

# Ponovno datiranje tri staroegipatska predmeta iz razdoblja Naqade I.-III. i arhajskog perioda u Muzeju Mimara u Zagrebu

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# Ponovno datiranje tri staroegipatska predmeta iz razdoblja Naqade I.–III. i arhajskog perioda u Muzeju Mimara u Zagrebu

## *Re-dating of three Ancient Egyptian artefacts from Naqada I-III and the Archaic Period in the Mimara Museum in Zagreb*

Prethodno priopćenje  
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*U više od 25 muzeja i poznatih privatnih zbirki u Hrvatskoj čuva se između 4500 i 5000 staroegipatskih predmeta. Samo jedan muzej i jedna privatna zbirka u Hrvatskoj sadrže predmete iz razdoblja kulture Naqada i preddinastičkog (arhajskog) perioda. Tri se čuvaju u Muzeju Mimara u Zagrebu i to su: posuda od crvene breccije, alabasterna zdjela i mala bočica od pečene zemlje. Svi ostali predmeti se nalaze u posjedu privatnog kolekcionara gosp. Bošnjaka iz Kutine. Oni uključuju raznovrsne posude iz razdoblja kultura Naqada I.–III. kao i neke druge predmete iz arhajskog perioda. Oni su prethodno spomenuti u jednom katalogu (Bobovec 1991) i članku (Tomorad 2009: 539). Analiza izložena u ovom radu pokazala je da su svi ti predmeti stariji nego što se to ranije smatralo. Nova datiranja temelje se na komparativnoj analizi predmeta iz zbirki brojnih svjetskih muzeja te novih članaka, muzejskih kataloga i knjiga o preddinastičkim kulturama i arhajskom periodu.*

*Ključne riječi: stari Egipat, Muzej Mimara u Zagrebu, Naqada I.–III., arhajski period (dinastija I–II), posude, zdjele, Hator.*

*Approximately 4500 to 5000 Egyptian artefacts are presently kept in more than 25 museums and private collections in Croatia. Only one of these museums and one private collection contain artefacts from the Naqada and the Early dynastic (Archaic) periods. Three of these are kept in the Mimara Museum in Zagreb: a red breccia vessel, an alabaster bowl, and a small terracotta bottle. All other artefacts are kept in the private collection of Mr. Bošnjak from Kutina and they include various vessels and containers from the Naqada I–III cultures and certain other objects from the Archaic period. These objects were only previously mentioned in a small catalogue (Bobovec 1991) and a paper (Tomorad 2009: 539). The analysis presented in this paper shows that all these artefacts were crafted earlier than previously thought. New dates are proposed based on new comparative material from the collections around the world, and several new papers, museum catalogues and books about Pre-dynastic and Archaic periods.*

*Keywords: Ancient Egypt, Mimara Museum in Zagreb, Naqada I–III, Archaic period (Dynasty I–II), vessels, bowls, Hathor.*

### **Uvod**

Otprilike 4500 do 5000 staroegipatskih predmeta čuva se u Hrvatskoj (Tomorad 2006a: 1–2; Tomorad, u tisku). Većina artefakata može se pronaći u arheološkim i područnim muzejima (c. 4000) (Tomorad 2005: 2; 2006a: 4; Tomorad, u tisku). Prilično veliki broj predmeta također se čuva kod privatnih kolekcionara (između 400–1000) (Tomorad 2006a: 37; Tomorad, u tisku). Oni se datiraju u razdoblje od 4. tisućljeća pr. Kr. do 7. stoljeća. Gotovo svi ovi predmeti, koji se čuvaju u muzejima, datirani su u razdoblje od Srednjeg kraljevstva do arapskog osvajanja Egipta sredinom 7. stoljeća. Najstariji staroegipatski predmet, mala preddinastijska čaša iz razdoblja kulture Badari (o. 4400–4000. g. pr. Kr.) čuva se u Gradskom muzeju Varaždin (Tomorad, Uranić 2006: 88–89; Tomorad 2009: 540–541; Tomorad, u tisku). U Muzeju Mima-

### **Introduction**

Approximately 4500 to 5000 Ancient Egyptian artefacts are kept in Croatia (Tomorad 2006a: 1–2; Tomorad, in press). The majority of these artefacts can be found in various archaeological and regional museums (c. 4000) (Tomorad 2005: 2; 2006a: 4; Tomorad, in press). A rather large number of artefacts are kept by private collectors (c. 400–1000) (Tomorad 2006a: 37; Tomorad, in press). They can be dated from the 4<sup>th</sup> millennium BC to the 7<sup>th</sup> century AD. Almost all of these objects, which are housed in Croatian museums, have been dated from the Middle Kingdom to the Arab conquest of Egypt in the mid-7<sup>th</sup> century AD. The oldest Ancient Egyptian artefact, a small Pre-dynastic cup from the Badari culture (c. 4400–4000 BC), is housed in the Varaždin Municipal Museum (Tomorad, Uranić 2006: 88–89; Tomorad

ra u Zagrebu nalaze se tri rijetka i vrlo vrijedna predmeta koji se datiraju u razdoblje kultura Naqade i ranodinastijski (arhajski) period. To su: posuda od crvene breccije (kasna Naqada I.–Naqada III.), alabasterna zdjela (Naqada III.–arhajski period) i malena bočica od terakote (Naqada II.–arhajski period). Drugi poznati preddinastijski i arhajski staroegipatski predmeti dio su privatne zbirke Kovačić-Bošnjak koja je prezentirana javnosti u Kutini u kasno proljeće 1991. Zbirka sadrži oko 500 predmeta. Tijekom izložbe 1991. predstavljeno je 100 predmeta koji su datirani od Naqade I. do rimskog razdoblja (Bobovac 1991). Samo podrijetlo ove privatne zbirke je i dalje nepoznato (Tomorad 2003: 78; 2005: 36; Tomorad, u tisku). Gospodin Bošnjak ponudio ju je na ekspertizu radi mogućeg otkupa od strane Arheološkog muzeja u Zagrebu prije nekoliko godina. Muzejski kustos i egiptolog Igor Uranić odbio je ponudu ponajviše zbog činjenice što je većina predmeta vrlo loše očuvana što znatno umanjuje vrijednost cijele zbirke.

### Preddinastijski i arhajski egipatski predmeti iz Muzeja Mimara u Zagrebu

Muzej Mimara nalazi se na adresi Rooseveltov trg 5, jednom od najljepših trgova u Zagrebu, Hrvatska. Otvoren je za javnost 17. srpnja 1987. (Tomorad 2003: 9, 63; 2005: 11; Tomorad, u tisku). Umjetnička djela smještena u njemu donirao je Ante Topić Mimara (Korušca, 1898. – Zagreb, 1987.) gradu Zagrebu i Socijalističkoj Republici Hrvatskoj u dva navrata. Prva donacija zbilja se 6. listopada 1973., a druga 29. listopada 1986. (Tomorad 2003: 9, 64; 2005: 11; Tomorad, u tisku). Tijekom svog avanturističkog života, Mimara je živio u Parizu, Berlinu, Münchenu, Tangieru, Salzburgu i Zagrebu, gdje je upoznao brojne europske kolekcionare svog vremena. Njegova ljubav prema umjetnosti i kulturi rezultirala je impresivnom umjetničkom zbirkom od 3750 predmeta iz svih razdoblja ljudske povijesti. Nažalost Muzej Mimara ne posjeduje podatke o podrijetlu predmeta niti o vremenu njihove nabavke. Mimara ih je vjerojatno kupio od nekog privatnog kolekcionara ili trgovca antikvitetima negdje na prostoru Europe ili sjeverne Afrike između dva svjetska rata.

Predmeti staroegipatske provenijencije čuvaju se u dvije velike zbirke: *Zbirci starih civilizacija* (32 predmeta koji se datiraju od preddinastijskih kultura do koptskog perioda) i *Zbirci stakla* (470 predmeta koji se datiraju od Srednjeg kraljevstva do bizantskog perioda) (Tomorad 2003: 63–69; 2005: 11–13; 2006a: 16–18, 270; Tomorad, u tisku). Tri preddinastijska i ranodinastijska predmeta dio su *Zbirke starih civilizacija*. Predmeti poput njih obično su iskopani tijekom arheoloških istraživanja dobro poznatih preddinastijskih i ranodinastijskih lokaliteta Gornjeg Egipta poput: Naqade, Hierakonpola, Abidosa, Tinisa, Abusir el-Meleq, Tarkhan, Memfis, Sakara itd. od razdoblja kasnog 19. stoljeća (Morgan 1896; 1897; Petrie, Quibell 1896; Petrie 1899; Petrie, Griffith 1900; 1901; Petrie, Weigall 1902; 1903; Petrie 1920; 1921; Brunton et al. 1927; Brunton, Caton-Thompson 1928; Keiser 1957; Emery 1961; Kemp 1967; Hoffman 1980; Adams 1988: 11–19; Hendrickx 1989; Kemp 1989: 19–107; Bard 1994; Hendrickx 1995; Wilkinson 1996; 1999: 3–26; Bard 2000: 61–88; Midant-Reynes 2000a: 44–60; 2000b: 169–250; Hendrickx

2009: 540–541; Tomorad, in press). The Mimara Museum in Zagreb keeps three rare and very valuable objects, dated between the Naqada cultures and the Archaic period: a red breccia vessel (late Naqada I–Naqada II), an alabaster bowl (Naqada III–Archaic period) and a small terracotta bottle (Naqada II–Archaic period). The other known Pre-dynastic and Archaic Ancient Egyptian artefacts were part of the Kovačić-Bošnjak private collection, which was presented at a small exhibition in Kutina in late spring 1991. This collection contains approximately 500 artefacts. During the exhibition in 1991 around 100 Egyptian artefacts were displayed, dating from the Naqada I period to the Roman era (Bobovac 1991). The origin of this collection is still unknown (Tomorad 2003: 78; 2005: 36; Tomorad, in press). A few years ago, Mr. Bošnjak offered it to the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb for examination and possible acquisition. The Museum curator and Egyptologist Igor Uranić rejected that acquisition. The main reason for the rejection was the bad preservation of the artefacts which diminishes the value of the whole collection.

### Pre-dynastic and Archaic Egyptian artefacts from the Mimara Museum in Zagreb

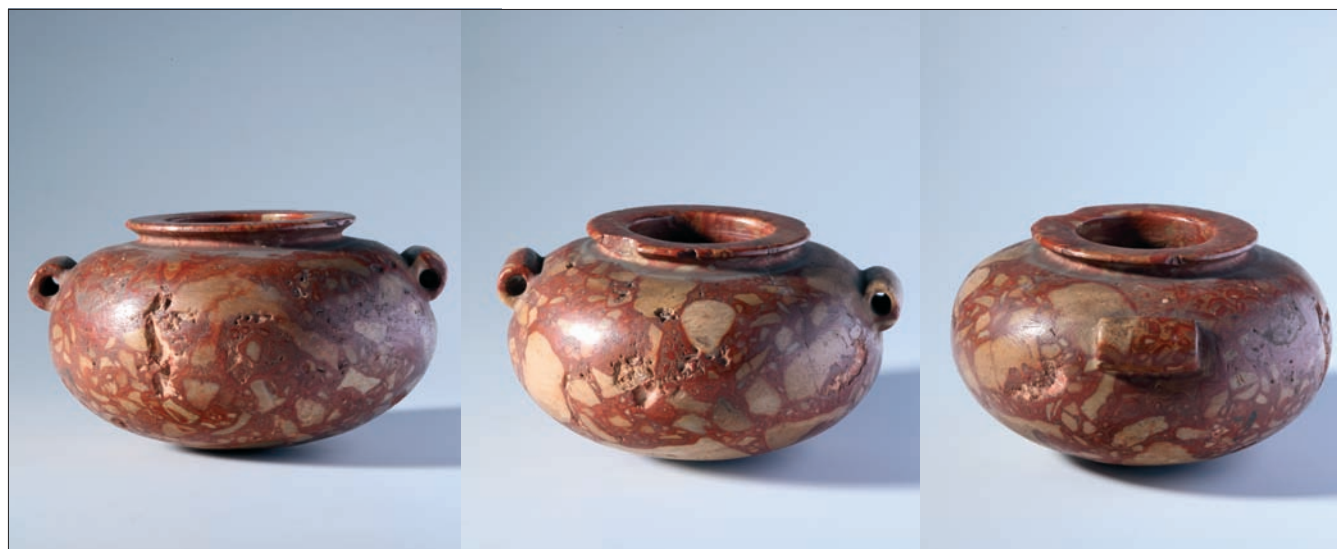
The Mimara Museum is located at 5 Roosevelt Square, one of the most beautiful squares in Zagreb, Croatia. It was opened to the public on July 17<sup>th</sup> 1987 (Tomorad 2003: 9, 63; 2005: 11; Tomorad, in press). The art treasures housed in the museum were donated by Ante Topić Mimara (Korušca, 1898 – Zagreb, 1987) to the City of Zagreb and the Socialist Republic of Croatia in two occasions. The first donation took place on October 6<sup>th</sup> 1973 and the second on October 29<sup>th</sup> 1986 (Tomorad 2003: 9, 64; 2005: 11; Tomorad, in press). During his adventurous life, Mimara lived in Paris, Berlin, Munich, Tangier, Salzburg and Zagreb, where he met famous European collectors of his time. His love of art and culture resulted in an impressive art collection of 3750 artefacts from all periods of the history of mankind. Sadly, the Mimara Museum does not have any records of the origin and dates of purchases of these artefacts. Mimara most likely bought them from private collectors or dealers in antiquities somewhere in Europe or North Africa between the two world wars.

The artefacts of Egyptian provenance are kept in two large collections: *The Collection of Ancient Civilizations* (32 artefacts dating from the Pre-dynastic cultures to the Coptic period) and *The Glass Collection* (470 artefacts dating from the Middle Kingdom to the Byzantine period) (Tomorad 2003: 63–69; 2005: 11–13; 2006a: 16–18, 270; Tomorad, in press). Three Pre-dynastic and Early dynastic artefacts are kept in the *Collection of Ancient Civilizations*. Artefacts such as these were usually unearthed during the excavations of all the well-known Pre-dynastic and Early dynastic Egyptian sites of Upper Egypt, such as Naqada, Hierakonpolis, Abydos, Thinis, Abusir el-Meleq, Tarkhan, Memphis, Saqqara etc. since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century (Morgan 1896; 1897; Petrie, Quibell 1896; Petrie 1899; Petrie, Griffith 1900; 1901; Petrie, Weigall 1902; 1903; Petrie 1920; 1921; Brunton et al. 1927; Brunton, Caton-Thompson 1928; Keiser 1957; Emery 1961; Kemp 1967; Hoffman 1980; Adams 1988: 11–19; Hendrickx 1989; Kemp 1989: 19–107; Bard 1994; Hendrickx 1995; Wilkinson 1996; 1999: 3–26; Bard 2000: 61–88; Midant-Reynes 2000a: 44–60; 2000b: 169–250; Hendrickx 2006; Tomorad

2006; Tomorad 2006b: 13–28; Bard 2008: 91–120; Wenke 2009: 181–229; Hendrickx, Foster 2010; Koehler 2010; Wilkinson 2010; Friedman 2011; Hendrickx 2011a; 2011b; 2011c; Stevenson 2011; Tomorad, u tisku).

### Katalog preddinastijskih i ranodinastijskih predmeta u Muzeju Mimara u Zagrebu

#### 1. Posuda (sl. 1)



Sl. 1 Crvena braccia posuda, inv. br. ATM 230 (Muzej Mimara, Zagreb): a. prednja strana, b. stražnja strana, c. bočna strana  
Fig. 1 Red braccia vessel, Inv. No. ATM 230 (Museum Mimara, Zagreb): a. front view, b. back view, c. lateral view

**Muzej:** Muzej Mimara – Zbirka umjetnina Ante i Wiltrud Topić Mimara

**Zbirka:** Zbirka starih civilizacija

**Inv. br.:** ATM 230

**Materijal:** crvena breccia<sup>1</sup>

**Dimenzije:** visina 6,7 cm; gornji dijametar posude: 11,3 cm; donji dijametar posude: 4,5 cm

**Datacija:** kasna Naqada I. – Naqada III. (o. 3600. – 3000. g. pr. Kr.)

**Provenijencija:** Egipat; točno nalazište je vrlo upitno  
**Prilikom prethodne objave nije detaljno analizirana**

**Bibliografija:**

Tomorad 2003: 64, fn. 384; 2005: 12; 2006: 270; 2009: 542–543

**Opis:**

Posuda je izrađena u obliku niskog okruglog lonca s malom okruglom bazom (4,5 cm), relativno malim vratom i uzdignutim konveksnim širokim rubom. Malene probušene cilindrične drške smještene su na obje strane. Ovi oblici posuda s cilindričnim drškama i rubovima, kakvi su vidljivi na ovom primjerku, uglavnom su se izrađivali tijekom razdoblja kulture Naqada. One su se obično koristile u svakodnevno životnim aktivnostima te su otkrivene prilikom iskapanja raznovrsnih grobnica gdje su smještene kao tipični

<sup>1</sup> Breccia od kamena vapnenca je sedimentni kamen koji sadrži velike, uglaste fragmente kamena vapnenca. Termin „breccia“ odnosi se na kamen s uglastim fragmentima (u kontrastu s okruglim fragmentima u kglomeratu), ali također je važno napomenuti da su cijelokupni sastav kao i njegova tekstura vezani uz kamen vapnenac. Definicija prema: Aston et al. 2000: 42.

2006b: 13–28; Bard 2008: 91–120; Wenke 2009: 181–229; Hendrickx, Foster 2010; Koehler 2010; Wilkinson 2010; Friedman 2011; Hendrickx 2011a; 2011b; 2011c; Stevenson 2011; Tomorad, in press).

### Catalogue of Pre-dynastic and Early Dynastic artefacts in the Mimara Museum in Zagreb

#### 1. Vessel (Fig. 1)

**Museum:** Mimara Museum – Collection of artefacts Ante and Wiltrud Topić Mimara

**Collection:** Collection of Ancient Civilizations

**Inv. no.:** ATM 230

**Material:** Red breccia<sup>1</sup>

**Dimensions:** height 6.7 cm; the upper diameter: 11.3 cm; the bottom diameter: 4.5 cm

**Dating:** late Naqada I – Naqada II (c. 3600–3200 BC)

**Provenance:** Egypt; the exact site is questionable

**Previously not analysed**

**Bibliography:**

Tomorad 2003: 64, fn. 384; 2005: 12; 2006: 270; 2009: 542–543

**Description:**

The vessel was made in the form of a squat globular jar with small round base (4.5 cm), relatively short neck and wide elevated convex rim. There is a small pierced cylindrical handle on either side of the vessel. These shapes of vessels, along with cylindrical lugs and rims, which can be seen on this specimen, were mostly crafted during the period of the Naqada culture. They were commonly used in everyday life activities. Such vessels were very often excavated in various tombs where they were placed as typical funerary equipment (Tomorad 2006b: 14). Breccia was one

<sup>1</sup> Limestone breccia is a sedimentary rock containing large, angular fragments of limestone. The term „breccia“ denotes a rock with angular fragments (in contrast to the rounded fragments in a conglomerate) but it is also important to indicate the composition as well as the texture by prefixing the name with „limestone“. Definition by: Aston et al. 2000: 42.



dio pogrebne opreme (Tomorad 2006b: 14). Breccia je bila jedna od prvih vrsta kamena koja se uobičajeno koristila za izradu posuda od razdoblja Naqada I. do kraja 4. dinastije (Aston et al. 2000: 43).

#### Komparativni materijal:

Vrlo slične posude čuvaju se u *Oriental Institute Museum* u Chicagu (inv. br. E10862 u: Teeter 2011: 183)<sup>2</sup>, *Ägyptisches Museum und Papyrussammlung, Neues Museum* u Berlinu (Keiser 1967: 14–15, Cat. 101–113), *University College of London, Petrie Museum* (inv. br. UC.4428, UC.15587, UC.15595), *British Museum* u Londonu (inv. br. EA29314); *Brooklyn Museum of Art* (inv. br. 35.1314), *Liverpool Museum* (inv. br. 49.47.401), *Musée du Louvre* in Parizu<sup>3</sup>, *Egyptian Museum* u Kairu<sup>4</sup> itd.

#### Tip i tipologija:

Prema Petrievoj tipologiji preddinastijskih kamenih posuda ova posuda spada u skupinu posuda s okruglim zdepastim tijelom tip E iz razdoblja Naqade I. (Petrie 1920: 34–36, Pl. XXXVII; Adams 1988: 34)

#### Datacija:

Posuda je prethodno datirana u ranodinastijsko razdoblje (Tomorad 2009: 542–543). Daljnja analiza i usporedba sa sličnim posudama koje se čuvaju u brojnim svjetskim muzejima natjerale su me da promijenim raniju dataciju ovog predmeta.

Ovaj oblik posude s okruglim zdepastim tijelom bio je jako popularan u periodu od kasne Naqade I. (o. 3600.–3500. g. pr. Kr.) i Naqade II. (o. 3500.–3200. g. pr. Kr.) (Petrie 1920: 34–36, Pl. XXXVII; Adams 1988: 34; Teeter 2011: 191) te su one obično iskopane na gotovo svim preddinastijskim lokalitetima ovog razdoblja. Tijekom Naqade I.–III. slične posude izrađivale su se od raznih vrsta kamena (uglavnom od crvene breccije i porfirija) (Lucas 1930) i širokog raspona veličina (Petrie 1920: Pl. XXXVII), od vrlo malenih do jako velikih (ponekad su one bile i dva do tri puta veće od posude iz Muzeja Mimara) što potvrđuje pretpostavku da je i ova posuda vjerojatno izrađena tijekom preddinastijskih kultura Naqada.<sup>5</sup>

#### Materijal i očuvanost:

Posuda je izrađena od crvene breccije. Posude od crvene i bijele breccije obično su se izrađivale tijekom razdoblja Naqade. Crvena breccija korištena za izradu ove posude je vjerojatno isklesana iz nekog kamenoloma uz zapadnu obalu Nila čija se nalazišta nalaze sjeverno od Niniaha, u blizini Asyuta, na području Tebe i u blizini Esne (Lucas 1930: 206; Aston et al. 2000: 43). Preddinastijske posude poput ove izrađene su od male količine kamena koji se vjerojatno isko-

of the first types of stones commonly used for vessels from the Naqada I period until the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> dynasty (Aston et al. 2000: 43).

#### Comparative material:

Very similar vessels are kept in the *Oriental Institute Museum* in Chicago (inv. no. E10862 in: Teeter 2011: 183)<sup>2</sup>, *Ägyptisches Museum und Papyrussammlung, Neues Museum* in Berlin (Keiser 1967: 14–15, Cat. 101–113), *the University College of London, Petrie Museum* (inv. nos. UC.4428, UC.15587, UC.15595), the *British Museum* in London (inv. no. EA29314); the *Brooklyn Museum of Art* (inv. no. 35.1314), the *Liverpool Museum* (inv. no. 49.47.401), the *Musée du Louvre* in Paris<sup>3</sup>, the *Egyptian Museum* in Cairo<sup>4</sup> etc.

#### Type and typology:

According to Petrie's typology of Pre-dynastic stone vase shapes, this vessel belongs to squat shaped vases, type E, from the Naqada I period (Petrie 1920: 34–36, Pl. XXXVII; Adams 1988: 34)

#### Dating:

The vessel was previously dated to the Early dynastic period (Tomorad 2009: 542–543). Further analysis and comparison with similar vessels from various museums in the world forced me to change the previous dating of this object.

This type of round-body squat vessel was very popular during the period from the late Naqada I (c. 3600–3500 BC) to the Naqada II culture (c. 3500–3200 BC) (Petrie 1920: 34–36, Pl. XXXVII; Adams 1988: 34; Teeter 2011: 191) and they were commonly excavated in almost all Pre-dynastic sites from these periods. During Naqada I–III similar vessels were made in various kinds of stones (mostly red breccia and porphyry) (Lucas 1930) and in a wide range of sizes (Petrie 1920: Pl. XXXVII), from very small to very large (sometimes they were even two or three times bigger than the vessel from the Mimara Museum), so it was definitely crafted during the Pre-dynastic cultures of Naqada.<sup>5</sup>

#### Material and preservation:

The vessel is made of red breccia. Vessels made of red and white breccia were usually made during the Naqada periods. The red breccia used for this vessel was probably cut from a quarry on the west bank of the Nile north of Niniah, near Asyut, in the region of Thebes and near Esna (Lucas 1930: 206; Aston et al. 2000: 43). Pre-dynastic vessels such as this one were made of a small amount of stone, which was probably obtained from a cliff on the west bank of the Nile.

2 *Oriental Institute Museum* u Chicagu čuva nekoliko sličnih posuda iz razdoblja kasne Naqade I. i Naqade II. One su publicirane u nedavno objavljenom katalogu pod kataloškim brojem 35 (Teeter 2011: 183) i 45 (Teeter 2011: 191).

3 Muzej Louvre u Parizu posjeduje nekoliko sličnih posuda koje sam imao prilike vidjeti tijekom svog istraživanja u muzeju u listopadu 2011. Nažalost niti jedna od posuda ne posjeduje inventarne oznake, a slični predmeti nisu predstavljeni niti preko muzejskog digitalnog kataloga.

4 Egipatski muzej u Kairu posjeduje nekoliko sličnih posuda koje sam imao prilike vidjeti tijekom obilaska muzeja u travnju 2006. Muzejski online katalog nije bio u funkciji tijekom pisanja ovog rada pa tako nisam bio u mogućnosti napisati usporedne inventarne brojeve.

5 Većina sličnih posuda u svjetskim muzejima datira se u razdoblje kasne Naqade I.–Naqade II.

2 *Oriental Institute Museum* in Chicago keeps several similar vessels from the late Naqada I and Naqada II periods. They are published in their latest catalogue under cat. no. 35 (Teeter 2011: 183) and 45 (Teeter 2011: 191).

3 The Louvre museum in Paris has several similar vessels, which I saw during my visit to the museum in October 2011. Sadly, none of those vessels possess inventory numbers and such items are not listed in their online catalogue.

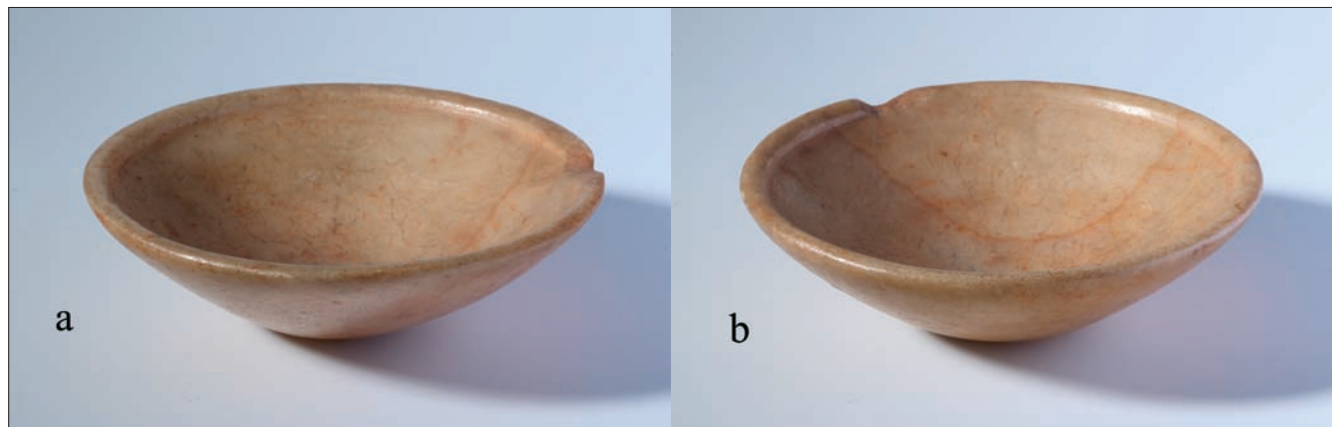
4 The Egyptian museum in Cairo has several similar vessels, which I saw during my visit to the museum in April 2006. The museum online catalogue did not work during the time of my research, so I could not write down the inventory numbers of those artefacts.

5 The most of the similar vases in the various museums around the world are dated to Late Naqada I–Naqada II.

pao s neke hridine uz zapadnu obalu Nila.

Površina ove posude je oštećena na nekoliko mjesta na središnjem dijelu. Velike rupe i nekoliko manjih je jako vidljivo. Rub posude nedostaje na tri mjesta. Iako su površina i rub oštećeni umjetnički je ova posuda vrlo lijep i vrijedan predmet.

## 2. Zdjela/tanjur (sl. 2)



Sl. 2 Zdjela od alabastera ili egipatskog alabastera (kalcit), inv. br. ATM 231 (Muzej Mimara, Zagreb): a. prednja strana, b. stražnja strana  
Fig. 2 Alabaster or Egyptian alabaster (calcite) bowl, Inv. No. ATM 231 (Mimara Museum, Zagreb): a. front view, b. back view

**Muzej:** Muzej Mimara – Zbirka umjetnina Ante i Wiltrud Topić Mimara

**Zbirka:** Zbirka starih civilizacija

**Inv. br.:** ATM 231

**Materijal:** travertine (egipatski alabaster – kalcit) ili alabaster<sup>6</sup>

**Dimenzije:** visina 4,5 cm; dijаметar: 15 cm

**Datacija:** Naqada III. (o. 3200. – 3000. g. pr. Kr.) – arhaisko razdoblje (o. 3000. – 2700. g. pr. Kr.)

**Provenijencija:** Egipat; točno nalazište je vrlo upitno

**Prilikom prethodne objave nije detaljno analizirana**

**Bibliografija:**

Tomorad 2003: 64, fn. 385; 2005: 12; 2009: 543

**Opis:**

Ova alabasterna (kalcitna) posuda je izrađena poput tipične preddinastijske ili ranodinastijske zdjele ili tanjura. Deblji rub širi se od vrha do dna posude. Ova vrsta se obično koristila u svakodnevnom životu te je vjerojatno bila stavljena u neku grobnicu kao dio pogrebne opreme. Vjerojatno je pronađena tijekom nekog iskopavanja na nekom preddinastijskom ili ranodinastijskom groblju. Slične zdjele su vrlo često otkrivene na području Abidosa (Petrie, Wiegall 1903; O'Connor 2009), Hierakonpola (Friedman 2011: 33–44), Naqade (Petrie, Quibell 1896), Tarkhana i Memfisa (Petrie et al. 1913) tijekom arheoloških istraživanja potkraj 19. i tijekom 20. stoljeća.

**Komparativni materijal:**

Vrlo slične posude čuvaju se u *Oriental Institute Museum* u Chicagu (inv. br. E11063, E7611), *Rijksmuseum van Oudheden*

<sup>6</sup> Travertine je sedimentni kamen koji sadrži različitu količinu kalcita (CaCO<sub>3</sub>) i aragonita. Travertine korišten u starom Egiptu obično se opisuje kao „egipatski alabaster“ ili jednostavno „alabaster“ (Aston et al. 2000: 59–60). Pravi alabaster, kakvog poznaju geolozi, sastoji se od minerala gipsa (CaSO<sub>4</sub> 2H<sub>2</sub>O) (Aston et al. 2000: 21–22).

The surface of the vessel is damaged on several spots in the central section of the vessel. The bigger holes and several smaller ones are very visible. The rim of the vessel is missing at three spots. Although the surface and rim of the vessel are damaged, artistically, this is very nice and valuable artefact.

## 2. Bowl/plate (Fig. 2)

**Museum:** Mimara Museum – Collection of artefacts Ante and Wiltrud Topić Mimara

**Collection:** Collection of Ancient Civilizations

**Inv. no.:** ATM 231

**Material:** Travertine (Egyptian alabaster – calcite) or Alabaster<sup>6</sup>

**Dimensions:** height 4.5 cm; diameter: 15 cm

**Dating:** Naqada III (c. 3200–3000 BC) – Archaic period (c. 3000–2700 BC)

**Provenance:** Egypt; the exact site is very questionable

**Previously not analysed**

**Bibliography:**

Tomorad 2003: 64, fn. 385; 2005: 12; 2009: 543

**Description:**

This alabaster (calcite) vessel is made like a typical Predynastic or Early dynastic shallow bowl or plate. The thicker rim tapers from the top to the bottom of the vessel. This type was commonly used in everyday life and it was probably placed in a grave as part of funerary equipment. It was probably found during the excavations of an unknown Predynastic or Early dynastic grave site. Similar types of bowls were commonly found in the area of Abydos (Petrie, Wiegall 1903; O'Connor 2009), Hierakonpolis (Friedman 2011: 33–44), Naqada (Petrie, Quibell 1896), Tarkhan and Memphis (Petrie et al. 1913) region during archaeological excavations at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> and during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Comparative material:**

Very similar vessels are kept in the *Oriental Institute Mu-*

<sup>6</sup> Travertine is a sedimentary rock and a variety of limestone consisting largely of calcite (calcium carbonate, CaCO<sub>3</sub>), or aragonite. The travertine used in ancient Egypt is frequently described as „Egyptian alabaster“ or simply „alabaster“ (Aston et al. 2000: 59–60). True alabaster, as recognized by geologists, is composed of mineral gypsum (hydrated calcium sulphate, CaSO<sub>4</sub> 2H<sub>2</sub>O) (Aston et al. 2000: 21–22).

u Leidenu (inv. br. F1960/12.419b), *University College of London, Petrie Museum* (iz Tarkhana, inv. br. UC.16920, UC.14982, UC.35621), *Metropolitan Museum of Art* u New Yorku (inv. br. 12.181.28, 12.181.38) *Royal Museum of Mariemont* u Mariemontu (iz Abidosa, inv. br. B.108), *Musée du Louvre* u Parizu<sup>7</sup>, *Egyptian Museum* u Kairu<sup>8</sup>, *British Museum* u Londonu<sup>9</sup> itd.

#### **Datacija:**

Ovaj predmet se do sada datirao u ranodinastijsko razdoblje. Moje najnovije istraživanje i komparativna analiza sličnih predmeta koji su smješteni u brojnim svjetskim muzejima promijenila je moje prethodno mišljenje o dataciji. Iako je teško sa sigurnošću staviti predmet u točno razdoblje nastanka, budući da ne posjedujemo bilo kakve spoznaje o njegovoj točnoj provenijenciji i arheološkom kontekstu nalaza, dataciju ovog predmeta ipak možemo pomaknuti nakoliko stoljeća unatrag. Najnovija usporedba sa sličnim predmetima pomogla je odrediti novu dataciju ove zdjele/tanjura. Na temelju materijala i umjetničkih tehnika izrade zdjela bi mogla biti izrađena tijekom dužeg vremenskog perioda nego što se to prije smatralo. To dugo razdoblje započinje tijekom kulture Naqada III. i završava s kasnim periodom preddinastijskog razdoblja (o. 3200. – 2700. g. pr. Kr.).

#### **Materijal i očuvanost:**

Zdjela je izrađena od travertina ili „egipatskog alabastera“ (kalcita). Deblji rubovi na vrhu posude su oštećeni te je dan manji komad nedostaje. Cijela zdjela je prilično dobro očuvana.

#### **Tehnike izrade kamenih posuda u Muzeju Mimara**

Posude poput gore spomenutih izrađivane su u nekoliko faza. Tijekom inicijalne faze kamen se grubo oblikovao i mrvio uz pomoć raznih vrsta kamenog oruđa. Još se uvijek ne može sa sigurnošću utvrditi kako se je unutrašnjost posuda izdubila, bušila i probijala. U posljednjoj fazi prethodno grubo oblikovane posude su se gladile i polirale uz pomoć kamenja i kvarcnog pijeska. Neke tehnike su se koristile za poliranje unutrašnjih i vanjskih dijelova posuda (detaljnije u: Adams 1988: 33–41; Aston et al. 2000: 64–65).

### **3. Malena bočica (sl. 3)**

**Muzej:** Muzej Mimara – Zbirka umjetnina Ante i Wiltrud Topić Mimara

**Zbirka:** Zbirka starih civilizacija

**Inv. br.:** ATM 233

**Materijal:** terakota

**Dimenzije:** visina 10,3 cm; širina: 5 cm

**Datacija:** Naqada II. – arhaisko razdoblje (o. 3500. – 2700. g. pr. Kr.)

**Provenijencija:** Egipat, točno nalazište je upitno

**Prilikom prethodne objave nije detaljno analizirana**

**Bibliografija:**

Tomorad 2003: 64, 65, fn. 386, fig. 57; 2005: 12; 2009: 543–544

7 v. bilj. 3 u ovom radu.

8 v. bilj. 4 u ovom radu.

9 *British museum* u Londonu također posjeduje nekoliko sličnih plitkih posuda/tanjura koje sam imao prilike vidjeti prilikom posjeta istraživanja u muzeju u svibnju i prosincu 2011. Nažalost tada nisam zapisao njihove inventarne brojeva, a slične predmete nisam pronašao u online digitalnom katalogu.

*seum* in Chicago (inv. nos. E11063, E7611), *Rijksmuseum van Oudheden* in Leiden (inv. no. F1960/12.419b), *the University College of London, Petrie Museum* (from Tarkhan, inv. nos. UC.16920, UC.14982, UC.35621); *the Metropolitan Museum of Art* in New York (inv. nos. 12.181.28, 12.181.38.), *Royal Museum of Mariemont* in Mariemont (from Abydos, inv. no. B.108), *the Musée du Louvre* in Paris<sup>7</sup>, *the Egyptian Museum* in Cairo<sup>8</sup>, *the British Museum* in London<sup>9</sup> etc.

#### **Dating:**

Until now it was dated to the Early dynastic period. My latest research and comparative analysis of similar artefacts housed in various museums around the world changed my opinion about the date. Although it is rather difficult to place it to the right period without any knowledge of its provenance and archaeological context, the dating of this artefact can be moved back in time for a few centuries. The latest comparison with similar material helped us to reassess the dating of this bowl/plate. According to the material and workmanship, the bowl was probably made during a longer period of time than previously thought. This long period started with the Naqada III culture and ended sometime during the Early dynastic period (between c. 3200 and c. 2700 BC).

#### **Material and preservation:**

The bowl is made of alabaster or Egyptian alabaster (calcite). The thicker rim on the top of the vessel is damaged, one small part is missing. The whole bowl is well preserved.

#### **Production techniques of stone vessels from the Mimara Museum**

Vessels such as these were made in several stages. During the initial stages stone was roughly shaped and smoothed by various types of stone tools. It is still uncertain how the interiors of such stone vessels were hollowed, drilled and pierced. In the final stage, previously roughly crafted vessels were smoothed and polished with stones and quartz sand. The same techniques were used for polishing of the interior and exterior parts of the vessel (a more detailed description in: Adams 1988: 33–41; Aston et al. 2000: 64–65).

### **3. Small bottle (Fig. 3)**

**Museum:** Mimara Museum – Collection of artefacts Ante and Wiltrud Topić Mimara

**Collection:** Collection of Ancient Civilizations

**Inv. no.:** ATM 233

**Material:** Terracotta

**Dimensions:** height 10.3 cm; width: 5 cm

**Dating:** Naqada II – Archaic Period (3500–2700 BC)

**Provenance:** Egypt; the exact site is questionable

**Previously not analysed**

**Bibliography:**

Tomorad 2003: 64, 65, fn. 386, fig. 57; 2005: 12; 2009: 543–544

7 see note 3 in this paper.

8 see note 4 in this paper.

9 The *British Museum* in London has several similar shallow bowls/plates, which I saw during my visit to the museum in May and December 2011. Sadly, I did not write down their inventory numbers and I could not find these objects in their online catalogue.



**Opis:**

Gornji dio ove neobične posude je izdužen i uzak, od središnjeg dijela donjeg dijela posuda se postupno širi i zatim ponovno sužava sve do njezina dna. Malene ručkice vidljive su na obje strane posude. Cijeli donji dio sadrži ornament u obliku mrežaste strukture. Središnji dio trbušastog donjeg dijela je dekoriran neidentificiranom figurom u čučjećem položaju s markantnim očima i velikim ušima. Pri dnu posude, na prednjoj strani vidljive su dvije ruke sa šakama, na stražnjoj noge, a na bočnim stranama dijelovi tijela. Ova

**Description:**

The upper part of this unusual vessel is elongated and narrow; from the middle section of the lower part it gradually widens and then again gradually narrows down until the bottom of the vessel. The small handles are visible on either side of the vessel. The entire lower part is ornamented with a thin "web-like" pattern. The middle section of the potbellied lower part is decorated with an unidentified figure in squat position with marked eyes and big ears. Near the bottom two arms with hands are also visible at the



Sl. 3 Mala boca od pečene zemlje, inv. br. ATM 233 (Muzej Mimara, Zagreb): a. prednja strana, b. stražnja strana, c. lijeva strana, d. desna strana

Fig. 3 Small terracotta bottle, Inv. No. ATM 233 (Museum Mimara, Zagreb): a. front view, b. back view, c. left side, d. right side

posuda vjerojatno je korištena u svakodnevnom životu kao kozmetička bočica. Vjerojatno je pronađena u nekom pred-dinastijskom grobu gdje je smješšana kao dio pogrebne opreme (Tomorad 2006b: 14).

**Komparativni materijal:**

Nažalost u muzejima ili privatnim zbirkama nisam pronašao niti jedan predmet sličan ovoj posudi.

**Ikonomografija neidentificirane figure:**

Ikonomografija ove čudne figure izrezbarene na ovoj maloj bočici podsjeća me na dobro poznati prikaz staroegipatske božice Hathor. Hathor je najčešće prikazivana u antropomorfnom obliku kao žena koja nosi veliku periku koja je svezna vrpcom (Wilkinson 2003: 143). Ženska figura izrezbarena na ovoj drevnoj bočici sadrži neke sličnosti s uobičajenim prikazima božice Hathor. Središnji dio trbušastog donjeg dijela ukrašen je figurom s velikim očima i golemim ušima vrlo sličnima ranom antropomorfnom prikazu božice Hathor. Također tanka „mrežasta“ struktura izrađena je u obliku goleme duge perike koja je uobičajeni dio ikonografskog prikazivanja Hathor. Nažalost nisam našao niti jedan slični predmet u muzejskim i privatnim zbirkama koji bi mi poslužio za usporedbu. Stoga ne mogu sa sigurnošću tvrditi da ova ženska figura stvarno predstavlja drevni prikaz Hathor ili je

front, legs at the back and a part of the body on the left and right side. This vessel was probably used in everyday life as a cosmetic bottle. It was probably found in a Pre-dynastic grave, where it was placed as common funerary equipment (Tomorad 2006b: 14).

**Comparative material:**

Sadly, I did not find any similar artefact in any museum or private collection to compare it with.

**Iconography of the unidentified figure:**

The iconography of the strange figure carved on this small bottle/vessel reminds me of the well known representation of the ancient Egyptian goddess Hathor. She was most often represented in anthropomorphic form as a woman wearing a long wig bound by a fillet (Wilkinson 2003: 143). The female figure carved on this ancient bottle has some similarities with a common representation of the goddess Hathor. The middle part of the potbellied lower part of this vessel is decorated with a figure with big eyes and huge ears very similar to the early anthropomorphic form of the goddess Hathor. Also, the thin "web-like" pattern has the form of a huge long wig, which was also a common iconographic representation of Hathor. Sadly, I did not find any similar artefact in any museum or private collection for



riječ o nekoj nepoznatoj egipatskoj osobi, vjerojatno ženi.

**Datacija:**

Umjetnički ova staroegipatska posuda vjerojanto je izrađena tijekom preddinastijskog (Naqada II.–III., o. 3500. – 3000. g. pr. Kr.) ili ranodinastijskog razdoblja (o. 3000. – 2700. g. pr. Kr.). Sigurna datacije gotovo je nemoguća bez nekog sličnog komparativnog materijala, znanja o provenijenciji i arheološkom kontekstu nalaza. Nažalost niti jedna od ovih informacija nije poznata pa je stoga vrlo teško napraviti bilo kakvu daljnju analizu ovog zanimljivog predmeta.

**Materijal i očuvanost:**

Ova posuda izrađena je od terakote. Cijeli predmet je prilično dobro očuvan samo nedostaje mali dio otvora. Još je uvijek nemoguće sa sigurnošću tvrditi za koju funkciju je ova posuda izrađena, ali može se pretpostaviti da je služila kao kozmetička bočica.

comparison. That is why I cannot safely say if this female figure is really an ancient representation of Hathor or some unknown Egyptian person, most likely a woman.

**Dating:**

Artistically this Ancient Egyptian vessel was probably made during the Pre-dynastic (Naqada II–III, c. 3500–3000 BC) or Early dynastic period (c. 3000–2700 BC). Certain dating is almost impossible without some similar comparative material, knowledge of provenance and archaeological context. Sadly, none of this information is known, so it is very difficult to set any further analysis of this interesting artefact.

**Material and preservation:**

The vessel is made of terracotta. Only a small piece of the opening is missing. The whole artefact is rather well preserved. Although the exact function of this bottle is still uncertain, it is possible that it was used as a cosmetic bottle.

Prijevod / *Translation*  
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Lektura / *Proofreading*  
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