



TABLEWARE AND MONASTIC PRACTICE 600-1400:

NEW QUESTIONS FROM THE CERAMIC CORPUS



AT JOHN THE LITTLE'S MONASTERY

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Examples of Coptic glazeware, Fayyumi ware and later Ayyubid vessels indicate that the monks at the topos of John the Little in Wadi Natrun (anc. Scetis) were not isolated from trade routes or living in austere asceticism, but were recipients of gifts, used standardized vessels for everyday use, and owned vessels more commonly associated with the trading markets in Fustat/al-Qahira and Alexandria. This discussion will consider the implications of such discoveries for our understanding of monastic practice in Egypt in the Islamic periods and how this site compares to other Islamic settlements in Egypt, both Christian and Muslim.

Paper withdrawn: the material will appear as part of expanded ceramic studies at the monastery of John the Little by the Yale Monastic Archaeology Project.
For the project see: http://www.yale.edu/egyptology/ae_al-natron.htm.

