

Fact sheet 11

Domestic artifacts

Whether or not the workmen in a quarry were there on a permanent or temporary basis, they left artifacts which can provide important information about the size and organization of the labour force. *Pottery* can be located in association with the social infrastructure, such as stone-built features and also in places of stone extraction. Such evidence is key in terms of indirectly determining periods when quarrying occurred and when found associated with stone-built features in secure contexts, is important to dating such structures. Typologies of ceramics can indicate

not only chronology, but can aid in characterising subsistence patterns of a labour force, particularly when associated with organic remains. In addition, studies of ceramic fabrics can indicate whether pottery was locally made or imported to a quarry, this can have implications in determining the extent to which outside ‘agencies’ or a centralised bureaucracy were involved in the provisioning of a labour force. Other artifacts that may be found in quarries include grinding stones, whetstones and other kinds of domestic tools.



Old Kingdom ceramics found in Chephren's Quarry, Egypt. a) pouring vessel (found in well), b) bread mould, c) beer/wine jar



New Kingdom and Roman pottery as found in a shelter in a sandstone quarry, Aswan, Egypt.



Used grinding stone found in temporary settlement, Chephren's Quarry, Egypt