

Terminology of Ceramic Descriptions

All available chits have undergone a ceramic analysis by Alex Zuckerman on the basis of 22 parameters. He also translated Lemaire's descriptions, and these have been marked by [L] or [AL]. Margins (no. 20) have been described by Jennifer Tullman. A translation of Lemaire with a description by Tullman is marked [LT]. Here are the ceramic parameters:

1. Vessel part (body sherd, rim, base, handle, etc.)
2. Vessel period/date (Persian, Iron Age, unidentifiable, etc.)
3. Vessel type (jar, jug, cooking pot, bowl, etc.)
4. Sherd size (tiny [ca. 20 × 30mm and less], small [ca. 30 × 50 mm], medium [between 30 × 50 mm and 60 × 150 mm], large [more than ca. 60 × 150 mm])
5. Height and width (maximum values established according to the direction of the written lines)
6. Thickness
7. Shape (rectangular, square, trapezoid, etc.)
8. Color of inscribed surface(s)—*Munsell Soil Color Charts* (1975 edition) name and code
9. Levigation and grits (fine ware, coarse ware, amount and size of grits [mentioned only when tiny or unusually large])
10. Decoration and surface treatment (polished, burnished, slipped, painted decoration, etc.)
11. Burned (yes/no)
12. Eroded (yes/no)
13. Number of fragments
14. Number of fresh exterior breaks
15. Patina covering the writing (yes/no)
16. Patina extent (in percentage)
17. Location of writing (sherd interior, exterior, both [based on the archaeological evaluation of the sherd shape in relation to the shape of the complete ceramic vessel from which the sherd originated])
18. Writing surface (concave, convex, flat, smooth, uneven [based exclusively on its visual appearance])
19. Writing parallel to straight upper edge (yes/no)
20. Margins:
 - no margin: writing (including upper tip of header [*lamed*] and low tip of stretcher [*nun, kaf, pe*]) reaches edge of ostrakon;
 - narrow: smallest possible amount of space creating a distinct margin;
 - medium: a median width larger than narrow but smaller than wide; term borrowed from artifact description;
 - wide considerably more space than needed to create a distinct margin;
 - very wide margin larger than half the ostrakon or wider than the height and/or width of writing;
 - variable uneven left margin in a text of three or more lines;
 - * suspected missing/illegible text, which may influence the classification of the margin.
21. Angle of the writing/wheel-marks
22. Notes (thick-walled, thin-walled, preservation of writing, special remarks)