Chapter One
Historical Background of the Eastern Desert and Eastern Desert Ware

Figure 1-1: Map of Southeast Egypt and Northeast Sudan, showing the locations where Eastern Desert Ware has been found.

Figure 1-2: Map of the location of the Graeco-Roman beryl mines and other settlements in the Mons Smaragdus area.

Figure 1-3: The boundaries of the 350,000 km² area in which Eastern Desert Ware has been found within the UTM grid, gridlines are 100 km apart making each box 10,000 km².

Figure 1-4: Meroitic funerary inscription, 0-300 CE, on sandstone stela 192B.8.2 from the cemeteries around Qasr Ibrim.

Figure 1-5: Medjay is written with the bound prisoner or the throw stick determinative or with the foreign land determinative.

Figure 1-6: Part of a New Kingdom map of the Eastern Desert, showing the mines and quarries in the Wadi Hammamat.

Figure 1-7: Petroglyphs depicting a camel, in the forecourt of the temple of Shesmetat in Elkab, and a lion in Wadi al-Qash, on the left, and incised drawings of a cow, a fish and an ostrich on Eastern Desert Ware, on the right, showing great variety in style and subject matter.

Figure 1-8: The long-distance migratory routes through the Eastern Desert before the 20th century CE.

Figure 1-9: Petroglyphs depicting a camel, in the forecourt of the temple of Shesmetat in Elkab, and a lion in Wadi al-Qash, on the left, and incised drawings of a cow, a fish and an ostrich on Eastern Desert Ware, on the right, showing great variety in style and subject matter.

Figure 1-10: Blemmyes depicted in Marvels of the East and Shrewsbury Talbot Book of Romances.

Figure 1-11: Map showing the region where Eastern Desert Ware has been found, and is expected to be present, in relation to the peoples mentioned in the ancient sources.

Table 1-1: Latitude and longitude of Mons Smaragdus and selected points along the boundaries of the area in which Eastern Desert Ware has been found, enclosing approximately 350,000 km².

Table 1-2: Approximate date, location and function of the sites where Eastern Desert Ware has been described. The 18 sites that have produced the 290 sherds in this study are indicated in the last column on the right.

Table 1-3: UTM coordinates of Wadi Sikait and selected points along the boundaries of the area in which Eastern Desert Ware has been found, enclosing approximately 350,000 km².

Table 1-4: Chronologic overview of historic events with a direct influence on life in the Eastern Desert. The period in which Eastern Desert Ware occurs in the archaeological record is marked in grey.

Chapter Two
The Macroscopic Description of Eastern Desert Ware and its Comparison with Associated Pottery

Figure 2-1: Examples of Eastern Desert Ware from Berenike, Kab Marfu'a, Wadi Sikait, Tabot, Wadi Qitna, Kalabsha South, Kurgus, Gelli and Sayala. Some of the decorations may be skeuomorphs from baskertry or textiles.

Figure 2-2: Examples of Eastern Desert Ware from Berenike and Wadi Sikait (Mons Smaragdus).

Figure 2-3: Complete vessels attributed to the C-Horizon (around 2300-1500 BCE) found in Lower Nubia.

Figure 2-4: Parallels between Eastern Desert Ware sherds and vessels in this study and ‘H-ware’ excavated in Wadi Qitna and Kalabsha South.

Figure 2-5: Examples of fabric EDW-1 (top) and EDW-2 (bottom) seen in fresh breaks at low magnification.

Figure 2-6: Examples of W-ware (Egyptian white washed amphorae) frequently found in Wadi Qitna and Kalabsha South.

Figure 2-7: Examples of C-ware (cream Late Meroitic or X-Group cups and bowls) frequently found in Wadi Qitna and Kalabsha South.

Figure 2-8: Examples of R-ware (red to brown X-Group cups and bowls) frequently found in Wadi Qitna and Kalabsha South.

Figure 2-9: Examples of Late Roman amphora type 1 and North African cylindrical amphorae frequently found at Shenshef and contemporary sites in the Eastern Desert.

Figure 2-10: Examples of Egyptian red-slipped ware type A (ERSA) frequently found at Shenshef and contemporary sites in the Eastern Desert.

Figure 2-11: Examples of Egyptian red-slipped ware type B (ERSB) frequently found at Shenshef and contemporary sites in the Eastern Desert.

Figure 2-12: The relative percentages of wheel-thrown and hand-made pottery found in archaeological contexts in Medieval Nubia and the methods of decoration of the hand-made vessel.
Figure 2-13: top-left: the distribution of average thickness, size and robustness among all 290 Eastern Desert Ware vessels in this study; bottom-left: average thickness, size and robustness by region; top-right: surface treatment by region; bottom-right: triangular tool use by region.

Figure 2-14: Vessel properties by region.

Figure 2-15: top-left: distribution of Eastern Desert Ware vessel forms (H-classification) and lay-out of the decoration (D-classification) among all 290 Eastern Desert Ware sherds and vessels in this study; bottom-left: distribution of the fabrics among all 290 Eastern Desert Ware sherds and vessels in this study; top-right: the H-class (vessel form) of Eastern Desert Ware vessels plotted against their fabric; bottom-right: the robustness of Eastern Desert Ware vessels plotted against their fabric.

Figure 2-16: top-left: distribution of the Eastern Desert Ware fabric by region; top-right: distribution of Eastern Desert Ware H-classes (vessel form) by region; bottom-left: distribution of Eastern Desert Ware D-classes (lay-out of the decoration) by region; bottom-right: D-class (lay-out of the decoration) plotted against H-class.

Figure 2-17: Putative Eastern Desert Ware sherd from Lower Nubia in the collection of the Oriental Institute, University of Chicago, decorated with an incised depiction of a cow or an elephant.

Figure 2-18: Photographs showing the thorns at the base of a date palm frond (a), the incised and impressed patterns left by such thorns in a piece of plasticine (b), and the thorns used for this experiment.

Table 2-1: Quantification of the amount of Eastern Desert Ware (EDW) compared to all diagnostic sherds (rims, bases and handles) excavated in three sondages in Shenshef.

Table 2-2: Provenance of the 290 Eastern Desert Ware (EDW) sherds in this study, 248 were selected for detailed comparison: 64 from Kalabsha South and Wadi Qitna, 66 from the Mons Smaragdus area, 52 from Berenike and 66 from Nubt and Tabot.

Table 2-3: Overview of the classification system for Eastern Desert Ware by the shape of the vessel (H) and the lay-out of the decoration (D). See Strouhal 1984 or Appendix 4 for more details and examples.

Table 2-4: The characteristics of Nubian hand-made pottery (Family D) in Medieval times. Some of the decorations may be skeuomorphs from baskertry or textiles.

Table 2-5: Common ware types of Nubian hand-made pottery.

Table 2-6: Average ($\mu$) and standard deviation ($\sigma$) of the thickness (mm), the size ($cm^2$) and the robustness of all Eastern Desert Ware vessels compared to those in the Smaragdus, Berenike, Tabot and Qitna groups. Those in the Smaragdus group are twice closest to the average (Top), while those in the Qitna group are twice furthest from the average (Tail).

Table 2-7: Distribution of ‘special features’ among the 290 Eastern Desert Ware sherds and vessels in this study.

Chapter Three
The Provenance of Eastern Desert Ware as Suggested by the Chemical Composition of the Fabric of the Vessels

Figure 3-1: Some of the inclusions in Eastern Desert Ware from Berenike (Egypt) between crossed nicols (XPL) at 100x magnification.

Figure 3-2: Some of the inclusions in Eastern Desert Ware from Tabot (Sudan) between crossed nicols (XPL) at 100x magnification.

Figure 3-3: Diagram of a LA-ICP-MS instrument, consisting of a laser, an argon torch, a time-of-flight mass analyzer (ToF) and a multi channel plate ion detector (MCP), producing mass spectra (on the right) of the elemental composition of the inserted sample (on the left).

Figure 3-4: Path of the laser beam ablating part of the ceramic matrix for analysis by inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS).

Figure 3-5: Overview of the results of the elemental composition analysis by LA-ICP-MS of 141 Eastern Desert Ware sherds (a total of 189 measurements).

Figure 3-6: Average and maximum standard deviation (divided by maximum value to facilitate comparison) of 189 measurements, using LA-ICP-MS, of the elemental composition of 141 Eastern Desert Ware sherds.

Figure 3-7: Abundance of the elements samarium, on the x-axis, and cobalt , on the y-axis, in the fabric of 141 Eastern Desert Ware vessels (189 data points). In the graph at the bottom 7 data points on 5 Indian sherds excavated in Berenike are shown for comparison.

Figure 3-8: Graph showing the abundance of thulium, on the x-axis, and europium, on the y-axis, of Eastern Desert Ware sherds from the Nile Valley (top-left), the Red Sea coast (bottom-left), the Mons Smaragdus area (top-right) and the Sudanese Eastern Desert (bottom-right). The average values and the data points from two reference areas (Egypt and India) are also shown (top-left).
Eastern Desert Ware

Figure 3-10: Graph showing the abundance of thulium, on the x-axis, and europium, on the y-axis, of all 141 Eastern Desert Ware vessels (top); the abundance of cerium is added as the third dimension to the largest cluster of data points (below). The grey areas indicate seven hypothetical production areas.

Figure 3-11: Average relative abundance of selected elements in Eastern Desert Ware found in four regions in the Eastern Desert (left) and from seven hypothetical production areas (a - f/h), compared to the hypothetical source of the vessels found on the Red Sea coast and in Sudan (the 'Red Sea Mountains') and 20 wheel-thrown vessels produced in the Nile Valley during the Egyptian New Kingdom (right).

Figure 3-12: Eastern Desert Ware vessels associated with hypothetical production areas 'a', 'b' and 'c'.

Figure 3-13: Eastern Desert Ware vessels from hypothetical production areas 'd' and 'e'.

Figure 3-14: Eastern Desert Ware vessels from hypothetical production areas 'g' and 'f/h'.

Table 3-1: Arabic and English vernacular terms for clay and silt.

Table 3-2: Properties of the 44 elements measured in 141 Eastern Desert Ware vessels.

Table 3-3: Properties of 27 Eastern Desert Ware sherds associated with seven hypothetical production areas.

Table 3-4: Average abundance (in parts/million) of selected elements in Eastern Desert Ware found in four regions in the Eastern Desert (ED, top) and from seven hypothetical production areas (a - f/h), compared to the hypothetical source of the vessels found on the Red Sea coast and in Sudan (the 'Red Sea Mountains') and 20 wheel-thrown vessels produced in the Nile Valley during the Egyptian New Kingdom (NV, bottom).

Chapter Four
The Use of Eastern Desert Ware as Suggested by Lipid Residues in the Walls of the Vessels

Figure 4-1: Diagram of a GC/MS instrument, consisting of a gas chromatograph (GC), an electron impact ion source (EI), a time-of-flight mass analyzer (ToF) and a multi channel plate ion detector (MCP), producing mass spectra of the molecules in the sample injected into the inlet.

Figure 4-2: H-classification (form) and D-classification (lay-out) of the 51 Eastern Desert Ware sherds in this study.

Figure 4-3: Differences in retention time (Y-axis) of a series of saturated fatty acids (X-axis) inferred from twelve chromatogram resulting from a single sample preparation procedure (05/03).

Figure 4-4: Two chromatograms of the same sample (EDW 234) acquired 38 hours apart under similar conditions.

Figure 4-5: Distribution of the nine residue types encountered in Eastern Desert Ware by site, method of analysis, form of the vessel (H-classification) and lay-out of the decoration (D-classification).

Figure 4-6: Graphic representation of selected fatty acids ratios, with their tentative interpretation, in 51 Eastern Desert Ware sherds.

Figure 4-7: Graphic representation of the ratio of mono-unsaturated (X-axis) versus odd-chain fatty acids (Y-axis) in 51 Eastern Desert Ware sherds, marked for site, method of analysis, form of the vessel (H-classification) and lay-out of the decoration (D-classification).

Figure 4-8: The seven Eastern Desert Ware vessels of which the organic residues preserved in their ceramic matrix are discussed in this chapter.

Figure 4-9: Selected fatty acid ratios in fresh foodstuffs (above) and in seven selected Eastern Desert Ware sherds (below).

Figure 4-10: Ratios of mono-unsaturated and odd-chain fatty acids in seven selected Eastern Desert Ware sherds.

Figure 4-11: Chromatograms showing the organic molecules isolated from EDW 4, EDW 77, EDW 46 and EDW 87 identified by GC/MS.

Figure 4-12: Two chromatograms, both acquired by method 05/03, showing the organic molecules isolated from EDW 67 identified by GC/MS.

Table 4-1: Details of saturated fatty acids with 12-25 C-atoms.

Table 4-2: Data on the 51 Eastern Desert Ware sherds in this study.

Table 4-3: Overview of the details of the method used to extract and analyze lipid residues in Eastern Desert Ware.

Table 4-4: The residue types found in Eastern Desert Ware. Types D, G and J as well as F, P and R were later united into two larger groups (at the bottom of the table).

Table 4-5: Ratios of the mean saturated and mono-unsaturated fatty acids in various groups of foodstuffs.

Chapter Five
The Eastern Desert and the Production of Eastern Desert Ware

Figure 5-1: Satellite images of the Eastern Desert; a: Overview produced in October 2001 by NASA's Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS); b: Google Earth image of the Mons Smaragdus area showing the environs of the Graeco-Roman road station Apollonos (encircled) in Wadi Gamal (accessed April 2007); c: Google Earth image of the area in which Tabot and Nubt are located (accessed April 2007).
Figure 5-2: View of the Egyptian Eastern Desert, just inland from Berenike, showing a sandy valley (wadi) with scattered Acacia trees and Zilla shrubs bordered by gravel slopes and bare mountain tops.

Figure 5-3: Schematic section through the Eastern Desert landscape.

Figure 5-4: Map showing the approximate territories currently inhabiting the Eastern Desert as well as the major ancient sites that produced Eastern Desert Ware.

Figure 5-5: An Ababda ‘bayt al-birsh’ in southeast Egypt, near the Sudanese border.

Figure 5-6: A Beni Amer hut in northeast Sudan, near the Eritrean border.

Figure 5-7: A Hadendowa dwelling made of Euphorbia stems in northeast Sudan, near the Egyptian border.

Figure 5-8: Ababda headrest (wood and metal) in the collection of Bayt al-Ababda Museum in Wadi Gamal, Egypt. Such headrests are remarkably similar to those known from Ancient Egypt.

Figure 5-9: An Ababda woman surrounded by the paraphernalia for the Beja ‘coffee ceremony’. The ceramic coffee maker and cups are imported from Sudan and China respectively.

Figure 5-10: Statue of a jabanah (coffee maker) with cups at a road crossing near Suakin, Sudan.

Figure 5-11: A modern Ababda grave near Berenike with a metal cup and teapot.

Figure 5-12: Four of the vessels made to demonstrate the feasibility of the production of Eastern Desert Ware by pastoral nomads.

Table 5-1: Overview of the main periods of drought and famine in the Sudanese part of the Eastern Desert between 1890 and 1990.

Table 5-2: A possible chaîne opératoire for the archaeologically recovered sherds of Eastern Desert Ware.

Table 5-3: Barriers and motives for (nomadic) pottery production.

Chapter Six
Interpretative Summary and Conclusions

Table 6-1: The distribution of Eastern Desert Ware over three different landscapes and two different cultural spheres.

Table 6-2: Theoretical interpretations of the data on Eastern Desert Ware.

Appendix II
List of Sites at which Eastern Desert Ware has been described

Table 8-1: Overview of the sites were Eastern Desert Ware has been found.

Appendix III
Historical sources on the Blemmyes, the Beja, the Megabaroi and the Trogodytes

Table 9-1: Historical sources on the Blemmyes as collected in the Fontes Historiae Nubiorum (a).

Table 9-2: Historical sources on the Beja, the Megabaroi and the Trogodytes as collected in the Fontes Historiae Nubiorum (a).

Table 9-3: Historical sources on the Blemmyes as collected in the Fontes Historiae Nubiorum (b).

Table 9-4: Historical sources on the Beja, the Megabaroi and the Trogodytes as collected in the Fontes Historiae Nubiorum (b).

Table 9-5: Historical sources on the Blemmyes as collected in the Fontes Historiae Nubiorum (c).

Table 9-6: Historical sources on the Beja, the Megabaroi and the Trogodytes as collected in the Fontes Historiae Nubiorum (c).

Appendix IV
Classification System for Eastern Desert Ware by Vessel Form and Lay-out of the Decoration

Table 10-1: Classification Eastern Desert Ware vessels by shape.

Table 10-2: Classification of Eastern Desert Ware vessels by the lay-out of the decoration.

Table 10-3: Common motifs on Eastern Desert Ware.

Appendix V
Catalogue of the Eastern Desert Ware Sherds and Vessels in this Study

Figure 11-1: Eastern Desert Ware 1-10.

Figure 11-2: Eastern Desert Ware 11-20.

Figure 11-3: Eastern Desert Ware 21-32.

Figure 11-4: Eastern Desert Ware 33-48.

Figure 11-5: Eastern Desert Ware 49-60.

Figure 11-6: Eastern Desert Ware 61-78.

Figure 11-7: Eastern Desert Ware 79-95.

Figure 11-8: Eastern Desert Ware 97-115.

Figure 11-9: Eastern Desert Ware 116-136.

Figure 11-10: Eastern Desert Ware 137-159.

Figure 11-11: Eastern Desert Ware 161-178.

Figure 11-12: Eastern Desert Ware 178-192.

Figure 11-13: Eastern Desert Ware 193-210.

Figure 11-14: Eastern Desert Ware 211-227.

Figure 11-15: Eastern Desert Ware 228-242.

Figure 11-16: Eastern Desert Ware 243-255.

Figure 11-17: Eastern Desert Ware 256-276.

Figure 11-18: Eastern Desert Ware 277-290.

Table 11-1: Summary of the properties of the Eastern Desert Ware sherds and vessels in this study.
Eastern Desert Ware

Table 11-2: Possible parallels between sherds and vessels identified as Eastern Desert Ware.

Appendix VI
Outline of the Geology of the Eastern Desert

Figure 12-1: Geological maps of the areas about 100 km (approximately one degree of longitude of latitude) around Berenike, on the Egyptian Red Sea coast, and Tabot, in the Sudanese Eastern Desert.

Table 12-1: Schematic overview of the main geological features in the Eastern Desert, between the Nile Valley and the Red Sea in southeast Egypt and northeast Sudan.

Appendix VII
Clay Minerals

Figure 13-1: Different classification diagrams for soil texture based on composition.

Figure 13-2: Schematic representation of a silicate ion (SiO$_4$)$^{4-}$, the basis for the silicate minerals, including the phyllosilicates (sheet silicates).

Figure 13-3: Schematic representation of the tetrahedral (left) and octahedral (right) configuration of anions around a relatively small cation.

Figure 13-4: Schematic representation of a tetrahedral sheet, with one plane formed by apices and the other by sides (top); and an octahedral sheets (bottom), a they appear in phyllosilicates (sheet silicates).

Figure 13-5: Schematic representation of the configuration of atoms in a 1:1 layer, consisting of one tetrahedral and one octahedral sheet (top), and in a 2:1 layer, consisting on one octahedral and two tetrahedral sheets (bottom).

Table 13-1: Different classification systems for soil particles based on their size (2000 μm = 2 mm).

Table 13-2: The theoretical charge distribution in kaolinite (1:1) clay.

Table 13-3: General cation composition of different kaolinite minerals.

Table 13-4: The theoretical charge distribution in smectite clays.

Table 13-5: The theoretical charge distribution in illite minerals.

Table 13-6: The theoretical charge distribution in chlorite minerals.

Table 13-7: General cation composition of different chlorite minerals.

Appendix VIII
Thin-Sections of Eastern Desert Ware

Figure 14-1: A selection of petrographic thin-sections of Eastern Desert Ware vessels from Berenike (left) and Tabot (right), both in non-polarized light without magnification, illustrative of the surfaces analyzed by LA-ICP-MS, and between crossed nicols (cross-polarized light, XPL) at 40x magnification.

Appendix IX
Chemical Composition of Selected Sherds

Figures 15-1: Chemical composition of EDW 119, 123, 127, 129, 143, 150 (all found at Tabot), 157 (found at Nubt) and 158 (found at Qasr Ibim) as determined by three different measurements using LA-ICP-MS.

Figure 15-2: Signal and noise of the LA-ICP-MS measurements of Eastern Desert Ware, for each of the 44 measured elements, as inferred from three separate measurements of eight selected sherds.

Appendix XI
Open Fire Temperature Measurements

Figure 17-1: Theoretical lay-out of a thermocouple set to measure large temperature differences.

Figure 17-2: A K-type thermocouple employed to record the temperature of an open wood fire.

Figure 17-3: Correlation between the temperature and the voltage in a K-type thermocouple.

Figure 17-4: Temperature curves in an open wood fire compared to the temperature of the soil below a continuous wood fire and inside an electric pottery kiln, with kiln sitter 012, until just after it shuts off.

Table 17-1: Freezing and boiling temperatures of liquids commonly used in thermometers.

Table 17-2: Correlation of °F and °C.

Table 17-3: Correlation between the temperature and the voltage in a K-type thermocouple.

Table 17-4: Conversion table from 0 - 1000°C into °F.