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Fig. II.1: The sherd yard at Tell Sabi Abyad in 1994, showing working benches and sherds packed for storage, and Olivier Nieuwenhuyse.

Fig. II.2: The sherd yard at Tell Sabi Abyad in 1994, Kim Duistermaat, Lauren Brüning and Wendy Richter.

Fig. II.3: The sherd yard at Tell Sabi Abyad in 2003, Renske Dooijes (restorer), Stefania Facco, Daan Isendoorn, Ewout Koek, Tonny de Wit.

Fig. II.4: Salem al-Mughlif counting sherds, 2003.

Fig. II.5: Salem’s daughter Fatima (r.) and her friend washing the sherds, 2003.
Fig. II.6: code sheet for pottery description
LBA POTTERY, LIST OF CODES FOR TELL SABI ABYAD.

SAB         year of excavation
SQUARE      square number
LOCUS       locus number
LOT         lot number (include multiple lot numbers if written on label)
DATE        date of excavation (on label)
SPY         initials of the person who filled out this codeform

NB: the date of the coding of the pottery can be added at the top of the form

Sherd number sequence number of the sherd in the bag, or the Masterfile number
Shape
First space:  1 whole vessel  Third space:  1 without handle
2 fragment
Second space:  1 bowl
2 pot
3 jar
4 goblet
5 strainer
6 tray
7 (not used)
8 varia
9 pot stand

Manufacture 1 hand made
2 wheel thrown
Inclusions
First space:  1 organic only, second space is left open
2 mineral only, second space is used for description
3 organic + mineral, second space is used for description
8 no visible inclusions
Second space:  0 fine lime and sand
1 grog
2 coarse sand / coarse quartz
3 coarse calcite
4 fine lime
5 fine sand

Firing
First space:  5 high
6 medium
7 low
Second space:  0 no sandwich
1 sandwich with a dark core
2 sandwich with another colour core

Exterior 1 no exterior treatment visible
2 wash
3 slip (solid layer of different clay)
4 glaze

Surface Treatment 1 no surface treatment visible
2 smoothed
3 scraped
4 burnished
5 smoothed and scraped

Colour (inside surface, outside surface, fracture colour)
1 cream
2 buff
3 orange
4 red
5 black
6 grey
7 green
8 brown
9 white
0 other (specify in the space for remarks)

Decoration (specify in remarks, draw all decorated sherds)
First space:  0 no decoration visible
1 painted
2 incised
3 applied
5 painted and incised/impressed
6 impressed
7 incised and applied
8 glaze
Second space:  1 horizontal line
2 wavy line
3 horizontal and wavy lines
4 other pattern
5 circles

Special features (specify in remarks if necessary)
First space:  0 no special features
1 burning traces
2 gypsum or lime crust
3 bitumen crust
4 base cracks
9 other
Second space:  1 as a repair
2 inside
3 outside
4 in- and outside
5 base cracks
6 also lime crust
7 also bitumen crust

Measurements
vessel height, rim diameter, rim thickness, base diameter measured in mm.

Vessel shape 00 feature (loose spout, handle, etc.), body sherd
01 bowl
02 pot
03 jar
04 base
05 lid
06 miniature
07 tray
08 pot stand
09 goblet
10 strainer
11 varia
12 bottle

Rim type (see shape typology)

Base type (see shape typology)

Ware (texture) 1 coarse
2 fine
3 common

Radius  Fraction of the complete vessel, measured in degrees (360 is a complete rim).

Drawing number (please number all drawings with the year of coding and the sequence number).
Remarks

Fig. II.7: Explanation of the coding system for the code sheet

Chapter II Illustrations
Fig. II.8: The “stacked cylinders” method for calculating the capacity of a vessel.