

ROM

Greek and Roman Department

Royal Ontario Museum

100 Queen's Park

Toronto 5, Ontario, Canada

Telephone 928-3660

Cables: ROMA-Toronto

Mr. H.N. Chittick,
British Institute in Eastern Africa,
POB 47680, Nairobi.

4.xii.73

*This is certainly
823/73 - from TAA
- print must have been
wrongly marked.*

Bear Mr. Chittick,

Many thanks for the photos of your Aksum finds, some of which I recognize immediately! While out in Calgary recently (for a conference), I made one or two enquiries from Shinnie and others about the progress of your excavations, so the photos have arrived very opportunely. I was not told that you had got so much!

I feel sure that your 'terra sigillata' pieces are my Late Roman African (in sensu Africa Provincia) Red Slip Ware, as detailed in my book Late Roman Pottery, as follows:

Photo E 1804 (⁵³²~~528~~/73) Dish frag. with stamped rosettes:
cf. my Form 62B. Shape and stamps (cf. my stamp-type 35) should be late 4th or possibly early 5th century A.D.

Photos 1793-1794. Rim fr. of small bowl with punched knobs (ES II (4)): my Form 72B, early 5th century (or slightly earlier?).

The second of these is absolutely typical of the finer version of the ware; the shape is now better known from Février, Fouilles de Sétif (Algeria). Though the dish-type is copied in Egypt, I doubt if this one is from there. Both tie in very well in date with the frag. published by Zahn (Deutsche Aksum-Expedition ii 208, no. 92, pl. 28.4), which I take to be another piece of this ware.

Amphorae: $\text{KAL II } 3a? = 490/73 + 492/73 \text{ KAL II (4a)}$

Photo E 1795 (KAL II 4a) is, I assume, more or less buff and sandy, in which case it is the neck of one of the commonest Egyptian types: Ballana type 6 ('B ii' in British Celtic parlance), made somewhere in the Cairo-Fayoum orbit and generally datable 5th-early 7th century A.D. (though slender-necked versions start earlier). If by any chance yours has remains of red dipinti on the shoulder the date should be pre-550. Cf. Annales d'Ethiopie v (1963) pl. XIII c!

Photo E 1367 (AX ST V A) I can't place, but would be fairly happy to have as, generally speaking, Early Christian.

The best parallels for the long carrot-shaped ones with regular ribbing come, as far as I can see, from Bulgaria(!) They are about 50-60 cm. high & come from 5th/6th century contexts (ending c. 600). Rims roughly as photo E 1869 and toes as E 1699 & E 1960. See Klio xlvii (1966) 215-6, Abb. 1, 2, 4, 5, with rehash in Klio xlviii (1967) 251ff.

That leaves the KAL II (4a) amphora photo E 2021, which seems to be of the

489/73

/ = 492/73

491/73

ES II 3

*evenly dated - i.e.
in context of 528/73*

*THA VII 2
L p. r*

Yes

br



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same series, but which I can't so easily place - could it perhaps be early Islamic? ^{440/2}
~~421/73~~

Further thoughts on the carrot-shaped ribbed ones (photo E 1869, etc.): these seem not to occur on the Nubian sites, so are probably non-Egyptian - unless they are much later than I think. I could match the ribbing on rather earlier specimens from Cyprus (which, however, are of pointed shape), so perhaps one should look towards Syria-Cyprus, though this is, at present, pretty hypothetical. I can say that they don't occur in Constantinople at any period.

A pity your red-slipped table-ware frs. seem to occur as survival-pieces only - yet it's nice to have them confirmed at Aksum. I suppose that both they and the amphorae must have come straight down the Red Sea; the pattern is certainly not what one expects on the Nile Valley side. Is anyone planning to look at Adulis again?

All this with my best regards, and wishes for another profitable season. I look forward to your prelim. reports, when they appear.

Yours sincerely,

J.W. Hayes.

P.S. I'm assuming that you don't need the photos back. If you do, please let me know.