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Encyclopedia Entry: Globular Jug

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Abstract
Cypriot, Middle Cypriot II period, c. 1600 CE


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GLOBULAR JUG

Cypriot, Middle Cypriot III period, c. 1600 BCE


13.8 x 9.3 cm (5 7/16 x 3 11/16 in.)

Gift of Henry and Sara Immerwahr, 93.19.6


Bulbous, globular body with rounded base. Lip flares out slightly, without a spout. Flat handle attached near base of neck and at shoulder.

The exterior was covered with a slip that produced a matte surface when fired, now much eroded. The wavy lines were probably of the same earthy red that survives on the handle and upper body in four thin, wavy, horizontal bands, possibly made with a multiple brush. Though no red paint remains on these bands, the black paint has eroded to indicate bands of the same thickness and shape as the horizontal lines. On rim interior, light brown bands are painted in four groups of four.

This jug is a good example of red-on-black ware, produced especially in northeastern Cyprus in the Middle Cypriot III period. This ware is typically made of light brown clay, with a black or dark brown glaze, and decorated with matte red or pink paint. The decoration on both open and closed vessels consists of groups of thin vertical and horizontal lines, either straight or wavy. The lines may occur in groups of three to sixteen, but the number of lines within a group is constant. Certain decorative schemes are common in red-on-black ware, yet artists produced much variety in their compositions. In fact, it is rare that two vessels are so alike that they can be ascribed to the same artist.