

Checklist of predynastic “Decorated” pottery with human figures

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The present checklist was conceived as an appendix to Barbara Adam's article on sherds with human figures from her excavations at Hierakonpolis (Adams 2002) and therefore only aims at being a research tool.

All examples known to us of predynastic pottery belonging to Petrie's Decorated class (Petrie 1921: pl. XXXI-XXXVII) with human figuration have been listed. Nearly all of the vessels mentioned have been published, but a few unpublished ones have also been included.¹

As decorated jars are well-appreciated objects on the antiquities market, it does not come as a surprise that they have regularly been falsified. Petrie (1920: pl. XXI, 46 K) noted that the decoration was faked on one of the vessels he had published (which however did not prevent the jar from showing up as an example of D-ware in recent publications, cf. el-Yakhy 1981: 78, fig. A 8). As decorated jars with human representation were particularly sought after they were of course even more likely to be faked. Over time, several examples of original jars with false decoration have been mentioned (Brunton 1934; Payne, Kacmarczyk &

¹ A few vessels in the British Museum, London and the Royal Museums for Art and History, Brussels have only been mentioned in an unpublished MA dissertation (Smith 1989-1990). I would like to thank Vivian Davies and Luc Limme, for their permission to include these objects.

Fleming 1977; Lupton 1992), and probably many more remain hidden in museum storerooms or private collections. In the present list a few jars with doubtful decoration have been included. The obviously fake ones have however been omitted, although they have been included in some studies (el-Yakhy 1981, 1985).² The armless human representations seem particularly suspect and have only very exceptionally been found during excavation.³ Other types of predynastic objects, such as figurines (Ucko & Hodges 1963) decorated palettes (Arkell 1955) or flint figures (Scharff 1929: 67-68, Abb. 47) have also been faked. The problem of fake decoration on predynastic vessels has meanwhile been discussed in detail par Aksamit (2001:52-60)⁴.

The interpretation of the scenes represented on these jars is still a far from settled problem, which falls far beyond the aims of the present contribution. For the most important points of view, see: Aksamit 1981, 1992, 1998; Brack, A. & Zoller, H. 1989; Brunner-Traut 1975; el-Yakhy 1981, 1985; Gilbert 1999; Hendrickx 1998, 2000; Midant-Reynes 2000: 189-192; Monnet Saleh 1983; Smith 1993; Williams 1988.

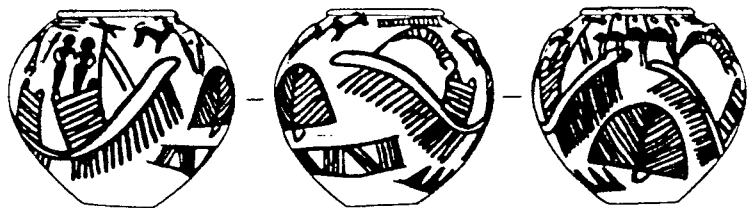
The typological comparisons with Petrie's typology of Decorated vessels (Petrie 1921: pl. XXXI-XXXVII) given here are only indicative and focus on vessel shape rather than on the decoration (cf. Gilbert 1999: 28).

² To those mentioned by the authors above, can be added several examples from the collection de Rustafjaell (de Rustafjaell 1909: pl. XVI/3; Sotheby's London 1913: n° 314, 316-318, 321, pl. XXVI) and the Otago Museum (Waite 1950: pl. 14). All of the examples given by el-Yakhy 1981: 78, fig. A are most probably fakes. A few vases in the Medelhavsmuseet at Stockholm have nevertheless been included, although the decoration of at least of a few of them seems doubtful.

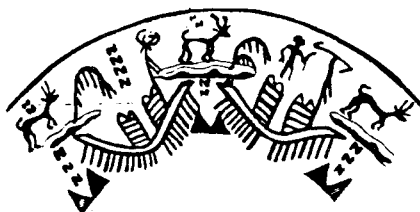
³ A possible example from el-Amrah has not been included here (MacIver & Mace 1902: pl. XIV/D 50 b; Petrie 1921: pl. ???).

⁴ Aksamit, J. False Egyptian Predynastic Antiquities - A Question of Methodology. [in:] Miziolek, J. (ed.), Falsifications in Polish Collections an Abroad. Warsaw, 2001: 52-60.

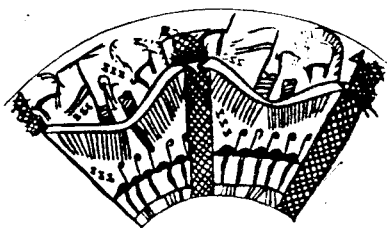
In this checklist, the provenanced jars are arranged in alphabetic order of the sites and the vessels without provenance in alphabetic order of the museums where they are kept at present. The bibliography is limited to the original excavation reports and publications presenting more detailed drawings or photographs of the vessels. The bibliographical references for the illustrations are in bold.



1. Abadiya, cemetery B, tomb unknown
excavations W.M.F. Petrie, 1898-1899 Oxford, Ashmolean Museum, E.2823 D 51 m Petrie & Mace 1901:pl.XX/11;Smith 1989-1990: n°10; Payne 1993: n° 867



2. Abusir el-Meleq, tomb 12g10
excavations G. Möller, 1905-1906 Berlin, Staatliche Museen, 18.566 cf. D 40 p Scharff 1926: 21, Abb. 6, Tf. 11/32; Aksamit 1998: 32

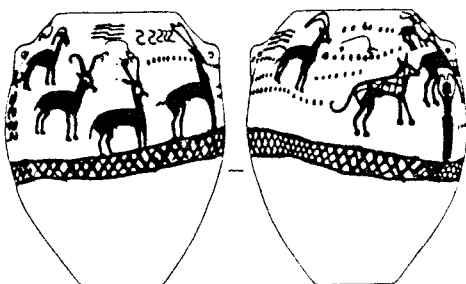


3. Abusir el-Meleq, tomb 1024
excavations G. Möller, 1905-1906 Berlin, Staatliche Museen, 19.120 cf. D 40 l ; Scharff 1926: 21, Abb. 5, Tf. 12/31; Aksamit 1998: 31-32



4. Abydos, cemetery E, tomb E.340

excavations E. Naville, 1909-1910 Bruxelles / Brussel, Musées Royaux d'Art et Histoire / Koninklijke Musea voor Kunst en Geschiedenis, E.3189 D 49 b Naville 1914: 17, pl. V; Smith 1989-1990: n° 4



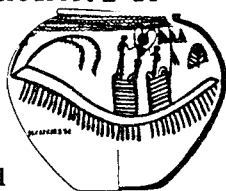
5. Abydos, unknown

excavations W.M.F. Petrie, 1899-1903 Oxford, Ashmolean Museum, E.2832. D 45 b Smith 1989-1990: n° 8; Payne 1993: n° 873



6. Abydos, unknown

excavations J. de Morgan, 1895 Cairo, Egyptian Museum, CG 2083 cf. D 47 b de Morgan 1896: pl. X/2a-b; von Bissing 1913: 27, pl. III; Müller 1970: pl. 5; Gilbert 1999: n° 30



7. Adaïma, tomb I

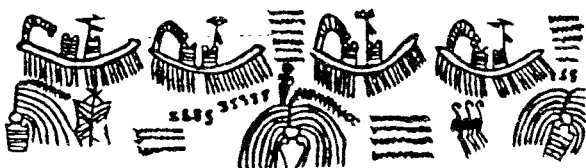
excavations H. de Morgan, 1907-08, New York, Brooklyn Museum, 09.889.400 cf. D 51 b, m
Needler 1984: 76-78, n° 21, 205-207, n° 58; Smith 1989-1990: n° 1



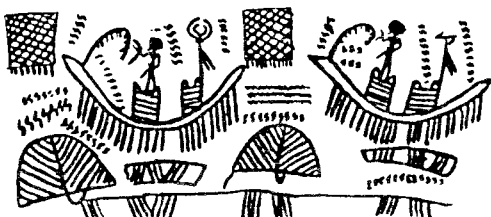
8. Adaïma, settlement

excavations B. Midant-Reynes, 1997
Adaïma, store room AD 97/275
D-fragment Midant-Reynes
Bavay, Buchez & Baduel
1998: 288, fig. 12

9. Badari, tomb 3759
 excavations G. Brunton, 1922
 Oxford, Ashmolean Museum,
 1924. 326 F 67
 Brunton & Caton-Thompson 1928:
 pl. XXXII, XLVIII/3, LIV/15;
 Payne 1993: n° 928



10. Ballas, tomb Q 100
 excavations J.E. Quibell, 1895-1896
 location unknown unknown
 Petrie & Quibell 1896: pl. LXVI/8

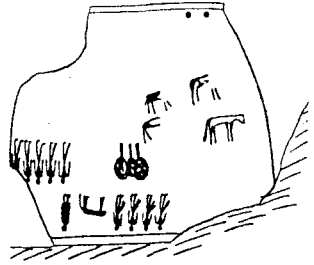
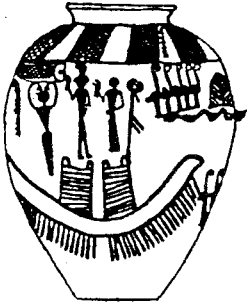


11. Ballas, tomb Q 576
 excavations J.E. Quibell, 1895-1896 Philadelphia, University of
 Pennsylvania Museum, E.1399 cf. D 47 g Petrie & Quibell 1896: pl.
 LXVI/7; Ranke 1950, fig. 5 (first from right); Patch 1997: 206-207, n° 63B.

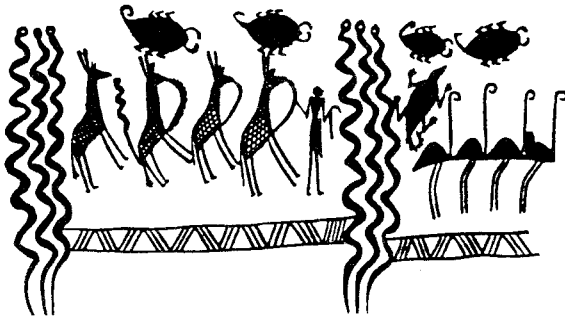


12. Ballas, tomb Q 593
 excavations J.E. Quibell, 1895-1896 location unknown
 unknown Petrie & Quibell 1896: pl. LXVII/17

13. Debod, cemetery 23, tomb 52
excavations G. A. Reisner, 1907-1908
location unknown no parallel
Reisner 1910: vol. I: fig. 103



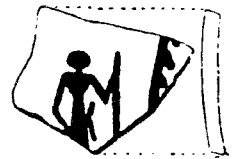
14. el-Amrah, cemetery B, tomb B 225
excavations D.R. MacIver & A.C. Mace, 1900
London, British Museum, 35.502 D 46 d
MacIver & Mace 1902: pl.XIV;
Smith 1989-1990 n°3; Aksamit 1992: pl. 1

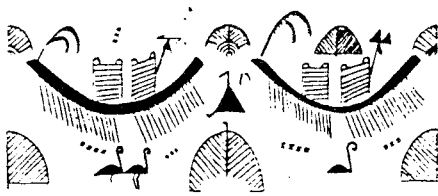


15. Gebelein (?), unknown
purchased by L. Borchardt, Qena 1900 Berlin, Staatliche Museen, 15.129
cf. D 78 b-f Scharff 1931: n° 337, Abb. 58, Tf. 14; Priebe 1991: 8.

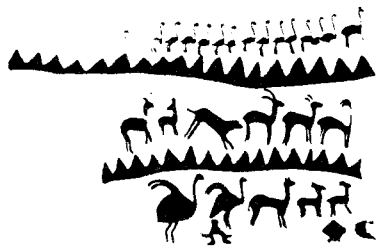
16. Gebel Silsila, unknown
survey H. de Morgan, 1907-1908 St.-Germain-en-Laye, 77.719E
D fragment Cleyet-Merle & Vallet 1982: 140

17. Hammamiya, North Spur settlement
excavations G. Caton-Thompson, 1923-1924
location unknown D fragment
Brunton & Caton-Thompson 1928, pl. LIV/14, LXX/6,

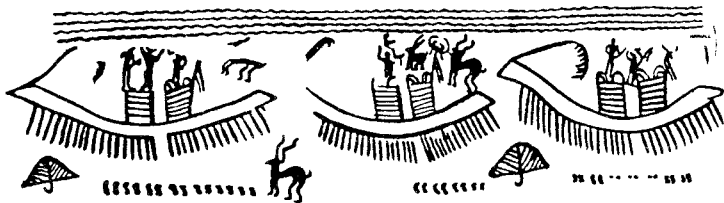




18. Hammamiya, tomb unknown
excavations E. Schiaparelli & R. Paribeni (?), 1905-1906
Torino, S.4699 cf. D 43 - Fattovich 1978: tav. I



19. Hammamiya, tomb unknown
excavations E. Schiaparelli & R. Paribeni (?), 1905-1906
Torino, S.4749 cf. D 78 - Fattovich 1978: tav. II; Leospo 1989: 189, fig. 285



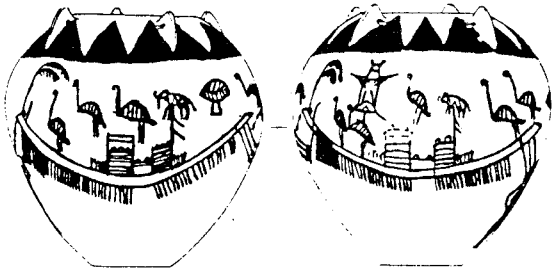
20. Haraga, tomb 452
excavations R. Engelbach & B. Gunn, 1913-1914
London, University College, 36.233 D 45 s
Engelbach & Gunn 1923: pl. XXV/452; XXIX/2; Smith 1989-1990: n° 2

21. Naqada, tomb 60
excavations W.M.F. Petrie, 1895-1896
Oxford, Ashmolean Museum, 1895.819 D 77
Petrie & Quibell 1896: 41, pl. XXXV/77;
Smith 1989-1990: n° 9; Payne 1993: n° 916

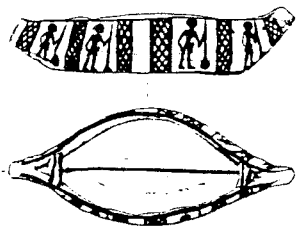
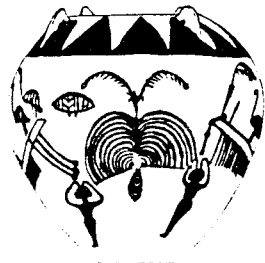




22. Naqada, tomb 173
excavations W.M.F. Petrie, 1895-1896 Oxford, Ashmolean Museum,
1895.606 *D 53 b* Smith 1989-1990: n° 6; Payne 1993: n° 858



23. Naqada, tomb 454
excavations W.M.F. Petrie, 1895-1896
Oxford, Ashmolean Museum, 1895.584
D 45 b
Petrie & Quibell 1896: pl. LXVII/14;
Smith 1989-1990: n° 7;
Payne 1993: n° 865



24. Naqada, tomb 566
excavations W.M.F. Petrie, 1895-1896 Oxford, Ashmolean Museum,
1895.609 *D 80* Petrie & Quibell 1896: pl. LXVI/1; Payne 1993: n° 88

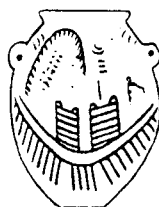
25. Naqada, tomb 1048
 excavations W.M.F. Petrie, 1895-1896
 location unknown
unknown
 Petrie & Quibell 1896: pl. LXVI/5



26. Naqada, tomb 1268
 excavations W.M.F. Petrie, 1895-1896 Oxford, Ashmolean Museum,
 1895.595 *D 40 1* Petrie & Quibell 1896: pl. LXVI/3; Smith 1989-1990: n° 5;
 Payne 1993: n° 859



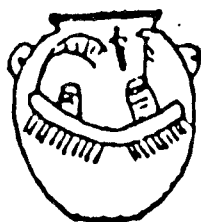
27. Naqada (?), unknown
 donation M. Todrus, Luxor 1899 Berlin, Staatliche Museen 14.362
 cf. *D 43 k* Scharff 1931: n° 333, Abb. 54, Tf. 14



28. Naqa ed-Deir, cemetery 7000, tomb 7521
 excavations G.A. Reisner, 1901-1903
 University of California at Berkeley,
 Lowie Museum of Anthropology, 6-4000
 cf. *D 41 a*
 Lythgoe & Dunham 1965: 332-333, fig. 148 b,d



29. Qustul, cemetery L, tomb L 23
excavations K.H. Seele, 1963-1964
Chicago, Oriental Institute Museum, 24119
no parallel Williams 1986: 348-349, fig. 163 c, pl. 84-85;
Williams 1988: fig. 1



30. Risqalla, cemetery 30, tomb 9
excavations G.A. Reisner,
1907-1908
location unknown
cf. D 40 n
Reisner 1910: vol. I: fig. 289

31. *Semaina (?)*, unknown
purchased by G.J. Chester (?) London, British Museum, 50.751 (previously
Chester Collection) D 46 d Smith 1989-1990: n° 11; Aksamit 1992: pl. 2



32. *Semaina*, unknown
purchased by G.J. Chester, 1891
Oxford, Ashmolean Museum, 1891.25 (previously Chester Collection)
D 43 c Smith 1989-1990: n° 13; Payne 1993: n° 861

33. *unknown unknown*
Basel, Antikenmuseum (on loan) *cf. D 80 Wiese 2001: 30*

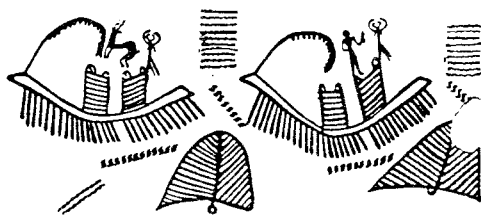


34. unknown

purchased by W. MacGregor, before 1922 (?)

Basel, private collection (previously MacGregor Collection) cf. *F 69 p* (shape)

MacGregor Sale Catalogue 1922: n°1756 (2); Schlögl 1978: n°16; Aksamit 1989: fig. 3



35. unknown

purchased by L. Borchardt, Egypt 1897

Egypt 1897

Berlin, Staatliche Museen,

13.824 cf. *D 41 n*

Scharff 1931: n° 331, Abb.

52, Tf. 14



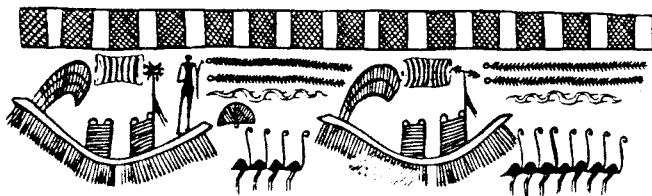
36. unknown

purchased by L. Borchardt, Egypt 1897

Berlin, Staatliche Museen, 13.826

no parallel

Scharff 1931: n° 334, Abb. 55, Tf. 14

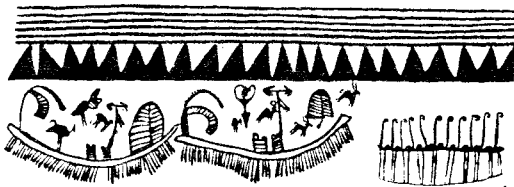


37. unknown

purchased by F. W. von Bissing, Egypt 1899

Berlin, Staatliche Museen, 14.314 cf. *D 46 d*

Scharff 1931: n° 327, Abb. 48, Tf. 14; Aksamit 1992: pl. 3



38. unknown

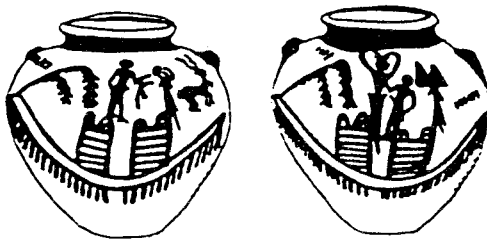
purchased by L. Borchardt, Cairo 1910 Berlin, Staatliche Museen, 20.304
cf. *D 41 u Scharff 1931: n° 328, Abb. 49, Tf. 14; Priece 1991: 6-7; Gilbert 1999: n° 31*

39. unknown

purchased by J. Capart, Luxor 1909 Bruxelles / Brussel, Musées Royaux
d'Art et Histoire / Koninklijke Musea voor Kunst en geschiedenis, E. 3004
cf. *D 51 m Smith 1989-1990: n° 19*

40. unknown

purchased by J. Capart, Luxor 1909 Bruxelles / Brussel, Musées Royaux
d'Art et Histoire / Koninklijke Musea voor Kunst en geschiedenis, E. 3003
cf. *D 47 b Smith 1989-1990: n° 20; Hendrickx 1994: 28-29*



41. unknown

purchased by G.D. Hornblower, 1928 Cambridge, Fitzwilliam Museum
E.170.1939 cf. *D 45 s Bourriau 1981: 27-28, n° 33;*
Gilbert 1999: n° 27



42. unknown
 unknown
 Hannover, Kestner Museum 1954.125
 cf. *D 50* -
 Woldering 1958: n° 1; Brunner-Traut;
 Brunner & Zick-Nissen 1984: 19-20, fig. 8,
 Gilbert 1999: n° 32

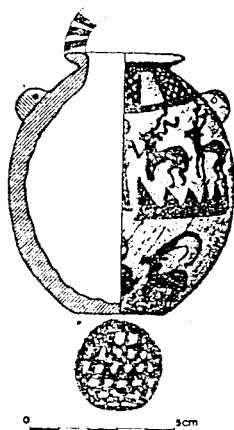
43. unknown
 unknown
 Hildesheim, 371
 cf. *D 41 n*
 Kayser 1973: 25, Abb. 1;
 Schmitz 1993: 11, Abb. 3;
 Gilbert 1999: n° 20



44. unknown
 purchased, Luxor 1902 London, British Museum, 36.327
 cf. *D 59 c* Smith 1989-90: n° 14

45. unknown
 purchased by G.J. Chester, 1891 London, British Museum, 49.570
 (previously Chester Collection) cf. *D 59 c* Smith 1989-90: n° 15

46. unknown
 purchased by G.J. Chester, 1891 London, British Museum, 26.635
 (previously Chester Collection) cf. *W 19* Smith 1989-90: n° 16



47. unknown

unknown Madrid, Museo Arqueologico Nacional, inv. unknown

cf. *D 49 b* Pérez Largacha 1988: fig. 6-6a; Perez Die 1990: 92, fig. 1



48. unknown (?)

purchased by von Bissing München,
Staatliche Sammlung Ägyptischer
Kunst, AS 1632 (previously von Bissing
Collecton) cf. *D 43 a* Müller 1972: 25,
Abb. 6; Gilbert 1999: n° 22

49. unknown

purchased by R. de Rustafjaell
New York, Metropolitan Museum,
15.2.34 (previously Collection de Rustafjaell)

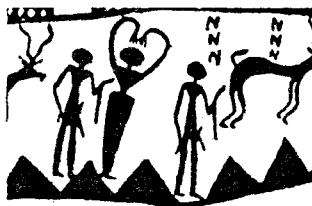
cf. *D 45 m*

Sotheby's London 1913: n° 322, pl. XXVII;
Hayes 1953: 23, fig. 14 second from left;

Smith 1989-90: n° 12;

Gilbert 1999: n° 29





50. unknown

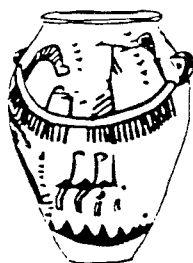
purchased, 1912 New York, Metropolitan Museum, 12.182.41

cf. *D 75 a* Hayes 1953: 23, fig. 14 second from right; Smith 1989-1990: n°21; Smith 1993: 24-25

51. unknown

purchased by A. Lansing, 1919 New York, Metropolitan Museum, 20.210

D 45 m Edgerton 1922-1923: 121-124, fig. 5-8; Baumgartel 1960: pl. 145, XIII, 1-3; Smith 1989-1990: n° 18



52. unknown (?)

unknown (?) New York,
Metropolitan Museum,
inv. unknown

cf. *D 43 c*

Lythgoe 1911: 9, fig. 4,E;

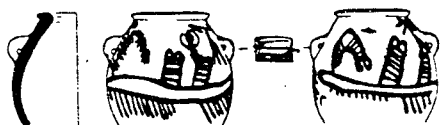
Gilbert 1999: n° 21



53. unknown

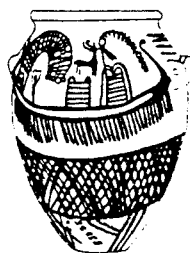
purchased by W. MacGregor (?) Oxford, Ashmolean Museum, 1958.345

(previously MacGregor Collection and Russell Collection) no parallel,
decoration cf. *D 49*. MacGregor Sale Catalogue 1922: n° 1754, pl. LIII; Smith
1989-1990: n° 17; Payne 1993: n° 871



54.unknown
 purchased, Luxor
 Oxford, Ashmolean
 Museum, 1955.566
 (previously Passmore
 collection)
 cf. *D 43*
 Payne 1993: n° 862

55.unknown
 unknown Paris, Louvre,
 AE/AF6851/11416 cf. *D 47 g*
 de Cénival 1972: 40, n° 42;
 Aksamit 1981: 166, fig. 12;
 Ziegler & de Cénival 1982: 60, n° 13;
 Ziegler 1990: 16; Gilbert 1999: n° 23



56.unknown
 unknown Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania Museum, inv.
 Unknown cf. *D 49 f* Ranke 1950: fig. 5 (second from right)

57.unknown
 purchased (?) Stockholm, Medelhavs Museet, MM 10.310 cf. *D 41 u*
 George 1975: n° 151

58.unknown
 purchased (?) Stockholm, Medelhavs Museet, MM 10.312 cf. *D 41 b*
 George 1975: n° 152

59.unknown
 purchased (?) Stockholm, Medelhavs Museet, MM 10.313 cf. *D 41 b*
 George 1975: n° 153

60.unknown
 purchased (?) Stockholm, Medelhavs Museet, MM 11.125 cf. *D 46 k*
 (shape) George 1975: n° 154

61. *unknown*

*purchased (?) Stockholm, Medelhavs Museet, MM 10.306 cf. D 51 m
George 1975: n° 155*

62. *unknown*

*purchased (?) private collection D — Sotheby's New York, June 1990: n°
3; Christie's London, July 1995: n° 79*



63. *unknown*

*purchased (?) formerly in Hilton Price
Collection, present location unknown
cf. D 43 a Price 1908: n° 4340*

64. *unknown*

*purchased by MacGregor, before 1922 formerly in MacGregor
Collection, present location unknown, probably private collection cf. D
41 - (?) MacGregor Sale Catalogue 1922: n° 1756 (4)*

65. *unknown*

*purchased (?)
formerly in Newberry Collection,
present location unknown
D 40 m*

Newberry 1913: 132, fig. 1



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