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THE POTTERY FROM THE 1972 EXCAVATION AT THE ŽEJTUN VILLA

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ABSTRACT

On most archaeological sites, pottery is often the best clue that allows us to understand the basic activities performed by ancient societies in daily life. Being durable, cheap to produce, and used to make any desired shape, fired clay vessels were the utilitarian objects *par excellence* of the ancients. That is why a study of the pottery from a villa site like the one at Žejtun promises to throw important light on past secular activities in a Maltese rural context. Nearly 40 years after the excavation of the Žejtun villa, several crate-loads of pottery were selected for a detailed contextual study. In doing so, a wealth of new data concerning the span of the site's occupation and its function have been brought to light. This short paper aims to highlight the methodology used in the study and the types of pottery identified. It presents some results about the activities once performed on this site.

INTRODUCTION

The 1970s excavations at the Žejtun villa brought to light a substantial amount of archaeological artefacts, the majority being pottery sherds. For several decades, these finds were stored under the care of the National Museum of Archaeology, and it was only relatively recently (2000) that Dr Claudia Sagona conducted one of the first informal studies on some of the ceramic material excavated between 1975 and 1976 (Sagona 2000a; *cf.* Bonanno and Vella, this volume). Before and after her short study, some of the more diagnostic potsherds were looked at by other specialists since remarks concerning the pottery evidence from the Žejtun villa do feature in a few recent surveys of the island's economy (Bruno 2009, pp. 37-48). Apart from these, no formal attempt at analysing the material was undertaken until a sample of the material was studied as part of a research Masters degree in Archaeology (Anastasi 2010). This paper will present some of the general results obtained from this study of the Žejtun villa pottery.

METHODOLOGY

The purpose of the dissertation was to shed light on the functions associated with pottery vessels found in different archaeological contexts. The pottery data gleaned from the villa site provided evidence for domestic contexts which were later compared with similar data from ritual (the sanctuary of Tas-Silg) and funerary (a selection of rock-cut tombs) sites. In order to do this, however, the unpublished Žejtun pottery needed to be cleaned, described, drawn and quantified – a process which lasted several months.

Just over a quarter of the entire pottery assemblage was analysed, the majority of which was excavated in the first season of excavation in 1972. A site plan showed the location of a series of trenches cut during that season (Fig. 1). Seven rectangular trenches and a larger open area located to the north of the site, encompassing the major residential and industrial structures of the villa, were opened.¹ It is these trenches and areas that provide us with a reliable spatial context for many of

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the crates of material in storage.

Shape is often considered one of the primary criteria on which to interpret a pot's function (Frendo 1988, p. 121). Therefore, the primary objective for studying the Žejtun material was to reconstruct the pot shapes the sherds once

formed part of. To begin, the pottery was sorted according to whether the sherds displayed any diagnostic (rims, bases and handles) or undiagnostic features (parts of vessel walls). The walls were omitted from the study as it was difficult to assign a shape to them. The diagnostic material was then analysed more closely and was

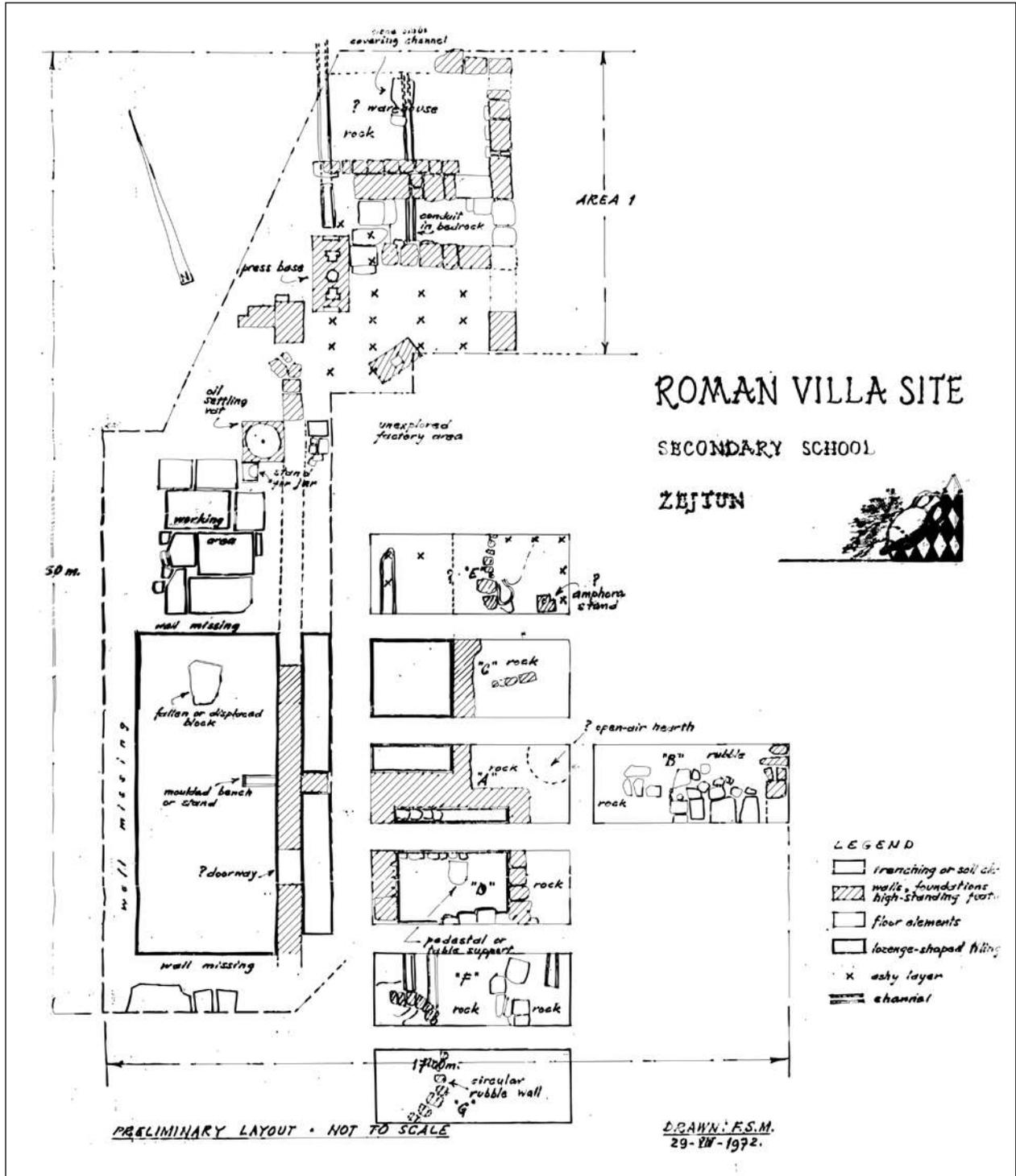


Figure 1. Sketch plan drawn by F. S. Mallia in August 1972.

drawn, described and photographed. The fabric of each selected sherd was also described in some detail based on macroscopic analysis using a x20 hand-held lens (see catalogue below).

Overall, 361² diagnostic sherds were recorded and divided into one of many classes of established pottery forms (see Sagona 2002b; Quercia 2004-2005, fig. 2) (Table 1). Besides using shape as the primary means of identifying the probable functions of the reconstructed vessels, the fabric characterization of the pottery was also used to identify additional functional roles (e.g. fabrics adapted to cooking activities) and to attempt sourcing the production sites of the vessels.

THE POTTERY: SOME OBSERVATIONS

The chronological data gleaned from the Žejtun pottery suggests a wide span of occupation on site. At least one Temple Period (c. 4000-2500 BC) sherd was found during the 1976 excavation season, although, as only a single fragment has been identified so far, little can be said about the possibility of a prehistoric occupation on site (Sagona 2002a). Two rock-cut pits associated with Late Bronze Age (c. 1500-900 BC) pottery were discovered in 1973; however, to my knowledge, no other substantial remains dating to this period have been discovered to date either (*Report 1972-1973*, p. 51).³ The bulk of the remaining pottery can be dated to the Punic (5th - late 3rd centuries BC) and Roman (late 3rd century BC to mid-5th century AD) periods. Some Late Antique-dated pottery (mid-5th to 7th century AD) was also recorded (Anastasi 2010, pp. 106-107, fig. 85a). Despite knowing the locations of the trenches cut in 1972 – therefore, providing us with a general idea of the first season's pottery spatial distribution (Fig. 1) – the lack of adopting

a stratigraphic method of excavation has resulted in the loss of crucial stratigraphic associations. This makes it difficult, if not impossible, to seriate properly the pottery chronologically. Due to this, much of the local pottery lacks secure dating as their association with datable imports has been lost. It is the imported pottery and the well-studied local Punic material that provides us with the broad date ranges presented here.

For the sake of brevity, the following overview of the Žejtun pottery will be divided into three basic functional groups (namely storage and transport containers, table wares and cooking vessels), with further subdivisions describing some of the salient features of pottery found in this Maltese context.

STORAGE AND TRANSPORT CONTAINERS

Amphorae

Amphorae function primarily as packaging containers for export commodities destined either for the local or overseas market. A wide range of amphorae were identified in the Žejtun assemblage. These included a few locally produced Punic and Roman amphorae, alongside some imported Italian, Sicilian and North African examples dating from the Late Republican period to the early 4th century AD.

Two rim fragments belonging to locally produced Punic, egg-shaped amphorae find parallels with Sagona's amphora form V:1 and can be broadly dated to between the 1st century BC and 1st century AD (Sagona 2002b, p. 92) (Fig. 2.1-2). This form is the successor of a range of local Punic amphorae that started being produced on the islands from about the 5th century BC; and are commonly found within Punic- and Early Roman-period tombs.

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A second locally produced ‘table’ amphora type, characterised by its long neck and flat base, is illustrated by two additional rim sherds belonging to Sagona’s urn forms III-IV:4a-b (Fig. 2.3-4). Many complete examples of this form derive mostly from tomb contexts, however, scores of sherds have also been recovered from Tas-Silġ (Sagona forthcoming), and San Pawl Milqi (Rossignani 1969, p. 99, fig. 8.25-26), as well as underwater contexts (Azzopardi 2006, pp. 45-48). Their presence on the seabed strengthens the hypothesis that some of these Maltese vessels were exported abroad as single examples have been identified in Sicily, Ibiza and Sardinia (Ciasca 1985, pp. 20-22), and a considerable number have recently been unearthed at the acropolis excavation on Pantelleria (Töpner 2011).

One fragment of a Malta type 2 amphora was also recovered from the Žejtun assemblage (Fig. 2.5). This form was identified by Brunella Bruno who believes that this form is an Imperial-period local Maltese amphora (Bruno 2009, pp. 105-107).

Examples of the typical amphora that carried Italian wine throughout the Mediterranean consist of a Dressel 1A/Lamboglia 2 rim (dating to the 2nd-1st centuries BC) (Fig. 2.8), and a Dressel 2/Lamboglia 6 rim (1st century BC to the mid-1st century AD) (Fig. 2.9), both made from a fabric that probably originated from the Adriatic coast of Italy. A slightly earlier Campanian example is a Greco-Italic form C rim (Fig. 2.7) which belongs to the first series of wine amphorae that exported Italian wine during the Republican period (Will 1982, pp. 346-348). Many examples belonging to the two former amphorae forms have been recovered in several archaeological contexts throughout the Maltese islands. Thousands of whole and fragmented examples of Dressel 1 amphorae were found at the sanctuary of Tas-Silġ within a concentrated votive

CLASS	Vessels	
	No.	%
plate	35	9.7
bowl	87	24.1
dish	3	0.83
kylix	0	0
handled cup	1	0.28
small plate	0	0
small bowl	4	1.11
olla	17	4.71
handled olla	1	0.28
casserole	6	1.66
pan	22	6.09
basin	18	4.99
mortar	1	0.28
jar	7	1.94
jug	19	5.26
juglet	2	0.55
flask	2	0.55
unidentified closed form	28	7.76
unguentarium	0	0
closed lamp	2	0.55
open lamp	0	0
incense holder	0	0
lid	23	6.37
small olla	1	0.28
unidentified open vessels	25	6.93
large unidentified open vessel	6	1.66
HM cooking vessel	12	3.32
unknown	12	3.32
dolium	2	0.55
spouted flasks	0	0
Total	361	100%

Table 1. The classes of pottery from the Žejtun villa.

dump thought to be the result of ritual wine drinking and libations made to deities at the sanctuary (Bruno 2009, pp. 134-135). Whilst, at Saqqajja in Rabat, Malta, scores of discarded Late Republican wine amphorae were discovered supporting a floor surface, thought to be a form of damp-proofing (Bonanno 2005, p. 216; Antico Gallina 2004). A smaller 1st century-amphora characterised by its flat ring-base has been identified as a Mid-Roman 1 amphora, or more specifically as

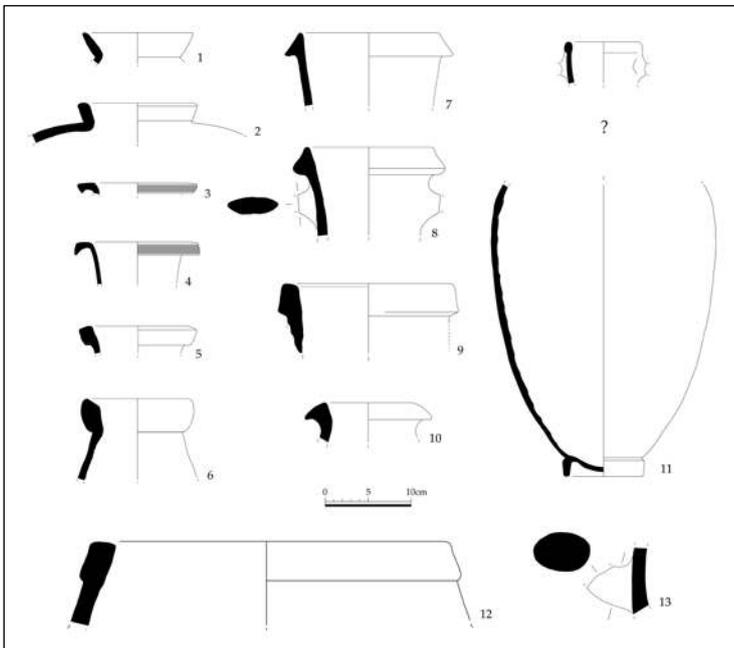


Figure 2. Imported and local amphorae (1-11) and dolia (12-13).

an eastern Sicilian wine amphora similar to Panella's Ostia II, 523 type (Fig. 2.11) and more recently attributable to a Naxos production site because of the vessel's fine pale buff fabric with lime inclusions (Panella 1970, fig. 523; Ollà 2001, p. 56). Several examples have been found at the other villa site of San Pawl Milqi, as well as the Tas-Silġ sanctuary (Bruno 2009, p. 176, fig. 38.1-2) and one known tomb context (Sagona 2002b, fig. 242.1).

No imported amphorae dating to between the late 1st and 3rd centuries AD have been identified at the Žejtun villa. Whether this reflects a conscious effort on behalf of the villa's inhabitants to abstain from importing certain foodstuffs or wine, or a bias in the sample, is difficult to assess. In addition, the fact that none of the material originated from well-stratified contexts makes determining the chronology of some unidentified amphorae (and many other vessels) by cross-dating virtually impossible. This is potentially important as Bruno's study on the amphorae assemblages of Tas-Silġ and San Pawl Milqi has clearly shown that throughout the Imperial period, there is a considerable influx of imported amphorae

followed by a dramatic reduction towards the end of the 2nd century AD; the peak of importation (demonstrated in the Žejtun assemblage too), however, clearly dates to the end of the 2nd and end of the 1st centuries BC (Bruno 2009, pp. 197-208).

The latest range of clearly datable Roman amphorae imports belongs to two North African-produced examples; one dating to between the 3rd and early 4th century and was manufactured in Tunisia (Africana IIC type; Bonifay 2004, p. 115) (Fig. 2.6), and the other rim dates to the second half of the 5th century (Keay 35B/85, Bonifay type 41; Keay 1984, p. 233; Bonifay 2004, p. 133) (Fig. 2.10). Known to have carried olive oil, and possibly *garum* (fish sauce), from production sites in Rome's North African provinces, these large cumbersome amphorae became exceedingly common exports from the 2nd century AD when grain and olive oil – the staples of the Roman diet – were increasingly being transported to Rome as part of the *annona* policy instrumented by the Roman emperor in order to extract a tax from its province to supply free food rations to Rome's freedmen (Kehoe 2007, pp. 543-546; Lo Cascio 2007, pp. 639-641). This mass exportation of North African agricultural surplus led to the widespread distribution of these large amphorae across much of the western and, to a lesser extent, the eastern Roman Empire.

Dolia

Two sherds are believed to belong to large, thick-walled, containers known as *dolia* (Fig. 2.12-13). They were made using coarse local clays and are usually associated with storage of wine and grain on agricultural farmsteads such as the Žejtun villa and San Pawl Milqi (Rossignani 1965, pp. 144, 149, 154), and other rural sites.⁴ Although slightly different from the typical Roman *dolia* because of the reduced everted rim, this large vessel is likely to have performed a similar function. The inclusion of a large

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loop handle amongst this category is also indicative of a possible local development, the specific use of which remains unclear. Despite this, no other vessel similar in size and shape has been identified within other contexts such as Tas-Silġ and within any of the tombs; therefore it is probable to say that such vessels were specifically used for storage purposes related to agricultural activity (Anastasi 2010, p. 138-139).

TABLE WARES

Local productions

Plates and bowls are the most common shape of pottery vessel found in local contexts (Anastasi 2010, p. 128). Unlike the highly standardized repertoire found at Tas-Silġ (Quercia 2004-2005, p. 340), the bowls and plates from the Žejtun villa display a wider range of forms, chronology and geographical production areas. Due to the wide variety of examples, a brief overview of the general fabrics and main shapes will be presented below.

Most of the locally produced bowls and

plates are made using the typical Maltese fabric, characterised by a hard-fired pale red clay with plenty of yellow limestone and white fossil (microforaminifera) inclusions, and a rough, unslipped surface which retains a mutli-tonal hue, ranging between pale red, pink and grey, due to irregular firing conditions. Earlier Punic fabrics are similar, however, generally tend to be smoothed and coated in a thick pale yellow or cream slip. The principle plate shapes identified follow, more or less, Quercia's morphological categories for Tas-Silġ (2004-2005, pp. 340-343). Firstly, a Punic type dating to between the 5th and 3rd centuries BC, is characterised by a rounded rim edge, a marked ledge between the external rim band and the central basin and a better smoothed surface (Fig. 3.14). The ledge in the second series decreases in depth, however, increases in width. Additionally, the rim edge starts flaring more externally (Fig. 3.15). With the latest series, dating to between the 1st century BC and 1st century AD, the marked ledge virtually disappears, the edge of the rim is more triangular in shape, and the plate wall

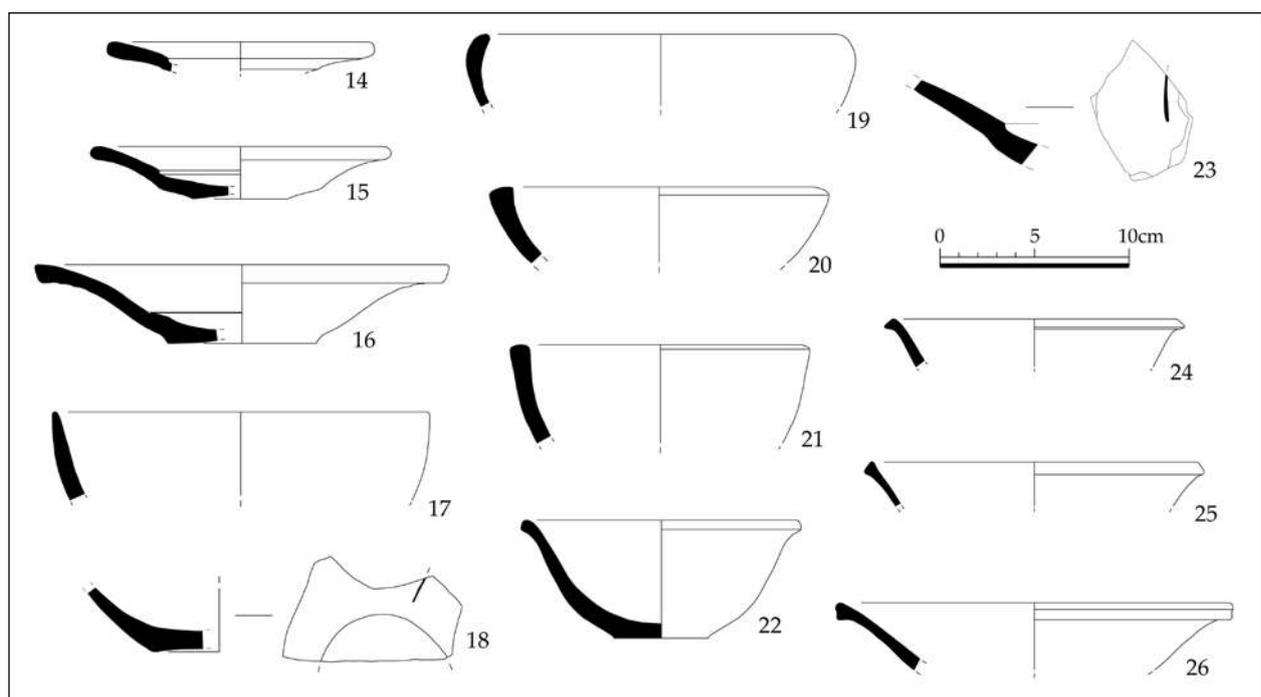


Figure 3. Locally produced plates and bowls from the Žejtun villa.

continues to flare outwards (Fig. 3.16).

Several inscribed sherds were also found at the Žejtun villa. Locally produced bowls, plates and cooking pots were inscribed with Punic letters prior to the vessels being fired (Figs 3.18, 3.23, 5.41). One inscribed cooking pot was found in 1976 and following a short study is believed to evoke a Punic deity like the thousands of inscribed sherds discovered at the sanctuary of Tas-Silġ just over a kilometre and a half away (Frendo 1999; 2000). The inscribed Žejtun examples are so similar in form and fabric to those found in their thousands at Tas-Silġ that one is in no doubt that they originated from the same workshop.

A similarly defined evolution to the plate forms has been identified for the bowl shapes (Quercia 2004-2005, pp. 343-344), where the rim evolves from a primarily pointed simple rim (Fig. 3.17), to a shape with an inward-curving rim imitating Republican-period fine ware cups (see below) (Figs 3.19-21). The last in the series is a simple tronco-conic shape with a slightly everted rim (Fig. 3.22). These three plate and bowl morphological stages tend to have developed together over a time-span spreading from the Punic period into the early Imperial period. Unlike any of Quercia's types, however, an additional plate/bowl type may be identified at the Žejtun villa. This consists of a deep open vessel with relatively straight and thin everted walls that end in a triangular rim (Figs 3.24-26). The most characteristic feature, however, is in the fabric used to mould them. Two clear distinctions can be made here on the basis of the classification of the inclusions used. One fabric consists of an orange-to-pale-brown clay containing numerous black, glass-like, inclusions (possibly volcanic), some limestone fragments, and occasionally some fine micaceous flecks (Fig. 3.26). The other is very similar in composition except that the black

inclusions appear matt and spherical in shape, and little to no mica appears (Figs 3.24-25). Similar fabrics are known, however, virtually nothing has been written about them in the local literature. The only discussion that focuses on these black inclusions was made by Brunella Bruno following her identification of a possible new local amphora type made using clay containing black volcanic-glass and rounded quartz inclusions (Bruno & Capelli 2000, pp. 62-63; Bruno 2009, p. 110; Bonanno 2007). A fleeting reference to votive bowls and plates made using the same fabric at Tas-Silġ has been made, however, further archaeometric studies on the examples she refers to still await publication (Bruno 2009, pp. 108-109). Identical plates to Quercia's plate types 20 and 21 containing both fabrics, yet a higher percentage of the volcanic/quartz-inclusion fabric, have been identified in a 1st century AD-context from the University of Malta excavations at Tas-Silġ. It appears that this type of fabric was used in vessels other than for Bruno's amphorae during the 1st century BC, but became increasingly common towards the early Imperial period at the cost of the earlier lime-rich fabric (Anastasi 2010, p. 32). Identifying whether these clays were wholly Maltese in composition, all imported, or were mixed in Malta using locally-sourced clay and imported temper, awaits further studies and discussion.

Conversely, some lids (or plates), thin-walled cooking pots and thin-walled cups are made using a fine dark-red fabric with lots of black, matt, spherical inclusions (Figs 4.29, 4.32). This fabric, together with these shapes, raises some interesting points. Most thin-walled pottery known on the islands is made using a similar fabric, despite there being very few in-depth studies on this class of ceramics. The thin-walled mugs and cups discovered within funerary contexts may either be fine Roman imports, or else "are likely to be locally made, the clays

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being softer with a moderate amount of fine white inclusions and occasional black grit” (Sagona 2002b, p. 186). The distinction between local and foreign thin-walled pottery remains vague. Regardless, the same type of fabric is found in cooking pots and lids (Fig. 5.44). Several fragments belonging to such vessels were recovered from the Žejtun villa, and have also been uncovered elsewhere; both locally (Blagg, Bonanno & Luttrell 1990, pp. 54-55, fig. 13.12), and abroad (Riley 1979, pp. 258-259, fig. 102). It is easy, however, to confuse this fine red fabric with a fine North African one, which macroscopically appears fine and contains lime, but contains lots of very fine quartz inclusions without the characteristic black, matt inclusions (Fig. 5.45).

Imports

Our objective is made easier by the clearly obvious imports, which not only provide a tighter chronological band around the development of occupation at the site, but also allows an assessment, albeit still in its early stages, of the degree of economic exchange between the Maltese islands and elsewhere.

Chronologically, the earliest noticeable

import belongs to a 2nd-century BC Campanian black-gloss bowl (type Morel 2784/Lamboglia 27a-b); a widespread Greco-Italic fine ware that was exported from Southern Italian regions during the Late Republican period (Fig. 4.27). A slightly later Campanian C black-gloss base sherd, most probably from Syracuse, was also found, and dates to around the 2nd-1st century BC (Morel 1994, p. 47). These two fragments are typical of the standard imports being received at the time, and are usually associated with the distribution of Greco-Italic wine amphorae during the mid-Republican period. Their Greek, and more commonly, western Greek predecessors are thought to be the models used to create hemispherical local imitations, made with local clays and coated with a thick, smooth, cream slip, prevalent in the Punic repertoire between the 5th and 3rd centuries BC (Quercia 2011, p. 441, fig. 2.4-5) (Fig. 3.19). These local imitations are frequently encountered within the 5th- to 3rd-century BC votive dumps at Tas-Silġ, as well as some Punic-period tombs (Quercia 2011, p. 411; Sagona 2002b, fig. 346.23). Progressively, this imitation series diminishes to be replaced (at Tas-Silġ in particular) by the typical tronco-conical locally-produced

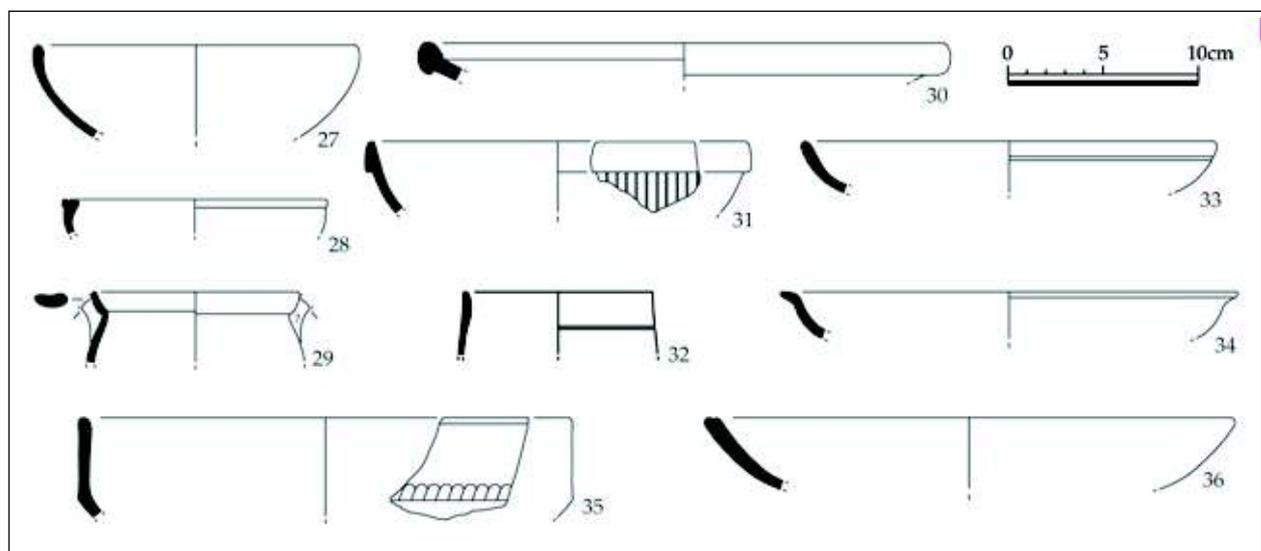


Figure 4. Imported table wares from the Žejtun villa.

bowl (Fig. 3.22). However, a recent study of the pottery excavated from Għar ix-Xiħ, a small rural site overlooking Mgarr ix-Xini, Gozo, has shown that the majority of 2nd- and 1st-century BC bowls have much thinner walls than the Tas-Silg equivalents and appear to imitate the Republican Campanian black-gloss series. The fact that the vessel surfaces do not usually contain the typical thick cream slip, suggest that these vessels are then Late Republican in date. The pottery from this interesting site is being prepared for publication

As regards typical 'Roman' imported fine wares, one would expect to find some Italic *terra sigillata*. However, not a single fragment has been recorded in the Žejtun assemblage to date. Instead, the most common fine wares encountered are the African Red Slip (ARS) wares, uncovered in reasonable quantities throughout Imperial-period sites in the Maltese islands. Three ARS sherds could be dated to about the end of the 2nd and 3rd century AD (Figs 4.34-4.36), whilst the remaining pieces date to the early to mid-5th century AD (Figs 4.28, 4.30-4.31, 4.33). These few imports, besides being good dating pieces, are indicative of some sort of direct or indirect exchange between Imperial North Africa and the Maltese islands, which is evident from several other sites on the islands (Zammit 1923, pp. 221-225; Hayes 1972; Bruno 2009, pp. 143, 158; Anastasi 2010, pp. 212-216). The number of ARS vessels recovered mostly from tomb contexts, and which are now on exhibit at the Roman Domus Museum, Rabat, Malta, have been used to place the Maltese islands within the trade routes criss-crossing the Mediterranean Sea during the Imperial period (Hayes 1972; Reynolds 1995). It is hoped that further quantitative research on the ARS imports on Malta will shed more light on the volume of traded goods reaching the islands, which may allow us to understand what role the small islands played in the

Roman-period imperial trade networks. To date, not enough quantifiable ceramic data are available to establish any clearer importation patterns at the site.

Cooking vessels

About 16% of the Žejtun assemblage was composed of vessels, which through contextual and shape analyses, have been attributed to heat-related cooking activities (Anastasi 2010, pp. 125-126). The cooking vessels identified also displayed quite a varied range of shapes (globular pots, shallow pans and casserole dishes), seemingly adapted to a series of different cooking methods such as roasting and boiling. The typical cooking forms local to the Maltese islands, in particular those from Tas-Silg, have been discussed in much detail elsewhere (Quercia 2000; 2002). A globular, squat cooking pot with horizontal loop handles (Quercia's form B) in a brick-red, lime-rich fabric is a very common Hellenistic form which is prevalent throughout the Mid- to Late Punic period (Fig. 5.41). Two sherds belonging to this form are inscribed and are almost identical in shape and fabric to the Punic cooking pot forms from Tas-Silg (see above). Traces of burning are evident on many of the base sherds of this form indicating their use as cooking pots. A later Republican/Early Imperial form is a local imitation of a Pompeian cooking ware bowl with a slightly inverted triangular rim (Fig. 5.42). The fabric used for this vessel is similar to the Punic brick-red fabric and, together with traces of soot, suggests that this bowl form was also adapted for a cooking purpose. Other possible local cooking ware forms are a thin-walled, fine version of the earlier Punic type B globular pot (Fig. 5.44) and a flat-rimmed casserole dish made using the same fabric (Fig. 5.49). The origins of these forms remains uncertain; however, a local source is possible as the fine red fabric with black inclusions is common

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for Early Roman forms on Malta and has not been recognised outside of the islands to date (see above). A form similar to the thin-walled type B cooking pot has, however, been noted in a North African fabric (Fig. 5.45). Further stratified assemblages are needed in order to better out understanding of the source of this fabric. Finally, a few examples of local handmade pans are known. The most common form is a shallow, flat-based pan belonging to Quercia's D4 form (Quercia 2002, p. 414). Its coarse, lime-rich fabric together with evidence of burning on the undersides provides conclusive evidence that these pans were indeed used for cooking (Fig. 5.47). Plenty of sherds belonging to this form have been found at both Tas-Silġ and in the Punic levels of the recent University of Malta excavations at Žejtun. Dates for this form are difficult to secure as the

same forms and coarse fabrics are known to exist from prehistoric levels right up until the Medieval period on the island (Blagg, Bonanno & Luttrell 1990, pp. 66-68; Quercia 2002, pp. 407-409).

A few pieces of Pantellerian cooking wares have also been found at Žejtun (Figs 5.43, 5.46), illustrating similar import trends being received from the neighbouring site of Tas-Silġ (see Quercia 2006). A few fragments of North African cooking ware also found their way onto the Žejtun site; one rim (Hayes form 197) dates to the late 1st century to the second half of the 2nd century AD (Fig. 5.48). A wide variety of North African cooking pot lids have also been found (Figs 5.37-5.40). Similar cooking ware forms have also been recovered at Tas-Silġ, San Pawl Milqi, and the Mortar shipwreck discovered in Mellieħa Bay, Malta (Frost 1969).⁵

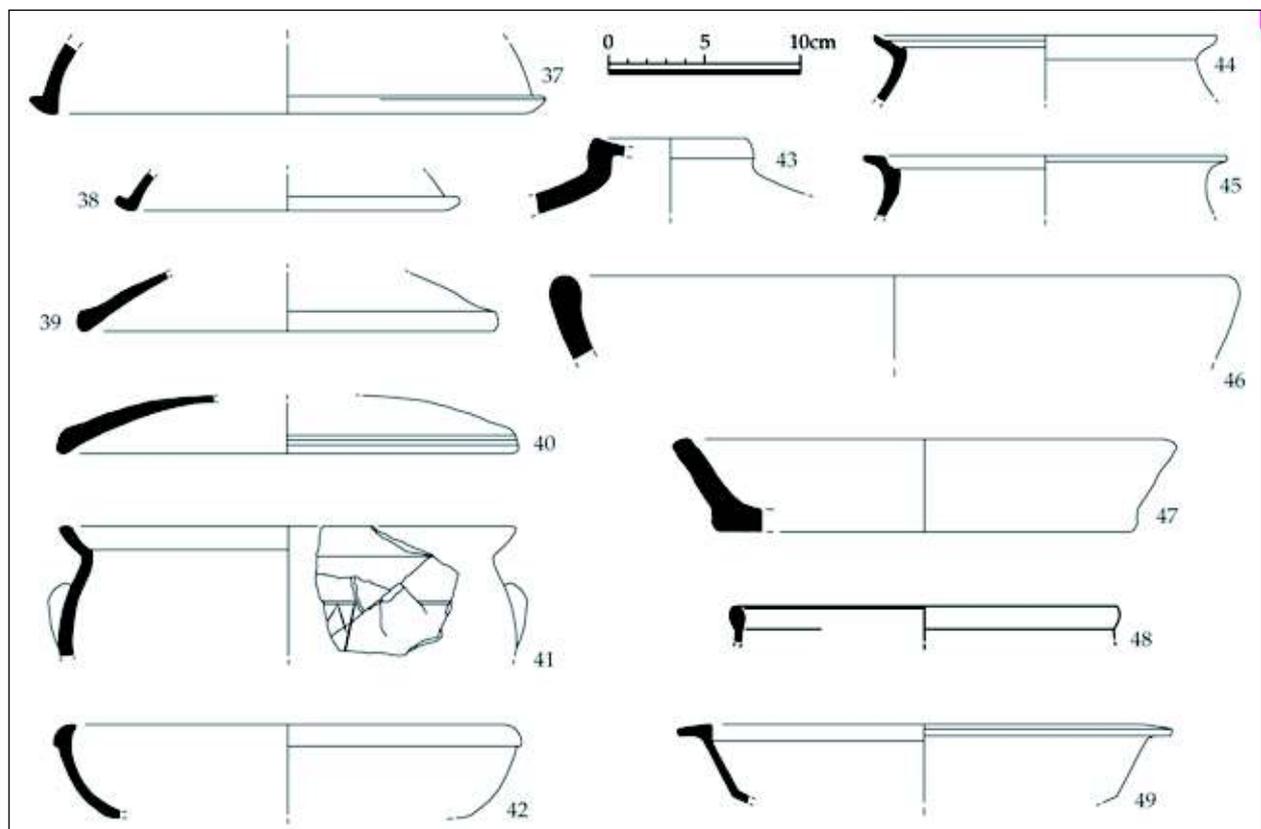


Figure 5. Cooking wares from the Žejtun villa.

CONCLUSION

This short survey of the 1972 pottery assemblage from the Žejtun villa has been immensely useful in enabling us to piece together at least part of the vast history of the villa site. Prior to this study, a general chronology of the site's phases was unclear and much was based on the assumption that the typical olive pressing equipment found on site was "Roman" in date. While this is not in question, the pottery evidence, however, has clearly revealed that multiple phases of occupation existed, in particular that of a strong Punic, Early Roman and Late Antique presence. The relatively high

quantity of imports of all kinds has also shown that the villa site was particularly involved in the importation of Roman goods; an observation which has been noted at other villa sites throughout the island. The current University of Malta excavations intend to salvage much of the stratigraphic relationships lost during the previous 1970s excavations, and this exercise will be crucial for better defining the ceramic forms previewed here. Better control on the stratigraphy will hopefully result in better chronological comparisons between the local and imported forms, and will allow us to paint a clearer picture of the history of the Žejtun villa.

Pottery Catalogue

1. Section 1 (area round vertical press), 0.40m, box 33 (30.08.72)

Rim; rim interior Ø c. 8cm (damaged rim); WM; Hard-fired red fabric (2.5YR 6/8); sharp breaks; small paste voids; contains irregular lime inclusions (0.5-4mm). Rough surface with cream slip (5Y 8/3) over exterior surface; voids and inclusions visible on surface. *Comments:* Local; Sagona amphora form V: 1. *Date:* 1st century BC – mid-1st century AD.

2. Trench [B], 0.20m, box 15 (14.08.72)

Rim and shoulder; rim Ø 14cm; WM; Dark orange fabric (10R 5/8); hard-fired; sharp breaks; contains irregular lime inclusions (>0.5-2mm). Thin cream slip coats exterior; surface voids (with salt halos) and inclusions visible on surface. *Comments:* Local; Sagona amphora form V: 1. *Date:* 1st century BC – mid-1st century AD.

3. Section 1 (between vertical press and [paved] floor), 0.20m, box 2 (21.08.72)

Rim; Rim Ø 14cm; WM; Pale orange fabric (2.5YR 6/8); lime and red grog inclusions; fine paste voids. Thinly applied pale cream slip with red painted band on exterior surface of rim (10R 4/4). *Comments:* Local; variant of Sagona urn form III-IV: 4b. *Date:* 410-300 BC; although, might extend to the mid-2nd-1st century BC (Sagona 2002b, p. 104).

4. Trench B, 0.40m, box 19 (25.08.72)

Rim; Rim Ø 14.5cm; WM; Red-brown fabric (2.5YR 5/3); hard-fired; contains lime and foraminifera inclusions (>0.5mm); sharp breaks. Thin, cream-coloured, unevenly applied slip (2.5YR 8/3) over rim and interior surface; slightly polished surfaces with a few surface voids; exterior rim contains a red painted band (10R 3/4). *Comments:* Local; Sagona urn form III-IV: 4b; Cagiano de Azevedo *et al.* 1965, fig. 7.4; Busuttill *et al.* 1969, fig. 2.6. *Date:* 410-300 BC; although, might extend to the mid-2nd-1st century BC (Sagona 2002b, p. 104).

5. Section 1 (area around vertical press), box 12 (23.08.72)

Amphora rim; Rim Ø 14cm; WM; Gritty light red fabric (2.5YR 6/8) with grey core (2.5YR 5/1); contains abundant fine sub-angular, glossy black inclusions (>0.5mm; glauconite) and sporadic white lime inclusions (0.5-1mm). Wet-wiped cream (2.5Y 8/3) surface (salt slip?) with gritty surface texture due to inclusions. *Comments:* Possibly local; Malta type 2, fabric group VQ (Bruno 2009, pp. 105-106, fig. 18.1). *Date:* 1st-2nd century AD.

6. Section 1 (area near vertical press), 0.40m, box 35 (01.09.72)

Amphora rim; Rim Ø 13cm; WM; Fine red fabric (2.5YR 5/8) with dark red/purple edges (2.5YR 4/2); few small paste voids; contains fine irregular lime inclusions (>0.5-1.5mm). Pale pink (7.5YR 7-6/4) surface on exterior (salt slip?); few

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inclusions with salt halos visible on surface. Below rim are a series of roughly combed lines. *Comments:* Tunisian; type Africana IIC (Bonifay 2004: 115). *Date:* 3rd-early 4th century AD.

7. Section 1 (area near vertical press), 0.40m, box 23 (28.08.72)

Amphora rim; Rim Ø 16cm; WM; Campanian black sand fabric with salt slipped surface. *Comments:* Campanian; Greco-Italic amphora form C (Will 1982: 346-348). *Date:* Late 3rd century to 190/200 BC.

8. [section 1] (area near vertical press), 0.40m, box 25 (...08.72)

Amphora rim and handle; Rim Ø 15cm; WM; Pale brown fabric (10YR 7-6/4); well-fired; few paste voids; contains quartz(?), red grog, fine mica and large irregular white inclusions (<0.5-3mm). Surface covered in thin pale slip with greenish tinge; rough surface with voids and inclusions visible on surface. Handle is a horizontal ellipse in section.

Comments: Adriatic; type Dressel 1A/Lamboglia 2 (similar examples in Bruno 2009, p. 175, fig. 36.5, and Cagianò de Azevedo *et al.* 1967, fig. 5.19). *Date:* c. 2nd-late 1st century BC.

9. Section 1 (area round vertical press), 0.40m, box 33 (30.08.72)

Amphora rim; Rim Ø 20cm; WM; Fine, light brown fabric (7.5YR 7/6-6/6); contains fine mica, red and lime inclusions with very few paste voids. Surface treatment unknown as surface is encrusted with dirt. *Comments:* Adriatic; Dressel 2/Lamboglia 6. *Date:* 1st century BC to Early Imperial period.

10. Trench F, 0.40m, box 40 (04.09.72)

Amphora rim; Rim Ø 10cm; WM; Orange/red fabric (10R 5/8) with dark grey core (10R 3/1-2); contains fine quartz granules (>0.5mm). Rough pale surface on exterior (salt slip?). Mortar is attached under the rim. *Comments:* North African; Keay type 35B/85; Bonifay type 41 (Bonifay 2004, p. 133; Keay 1984, p. 233). *Date:* Second half of the 5th century AD.

11. Section 1 (area near vertical press), 0.40m, box 35 (01.09.72)

Amphora base and body; Base Ø 9.2cm; WM; Fine micaceous, buff-coloured fabric (7.5YR 6/6-6/4); small paste voids; contains gold mica, quartz (0.5mm) and white lime (>0.5mm) inclusions; pronounced interior rills. Unslipped. *Comments:* Import; possibly East Sicilian (Naxos) or Southern Italian fabric; similar to Ostia II, fig. 523 type and MRA 1 (Bruno 2009, p. 176, fig. 38.1-2; Panella 1970, fig. 523; Ollà 2001, p. 56). Vessel composed of 31 sherds and was most likely broken *in situ*. Vessel contains same fabric as another amphora rim, however, they do not join. *Date:* c. 1st-3rd century AD.

12. Trench A, 0.20m, box 6 (22.08.72)

Dolium rim; Rim Ø <42cm; HM; Coarse pale red/orange fabric with darker core (5YR 7/6-8); contains frequent large lime, red grog and foraminifera inclusions; large paste voids. Coarse unslipped pale green surface (under-fired?) (5Y 8-7/2); slip might have flaked off as there are traces of a cream surface. *Comments:* Local; type unknown. *Date:* Unknown.

13. Trench B, 0.20m, box 13 (23.08.72)

Dolium handle; Coarse red fabric (5YR 5/8) with grey core (5Y 5/2); contains abundant large yellow lime inclusions giving fabric a yellowish colour. Unslipped rough textured surface. Oval section with thick walls. *Comments:* Local; type unknown; *Date:* Unknown.

14. Section 1 (area around vertical press), box 12 (23.08.72)

Plate rim; Rim Ø 14cm; WM; Hard-fired, pale red fabric (2.5YR 6/8); contains yellow lime, foraminifera and red grain-like inclusions (>0.5mm). Dry-shaved and smoothed, cream and pale orange surface; surface voids; air-bubble felt on rim. *Comments:* Local; Quercia 2004-2005, type 2; Sagona plate form III: 2. *Date:* 500-300 BC.

15. Trench B, 0.40m, box 19 (25.08.72)

Plate profile; Rim Ø 16cm; base Ø 6cm; WM; Light grey hard-fired fabric (7.5YR 6/2); contains red and black grog inclusions (<1mm) and paste voids. Unevenly applied, pale brown (7.5YR 6/4) self-slipped surface; inclusions visible through surface. String cut base. Two parallel incisions are found along the rim and were made after firing. *Comments:* Local; Quercia 2004-2005, type 14; in two fragments. *Date:* c. 150 BC.

16. Trench O, 0.20m (22-23.08.73)

Plate profile; Rim Ø 22cm; base Ø 8cm; WM; Grey fabric (4/5N) with thin outer edges; frequent irregular paste voids; contains grog and lime inclusions (1mm). Unslipped pink to buff surface; uneven and rough surface texture. Uneven, rough base. *Comments:* Local; Quercia 2004-2005, type 20. *Date:* 100 BC to 100 AD.

17. [section 1] (area near vertical press), box 25 ([...]08.72)

Bowl rim; Rim Ø c. 20cm; WM; Pale brown fabric (7.5YR 6/6); contains fine paste voids; contains red, white lime, pale grog and foraminifera inclusions (<0.5mm). Smooth, slightly burnished, unslipped surface (5YR 6/6).

Comments: Local; Quercia 2004-2005, type 3. *Date:* 5th-3rd century BC.

18. Section 1 (area near vertical press; material collected from narrow trenches (conduits?) in warehouse?), box 45 (07.09.72)

Bowl base; Base Ø 7cm; WM; Hard-fired, pale red fabric (2.5YR 5/8) with pale brown core (7.5YR 6/4); contains lime, grog and foraminifera inclusions (0.5-1mm). Wet-smoothed pale surface; rough textured; inclusions and finger print marks visible on surface. String cut base; partial linear line inscribed (pre-firing) on exterior surface. *Comments:* Local; Quercia 2004-2005, type 7; Sagona bowl form IV: 4a. *Date:* 300-100 BC.

18. Section 1 (area near vertical press; material collected from narrow trenches (conduits?) in warehouse?), box 45 (07.09.72)

Bowl base; Base Ø 7cm; WM; Hard-fired, pale red fabric (2.5YR 5/8) with pale brown core (7.5YR 6/4); contains lime, grog and foraminifera inclusions (0.5-1mm). Wet-smoothed pale surface; rough textured; inclusions and finger print marks visible on surface. String cut base; partial linear line inscribed (pre-firing) on exterior surface. *Comments:* Local;

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Quercia 2004-2005, type 7; Sagona bowl form IV: 4a. *Date:* 300-100 BC.

19. Trench G, box 46 (11.09.72)

Bowl rim; Rim Ø 18cm; WM; Hard-fired, pale orange fabric (7.5YR 6/6); contains fine paste voids; contains spherical black, fine red, lime and foraminifera inclusions (0.5mm). Thick and evenly applied, dry-shaved cream slip (2.5YR 8/3). *Comments:* Local; Quercia 2004-2005, type 5; Quercia and Anastasi 2008, fig. 3.20. *Date:* 5th to 3rd century BC.

20. Trench A, 0.20m, box 6 (22.08.72)

Bowl rim; Rim Ø 18cm; WM; Hard-fired, orange/brown fabric (5YR 5/8); contains red grog (>1mm) and fine white inclusions; occasional fine paste voids. Thin, evenly applied, cream slip (10YR 8/3); surface voids visible on surface. *Comments:* Local; variant of Quercia 2004-2005, type 4. *Date:* 5th to 3rd century BC.

21. Section 1 (area near vertical press; material collected from narrow trenches (conduits?) in warehouse?), box 45 (07.09.72)

Bowl rim; Rim Ø c. 16cm; WM; Under-fired grey/green fabric (2.5YR 5/2); contains grey grog, fine lime and red inclusions (0.5-1mm). Encrustations distort surface treatment. *Comments:* Local; variant of Quercia 2004-2005, type 4. *Date:* 5th to 3rd century BC.

22. Section 1 (area near vertical press), 0.40m, box 35 (01.09.72)

Bowl profile; Rim Ø 15cm; base Ø 4.5cm; WM; Pale red fabric (2.5YR 6/8); contains frequent small paste voids; contains large lime (>10mm) and foraminifera inclusions. Thinly applied, multi-tonal self-slip applied to surface; surface voids, inclusions and finger print marks visible on surface. String cut base. *Comments:* Local; Quercia 2004-2005, type 7; Sagona bowl form IV: 4a. *Date:* 300-100 BC.

23. Trench A, 0.20m, box 1 (21.08.72)

Plate body sherd; Interior rim edge Ø 14cm; WM; Orange fabric with grey core; contains grog and lime inclusions. Pale pink to cream wet-wiped surface. Incomplete single line incised on exterior surface of sherd; incised prior to firing. *Comments:* Local; Quercia 2004-2005, type 15. *Date:* c. 150 BC.

24. Section 1 (area near vertical press), 0.40m, box 23 (28.08.72)

Bowl rim; Rim Ø 16cm; WM; Dark red/orange fabric; contains lime and spherical matt, black inclusions. Surface unslipped. *Comments:* Import; type unknown. *Date:* Late Republican Roman period.

25. Trench B, 0.40m, box 19 (15.08.72)

Bowl rim; Rim Ø 18cm; WM; Hard-fired, red/orange fabric (2.5YR 5-4/8); contains fine paste voids; contains lime (>1mm) and spherical, black, matt (0.5mm) inclusions. Thinly applied dark slip applied to surface (10R 5/4); smooth finish; inclusions visible on surface. *Comments:* Import, possibly Italian; type unknown. *Date:* Roman Republican period.

26. Section 1 (area near vertical press), 0.40m, box 23 (28.08.72)

Plate rim; Rim Ø 21cm; WM; Pale brown fabric (10YR 7/4); contains fine quartz, black glass (volcanic?) and golden mica inclusions (0.5mm). Gritty textured unslipped surface; inclusions visible at surface. *Comments:* Import; type unknown. *Date:* Unknown.

27. Trench B (area round (0.60m) and inside channel), 0.40-0.60m (10.09.73)

Bowl rim; Rim Ø 16cm; WM; Fine brown fabric (7.5YR 5/4-6); contains occasional fine voids; contains fine white (lime?) inclusions. Black glossy slip applied to surface; slip around rim is eroded. *Comments:* Import; Morel 2784, pl. 73; Lamb. 27A-b (Babette Bechtold (pers. comm.), September 2008). *Date:* 2nd century BC.

28. Trench O, 0.20m (22-23.08.73)

Bowl rim; Rim Ø c. 14cm; WM; Fine orange fabric (10R 5/8); contains sporadic large lime (1-1.5mm) and infrequent mica or fine quartz inclusions. Pale orange slip (2.5YR 6/8) with horizontal facets due to slip being applied on a turning wheel. *Comments:* North African; African Red Slip ware, Hayes form 85A. *Date:* Mid-5th century AD.

29. Section 1 (area near vertical press), box 23 (28.08.72)

Handled cup rim and handle; Rim Ø 11cm; WM; Fine red/orange fabric (5YR 5/8); contains large infrequent yellow lime (0.5-1mm) and occasional black matt spherical inclusions. Unslipped smooth surface; voids and inclusions visible through surface; surface contains a fine dusting of mica. *Comments:* Import; thin-walled ware; similar to Sagona cup form VI: 1a; Bozzi *et al.* 1968, fig. 7.27-30. *Date:* c. 50-200 AD.

30. Trench O, 0.20m (22-23.08.72)

Dish rim; Rim Ø 28cm; WM; Granular orange fabric (5YR 5/8); contains abundant quartz and occasional lime inclusions (0.5-1mm). Eroded slip and surface. *Comments:* North African, African Red Slip ware, Hayes form 104B (Hayes 1972, pp. 160-166, fig. 30; Bonifay 2004, pp. 181-183, fig. 97). *Date:* Mid-5th to 6th century AD.

31. Section 1 (area near vertical press), 0.40m, box 35 (01.09.72)

Bowl rim; Rim Ø 20cm; MM; Hard-fired, dark brown, gritty textured fabric (2.5YR 4/3); contains fine paste voids; contains quartz and lime inclusions (>0.5mm). Thin, unevenly applied red slip (2.5YR 5/4-6) applied to exterior surface; smooth and glossy red slip (5YR 6/6 & 5/8) coats interior surface. *Comments:* Import, possibly North African; similar to Fulford 1984a, type 27 (Fulford 1984a, fig. 14). *Date:* c. 5th century AD.

32. Trench E, 0.20m (05.09.72)

Small bowl rim; Rim Ø 10cm; MM; Fine red fabric (2.5YR 4/6); contains fine white and black inclusions, fine quartz and fine mica and occasional lime inclusions. Surface contains traces of a thin pale red wash (slip?); fine surface voids and inclusions are visible through surface. *Comments:* Import; thin-walled ware; similar to Sagona bowl form V: 2a and Cagianò de Azevedo *et al.* 1965, fig. 10: 1; Marabini Moevs 1973, no. 142. *Date:* 100 BC to c. 50 AD.

33. Section 1 (area round vertical press), box 12 (23.08.72)

Bowl rim; Rim Ø 22cm; WM; Gritty red fabric (2.5YR 5/8); contains quartz and white lime inclusions. Roughly applied

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red slip (2.5YR 5/8); surface voids and some inclusions visible on surface. *Comments:* North African; African Red Slip ware, variant of Hayes form 63? (Hayes 1972, fig. 18). *Date:* Early to mid-5th century AD?

34. (Material collected between pavement (sec. 3) and trenches A and D), box 36 44 (05.09.72)

Bowl rim; Rim Ø 24cm; WM; Fine grainy dark orange fabric (2.5YR 5/8); contains fine quartz and sporadic lime inclusions (>0.5mm). Dark orange glossy slip (10R 5/8). *Comments:* North African; variant of Hayes form 32; variant of Bonifay *sigillée* type 25 (Hayes 1972, fig. 9; Bonifay 2004, fig. 88). *Date:* Early to mid-3rd century AD.

35. Section 1 (area near vertical press), 0.40m, box 23 (28.08.72)

Bowl rim; Rim Ø 26cm; WM; Fine, gritty red fabric; contains fine white lime and quartz inclusions. Red slipped surfaces. *Comments:* North African; variant of Hayes form 14B; variant of Bonifay *sigillée* type 7 (Hayes 1972, fig. 6; Bonifay 2004, fig. 85). *Date:* 2nd-3rd century AD.

36. Section 1 (area near vertical press), 0.40m, box 35 (01.09.72)

Pan; grooved rim; Rim Ø 28cm; WM; Fine gritty orange-red fabric (2.5YR 5/8) with very fine quartz and lime inclusions (>0.1mm) and fine occasional voids. Red slipped surfaces (2.5YR 5/6); exterior surface rougher than interior surface; interior smoothed. *Comments:* North African; African Red Slip ware, fabric C; unknown form type. *Date:* 3rd century AD?

37. (Material collected from area between paved area (sec. 3) and [...] room in trenches A and C), box 29 (29.08.72).

Lid rim; Rim Ø 24cm; WM; Red coarse fabric (5YR 5-8); contains large irregular white lime and spherical black matt inclusions; slightly micaceous. Unslipped; inclusions and paste voids visible on surface. *Comments:* Import; imitation of Hayes form 182? *Date:* Unknown.

38. Section 1 (area round vertical press), 0.40m, box 33 (30.08.72)

Lid rim; Rim Ø 18cm; WM; Fine red/orange fabric (2.5YR 5/8); contains fine lime (>0.5mm), black and red inclusions (1mm). Unslipped, smooth, red surface with fine black striations. *Comments:* North African (Central Tunisia?); Fulford type 9/ variant of Hayes form 182 (Fulford 1984b, pp. 190-191, fig. 72; Hayes 1972, pp. 201-203, fig. 35). *Date:* c. 2nd-5th century AD.

39. Section 1 (area near vertical press), 0.40m, box 35 (01.09.72)

Lid rim; Rim Ø 22cm; WM; Hard-fired dark red fabric (2.5YR 4/8); contains spherical quartz and lime inclusions (>0.5mm). Unslipped, gritty textured surface. *Comments:* North African; variant of Hayes form 196; Bonifay *culinaire* type 11. *Date:* c. 2nd – early 5th century AD.

40. Section 1 (area round vertical press), 0.40m, box 33 (30.08.72)

Lid rim; Rim Ø 24cm; WM; Fine, gritty-textured yellow/brown fabric (5YR 4/6); contains quartz (>0.5mm) and occasional lime inclusions. Dry-shaved, unslipped surface; inclusions visible on surface. *Comments:* Northern Tunisia; variant of Hayes form 196. *Date:* c. 2nd-3rd century AD.

41. Trench A, 0.20m, box 6 (22.08.72)

Handled olla rim and handle; Rim Ø c.24cm; WM; Red/brown fabric (2.5YR 4/6-8); gritty fabric with lime (0.01-2mm) inclusions; hard fired with sharp breaks. Unslipped; mottled coarse surface with visible inclusions. Lines (Punic letters?) incised prior to firing. *Comments:* Local; Quercia 2002, type B8. *Date:* c. 3rd-2nd century BC.

42. Section 1 (area round vertical press), 0.40m, box 33 (30.08.72)

Bowl rim; Rim Ø 22cm; WM; Red-brown coarse fabric (2.5YR 4/8) with dark brown core (2.5YR 3/1); contains fine mica, white lime (>0.5-c. 2mm) and grog inclusions; fine matrix with hackley breaks; well-fired. Thin orange-red slip on surface (2.5YR 5/6-8) with black stains along edge of rim; inclusions and voids visible on surface. *Comments:* Local?; local imitation of Pompeian Red ware (Babette Bechtold (pers. comm.), September 2008); similar to Riley 1979, type D866-7 (Riley 1979, fig. 123.866-7). *Date:* c. 1st century BC to 1st century AD.

43. Section 1 (area near vertical press), 0[...]m, box 31 (03.08.72)

Lid knob; Knob Ø 8cm; WM; Hard-fired, gritty red/brown fabric (5YR 4/8); contains black volcanic (0.5-1mm), and large angular glass-like (quartz?; 1-1.5mm) inclusions. Unslipped, gritty textured surface. *Comments:* Pantellerian ware, Form L1-L2.1 (Guiducci 2003, p. 62; Montana *et al.* 2007, p. 457). *Date:* 4th-5th century AD.

44. Trench H, 0.20m, box 48 ([...])

Olla rim; Rim Ø 18cm; WM; Fine orange/brown fabric (2.5YR 5/8) with fine paste voids; contains lime and black matt spherical inclusions (0.5-1mm). Thin red wash covers rim and exterior surface (10R 5/6). *Comments:* Local?; similar to Riley form 497a (Riley 1979, pp. 258-259, fig. 102) and Blagg, Bonanno and Luttrell 1990: 54-55, fig. 13: 12. *Date:* c. 1st century AD?

45. Section 1 (area around vertical press), box 12 (23.08.72)

Olla rim with lid-locator; Rim Ø 19cm; WM; Hard gritty dark red/purple fabric (10R 3/1-2; 2.5YR 3/2) with hackled breaks; contains fine irregular quartz (>0.5mm), red grog (0.5-1mm) and white lime (>0.5-3mm) inclusions. Thin pale grey slip coats exterior surface (10YR 7/2-6/3); surfaces are smooth; inclusions are visible through surface and contains salt halos. *Comments:* North African; type unknown. *Date:* Late Punic period?

46. Trench [B], 0.20m, box 15 (14.08.72)

Pan rim; Rim Ø 36cm; WM(?); Pale brown to orange fabric (5YR 5/2) with black volcanic glass inclusions; hackled sharp breaks. Unslipped black to buff surface colour (5YR 6/3-4); faceted burnished striations on surfaces; inclusions visible through surface. *Comments:* Pantellerian ware, type G2.1-2 (Montana *et al.* 2007, fig. 2; Guiducci 2003, fig. 5; Fulford 1984b, p. 159). *Dates:* c. 4th-5th century AD.

47. Section 1 (area round vertical press), 0.40m, box 33 (30.08.72)

Pan profile; Base Ø c. 22cm; HM; Friable buff pink fabric (10YR 7/4) with various sizes of grog and lime inclusions.

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Rough unslipped surface same colour as fabric; blackened outer surface (soot?) along exterior surface of rim.

Comments: Local; Quercia 2002, type D4. *Date:* Unknown.

48. Trench E, 0.50m, box 37 (01.09.72)

Casserole grooved rim; fig. 143: 8; Rim Ø 20cm; WM; Fine red fabric (2.5YR 6-5/8); fine matrix with small voids; fine mica and red grog inclusions (>0.5mm). Smooth, yet grainy surface with a mica dusting. Surface is dark red (discoloured due to firing?). *Comments:* Northern Tunisia; Hayes form 197 (Hayes 1972, fig. 36). *Date:* Late 1st-sec. half of 2nd century AD.

49. Trench B (area round (0.60m) and inside channel), 0.40-0.60m (10.09.72)

Casserole rim and body; Rim Ø 26cm; WM

Red fabric (2.5YR 5/8) with fine matrix; fine voids; small lime (>0.5mm) and spherical black matt (>0.5mm) inclusions. Dark red slip (2.5YR 5/4) on exterior surface; light red slip (10R 5/8) on interior surface. Surface voids with salt halos. Soot marks on rim and below carination. *Comments:* North African; Riley, Mid-Roman cooking ware, type D510 (Riley 1979, fig. 103). *Date:* Early 2nd-3rd century AD.

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Endnotes

- ¹ The site was originally discovered in 1961 during construction for a new girl's school and a short excavation was conducted by the Museums Department in 1964. Organised archaeological excavations began in 1972 and continued annually until 1976; see Bonanno and Vella, this volume.
- ² Originally, 480 sherds were selected, drawn and recorded. However, at least one quarter of the selected pottery sherds did not fall into the dating range decided for this study. The majority of these sherds were tentatively dated to the Medieval and Early Modern period (Anastasi 2010, p. 68).
- ³ Since the completion of this study, several residual Bronze Age pottery sherds have been discovered from many of the earliest levels in the University of Malta (UOM)'s excavations, particularly from the earliest Punic levels in Areas B and C (see Bonanno and Vella, this volume).
- ⁴ One rim fragment of a dolium was recovered in the area of Bidnija, Malta, by the Malta Survey Project (MSP) 2008 – MSP2008/1/B21/W1/3. See preliminary report, Docter et al. 2012.
- ⁵ Many other fragments are known from other archaeological sites across Malta and Gozo (for instance the Melita excavations in Rabat, Malta and from Foreman Street excavations, Rabat, Gozo, conducted by the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage (SCH)). These pottery assemblages, however, remain unpublished.