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## TWO INSCRIBED SHERDS FROM SIDON

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Two Phoenician inscriptions were found at Sidon in area 1c excavated by Sarah Collins in the 2002 season of excavation.

The two sherds inscribed before firing measured 6.4 cm x 3.2 cm x 0.6cm (S/4093) and 8.2 cm x 4.9 cm x 0.8cm (S/(S/4015).

First fragment (fig. 1, S/4093). The first letter could be a /P/. It is difficult to see whether the dot to the left of this letter is part of the inscription or whether it is due to abrasion of the surface. The marks visible at the edge of the break could possibly belong to the top of an /S/.

Second fragment (S/4015) (fig. 2). The second of the three visible letters is certainly a shin, which is attested at Sidon on the inscriptions of Eshmunazor (#450) and Bodashtart (second half of the fifth century BC). The first and the third letters can only be read as a type of /L/ that appears in the fifth century. We thus have the sequence L

ShL(...). The first /L/ is certainly an indication of property, and the two following letters apparently represent the beginning of the name of the owner of the ceramic vessel of which this sherd is the only remaining fragment. The proper name may be reconstituted as: L SHL(M), another occurrence of a root well known in Phoenician personal onomastics. It could be vocalized as Shillem or Shallum, thus: 'the property of Shillem/Shallum'.

