

Catalog No. 0175**Name** (Narmer?) *serekh* from Rafiah (?)**Date (Period)** Dyn. 1**Date (King)** (Narmer?)**Dated By** Typological comparison**Type** Vessel**Method of Inscription** Incised**Material** Pottery**Region** The Southern Levant**Site** Rafiah (Sheikh Zumweid)**Locality** Unknown**Depository** Israel Museum (Jerusalem)**Registration No.** 69.31.367**Dimensions** 59 cm H (object)**References:**

Amiran, 1970, pp. 88-94, p. 88, pl. 1; p. 93, pl. 2

Helck, 1987, p. 130,

Kahl, 1994, p. 184, n. 175,

van den Brink, 1996, pp. 140-158, p. 142, Table 1, no. 3; p. 143, fig. 1, l.3, pl. 24b,c

van den Brink, 2001, pp. 24-27, p. 24, fig. l.3; p. 27, fig. 1

van den Brink and Gophna, 2004, p. 487-506; p. 490, fig. 2.1, p. 490, fig. 2.1; p. 491, fig. 2.3

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Regulski, Database of Early Dynastic Inscriptions,

Comments

Despite the fact that its provenance is almost certainly not "Rafia", that continues to be the way it is referred to. Although the jar was purchased from a dealer, Amiran , 1970 (p. 89, n.1) is "inclined to accept the dealer's information concerning the provenance of the jar (Rafiah)." According to van den Brink (1996: p. 156, n. 10), quoting a personal communication from Ram Gophna, the site is actually Wadi el-Arish. However in van den Brink and Gophna (2004: p. 489), the site is listed as Sheikh Zumweid.

Amiran 1970 dates the jar to very early in the 1st Dynasty, possibly Narmer. Van den Brink categorizes as Type I, which would be earlier than Narmer, and describes it as a "plain serekh". Van den Brink and Gophna (2004) read the inscription as "anonymous", and date it to earlier than Narmer. Kahl 1994 dates the serekh "(0. Dyn.)". Regulski dates it "Early Naqada III."

Editor's note: Helck 1987 includes Raphia in a list of sites in which the name of Narmer were found, but in a footnote he says "Hier auch einfache srh-Ritzungen" (Here also a simple *serekh*-incision). It seems most likely that the reading of Narmer's name was simply an error, rather than his intended interpretation.

It is very unlikely that this inscription dates to Narmer. An earlier date seems indicated.

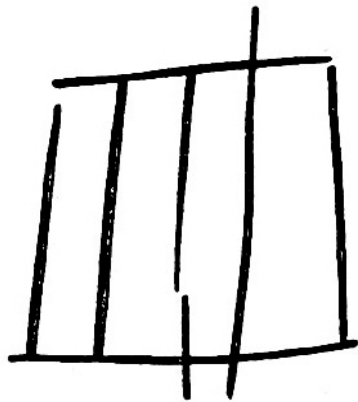
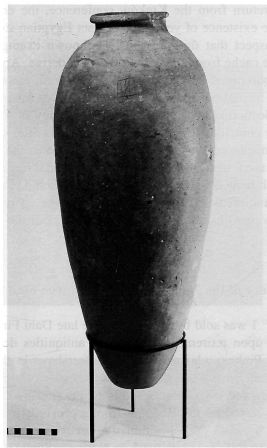


Fig. 1
I.a.1./ (jar type I)
Wadi el-Arish
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van den Brink, 1996

p. 142, Table 1, no. 3; p. 143, fig. 1, I.3, pl. 24b,



van den Brink and Gophna, 2004

p. 490, fig. 2.1; p. 491, fig. 2.3

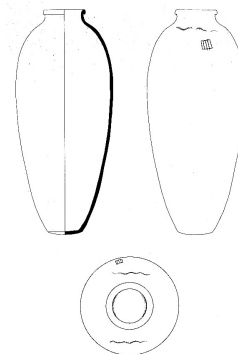


Fig. 2.3. Jar n° 2 section (H. c. 58 cm). 4. View on face.
5. Incised plain scroll



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