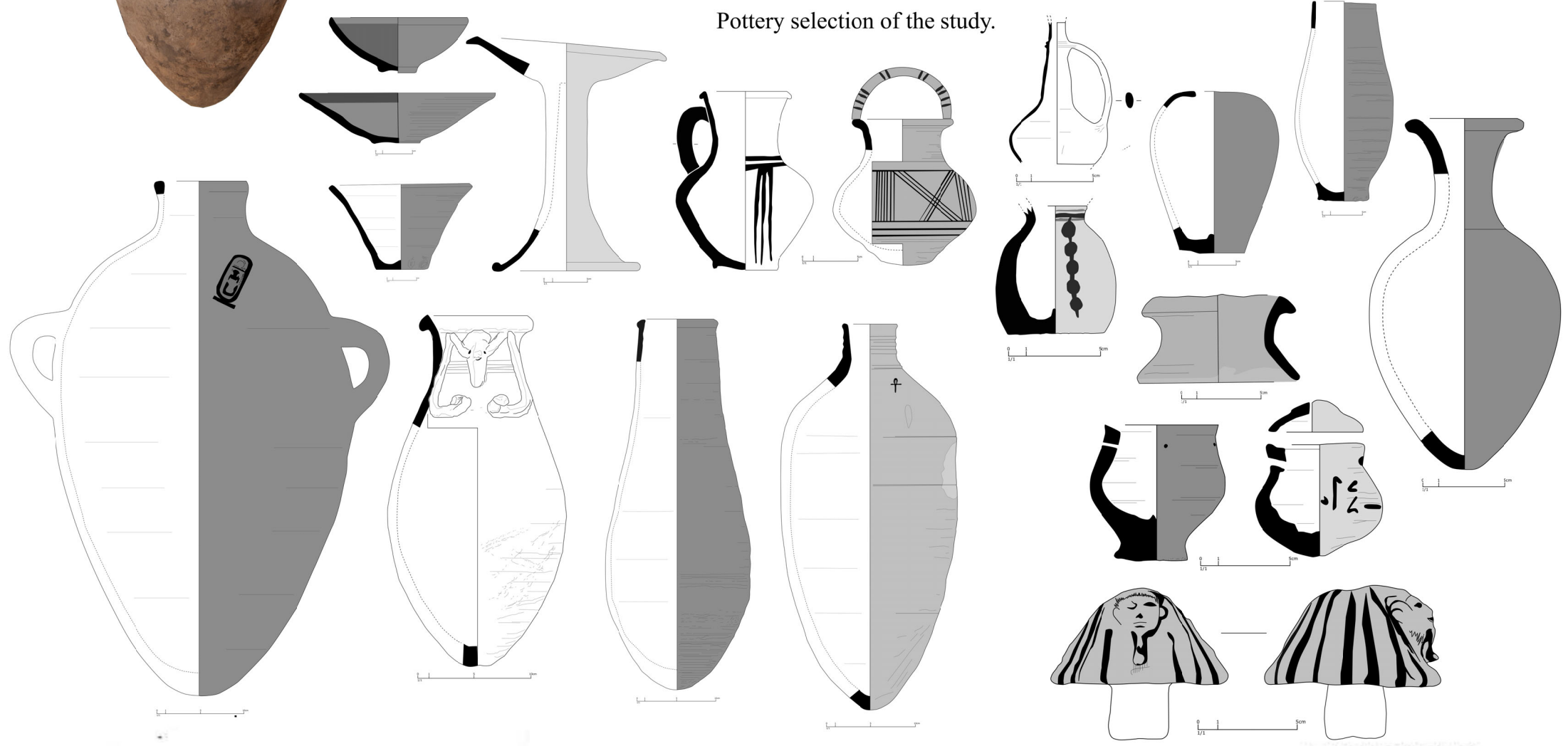
In the ceramic context, the pieces made from alluvial clays are more common, especially those of the Nile B2 type. Pieces with washed finishes, in red and brown tones, as well as polished surfaces. Incised decorations, for pieces from the Second Intermediate Period. Painted decorations, for pieces from the New Kingdom. In the historical context, the pharaohs of the early New Kingdom pursued an expansionist policy and contacts with neighbouring countries in Nubia and the Levant Mediterranean (Cyprus and Canaan), shown in the ceramic context with imported pieces or Egyptian imitations of foreign shapes.



Photography: Hill where is located the necropolis of Qubbet el-Hawa. © Proyecto Qubbet el-Hawa.

Pottery selection from tomb QH33. Second Intermediate Period & New Kingdom. © Proyecto Qubbet el-Hawa.

Pottery selection of the study.



Potter workshop, Beni Hassan, tomb of Amenemhet, end of reign of Senwosret I (Middle Kingdom). Holthoer (1977: 48, Fig. 50)