

The Keeper of Egyptology,
The British Museum,
London, W.C.1.

22nd November, 1974.

Dear Sir,

I enclose photographs of two fragments of vessels of Egyptian-type faience from my excavations at Aksum; small samples of the fabric sent to the research laboratory have been identified by Dr. Werner as 'Egyptian faience' (Ref. RL/2800 of 21 June, 1974). The glaze of these fragments is of a light blue and the body material is white all through, but in other examples there is a reddish thicker substance in the middle apparently of terracotta. I would be very interested in an opinion as to the date and origin of these fragments. They have been found in contexts with coins of the Christian Aksumite period, but they may be rather earlier as the deposits are considerably disturbed. I might observe that the larger sherd (30/74, photograph E 3174) has an impressed design not dissimilar from that found on many Aksumite pots. It has occurred to me that it might have been made at Aksum itself.

I enclose two small fragments (which need not be returned) of the material concerned, one of which is of a darker blue than the usual. It is possible that the glaze of the lighter blue colour, which is decayed, was once as dark, or nearly as dark, as the sample.

Any information you can give me will be most welcome.

Yours faithfully,



H.N. Chittick
Director