



### **3. The X-Group Period (ca. A.D. 320-550)**

#### **Daily Life**

Some Meroitic towns, like Karanog, continued into the X-Group Period. Some X-Group houses were built of mud-brick, while others showed a distinctive feature of this period: the use of small and irregular sandstone slabs, plastered with heavy mud mortar. Other houses were built of a combination of brick and stone.

The Nubian industry of pottery-making continued into X-Group times, since archaeologists found an X-Group pottery kiln at a site called Debeira East. X-Group pottery, however, shows very different shapes and decoration from Meroitic types. Almost all the X-Group pots imitate Egyptian forms, which, in turn, imitate Roman shapes. Most are undecorated red vessels.

There is also archaeological evidence for iron-working in the X-Group Period, because many large objects made of this metal, including knives, swords, frying pans, axes, and hammers, have been found at Lower Nubian sites.