PART THREE

POTTERY AND ARTEFACTS
CHAPTER EIGHT

THE POTTERY: A FUNCTIONAL AND FORMAL TYPOLOGY

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INTRODUCTION

Excavation in Building 600 produced an important corpus of early Islamic ceramic wares and mould-made lamps (Chapter 9). In a previous study (Daviau and Beckmann 2001), a preliminary typology was prepared consisting of a small corpus of painted wares and the best preserved channel-nozzle lamps recovered during the 1991–1993 seasons. Comparison of these vessels with those from sites with pre-Umayyad, Umayyad, and Abbasid occupation posed some problems concerning chronology and regional variation. The current study of the entire corpus makes it possible to refine our initial typology and contributes to a better understanding of Building 600 in its historical setting.

REGISTRATION SYSTEMS

All diagnostic sherds and lamp fragments were given pottery registration numbers in the field (Field+Square/Pail number.Sherd number; D2/19.11). This code is an abbreviated form of the complete

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1 The ceramic database consists of ca. 1900 registered sherds, some of which have been mended and renumbered as a vessel (for example, V601). The lamps and lamp fragments are included in a separate database on the DVD.

2 These problems continue to plague archaeologists. For a recent attempt to refine the ceramic chronology, see Stacey (2004).

3 On the sherd itself, the Square number is followed by a dot, instead of a slash, in order to avoid confusion with the numeral ‘1’ (for example, D2·19·1). In the text, the slash is used before the pail number to distinguish pail numbers from locus numbers, which are preceded by a colon (D2:3). This system works well when both the locus number and pottery pail number are used to indicate the stratigraphic location of ceramic material (D2:3/8.1).