Cambridge Elements

Elements in Ancient Egypt in Context
edited by
Gianluca Miniaci
University of Pisa
Juan Carlos Moreno García
CNRS, Paris
Anna Stevens
University of Cambridge and Monash University

CERAMIC PERSPECTIVES
ON ANCIENT EGYPTIAN
SOCIETY

Leslie Anne Warden
Roanoke College
Ceramic Perspectives on Ancient Egyptian Society

Elements in Ancient Egypt in Context

DOI: 10.1017/9781108881487
First published online: May 2021

Leslie Anne Warden
Roanoke College

Author for correspondence: Leslie Anne Warden, warden@roanoke.edu

Abstract: This Element demonstrates how ceramics, a dataset that is more typically identified with chronology than social analysis, can forward the study of Egyptian society writ large. This Element argues that the sheer mass of ceramic material indicates the importance of pottery to Egyptian life. Ceramics form a crucial dataset with which Egyptology must critically engage, and which necessitate working with the Egyptian past using a more fluid theoretical toolkit. This Element will demonstrate how ceramics may be employed in social analyses through a focus on four broad areas of inquiry: regionalism; ties between province and state, elite and non-elite; domestic life; and the relationship of political change to social change. While the case studies largely come from the Old through Middle Kingdoms, the methods and questions may be applied to any period of Egyptian history.

Keywords: Egyptian society, Old Kingdom, Middle Kingdom, Egyptian economy, Pottery

© Leslie Anne Warden 2021

ISBNs: 9781108744133 (PB), 9781108881487 (OC)
ISSNs: 2516-4813 (online), (online), 2516-4805 (print)
Contents

1 Ceramics as Dataset 1
2 Integration of State and Province 10
3 Investigating Egyptian Regionalism 23
4 The Relationship of Political to Social Change 37
5 The Complexity of Private Life 50
6 Finding People through Potsherds 68

Glossary 73
References 76