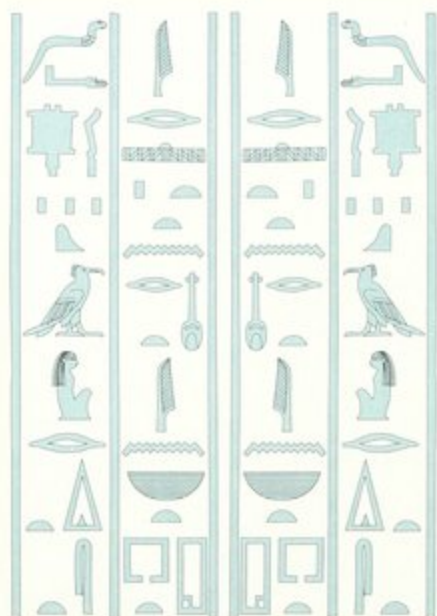


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THE  
CEMETERIES OF ABYDOS

PART III.—1912-1913.

BY

T. ERIC PEET AND W. L. S. LOAT

WITH TWENTY-SIX PLATES

THIRTY-FIFTH MEMOIR OF  
THE EGYPT EXPLORATION FUND

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## INTRODUCTION.

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THE season of the winter 1912-13 was entirely devoted to excavations in two regions of the Abydos necropoleis. The first was a space immediately to the south of the valley which divides the site into two divisions, a northern and a southern, on the west of the cemetery which was named E in 1909-10. It proved to contain a number of burials of ibises and other birds and animals. This part of the excavation was entirely undertaken by Mr. W. L. S. Loat, who has reported on it in Chapter VI. of this volume. The other area explored is a portion of the region which was marked as D in 1911-12. It lies immediately to the north of the Coptic Dêr, and the part of it on which attention was concentrated this season was that nearest to the cultivation. This consisted mainly of a low natural mound which had at a late period served as a Coptic settlement, for the floors of Coptic houses still remained *in situ* on its surface. Unfortunately these remains showed few features of interest. On one of the floors, however, was found the fine leaden store jar shown in Pl. XIV., fig. 7, and on several others there were large pottery jars of the Coptic period still in

position. To one of these houses doubtless belongs the beautiful little bronze lamp (Pl. XIV., fig. 8) which, with the leaden jar, now rests in the Cairo museum. Several skulls of oxen were found under the floors, and, though there can be no certainty on the point, it seems possible that they were purposely buried under the foundations of the houses, perhaps to ensure good fortune to the inmates. They may, however, be older, though they did not seem to be in any direct relation with the tombs. Pl. XIV., fig. 1, shows a good example of the skull of the long-horned ox with the jaw pieces, in which it is interesting to notice the wearing down of the teeth at one point due to the bit.

In the recording of this cemetery I was assisted both by Mr. Loat and by Professor T. Whittemore. Mr. C. Wake took an active part in the work during the few days he was with us, and at the end of the season we were much encouraged and helped by the visit of Professor Camden M. Cobern, a keen supporter of the Fund in America.

T. ERIC PEET.





# THE CEMETERIES OF ABYDOS.

## PART III.

### CHAPTER I.

#### THE PREDYNASTIC GRAIN KILNS.

IN the season of 1911-12, during the excavations in the neighbourhood of the Osireion, we came upon a structure which for want of a better name we called a kiln. It was of a type hitherto unknown in Egypt except at Mahasna and Ballas, where isolated fragments had been discovered. This kiln, despite a complete clearance and careful examination, refused to yield the secret of

the surface of the low mound in Region D on which lay the early dynastic tombs described in Chapter II. Each kiln consisted of two parallel rows of large bell-shaped jars set upright side by side on the surface of the desert, the jars of the one row being slightly dovetailed into the spaces between those of the other row in order to gain compactness. A reference to the plan, fig. 1,

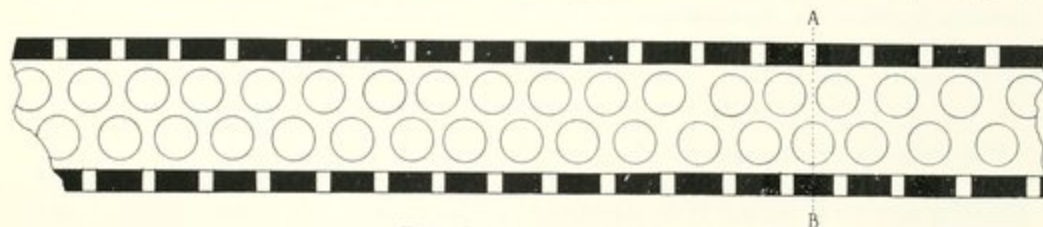


Fig. 1. Plan of the kiln. Scale  $\frac{1}{10}$ .

its purpose, and for the time being all we could do was to take an accurate record of its form, which will be reproduced in the memoir for that season. During the past season a number of kilns of a similar type were found in another part of Abydos, and from these we were fortunately able to get some idea of the purpose for which such kilns were constructed.

#### *Arrangement and form of the structures.*

The structures, eight in number, ran in parallel lines east and west (by river reckoning) over

and section, fig. 2, and to the photographs (Pl. I., figs. 1, 2, 4, 6 and 8), will make the details clear. The height of the jars was about 50 cm., though the original height may have been rather more, as there was some denudation at the top. Each vase was sunk 15 cm. into the soft sandstone and was supported by fifteen firebricks or supports of clay, each 51 cm. in length, and triangular in section, with one angle much rounded. The firebricks were arranged in a circle around the vase, their lower ends sunk in the ground to a depth of 16 cm., and their upper ends resting against a

coating of clay, 7 to 10 mm. thick, which covered the whole of the outside of the jar down to the ground level (see fig. 2). They were not quite vertical but leaned slightly inwards towards the jar (Pl. I., figs. 2 and 4).

Each jar is now about 50 cm. in diameter at the top. The sides were slightly convex and in some cases the bottom, always very narrow, was almost pointed. Placed in the lower part of each jar was a truncated conical bowl (Pl. XIV., fig. 3), 23 cm. in diameter at the rim, and about the same measurement in vertical height, made of the same rough pottery as the jar itself. This bowl always fitted fairly closely into the bottom of the jar, though in some cases there was a slight space beneath it (see section).

kiln found under Tomb 147 fortunately showed this feature. Here the end walls were built similarly to the side walls, the inside of both was given a smooth coating of clay, and the corners were slightly rounded off. Towards the west end of the best kiln the side walls were particularly well preserved and part of the roofing was still in position (see Pl. I., figs 4 and 6, and the section). It consisted of firebricks laid on their ends slanting inwards on the top of the wall in a double row, the outer brick being coated with mud, which was finished off on the surface of the sand at the level of the top of the wall, thus affording proof that the sand stood at that level when the kiln was completed. The inner line of brick did not actually meet the rims of the jars

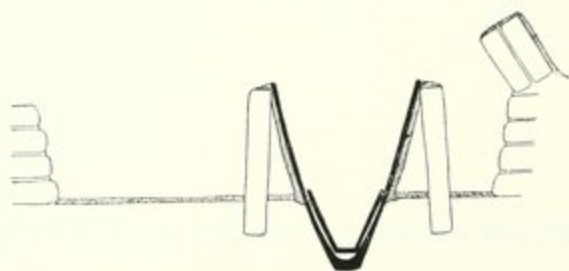


Fig. 2. Section of the kiln through A B. Scale  $\frac{1}{16}$ .

This completes the description of the single jars. In the best preserved kiln the jars still remaining were 35 in number, 17 in the south row and 18 in the north (see plan). They were set with considerable accuracy, the distance between the centres of successive jars in the same row being on the average 80 cm. There was a space of from 20 to 30 cm. between rim and rim, though when the vases were undamaged it is probable that the rims were actually in contact each with the next. The whole structure was surrounded by a low wall, 30 cm. in height, with a considerable batter on the inside. It was built of old firebricks, which, to judge from the varying intensity of their firing, had previously served in another kiln. The short end walls were not preserved in the best kiln, but a fragment of a

at their nearest point, but it is probable that when the jars were perfect it did so, or else that a single brick was placed in between them. This line of slanting firebricks had intentional openings 17 cm. wide at points corresponding to the intervals between the jars in the row which the wall bordered (Pl. I., fig. 4). As the jars in the two rows of the kiln were dovetailed into one another it follows that the openings in the north and south walls of the kiln were not opposite one another but alternated (see plan). There can be no doubt about the purpose of these openings. They were to allow the introduction of fuel into the kiln during the firing. Their position between jar and jar is peculiarly suited to this purpose, and it was further noticeable that the stratum of wood ash found in the interior



of the kiln was always thickest at points immediately under these openings.

The existence of these firing holes in the preserved portion of the roofing proves that the kiln was entirely covered, a fact which, moreover, seemed probable *a priori*. But as no portion of this covering has survived there is no clue as to its form. The problem was, however, not a difficult one. We have already seen that the rims of the jars when perfect were almost, if not actually, in contact, and that the slanting courses on the top of the wall probably reached the outer line of the rims, so that the spaces left to roof were nothing more than small triangles. These were probably covered by bricks resting on the rims and on the slanting course and caked together with mud mortar, a process of which some traces remained in the kiln near the Osireion. The jars of course were left open, or at least were not covered by the general roofing, the object of which was to enclose the fire completely and thus to retard combustion. Around the walls of the kiln lay several large fragments of jars which had evidently been much larger than those of our kiln, though perhaps not larger than those of the kiln near the Osireion. These were in a few cases built into the walls, but other pieces were too large for this and must have been used either in the roofing or, more probably, to cover up the firing holes when they were not being used.

Within the kiln, on the surface of the soft sandstone, was a stratum of carbonized wood, which extended over the whole space between the jars and the side walls. It varied in thickness from one centimetre to four, being thinnest in the inner spaces between the two rows and thickest in the vicinity of the stoking holes. There were no charred logs, as in the kiln at the Osireion, the remains being those of quite small branches, or possibly maize or palm stalks and reeds. The hard sand beneath this stratum is burnt red for about three centimetres. The firebricks and the clay covering of the jars do

not show signs of very great heat; indeed, in places the effects of the temperature on the clay are remarkably slight. The general level of heat must have been distinctly lower in this kiln than in the Osireion kiln.

The kilns of Region D are of a peculiarly simple type, in that the vases are supported each by a single circle of firebricks, all of one size. The Osireion kiln, with its four circles of supporting bricks of four different lengths, forms in construction a link between the simple type of Region D and the still more complicated type of Mahasna, where even the bottom of the jar is raised by short firebricks from the ground.

In order to construct the kiln a trench of the required size must first have been opened in the drift sand, which is 30 cm. deep. The structure was then built up on the face of the soft sandstone thus exposed, and it was finally roofed. The sand which had been removed was afterwards allowed to drift up against the outside of the walls. Perhaps these were even built before the laying down of the jars, in order to hold back the sand. In any case the kiln when complete was buried in sand except for its roof.

#### *The purpose of the kiln.*

When Professor Garstang in 1901 discovered a structure of this type on the edge of a predynastic settlement at Mahasna he very naturally described it as a pottery kiln,<sup>1</sup> supposing that "the fire was placed between the bars below for the purpose of baking the pot that rested above." The discovery of the far better preserved Osireion kiln made it at once manifest that this suggestion was wrong, for the presence of the small bowls in the bottoms of the jars showed that the kiln was not built in order to bake the latter. This was further clear

<sup>1</sup> *Man*, 1902, pp. 38-40: *Mahasna and Bet Khallaf*, p. 7, Pl. iii.

from the fact that the clay coating of the jars, while burnt quite red on its outer face where it had been reached by the fire, was on its inner side, where it was in contact with the jar, quite grey and comparatively soft and unburnt. The outer surface of the jar, on the other hand, which is in contact with this grey clay, is hard and yellow and was obviously fired before the jar was built into the kiln. The same argument refutes the suggestion that the kiln was built to fire the small bowls which lay within the jars. If the heat was not sufficient to penetrate the clay coating so much the less would it suffice to fire anything which lay within that coating. It is further obvious that if the jars or bowls were placed in the kiln to be fired they would have been removed when complete.

The idea that the kilns were used for some process of smelting metal or of glazing is ruled out by the insufficiency of the heat, an insufficiency even more marked in the D kilns than in that of the Osireion. The extremely porous nature of the pottery makes it unlikely that the structures were used for heating any liquid, as for example in the preparation of beer.

At the Fund Exhibition in the summer of 1912 a model of the Osireion kiln was shown, and Professor Flinders Petrie who examined it then made the suggestion that it was used for parching some kind of grain. In support of this theory was the fact that the kiln was evidently built in order to maintain some substance at a low heat for a considerable time, but proof was still necessary. This was clearly to be obtained, if at all, from the remains found in the jars themselves. All the sand which filled them had been carefully sifted, and the substances found which might have a bearing on the problem were kept for analysis. They were of three kinds:—

1. Pieces of a coating of very porous yellow clay, originally full of finely chopped straw. This coating, which has a thickness of from 4 to 5 mm., was observed in position in most of

the jars.<sup>1</sup> It apparently covered the whole of the inner surface of the great jars down to the rim of the small bowl, below which it was never observed in position. It was quite distinct from the wall of the jar itself, and had warped and contracted and cracked into small pieces, which were, when found, quite detachable from the jar. In several instances small deposits of substance No. 3 were found between the coating and the wall of the jar. These had, however, probably made their way in accidentally.

2. Ordinary sand of a dark greasy appearance with an admixture of small quantities of some organic matter. This was generally found clogging the space between the outer wall of the bowl and the inner wall of the jar.

3. A black substance found in small caked masses in the sand which filled the bowls. On microscopic examination it is seen to consist entirely of carbonized organic matter, except for grains of sand which have in places adhered to the outer surface of the lumps. It is full of whole grains of a cereal which analysis shows to be wheat. (See addendum to chapter.)

It is thus beyond all doubt that the kilns were used for heating grain at a moderate temperature for a considerable time. It might be suggested that the grain was being made into some form of cake or porridge, but this is most unlikely, for these porous pots would have immediately absorbed all moisture. Moreover, this would be at the best a clumsy method of cooking, and it is most unlikely that the preparation of any food of this nature should have required the construction of a large and elaborate closed kiln.

We are thus driven back on the suggestion that the substance heated was pure grain.

The ancients appear to have heated or parched grain for three separate reasons: to make it

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Robert Mond has very kindly made for me the analysis of a piece of this coating from the Osireion kiln. It proves to be a clay of quite ordinary composition. The details will be given when that kiln is published.



more palatable, to facilitate grinding, and to improve its keeping qualities. With regard to the first of these reasons we know from Pliny that one of the main foods of the early Romans was spelt, parched, but not necessarily ground. Ovid, too, refers to this early food of the peasant in a passage of his *Fasti* (vi. 345):—

"Sola prius furnis torrebant farra coloni."

The Old Testament makes frequent mention of parched corn as a food as distinct from both flour and bread. It forms part of the meal given by Boaz to Ruth in the fields, and among a list of presents brought to David are wheat, barley, flour, parched (corn), beans, lentils and parched (pulse).<sup>1</sup>

The parching of cereals and other fruits in order to facilitate grinding is mentioned by both Varro<sup>2</sup> and Pliny.<sup>3</sup> The former speaks of the parching in the mill of spelt (*far*) which is to be used for food. Pliny is much fuller. Speaking of barley he says that the Greeks sprinkle it with water and roast it the next day, afterwards grinding it, while the Italians omit the sprinkling but parch before grinding into a fine meal, which is used for polenta, not for bread. In Etruria he says spelt (*far*) was parched and then ground with an iron-bound pestle.<sup>4</sup> Wheat, however, (here he is giving the views of Mago) is to be sprinkled and then dried in the sun, but not parched, a process which Mago also recommends for barley. Lentils were to be parched first, and likewise pulse.

Virgil has, in a well-known passage, a reference to the parching of corn before pounding it with stones.<sup>5</sup> In remote parts of Scotland and Ireland it was still customary in the eighteenth century to parch the grain in small quantities in the flame

before pounding it.<sup>6</sup> In certain parts of East Africa, too, where maize is the chief product, it is parched, partly to be eaten in the form of pop-corn, partly to facilitate grinding. The parching is done on a flat stone supported on others, with a fire beneath.

In Egypt at the present day the parching of cereals is frequent. Thus, all three species of *durra* are sometimes gathered by the hungry peasants while they are still green, roasted in the ordinary bread oven and afterwards ground and made into bread. One species, *durra shūmī* (maize), is also parched in the fire and eaten in the grain without any grinding. Wheat is merely dried in a fairly cool oven and then bruised on a stone, but not ground finely.

In all these cases it is to be noticed that the grain is gathered green merely because the peasants have to find food while the main crop is still ripening, and that the parching is necessary precisely because the grain is still green and soft. I cannot find any trace of the parching of fully ripe grain in large quantities as seems to have been done in our kilns.

The drying of cereals in the sun before storing is mentioned by Pliny (*N.H.*, xviii. 13). Olaus Magnus, in his *De Gentibus Septentrionibus*, written in 1567, says (Book xiii.), that grain dried in the sun will keep sweet for several years if reduced to flour, but if not ground it must be redried every year.<sup>6</sup>

To which of these reasons are we to attribute the construction of our kilns? The last would seem at first sight to be the most unlikely, for it might well be argued that if the sun sufficed to dry the corn in North Europe, it would certainly suffice in Egypt. Yet we cannot exclude the possibility that the Egyptians of this period preferred to use fire. The size of the kilns might be taken to point in this direction, for corn might be parched for eating or grinding in small

<sup>1</sup> The reference is 2 Samuel xvii. 28. The passage is a difficult one, and the authorized translation probably far from correct. The reference to parching is, however, sound, and probably also the contrast between parched grain and flour.

<sup>2</sup> *Re Rust.*, I. lxix.

<sup>3</sup> *Nat. Hist.*, xviii. 14.

<sup>4</sup> *Op. cit.*, xviii. 23.

<sup>5</sup> *Aen.* I., 177-9.

<sup>6</sup> See BENNETT and ELTON, *History of Corn-milling*. Liverpool, 1898, pp. 125 ff. I owe the reference to Professor Petrie.



quantities, whereas a drying previous to storage would need to be done in bulk at the actual season of harvest. At the same time it would be foolish in the present state of our knowledge to decide in favour of any one of the three possibilities. We must be content to have shown that the kilns were used for applying heat to large masses of grain.

We now see the bearing of several details of the construction which at first sight seemed puzzling. Thus the coating of clay on the outside of the jars, besides serving to keep the firebricks in position, was designed to prevent the overheating of the interior of the jars, and it is a confirmation of this that in the Osireion kiln, where the heat was clearly much greater than in the D kilns, the clay on the outside of the jars was correspondingly thicker. The purpose of the bowls fixed in the bottom of the jars is now clear. They served to prevent the grain descending into the extreme lower end of the jar, which, being underground, would not get its share of the heat. This explanation fits in with the fact that in the Osireion kiln, where the jars were very deep and pointed, the bowls were in most cases duplicated while in the Mahasna kiln, where the jars were shallow, flat, and raised so that the fire could pass under them, no trace of bowls was found.

One detail still lacks explanation, the coating of fine clay (substance No. 1) on the inside of the jars. I have no suggestion to make with regard to this unless it was a clay of refined type intended to temper and regulate the heat from the fire, in the same way that a special preparation of clay is used for the flooring of the modern Arab bread oven.

The jars were doubtless covered during the parching, though the cover may have been removed at intervals to allow of the stirring of the grain to prevent overheating in one part. With this covering it is probable that the notched rims observed in the jars of the Osireion kiln and in that of Mahasna were connected, but the

detail was not confirmed in the D kilns, as the rims had all been worn away.

#### *The date of the kilns.*

The date of the kilns is fortunately almost beyond doubt. The pottery of which the jars and the bowls are made has every characteristic of the rougher predynastic wares. It shows the same coarse grey paste, the same yellow brown surface with imprints of finely chopped straw in the quantities that distinguish predynastic ware from all others. The occurrence of the *iakh*-bird as a pot-mark on the bowls of the Osireion kiln is confirmatory of this date, for though pot-marks do occur at other periods their era *par excellence* is the predynastic.

This internal evidence from the nature of the pottery is backed by external considerations. At Mahasna the kiln was found on the edge of what was proved to be a predynastic settlement, and one of the jars was found actually in the settlement. In the predynastic settlement at Ballas, Petrie and Quibell found firebricks of the same type as ours. They were fifteen inches long and four in width, roughly semicircular in section.<sup>1</sup> In one case they stood upright in the earth, around the remains of a coarse vase from which they leaned outwards, and beneath were pieces of charcoal. The excavators were clearly face to face with a grain kiln, though its shattered condition made it impossible for them to discover its true nature. The Osireion kiln, too, is on the edge of a predynastic settlement (see forthcoming memoir for 1910-12). There is, however, a still more conclusive piece of evidence, for at Ballas Quibell found a predynastic tomb whose sides were lined with these bricks.<sup>2</sup> They were originally, he says, about thirty inches long and four inches thick, flat on one side and rounded on the other. In another predynastic tomb "the body was sheltered by a large inverted dish resting upon several of

<sup>1</sup> *Naqada and Ballas*, p. 2.

<sup>2</sup> *QUIBELL, El Kab*, pp. 5 and 10.

them; frequently fragments of two or three were found in a tomb." Here we have proof that these kilns were already in use in the predynastic period. It is not at all unnatural that the disused bricks which must have lain about the desert should have been employed to line a tomb at a date in the late predynastic period when a brick lining to the pit was becoming a necessity.

With such decisive evidence as this before us it is barely worth while to insist on the fact that the D kilns at Abydos were damaged by, and therefore earlier than the tombs of the IVth Dynasty. In some cases the tomb-pit has cut through the kiln,<sup>1</sup> while in others the walls of

the mastabas are built over the kilns (Pl. I, fig. 8).

It is remarkable that no kilns of this type are known from other periods in Egyptian history. Either we must suppose that the system was abandoned shortly after the predynastic period, or that owing to the rarity of town sites excavated they have escaped notice. At El Kab fragments of the firebricks were found in Tombs 288 and 178. Both tombs had been plundered, and we cannot say whether the fire bars were part of the original filling or not. In any case it is again interesting to note that we are on a site known to have been inhabited in predynastic times, and it is quite natural that a few of the fire bars from the destroyed kilns should have found their way into the filling of the shafts.

<sup>1</sup> The tombs which cut kilns are D 124, 144, 146 and 147.

#### ADDENDUM.

Professor Harvey Gibson, of Liverpool University, who has kindly examined the cereal discovered in substance No. 3 (see p. 4), finds it to be wheat (*Triticum vulgare*).



## CHAPTER II.

THE TOMBS OF THE III<sup>RD</sup> AND IV<sup>TH</sup> DYNASTIES.

THE early tombs of Cemetery D consist, or rather consisted, of a pit cut in the soft sandstone, rarely with a small recess added, and a superstructure of brick. This last, which has survived in perfect condition in many cases, is of very simple form. It is roughly rectangular and perfectly plain, except for two niches in its eastern side, the more southerly of which is usually, though not always, triple, while the other is in all cases simple. The walls of the mastaba are generally of the thickness of two bricks laid side by side, though in rare cases the wall is only one brick in thickness. The height of the walls is in most cases only four courses, occasionally it is five. There is no entrance to the mastaba; it is filled in with sand and covered with a single layer of bricks. The whole of the outside, including the roof, was apparently coated with a mud plaster, which has in nearly all cases entirely disappeared. In the sand which filled the mastabas were found pottery vases which were invariably in fragments, even when the roof of the mastaba was intact. It is possible that these vases were broken at the moment of deposition, and their contents poured in libation over the tomb. At the same time it may be that the pressure of the three metres of earth which covered the site had caused the breakage without entirely displacing the roof. Many of the vases contained a small deposit of mud at their bottom.

The mastaba itself did not, however, form the whole of the superstructure of the tomb. It was solid, that is to say, it contained no rooms for the celebration of the cult, which must therefore have been carried on outside the mastaba in front

of the niches. For this purpose a small court was made on the east side of the mastaba. In other words our mastabas are a reproduction on a small scale of the earlier type of mastaba as seen at Giza and Abusir, where the mastaba itself contains only the burial shaft, and the cult rooms are placed outside and merely built of mud brick. In our case there seem to have been no cult rooms proper, though they may have been represented by a wood or branch roofing in front of the niches. The courtyard, or some substitute for it, however, is found in nearly all but the smallest examples. It is small in size, mainly owing to want of space, and is surrounded by a wall often only one course in height. We have an excellent example of the conservatism of the early Egyptians in the case of Mastaba D 143, where, owing to the proximity of Mastaba D 145 on the east side, it was impossible to construct a courtyard large enough for anyone to offer in or even to step into. Nevertheless, a courtyard must be made and was made, with a breadth of 25 cm. ! (Pl. III., fig. 7). The floors of the courtyards are plastered with mud. Where the niches are well preserved it is noticeable that their floor is raised one brick above that of the courtyard (see Pl. III., fig. 8). We have an interesting parallel in the mastabas of the unknown man at Abusir<sup>1</sup> and that of Ptahhotep at Saqqara, where the niches were built over a raised pediment. We found no traces of their roofing, which was probably of wood.

<sup>1</sup> BORCHARDT, *Grabdenkmal des Königs Ne-user-ra*, p. 117 and the plate. Cf. the Reqaqnah mastabas: GAERTANG, *Third Egyptian Dynasty*, Pl. 17 (R. 70) and Pl. 22 (R. 54).

As might have been expected the mastabas were not built until the tomb had been dug and the body placed in it. This is clear from the fact that in many cases the walls of the mastaba actually stand directly over the sand filling of the pit, so that it was necessary to remove part of the walls in order to excavate the tomb.

Turning to the construction of the individual mastabas we notice that the great mastaba which contains tombs D 135 and 136 is situated on the highest point of the rise and thus occupies a commanding position (Pl. III., fig. 5, background). It is evidently the burial-place of very important members of this early community, for it is many times larger than any other of the mastabas and much more solidly constructed. Moreover, it is certainly earlier than some of them, for those which lie immediately to the south of it (nos. 147 etc.) are actually built on to it (Pl. III., figs. 5 and 8), and the same is true of those which lie on its east side (nos. 181-184, visible on the extreme right in Pl. III., fig. 5), which were built on to the east wall of its courtyard in such a way that this wall served to form their west faces.

The structure of the great mastaba itself is simple. It consists of an enclosure parallelogramic in form, measuring about 13 metres by 9, with remarkably thick walls (see plan on Pl. XV.). On the west side these still stand to a height of over a metre, while on the east, which is higher on the slope, the height is no more than half a metre. In the east wall are the usual two niches, that to the south being triple and measuring 100 cm. across the front, while the single niche to the north is 55 cm. in breadth. In both cases the floor of the niche was raised one brick above the level of the courtyard floor. The courtyard itself extends along the whole of the east face of the building. It is only 92 cm. wide, but affords ample room for the passage of a worshipper. In its east wall, which is about 50 cm. high, and near its north end, is the entrance, 52 cm. wide. There is no means of access to the interior of the

mastaba proper. This preserves no sign of roofing. In it lie the two tomb pits, which are almost square shafts lined with brick, placed somewhat askew to the sides of the mastaba. They are both 5 metres in depth. The more southerly of the two, D 135, has a single chamber (whose original shape is obscured by falls of rock from the roof) to the south. The other, D 136, has two chambers, one to the west and another at a slightly lower level to the north. In the absence of evidence as to the method by which the mastaba was roofed, it is difficult to say whether the space between the mastaba walls and the shafts was filled in. It is not improbable that the whole space within the walls was roofed in; at any rate there was no access to it from without.<sup>1</sup> On the other hand, it may be that only the space between the mastaba walls and the shafts was filled with sand and covered over with a roofing of bricks, as were the smaller mastabas, while the shafts themselves were left without roofing in order to be re-used for later burials. There was certainly more than one burial in the north shaft, and there may have been in the south also.

The mastabas 181-4, which were built on to the east side of the courtyard of the great mastaba, have already been mentioned. The two best preserved, 183 and 184, still show the courtyards (Pl. XV.). No. 183 has a triple and a single niche; no. 184 has two simple niches. East of this line of tombs was another, whose mastabas had been practically destroyed.

South and west of the great mastaba run four lines of smaller mastabas, one of which is actually built on to it. It is noticeable that in all cases the order of building was from north to south, for each mastaba in a line, with the exception of the first, is built on to that which lies to the north of it, the south wall of the older serving

<sup>1</sup> The back of the smaller niche is now broken through into the interior of the mastaba, and gives the false appearance of an entrance.



in each case as north wall to the newer. (See especially Pl. III., fig. 8.)

The most easterly line of the four, comprising the three mastabas 144-6, is still remarkably complete (Pl. III., fig. 8). Each mastaba has a triple and a simple niche to the east and a narrow courtyard. In the case of 146 the entrance to the courtyard in its east wall near the north end is still visible, but in the other two, where the wall was only one course high originally, denudation has made it impossible to locate the entrance with certainty.

To the west of this line is another which consists of tombs 117, 119, 149, 143, 147. The last of these shows some interesting details of construction, the west wall of its neighbour 146 having been used as east wall for its courtyard (Pl. III., fig. 7). A short crosswall joining the two mastabas closed the court on the south, while on the north the proximity of the south wall of the great mastaba formed not only a northern wall to the court, but, in conjunction with 146, an entrance passage to it. Nos. 143 and 149 are of peculiar interest. The mastabas to the east of them, 144 and 145, had been built rather out of direction, so that their west walls would have formed but ill-shapen courtyards to 143 and 149. It was therefore necessary to build special walls for which there was obviously no room in the narrow space between the two lines. The result is that 143 and 149 have courtyards exactly 25 cm. in width. No one could possibly have stepped into them, but they were sufficient to satisfy custom and precedent. The courtyard of 119 has almost disappeared, and that of 117 entirely so. This latter tomb was also damaged in other ways by the shaft of the XVIIIth Dynasty vaulted tomb D 114.

The next line consists of two parts, there being a break after the second mastaba from the north (Pl. III., figs. 4 and 6). Four mastabas in this line were found with their roofs still unbroken. There are no courtyards in this row (Pl. III., fig. 6). The proximity of the next row formed

a series of enclosures which possibly were considered to answer the purpose, or perhaps the idea of the courtyard was frankly given up.

The fourth line had at its north end four rather large mastabas with no sign of courtyards. Of the three smaller mastabas which form the south end of the line two show an unusual feature, for their northernmost niche, instead of being cut entirely in the wall of its own mastaba, uses the wall of the mastaba next to the north as its north side. In the central mastaba of the group the niches are normal.

Over the children's tombs 141 and 142 was a low brick structure, D 148, built on to the east wall of 129. It seemed to consist of only one course of bricks, but even this point is uncertain as it was badly damaged. A rough rectangular mass of brick, which lay over the south-east corner of 143, is certainly later in date (Pl. III., fig. 7, foreground). Under it, i.e. in the south end of the court of 143, lay the extended body of a child with a few amulets (Pl. VIII., fig. 1), which could hardly be earlier than the XIIth Dynasty. The burial clearly has no connection with the early tombs.

The tombs which lay under the mastabas exhibited considerable diversity of type and of burial rite. In most cases the pit or shaft was simple, i.e. had no chamber opening off from it, but in six cases there was a rudimentary chamber. The position of the body was practically invariable. It lay on the left side, with the head north by river reckoning (magnetic N.N.W.), and in a more or less contracted position, details of which are given in the description of the various tombs. The tombs may be divided according to type as follows:—

1. Burials under an inverted pot.
2. Burials under a covering of bricks.
3. Burials under a mat or a basket.
4. Burials covered with large stones.
5. Burials apparently without covering, but having probably had a coffin.
6. Burials in chambers.



TYPE I.—*Burials under inverted pots.*

This was by far the most common type of burial, being represented by seventeen examples, in ten of which the pit is approximately circular, while in the rest it is square or rectangular, often with very rounded angles. These pits, as indeed all those of the cemetery, are cut in the soft rock which is scarcely harder than the drift sand which lies over it. The body, rather tightly contracted, is covered with a large inverted bowl of rough pottery (Pl. VIII., figs. 2 and 3). The details of the separate tombs are as follows, the dimensions being in centimetres:—

D 116. Circular pit, 84 cm. in diameter, 160 cm. deep, underneath a mastaba 122 cm. square. Body of a child, tightly contracted, on right side, head south. Over it an inverted bowl of good red polished ware with a spout (Pl. VIII., fig. 4). Fragments of vase (of type Pl. IV. 37) partly over the bowl, partly under it.

D 119. Mastaba. Rectangular pit with a ledge near the top at each end. The pit proper measures 135 by 85 and is 170 deep. Body tightly contracted, on left side, head north. Inverted bowl of the usual type lying towards the south-west corner of the pit and so not actually covering the body which lies in the centre (Pl. I., fig. 7). East of the bowl a vase (of type Pl. IV. 37).

D 120. Mastaba. Roof intact, consisting of one thickness of brick covered with mud plaster. The removal of this revealed a short wall (Pl. III., fig. 4) protruding inwards from the north side of the mastaba and dividing its northern portion into two halves. In the eastern half lay on its side a vase (of type Pl. IV. 37) directly below the roofing. Circular pit, 82 in diameter and 130 deep. Body of child tightly contracted, on left side, with head north, under inverted bowl of usual type. On the bottom of the pit, east of the bowl, a vase (of type Pl. IV. 37), and 15 cm. above top of bowl and to the north a small pottery dish.

D 121. Mastaba. Circular pit, 98 in diameter. Child's body tightly contracted, on left side, head north. At neck a blue glaze tubular bead and a pierced shell. Body lies in a large dish of polished red pottery (Pl. VIII. 6), inverted over which is a rough bowl of the usual type. Round the uppermost part of this, i.e. the bottom, is a rough circle of bricks. Both dish and bowl are poor vases badly warped by over-firing.

D 122. Mastaba. Under this a shallow rectangular cutting with two steps, each 30 cm. broad, to north. In south-west corner of this is the burial pit proper, which is circular. At its bottom a male body tightly contracted, on left side, head north, under rough inverted bowl of usual type. East of bowl a vase (type Pl. IV. 37).

D 123. Mastaba. Rectangular pit, 104 by 77, with rounded corners. Depth 128. Male body very tightly contracted, on left side, head north (Pl. II. 5), under inverted bowl of usual type. To north-east and north-west of the bowl, and thus near the head, were two bricks. To south-east and at level of uppermost part of bowl a vase (type Pl. IV. 35).

D 124. Mastaba. Circular pit. In west half of it body tightly contracted, on right side, head south-east. Right arm placed, as frequently, in such a way that the forearm is in a vertical line. Inverted bowl of usual type over body. Near its rim, to the north-west, a vase (of type Pl. IV. 37). The tomb cuts through a pre-dynastic kiln at its north-east corner.

D 126. Mastaba. Circular pit, 60 in diameter, depth 170. Body tightly contracted, on left side, head north. Left forearm vertical as was the right in 124. In front of legs a vase (type Pl. IV. 37). Body and vase covered with inverted bowl of usual type, over which lies to the west side a vase (of type Pl. IV. 37).

D 127. Mastaba. Under its south half a square pit 100 in diameter and 135 deep. Female body, tightly contracted, on left side, head north. Left forearm as in 126. Inverted bowl as usual.

D 128. Mastaba. Rectangular pit, 125 by 100, with rounded corners, depth 130. Male body, contracted, on left side, head north, left forearm vertical; under inverted bowl of usual type. At bottom of pit a line of four bricks along east side.

D 132. Mastaba. Circular pit, diameter 80, depth 160. Male body (Pl. II., fig. 6), tightly contracted, on left side, head north, left forearm vertical; under usual inverted bowl. Over the neck a twisted mass of cloth.

D 143. Mastaba. Under its north half a circular pit, 128 by 125. Female body, contracted, on left side, head north, left forearm vertical, in west half of pit, under the usual inverted bowl which occupies the north half of the pit (fig. 3). In the south half is a similar



Fig. 3.

bowl half inverted so as partially to cover the first. At the sacrum was a vase (of type Pl. IV. 37), and in the south of the pit lay a larger vase (Pl. III. 28).

D 144. Mastaba, whose north wall is built directly over a portion of a line of predynastic kilns. Oval pit, 118 by 95, depth 190, across the centre of the mastaba. In west half of pit contracted body, on left side, head north. On the left forearm near the wrist two ivory bracelets, and at the back of the neck small discoid beads of blue glaze (Pl. VIII., fig. 1). In the centre of pit, and thus only partially covering the body, is the inverted bowl. At the level of its inverted bottom and to the west a vase (of type Pl. IV. 37).

D 145. Mastaba. Under its north half a roughly square pit, 106 by 102, depth 180. In

west half of pit a female body, contracted, on left side, head north. In front of knees a vase (of type Pl. IV. 37). Over the head from ear to ear a band of beads four or five beads in breadth. They are of blue glaze, most being cylindrical of varying sizes, whilst a few are conical pierced in a horizontal plane (Pl. VIII., fig. 1). Over the body the usual bowl, and over this to the north-east two vases (types Pl. IV. 37 and Pl. IV. 29).

D 168. Mastaba almost completely destroyed. Circular pit, 84 by 78, depth 200. Male body, tightly contracted, on left side, head rather west of north. Over it the inverted bowl. Around the upper part of this are set two circular rows of bricks one above the other (Pl. I., fig. 3). Beneath these, south of the bowl, a vase (of type Pl. IV. 37).

D 239. No mastaba. Circular pit; inverted bowl of usual type surrounded above by mud bricks with liquid mud poured over them (Pl. II., fig. 3). At 40° true east of north is a vase (of type Pl. IV. 37), lying on its side with mouth toward the body. Body tightly contracted on left side, head north. With it were a small inscribed cylinder seal of haematite, one blue glaze bead and a small blue glaze monkey (Pl. VIII., fig. 1).

D 240. (Pl. II., fig. 8.) No mastaba visible. Roughly circular pit, diameter 124, depth 130. The body of an adult male is crushed into a bowl over which is inverted a still larger bowl. The pelvis is low in the vase and the head higher; the knees have fallen apart one to each side of the vase. East of the bowls is a vase (of type Pl. IV. 37). The diameter of the lower jar is 510 mm., that of the upper 725 mm.

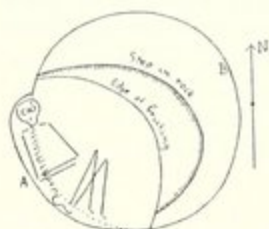
#### TYPE II.—*Burials under a covering of bricks.*

Of this there are nine examples. In three cases the pit is circular, in the others it is square or rectangular. The bricking consists in some cases of a regularly laid covering of single bricks. In others it is merely a mass of bricks and mud heaped over the body. A connection with the



tombs of Type I is seen in the fact that some of these, as has already been noticed, have a rough circle of bricks arranged round the bottom of the inverted vase, as for example D 168, while others, as for instance 123 and 128, have a few bricks at the bottom of the pit.

D 117. Mastaba. Circular pit, 180 by 175, depth 240. At 140 from the top begins a rounded construction of roughly laid bricks covered with mud, which occupies the south-west third of the pit (Pl. III., fig. 2). Its shape, difficult to describe, can be best gathered from the plan and section (fig. 4). The south-west



D 117

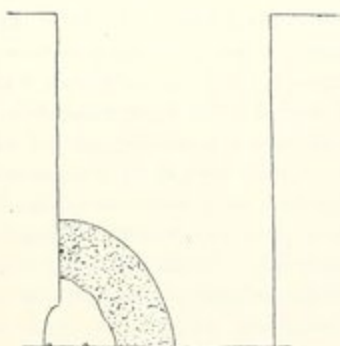


Fig. 4. Plan and section through A B.

portion of the bottom of the pit is cut about 15 cm. lower than the rest. The body, male, is placed under the brickwork in the south-west part of the pit, where the wall is slightly undercut, so that the body actually lies in part in a rudimentary chamber. It is contracted, on the left side, with head north.

D 118. Mastaba. Circular pit, diameter 87, depth 160. Male body, contracted, on left side, head north, lies in the west half of the pit, covered by a brick and mud structure exactly similar to that of 117.

D 125. Mastaba. Roughly square pit, 84 by 80, depth 150. Female body in west half of pit, contracted, on left side, head north. At the throat a piece of organic matter which has the appearance of food of some kind. In sieving there were found four beads, two barrel-shaped of carnelian, one tubular of blue glaze, and the other shaped like an elongated scarab and made of a fine olive-green stone (Pl. VIII., fig. 1). Over the body was a structure of unmortared bricks laid roughly but horizontally, not quite reaching the east side of the tomb. It was four bricks in height.

D 130. Mastaba. Under its south part a rectangular pit, 94 by 80. In the west half of the pit lies the body, tightly contracted, on the left side, head north. The left forearm is vertical. The north and west sides of the pit are slightly undercut to receive the body, which is covered by a construction of bricks built up roughly without mortar in steps over the west half of the pit. The breadth of the structure from west to east is 54 cm., and it has a height of five courses.

D 147. Mastaba. Pit rectangular and large (200 by 165) at the top. At a depth of 175 there is a layer of single bricks in lines of three across from east to west. Below this the pit narrows to 113 by 67, and the farther depth is 79. This lower pit is brick-lined all round (Pl. II., fig. 2). In it lies a female body, contracted, on the left side, head north. There is no sign of a coffin. In the upper part of the grave was found in fragments a fine inverted-conical dish of red polished pottery (Pl. IV. 33).

D 149. Mastaba. Circular pit about 70 in diameter, the upper part being badly destroyed and making measurements difficult. At about a

metre from the surface there was a layer of single bricks and mud, circular in shape but not covering the entire area of the pit. Beneath this on the east side were a fine red polished pottery dish (Pl. IV. 34), and a rough vase (of type Pl. IV. 37). Lower still lay the body of a young individual, face downwards, contracted and on the left side, head north. The body was covered with what appeared to be the remains of a reed basket of circular shape.

D 182. Mastaba with a rectangular pit of its own size beneath it. The eastern half of this then descended in a rectangular pit, 178 by 108, leaving the western half as a kind of step or ledge. The true pit was blocked at a depth of 220 by three lines of bricks running north and south, one down the centre and the others one along each edge, the spaces between them being filled in and the whole plastered over (Pl. II., fig. 1) with mud. The centre line of bricks was at a slightly higher level than the other two. Below the bricking lay a female body slightly contracted, with arms stretched out along the sides. It was on the left side with head north. It lay in a wooden coffin 122 by 53, coated inside and out with a white wash.

D 184. Mastaba. Rectangular pit, 148 by 114, with rounded corners, in south-east part of mastaba. At a depth of 90 cm. a layer of bricks and mud. The bricks were irregularly laid, some being lengthwise and others crosswise. At 132 cm. was the body, female, slightly contracted, on left side, head north. It lay in a wooden coffin, limewashed, with wood 28 mm. thick. Outside the coffin behind the pelvis was a vase (of type Pl. IV. 37).

D 253. Mastaba nearly destroyed. Rectangular pit, 180 by 90. At a depth of 110 cm. a layer of bricks regularly laid three to the breadth (Pl. III., fig. 1). Immediately under this in the middle of the east side of the pit was a vase (of type Pl. IV. 37). At 180 cm. lay the body, male, slightly contracted, on the left side, head north. The long bones showed a pathological

condition, being very short and warped, while the joints seemed badly diseased. It is possible that there was a coffin, but the evidence was not decisive.

#### TYPE III.—*Burials under a mat or a basket.*

D 112. No sign of mastaba. Oval pit. Male body, contracted, on left side, head north-west (local). Body wrapped in a mat of reeds. In front of the face a vase (of type Pl. IV. 37).

D 141. Mastaba. Circular pit, 50 cm. in diameter and 60 deep. Body of a child, contracted, on right side, head north-east. At neck a pierced shell, a blue glaze monkey 23 mm. high, and three blue glaze beads, almost certainly degraded forms of the monkey figure (Pl. VIII., fig. 1). Over the body were signs of a mat or a round basket of reeds, more probably the latter.

D 149. This has already been described under Type II.

#### TYPE IV.—*Burials covered with large stones.*

There are only two examples of this type. The first is D 146, which, as it is of the chamber type, is described more fully under Type VI. The stones occurred in the south portion of the rectangular pit (Pl. III., fig. 3) from which the chamber opened. The other example is D 183. This consisted of a rectangular pit under a mastaba. Near the top of its filling were several very large boulders of limestone. Two of these we removed, but only to discover larger blocks still underneath. In the attempt to remove these a slight accident occurred and the collapse of the courtyard wall of the great mastaba threatened. We were therefore forced to abandon the tomb.

#### TYPE V.—*Burials with no covering preserved, but probably with a coffin.*

With one exception, a child's burial, all these tombs were rectangular in form, and it is probable that in all cases there was a coffin. In 137 the coffin was of pottery, but in the others it was



merely of wood, which has sometimes left no trace whatever.

D 133. Mastaba. Rectangular pit under its southern half, 101 by 75, depth 135. Female body in west half of pit, contracted, on left side, head north.

D 134. Mastaba. Rectangular pit, 166 by 116, depth 180. Male body, slightly contracted, on left side, head north (Pl. II., fig. 7). Wood coffin in the west half of the pit, probably rectangular, though corners may have been rounded, washed with lime inside and out. In the centre of east side of pit the vase Pl. IV., fig. 37.

D 137. Mastaba. Rectangular pit, 148 by 99, depth 130. At the bottom a rectangular coffin, 81 by 45, of rough but well fired red pottery (Pl. I., fig. 5), 40 mm. in thickness, with a flat lid of the same material. Round the coffin, i.e. between it and the wall of the pit, was a layer of brick and mortar. The coffin had been opened and the body damaged. The bones which remained pointed to the sex as female.

D 142. Mastaba damaged. Shallow oval pit, 60 by 50, depth 70. Body of a small child, contracted, on left side, head north. Four small blue glaze discoid beads at neck.

D 232. No sign of mastaba. A very roughly defined rectangular pit in which lay the body in a wooden coffin. The head was north and the body, contracted, lay on the left side, but the head was turned to the right, so completely that it points to a disturbance.

D 236. No sign of mastaba. Rectangular pit, 150 by 78. Body semi-contracted, on left side, head north.

D 252. Remains of a mastaba. Rectangular pit, 186 by 123. Male body, semi-contracted, on left side, head north. At the neck a large blue glaze cylindrical bead. No sign of coffin.

#### TYPE VI.—*Burials in chambers.*

These are of peculiar interest as showing at Abydos the transition from the simple pit burial, where the body lies in the pit itself, to the

chamber burial, where a definite chamber is cut underground opening off one side or end of the pit. It must be remembered, however, that, though we have here the actual steps in the transition, the transition itself had at the time already been made, as we may see from the tombs within the great mastaba, D 135 and 136, where there is a definite chamber opening off a square shaft. We have already given reasons for believing that the great mastaba is earlier than some of the tombs which surround it, and we are therefore face to face with a phenomenon very common in Egyptian cemeteries, and indeed in others, namely, the survival in the poorer tombs of intermediate stages in a development which the richer tombs have already completed.

The position of the body is also worthy of notice. The contraction is much looser than that of the other graves in this cemetery. At first sight it might appear that this was merely due to the fact that these chamber-tombs are larger than the rest, but this is not the sole reason for the difference, for had ritual still demanded that the body should be tightly contracted, it could have been placed so in a large tomb just as in a small one. The facts are that in Abydos, as elsewhere in Egypt, the custom of burying in the tightly contracted position was gradually giving way, and that the movement towards the fully extended position was made by the owners of the more important tombs and only later followed by their imitators, the poor. Thus in the chamber-tombs of this cemetery the legs of the body are never drawn up to make less than a right angle with the spine, and the arms, though still bent, are usually down by the sides. There is, however, no case of the use of the extended position. We are clearly at an earlier stage of development here than in the chamber-tombs of the E Cemetery at Abydos, where the extended position is by no means unusual and the contraction, when it occurs, is slightly looser than here. In both cemeteries we have a juxtaposition of the old and the new methods. In



Cemetery D tight contraction is giving way to loose, while in Cemetery E (about VIth Dynasty) the latter is, in its turn, being gradually replaced by full extension. In neither does the variation in position mark any difference in race or in time; it is simply a phase in the gradual evolution from the tightly contracted to the fully extended position.

The complete description of the tombs is as follows:—

D 115. Mastaba apparently destroyed by the later tomb D 114, in whose floor the shaft lay. The shaft, which lies north and south, measures 153 by 78, and has a chamber of the same length and 55 cm. in breadth under its west side. The entrance to the chamber was filled by a wall of bricks, which was damaged by the fall of the roof. Body in wooden coffin, 112 by 55, loosely contracted, on left side, head north. Male.

D 129. Mastaba. Roughly square pit 108 by 106. Total depth 240. The chamber, 53 high, is cut under the west side and extends its whole length. At 20 cm. above the top of the chamber the west wall of the pit protrudes 18 cm. inwards, thus slightly narrowing the pit and broadening the chamber. In front of the chamber, in the pit itself, is built a closing wall of bricking 40 cm. wide, reaching up to the ledge formed by the protrusion of rock already mentioned. Body, male, slightly contracted, on left side, head north.

D 131. Mastaba. Rectangular pit, 125 by 110 (fig. 5). Under the west side is cut a chamber 40 wide and 45 high. In front of this, in the pit, is built a wall 60 high and 24 broad of bricks laid in alternate stretchers and headers. About the centre line of the pit is a step in the floor, so that the west half is 20 deeper than the east. Total depth 230. Male body, semi-contracted, on left side, head north.

D 135. Southern shaft of the great mastaba. Rectangular pit, 150 by 131, depth 500, lined with brick at the top. Chamber under the south side, form obscured by falls of rock from

roof and sides. Chamber originally closed with bricking, part only of which was removed by the plunderers. The bottom of the shaft was plastered with mud. No finds in the chamber. Near top of shaft some human bones, a shell, pieces of a fine diorite bowl, and blue glaze beads, cylindrical, barrel-shaped and discoid with slightly convex faces. A much damaged

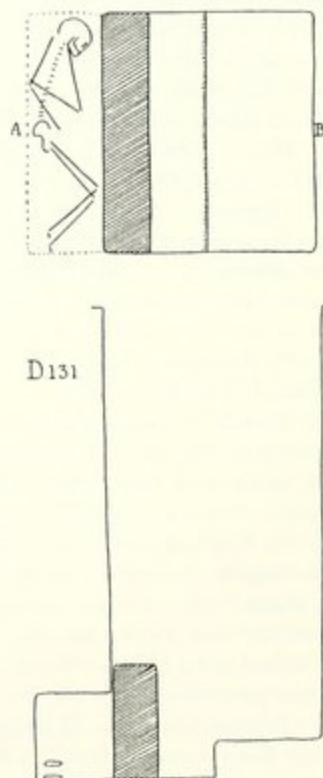


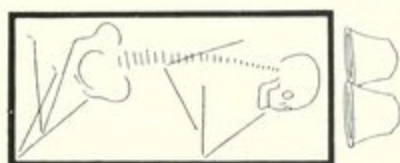
Fig. 5. Tomb D 131. Plan and section through A B.

head of a small statue of good early dynastic work, found in the sand within the mastaba, probably came from this tomb or the next (Pl. VIII, fig. 5).

D 136. Northern shaft of great mastaba. Same dimensions as 135. To north a chamber, bricked up, roughly rectangular in shape. Within it a male body in a wooden coffin, washed inside

and out with lime. Body semi-contracted, on left side, head north. Under the legs a vase (of type Pl. IV. 37). To the west and at a slightly higher level was another irregular chamber completely plundered.

D 146. Mastaba, whose walls at the north-west corner are built over part of a predynastic kiln. Rectangular pit, 230 by 145. At about 120 from the top the south half of the pit is encumbered by some bricks and large rough boulders of limestone (Pl. III., fig. 3). These when removed were seen to have been just at the level of the top of a narrow chamber under the south end, 93 by 48 in size, and with its floor 160 below the surface. On the east side of the entrance to the chamber was a small construction consisting of six bricks laid in twos in alternate headers and stretchers. This was



D 181

Fig. 6. Plan of D 181.

probably done to support the roof of the chamber, which was giving way at that point. Body, semi-contracted, on left side, head north, female.

D 181. Mastaba. Rectangular pit, 170 by 114. Under the west side is cut a chamber 74 wide, extending the whole length of the side (fig. 6). This chamber is closed by a door of bricks set along its front in the pit. There are six courses of bricks. The body lay in a contracted position on its left side, head north, in a whitewashed wood coffin 133 by 58 by 50. Over the coffin were fragments of several vases of types Pl. IV. 29 and 37. Outside the coffin, and at its north end, were two vases of type Pl. IV. 37, placed side by side with their mouths towards the coffin. In the south-west

corner of the pit was the vase Pl. IV. 27. Depth of pit 205, height of chamber 70.

D 231. No sign of mastaba. Rectangular shaft of unusual length, slightly undercut at the north end so as to form a rudimentary chamber. The wooden coffin, limewashed as usual, was pushed up to this end in such a way that the head lay in the undercutting. Body, male, semi-contracted, on left side, head north.

#### *The date of the cemetery.*

The date of the cemetery is not difficult to determine. Reisner's work at Naga ed Dêr has established with comparative certainty that in the larger tombs the usual type in the IIIrd Dynasty is the stairway tomb, while the square pit with a chamber only comes into prominence in the IVth.<sup>1</sup> In the smaller tombs the square pit with recess chamber marks the IVth Dynasty. Of the stairway and other types which at Naga ed Dêr belong to the IIrd and IIIrd Dynasties, we have no trace at Abydos, and thus, allowing for local differences, which are always slight in Egypt, particularly between places so near to one another as Abydos and Naga ed Dêr, we may surmise that our cemetery belongs to the IVth Dynasty in the main, though part of it may date from the end of the IIIrd. This dating is corroborated, as we shall see presently, by the evidence of the pot-burials, and a further proof is afforded by the pottery, which has exact parallels among certain dated material of the IIIrd and IVth Dynasties.

#### *Affinities of the mastaba type.*

We have already seen that the Abydos mastabas are of the earlier type, in which the structure itself is simple and the cult is carried on outside the mastaba proper instead of in rooms within it. But this does not necessarily mean a very early date, for we are here dealing with a small type,

<sup>1</sup> *Naga ed Dêr I.*, p. 137.



whereas our knowledge of the type series is mostly derived from the much larger mastabas of Giza, Saqqara and Abusir. For comparisons we must rather look to the cemeteries of Naga ed Dér. In cemetery 1500, which dates from the 1st and 2nd Dynasties, the mastabas are hollow and filled with sand and rubbish, as are those of Abydos.<sup>1</sup> On the west and south sides are series of simple and compound niches. No north side remained, and those parts of the east sides which were found showed no niches. There was a wall all round the structure. In cemetery 3500, which dates from the 3rd Dynasty, the mastaba has developed in the direction of the Abydos type.<sup>2</sup> There were niches, simple and compound, in the east side only, and they were probably two in number in all cases. There was usually a low-walled court in front of the side which had the niches, rarely with an entrance. Sometimes the back of another mastaba formed a court and short cross walls were put in. This might well serve as a description of the Abydos mastabas.

Equally close analogies are to be found at Reqaqna, where Garstang found a group of mastaba tombs showing very similar features. In some cases there is the same joining on of a later mastaba to an earlier by building only three walls and using one side of the older mastaba as the fourth.<sup>3</sup> Of the large mastabas at Reqaqna there is none quite so simple as ours. R 50 is perhaps the nearest parallel, but it differs in having two entrances to the outer passage, and also in the position of the niches. It also has a passage connecting the outer passage with the inner space, a feature which was almost certainly omitted in our example, for what looks at first sight like such a passage is probably only a simple niche broken through at the back. The smaller tombs resemble ours more closely. The

mastabas have niches in the east side, sometimes one, sometimes two, simple or compound, but never more than two. In many cases the mastabas are built in parallel lines in such a way that the back of one line forms as it were a courtyard to the mastabas of the next. Mastaba 55 A appears, judging from the plan, to have a small courtyard in front of it, but this feature does not seem to occur in other cases. The graves themselves are sometimes shafts with a fairly definite chamber to the south, a type rather more developed than our D chamber-tombs; in other cases there is pot-burial. The vaulted tombs of Reqaqna, which are probably of the Vth Dynasty, are of a type which does not occur at Abydos, though it is just possible to see a suggestion of the type in the elementary brick coverings, especially D 182, which might be described as a rudimentary corbel. Garstang found at Reqaqna what may well be the transition stages of such a development.<sup>4</sup> In the chamber-tombs the body was, as at Abydos, contracted, but not very tightly, on the left side, with head to the north.

We have unfortunately little evidence with regard to the smaller mastabas at El Kab, for they were in a badly destroyed condition. Nevertheless, they show close analogies, for there are both pot-burials and pits with small chambers. Here, too, the position is one of contraction, varying in tightness, on the left side, with the head north (with one exception).<sup>5</sup>

At Medum, again, in the IVth Dynasty cemetery nothing was learned as to the structure of the smaller mastabas, but the position of the bodies was the contracted, though the thighs were never drawn up to make an acute angle with the spine.<sup>6</sup>

At Ballas were found square pits with small chambers, and pot-burial was also represented.

<sup>1</sup> *Naga ed Dér*, I, pp. 5-7.

<sup>2</sup> *Op. cit.* II., pp. 9-13.

<sup>3</sup> GARSTANG, *Third Egyptian Dynasty*, Pl. 21.

<sup>4</sup> *Op. cit.*, p. 46.

<sup>5</sup> QUIDELL, *El Kab*, pp. 3-7.

<sup>6</sup> PETRIE, *Medum*, pp. 11 ff.

An interesting case is tomb no. 446, which is a pit with two chambers. In each of these is a contracted body, while in the pit itself there is a pot-burial. With these burials were vases of type Pl. IV., fig. 37. The bodies in the chamber-tombs at Ballas were in the contracted position, varying in tightness, on the left side, with head north.<sup>1</sup>

These parallels go to demonstrate once more, if further demonstration be necessary, the homogeneity of burial customs as of all other customs and products over a large stretch of Egyptian soil. The idea that Egypt was, because of its long narrow form, a country where communication was difficult and where local differences and peculiarities in art and custom abounded, is proved by each fresh discovery to be absurd, and could never have been advanced except by those who are unaware that in primitive times the great friend of trade and communication was water, while its enemies were mountain and desert. Egypt, a country every point of which is within twenty miles of one of the two finest waterways in the world, could never be a land of great local diversity.

*Order in which the tombs were built.*

It was to be hoped that from the observing of the order in which the tombs were built some certainty could have been arrived at with regard to the succession of the various types of burial. This unfortunately is not the case. The pleasing assumption that the smaller tombs were all built up around the large mastaba unfortunately cannot be proved. In certain groups, however, the order of building can be inferred, thanks to the fact that in many cases a new mastaba was constructed by building only three walls on to the already existing wall of an older. This criterion gives us the following set of facts, which can best be shown in tabular form. Each group of tombs in which the order is determinable is distinguished

by a letter A, B etc. and the order of building within the group by a number, no. 1 being built earlier than no. 2, and so on.

A		B	
(1)	137. Coffin.	(1)	119. Pot.
(2)	131. Chamber.	(2)	117. Bricks.
(3)	128. Pot.		
(4)	129. Pot.		
C		D	
(1)	126. Pot.	(1)	120. Pot.
(2)	124. Pot.	(2)	116. Pot.
		(3)	118. Bricks.
E		F	
(1)	146. Chamber.	(1)	135-6. Chamber.
(2)	145. Pot.	(2)	147. Bricks.
(3)	144. Pot.	(3)	143. Pot.
		(4)	149. Bricks.

Nos. 181-4 are clearly later than 135-6.

Nos. 143 and 147 are later than 145-6, which they used to form their courtyard wall.

From this it is clear that there is no succession in the types of burial. In Group A there is a chamber-burial later than a coffin-burial, and there are two pot-burials later than either. In Group B we have a brick-covered burial which is later than a pot-burial and so on. The inference is that all the different types of burial were in use during the period of the cemetery, and that the choice depended mainly upon the idiosyncrasy of the relatives of the deceased. It is just worthy of remark that the chamber-burials are mainly among the larger tombs, but the fact may be entirely without significance and merely a coincidence.

*The objects found.*

Unfortunately, few objects were found in the tombs. They are all, with the exception of the pottery, shown on Pl. VIII., fig. 1, and have already been described in the catalogue of tombs. A drawing of the inscription on the cylinder is

<sup>1</sup> PETRIE and QUIBELL, *Nagada and Ballas*, pp. 6, 7.



given on Pl. IV., fig. 26. It is tempting to see in it the name of King Sahura of the Vth Dynasty, though the three signs are not in a cartouche and are oddly arranged, perhaps only through lack of space.

The pottery, shown on Pl. IV., figs. 27-45, is that typical of the IIIrd and IVth Dynasties. Thus no. 27 occurs in the tomb of Kamena at El Kab, which is dated by a bowl bearing the name of King Sneferu. No. 29 is paralleled by *Naga ed Dér*, ii., fig. 87, 23, and no. 35 by 18 in the same figure, and by Garstang *Third Egyptian Dynasty*, xiii. 11 and 12. No. 36 is a vase which occurs in the IIIrd Dynasty at Naga ed Dér (see fig. 87, 13). Nos. 37 and 38 are well-known IVth and perhaps late IIIrd Dynasty forms and are figured in *Third Egyptian Dynasty*, xiii. 3 and 4, and in *El Kab*, xii. 35. No. 40 will be found in *Third Egyptian Dynasty*, xiii. 5, though the oval shape is not indicated there. Nos. 33 and 34 are of the usual fine red polished ware of the IIIrd to VIth Dynasties; for their shapes compare *El Kab*, xii. 51, 52 and 54. The large pots inverted over the bodies (Pl. VIII., figs. 2 and 3) are exactly of the type found used in a similar manner at El Kab (xx. 5) and at Reqaqna. The spouted bowl (Pl. VIII. 4 and 6) is a well-known IVth Dynasty type, cf. *Medum*, Pl. XXXI. 21. It also occurred in a pot-burial at El Amrah. The two vases, nos. 31 and 32, were found in surface sand among the mastabas. They are similar to the other rough wares in fabric, but their date must not be considered as certain. They are of a form not uncommon in the early Middle Kingdom.

The only objects which still remain to be mentioned are a number of clay balls, varying in diameter from 3 to 5 cm., found in the sand filling of Mastaba 124, mostly in the north-east (local) corner. They are made of a fine tenacious grey clay, and are covered with the impressions of a grille design, stamped many times on each so as to occupy the whole surface. In addition to this there are on each certain hieroglyphic (?)

signs roughly incised by hand with a sharp instrument while the clay was still wet. The inscription is probably the same in each case, but the objects need further study and a note on them will be published later. Balls precisely similar, except possibly for the inscription, were discovered at Reqaqna by Garstang in a hole in the wall at the north-east corner of Mastaba 50.<sup>1</sup>

#### *History of pot-burial in Egypt.*

The custom of burying the dead under an inverted pot is a phenomenon which has been previously observed in Egypt, and it has been admirably treated by Garstang in the tenth chapter of his *Third Egyptian Dynasty*. He concludes that the practice "appears in Upper Egypt at the close of the predynastic period and is uniformly continuous through the early dynasties to the advent of the fourth. It is associated with other early methods of burial, at first only by proximity, and later also by co-relation. As a practice it is not common but it is constant; nor is it demonstrably representative of poorer or richer people or of a differing element in race."

In our Cemetery D there are probably more untouched pot-burials than have been found in the rest of Egypt together, and thus our knowledge of this curious custom has been considerably enlarged. In the main Garstang's conclusions have been confirmed, and if I venture to differ from him it is on a point which is not influenced in any way by the new discovery. I cannot see any proof or even any reason for believing at present that the practice was continuous through the early dynasties. Surely what we actually have is the far more remarkable fact that it first appears in the late predynastic period, lasting probably into the Ist Dynasty, and then completely disappears, to come up again only in the late IIIrd Dynasty. It may be mere chance that we have no examples from the IIrd and

<sup>1</sup> See *Third Egyptian Dynasty*, p. 59 and Pl. xxx.



IIIrd Dynasties, but the fact remains that we have not, as the following summary will show.

Cases of pot-burial are known at El Amrah, Abydos, Ballas, El Kab and Reqaqnah.

At El Amrah<sup>1</sup> there are four examples, b 2, b 98, b 175 and b 182. None of these were accompanied by any objects, and Reisner<sup>2</sup> is almost certainly right in attributing them to the period between late IIrd and IVth Dynasty. They might just conceivably be predynastic. At the same time the vase shown overturned in a photograph (Pl. II. 3), and described as having a well marked rim, looks like the usual D type at Abydos, though unfortunately one cannot see the rim, and there is no drawing of it. Moreover in one case the inverted vase was a spouted bowl of approximately the type of Pl. VIII., fig. 4, which belongs to the IIIrd and IVth Dynasties. The El Amrah examples are thus probably contemporaneous with those of Cemetery D.

The examples noted by Mac Iver at Abydos are all clearly late predynastic or early Ist Dynasty. They are all accompanied by pottery of this period, and in one case there is a slate palette.<sup>3</sup>

The examples from Ballas are unfortunately not as completely published as might have been wished, and we are confined to general statements with regard to them. Burials were found in rough pots, inverted or not, both in and outside the stairway tombs. No grave was found certainly undisturbed, but some Old Kingdom pottery was found with each. In some cases the pot-burial represents the original occupant of the grave, while in others it is intrusive.<sup>4</sup> The evidence of the form of the tombs, together with

the types of the pottery, makes it clear that the pot-burials of Ballas are to be attributed to the IIIrd and IVth Dynasties.<sup>5</sup>

At El Kab there are at least twelve important pot-burials.<sup>6</sup> Of these no. 288 was a disturbed shaft-tomb which had contained a burial under a vase of exactly the same type as the D burials at Abydos. With it were four bowls of diorite, one of which was inscribed with the name of king Sneferu of the late IIIrd Dynasty. No. 166 is an untouched pot-burial, which it has been suggested may belong to the IIrd Dynasty on the strength of having yielded a cylinder seal which may possibly contain the king name Ka-ra, which might be the *Xaίρης* of Manetho. This evidence, is, however, very slender, and Reisner is probably right in assigning the tomb to the late IIIrd Dynasty. Mastaba 301 had contained a pot-burial, together with a bowl with the name of Sneferu. Tomb 178 contained a pot-burial and a copper (?) cylinder of User-kaf of the Vth Dynasty, but the excavator himself doubts whether the two are contemporaneous, as the tomb had been partially disturbed.<sup>7</sup> On the whole there is nothing in the El Kab evidence to prove that pot-burial occurred there outside the IIIrd and IVth Dynasties.<sup>8</sup>

At Reqaqna there are two very important instances, R 55, which Garstang on excellent evidence places subsequent to the end of the IIIrd Dynasty, and 70 A, which lies under the foundations of a Vth Dynasty mastaba, R 70.<sup>9</sup> Reisner goes further and attributes this mastaba to the late IVth Dynasty, and the pot-burial beneath it to the late IIIrd. Without refining

<sup>1</sup> Cf. also Reisner's Table, *Naga ed Dér*, p. 138.

<sup>2</sup> QUIBELL, *El Kab*, Tombs C 5, St. 9, 42, 88, 166, 178, 185, 186, 231, 249, 288 and 301.

<sup>3</sup> Reisner, however (*op. cit.*, p. 138), accepts the evidence of the cylinder.

<sup>4</sup> In DE MORGAN'S *Recherches sur les origines*, there is an unsatisfactory reference to pot-burial at Kawâmil, p. 31.

<sup>5</sup> *Third Egyptian Dynasty*, pp. 51 ff.

<sup>1</sup> MAC IVER and MACE, *El Amrah and Abydos*, pp. 10, 11.

<sup>2</sup> See table of dating in *Naga ed Dér*, vol. i., p. 138.

<sup>3</sup> MAC IVER and MACE, *op. cit.*, p. 11.

<sup>4</sup> PETRIE and QUIBELL, *Ballas and Naqada*, Tombs 180, 212, 265, 353, 365, 446 and 530.

too much we may say that here, as at El Kab, the pot-burials seem to belong to the IIIrd and IVth Dynasties, while there is no certain proof that they extend beyond those limits in either direction.<sup>1</sup>

On present evidence it is best to regard the continuity of this form of burial throughout the early dynasties as non-proven. The custom is

well authenticated in the late predynastic period<sup>2</sup> and probably extends into the Ist Dynasty. It is frequent on certain sites in the IIIrd and IVth Dynasties, but there is no sure trace of it later,<sup>3</sup> and the typical Vth Dynasty cemeteries have consistently failed to yield examples of it.

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<sup>2</sup> Wainwright records examples of children buried in pots: *The Labyrinth, Gerzeh and Mazghuneh*, p. 5.

<sup>3</sup> We have, however, a Vth Dynasty example at Abydos if our cylinder really bears the name of Sahura.

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<sup>1</sup> Reisner, however, attributes 55 B to the Vth Dynasty.

## CHAPTER III.

## TOMBS OF THE MIDDLE KINGDOM.

THE central part of Cemetery D was, as we have seen, occupied by the tombs of the early dynastic period. These seem to have been respected in later times, for there are no graves of later date among them, and in no case have they been damaged by subsequent burials. Around them, however, grew up a small cemetery of the Middle Kingdom, a definite date for which is supplied by the cartouche of Amenemhat III. which occurs on a cartouche amulet in Tomb 101. From this we may conclude that part at least of the tombs belong to a period not earlier than the reign of this king and probably not much later. There are no data for a nearer determination.

The tombs are all of one type, a rectangular shaft running local north and south (true N.N.W.-S.S.E.), with the upper part usually bricked. The depth is about five metres in most cases, and there are usually two chambers, which open off the bottom of the shaft, one at each end. Occasionally there is a third chamber over one of the others, and still more rarely the total number of chambers is four. The superstructure has, in all cases but one, disappeared. The position of the body is fairly constant. The head is *always* to the north, and the body lies fully extended, or with legs slightly bent, either on the back or on the left side. In some cases where the supine position is used, the face is turned over to the left. The arms, though often straight down at the sides, are not unfrequently bent, sometimes one, sometimes both. In the child's tomb D 105 there is a curious instance of complete contraction.<sup>1</sup> There is in every case except two a coffin

of wood, which has almost completely perished. The exceptions are D 241, where the coffin is of limestone, and D 203, where the body was merely covered with a mat. No sign of mummification or of any attempt to preserve the bodies was found.

The most important of the tombs, including all those which were intact, are described below.

D 101. Disturbed. Two chambers to north, and one to south at a higher level. In upper north chamber a varied assortment of shells and beads of amethyst, carnelian, green felspar, garnet etc. Minute cartouche amulet in green glaze with cartouche of Amenemhat III., Maat-en-Ra, fly amulet of green felspar, and drop-shaped pendant of carnelian.

D 102. In top of shaft, intrusive burial of XVIIIth Dynasty or later; child's body in wooden coffin with mass of amulets (mostly hawks) at neck and a lentoid seal (Pl. IV., fig. 17). Below this two wooden coffins, the eastern containing a male body, supine, with head to the right. At head of coffin six XVIIIth-Dynasty vases (Pl. VII., figs 42-45). In the western coffin the bodies of three small children, two on left side and one supine. At the bottom of the shaft a chamber to north and another to south, both disturbed. In south a male body, supine, extended, head north and face to right. Over face and neck a stucco mask overlaid with

bricked shaft, forming one of a group built at one and the same time in the XIIth Dynasty. But the body is in the extreme south end of the shaft, and from certain indications in the cutting, I am inclined to think that the burial is older than the shaft, and that the makers of the shaft, finding a body already in that spot, refrained from using the shaft.

<sup>1</sup> In 235 there is a body tightly contracted on the right side, with head south (Pl. II., fig. 4). The tomb is a



gold foil and eyes of alabaster with obsidian pupils. In a cutting in the west side of chamber at level of hips a pottery soul-house (Pl. IX., fig. 3). A few tubular beads of blue glaze, of copper and of red paste, were found scattered about, and a small blue glaze eye amulet. In north chamber a rough flint and small copper spoon.

D 104. Intact. Chamber to north at slight depth, bricked up. Female body, supine, but slightly on left side; head north, right arm slightly bent. Under head a pink breccia bowl (Pl. IV., fig. 14; Pl. IX., fig. 6). In thoracic cavity a string of seventy-two carnelian beads, the largest in the middle, and among them the usual thin disc of silver pierced in the centre (Pl. VIII., fig. 8).

D 105. Fig. 7. Shallow shaft, no chambers.



Fig. 7.

At 40 cm. from top a small wooden coffin, 57 by 46 cm., containing child's body tightly contracted, on right side, head north. At neck a string of five shells and white discoid and other beads and amulets of Middle Kingdom types. One of the beads was of flat lentoid form in dark blue glaze, with a band of minute fragments of light blue glaze set round its centre, a type common from VIth to XIIth Dynasties, and occurring in a larger size in XVIIIth (cf. Pl. X., fig. 7).

D 109-111. These shafts lay to the south of a great brick mastaba, to which they doubtless belong. The mastaba, now almost entirely destroyed, was of the simple type usual in Cemetery S, with an entrance from the east leading to a single room occupying the greater part of the structure. In the west wall of this room was the niche in which almost certainly stood the large stela (Pl. XII., fig. 2), found not far away.

In the sand which filled the chamber lay fragments of the small triad figure (Pl. IX., fig. 4), which represents Dedet-Nub and her two sons, Kemau and Nefer-pesd. This unfortunately was the only mastaba of which any vestige remained in the cemetery. The chambers of the three shafts, in each case one to north and one to south, except in 111, which had in addition another chamber to north, were all badly plundered and yielded little save the vases Pl. V., figs. 28-30, typical Middle Kingdom beads and amulets, and a copper mirror (Pl. VIII., fig. 15). In 109 were spherical beads of later date, of dark blue glass with three eyes round the sides, each white with a yellow centre. In the south chamber of this tomb there had been two bodies, one of which still lay untouched, extended on the left side, head north, with a paint slab and grinder (Pl. VIII., fig. 15), and a small vase of glazed silica paste behind the head.

D 152. Two chambers at each end of shaft, the two upper being completely plundered. In lower north chamber two bodies, supine, extended, the eastern prone with head turned up to east, arms and legs extended, the western supine, extended, face to east, left arm slightly bent. Head north in both cases. In the lower south chamber body, head north, extended, slightly on the left side. On breast a string of large blue glaze spherical beads strung with smaller spherical and tubular beads of the same material between each pair of the larger.

D 161. Two chambers to south, none to north. Upper plundered, lower intact and bricked up with two courses of nearly vertical bricks and a course of horizontal bricks above them. Body on left side, head north. Legs slightly bent, left arm straight, right bent up to heart. Female. At neck a necklace of spherical carnelian and a few haematite beads with a silver disc as centrepiece (Pl. VIII., fig. 7). Lower on the body minute blue glaze spherical beads and amulets and a fine scarab of olive-green stone with uninscribed base (Pl. VIII.,

fig. 7). Also a set of larger spherical beads of a dark grey speckled material, very light in weight (Pl. VIII., fig. 7, inner string; cf. D 303).

D 162. Chamber to north and to south. In each a body, intact, extended, head north, face east, slightly on left side, legs a little bent. In south blue glaze spherical beads at wrists. In north blue glaze beads, spherical, tubular and discoid at neck; kohl pot of glazed silica paste (Pl. IV., fig. 13) in front of face. Small vases (Pl. V. 4-7) in shaft.

D 166. Figs. 8-10. Shaft. Near top a disturbed

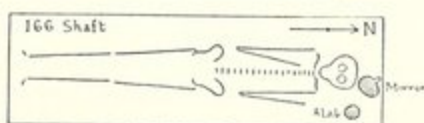


Fig. 8.



Fig. 9.

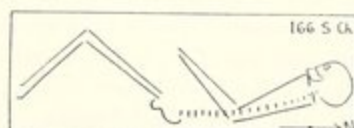


Fig. 10.

body, and 150 cm. lower another body (fig. 8), supine, extended, head north, arms doubled up. Behind head a copper mirror; east of face an alabaster kohl vase. Fast in the hair a necklace of spherical amethyst and other beads (Pl. VIII., fig. 10). The odd beads, which were of glazed stone and carnelian, with the gold pendant, formed the centre of the string. At same level a chamber to north, not bricked up. Body extended on left side, head north (fig. 9). At neck a copper mirror, at knees a blue marble bowl (Pl. IX., fig. 11), and at left hand a fine blue glaze scarab set in a silver ring (Pl. VIII., fig. 13, and Pl. IV. 15). Also small spherical amethyst beads, blue

glaze barrel beads and a gold shell pendant (Pl. VIII., fig. 14). At still lower level chamber to south bricked up. Body on right side, legs and arms slightly bent, head north, face west (fig. 10).

D 167. Chamber to north, not closed. Body, female, on left side, legs and arms slightly bent, head north. Upper chamber to south plundered. In lower chamber to south (fig. 11), body, female, on right side, head north, legs slightly bent, left arm bent, right extended, face west. Inside coffin at head three vases of one type (Pl. IX., fig. 13, and Pl. VIII., fig. 12), two of black stone with lids, and one of alabaster. At left shoulder a kohl pot of black stone (Pl. VIII., fig. 12), and outside the coffin near right elbow a bowl of thin ochre pottery with red painted

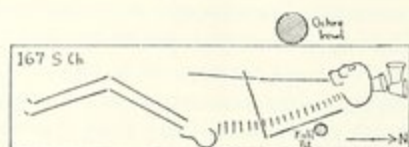


Fig. 11.

rim (Pl. IX., fig. 13). On the neck was a necklet of thin silver wire with the ends turned outwards to form small loops and a string of beads, amethyst spherical, and blue glaze discoid and spherical. In the damp sand round the body were also found a silver disc 58 mm. in diameter, probably a lid for one of the vases, some large blue glaze beads both spherical and tubular, and an ornamental bone pin 83 mm. long.

D 176. Small rectangular pit, no bricking. In it the body of a child, extended, on left side head north. To west of coffin a line of three bricks. Under neck a string of spherical beads of garnet, amethyst and carnelian, with one tubular bead of blue glaze. Under backbone, between shoulders, a mass of small barrel beads of blue glaze.

D 201. Shaft with no chambers. Body, male, in shaft, extended, supine, head north.

D 202. Body in shaft. On left side, legs



slightly bent, right arm extended, left arm up to face, head north.

D 203. Body in shaft in same posture as in 202, but wrapped in a reed mat instead of the usual wooden coffin. At neck a few poor dark blue glaze discoid beads with one tubular bead in the centre. Female.

D 212. Chamber to north and one to south. At entrance to chambers set of pottery vases (Pl. V., figs. 8-16). South chamber empty. In north chamber poor kohl vase of glazed silica paste (Pl. IV., fig. 11), copper butt of a spear, lapis cowroid, pierced shell, carnelian spherical bead, white discoid bead, short tubular bead of blue glaze, and piece of a small discoid bead of greenish glass.

The pottery might well all be XIIIth Dynasty, but among the other objects some may be later and belong to a secondary interment.

D 219. Long narrow shaft with a slight undercut recess at each end but no true chamber. At north end a female body, supine, extended, with head in the recess. Copper mirror over left cheek and alabaster kohl pot to west of head (Pl. IX., fig. 20, centre). Near the waist an amethyst beetle amulet, and a hawk and a spherical bead of blue glaze. In south end of shaft remains of a plundered burial with a paint palette of black stone and part of an ivory hand.

D 224. Shallow shaft, no chambers. Body disturbed. Among the sand four fine alabasters and a small blue glaze cup (Pl. IX., fig. 7). Also a small copper tray in the form of a shell, a copper earring, spherical beads of blue glaze and white discoid beads.

D 234. Shaft, 250 by 86 cm., brick-lined at top. At a slight depth two bodies apparently in one coffin, the upper supine with arms bent double at elbows and head to north, the lower extended on left side. Below these a third body in separate coffin, supine, right leg slightly bent, left absent. Under the upper arm an alabaster cup with base in a separate piece, on the breast a copper mirror, and at right shoulder a small

alabaster kohl pot (Pl. IX., fig. 21). Still lower in shaft a female body, supine, extended, head north. At neck a mass of beads and amulets of amethyst, garnet, carnelian and blue glaze, and a shell-pendant of gold. Still lower another body, supine, extended, right arm slightly bent, face to right. At the same level a chamber to south containing two bodies, supine, extended, one with face to east and the other with face to west. Chamber to north at higher level. Body in coffin which was painted red. Body extended, supine, face to left. At neck a series of blue glaze beads, spherical and tubular.

D 241. Chamber to north and to south. In south two burials, one to east, supine, extended in limestone coffin. The coffin measured 190 by 41 cm. and was 50 high. The lid was slightly convex but rose straight at the ends. The coffin itself was in two pieces, an upper and a lower, which were joined by wooden dowels or clamps, the holes for which still remain, three on each long side. At the foot of the body a rough limestone ushabti, uninscribed (Pl. IX., fig. 12). The other body in this chamber was extended supine in a wooden coffin. At the head a small alabaster kohl pot (Pl. IX., fig. 20, left), and at the left hand a copper mirror (Pl. IX., fig. 5, centre). Also small garnet beads, a gold shell-shaped pendant, and a blue lotus amulet. In the north chamber a body, supine, extended. At left arm two vases of alabaster (Pl. IX., fig. 5), also small glaze amulets and carnelian beads.

D 243. Shaft, no chambers. Body in shaft, extended on left side. Over the head a wig of dark grey mud with lattice markings similar to those found so often in Cemetery S. At the neck a string of beads of glaze, carnelian, feldspar and gold.

D 303. Shaft with one chamber to north and two to south. The former was completely plundered and contained nothing. The two latter had been disturbed and broken into one another, and it was impossible in the huge cave which had resulted to distinguish the contents

of one from those of the other. They were as follows:—

Two mirrors of copper (Pl. IX., fig. 22, left).

Two alabaster kohl pots and an alabaster cup (Pl. IX., fig. 9).

Two cups of dark grey green stone and one of glazed paste (Pl. IX., fig. 19).

Various lids, some of which fit these vases while others do not.

A large number of amethyst spherical beads forming a necklace 120 cm. long (Pl. IX., fig. 1).

Tubular, spherical and barrel beads of carnelian (Pl. VIII., fig. 9, outer string).

Spherical and pear-shaped beads of green felspar.

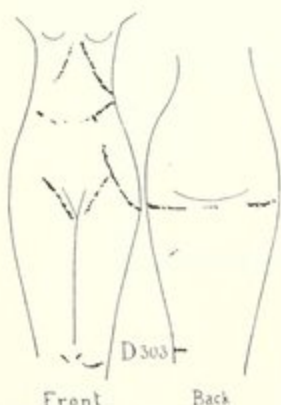


Fig. 12. Sketch to show traces of red paint on the figure of a dancing girl. D. 303.

Spherical beads of a grey speckled substance (Pl. VIII., fig. 9, inner string; cf. Tomb 161).

Various other beads of blue glaze, garnet, shell and haematite.

Various amulets of the same materials (Pl. VIII., fig. 9).

Small jewels of silver and gold (Pl. VIII., fig. 11).

The diorite scarab (Pl. VIII., fig. 11, and Pl. IV. 16), belonging to the Sealer Si-Anhûr.

Figure of a dancing girl in limestone (Pl. IX., fig. 2). She bends back till her hands touch the ground beneath her shoulders, and her long hair

(unfortunately missing) hangs down in a flowing mass. There is a fine painting of a dancing girl in this position<sup>1</sup> on an ostrakon in the Turin Museum (see Maspero *Art in Egypt*, fig. 287). In our example there are traces of red paint as shown in the drawings (fig. 12). These must represent either tattoo or paint marks on the body or else clothing, probably the latter.

In the shaft were a blue glaze scarab with silver mounting for a ring (Pl. IX., fig. 1, and Pl. IV. 23), a flint, a copper pin and part of a thin copper axe (Pl. IX., fig. 22).

#### *The objects found.*

The objects found do not show any great variety. The pottery, as usual in Middle Kingdom tombs in Abydos, is scanty and contains very few forms. Pl. V., fig. 1-3, shows three varieties of the rough pot so typical of the early Middle Kingdom. They are from D 204, a plundered shaft-tomb which yielded no other finds. The thin ochre bowl (Pl. IX., fig. 13, right) with red rim belongs to a type which is frequent in the Intermediate Period at Abydos and may continue even into the XVIIIth Dynasty. Pl. V., fig. 15 shows the wavy line pattern which begins in XIIth Dynasty and continues through the Intermediate Period, occurring even in early XVIIIth Dynasty. Fig. 16 on the same plate is of the powdery black ware with slight polish which seems to crop up occasionally in the Middle Kingdom and on into XVIIIth Dynasty.

The alabasters show little variety, most of them being vases of the usual kohl pot form or cups of the Pepi jar type. The replacing of alabaster in some cases by a paste made of nearly pure silica covered with a light green glaze is a feature of the cemetery. Owing to the damp the paste is in most cases reduced to a powdery mass,

<sup>1</sup> The same attitude is seen in the figure which determines the word for a funerary dance in MARIETTE, *Mon. die.*, 61.

which goes to pieces almost before the form can be drawn. A grey stone, probably serpentine, is also used for vases and for the paint palettes so typical of XIIIth Dynasty, and there is one example of pink breccia and one of blue marble, a stone virtually confined to the Middle Kingdom.

Among ornaments, the most typical of the period are the large spherical beads of light blue glaze, and also the rather smaller spherical beads of carnelian, amethyst and jasper. With the best necklaces is invariably a centre piece of one of two types, either a shell-shaped pendant of gold or silver (Pl. VIII., fig. 14), or a small thin

disc of silver pierced in the centre. The amulets of carnelian, felspar, amethyst and glaze include the lion, hawk, beetle, sacred eye, hippopotamus, lotus and human hand. The silver and gold jewels of D 303 are typical of the period; the large cylindrical pendants in Pl. VIII., fig. 11 occur among the treasure of Dahshur.

There is only one ushabti, that of D 241, which is of limestone, very poorly cut, and has, now at least, no inscription.

The copper mirrors are all of the rather solid heavy type with the tang made in one piece with the rest. No trace of the handles, which must have been of wood, was discovered.



## CHAPTER IV.

TOMBS OF THE XVIII<sup>TH</sup> DYNASTY AND LATER.1. XVIII<sup>th</sup> Dynasty Tombs.

The XVIII<sup>th</sup> Dynasty tombs in this part of the D Cemetery lie mostly to the south-east (local) of the low mound in which are the early dynastic graves. They are of two types, either deep shafts with rock-cut chambers, or shallow shafts leading into large brick barrel-vaulted

covered with sand. The advantage of this system is that the chambers can be built to a size which would be dangerous or even impossible if they were merely hewn out underground in the soft and treacherous rock. Moreover, the shaft having now a depth of only about two metres instead of five or six, the vault is made much more accessible

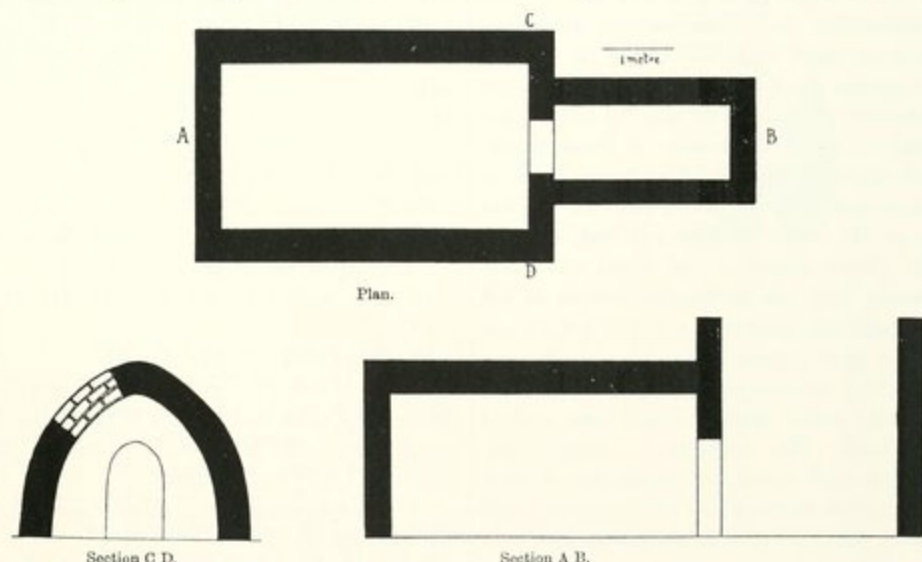


Fig. 13. Plan and sections along A B and C D of Tomb D 114.

chambers, whose roofs are just below the surface. The latter type is apparently a development of the former which took place in or about the XVIII<sup>th</sup> Dynasty. Instead of small chambers being cut in the rock at the bottom of the deep shaft a pit large enough to hold both shaft and chambers is dug in the earth, and the shaft and chambers are built up in it in brick and then

for successive burials, though it is perhaps more exposed to violation by plunderers. In the vaulted tombs of the XVIII<sup>th</sup> Dynasty there is a vault sometimes at one end only of the shaft, sometimes at both ends. Over the vault there was doubtless, as in later structures of this type, a mastaba of some kind, but in the examples found at Abydos this had in all cases disappeared.



These tombs had been far more severely plundered than those of the Middle Kingdom, probably owing to the fact that they were much richer. In no case were the bodies found in position.

The following is the list of the most important tombs:—

D 114. Fig. 13. Shaft and brick vault. The shaft, measuring 248 by 103 cm., and nearly three metres deep, gives access through a low narrow door in its south end to a chamber 420 by 230 cm., with a barrel-vaulted roof of brick. There are three superposed layers of brick in the vaulting, arranged in such a way that in each vertical section the joints between brick and brick in one layer lie directly under the middles of the bricks of the next. Small flat fragments of limestone are introduced into the mortar, but instead of being, as usually in these vaults, placed between the ends of brick and brick in the same arch, they are placed between the flat sides of the bricks between one arch and the next. When placed in the usual way these fragments help the rectangular bricks to fall more easily into a curve, but it is difficult to see what was their purpose when placed as they are here. There was no sign of a superstructure over the vault, which almost reached the ancient ground-level. The structure is complete and finished in itself, and it is probable that, if there was a mastaba above, it was built separately and not, as in the late dynastic tombs, combined with the vault.

Of the bodies there remained only a few bones, and the contents of the tomb had been scattered in all directions, some even lying in the sand which filled the shaft. The pottery is shown on Pl. VII, figs. 1-37, and Pl. XII, figs. 1-4. Its evidence is sufficient to date the tomb to the reign of Thothmes III. or slightly later. The other objects found are as follows:—

1. Fragments of a poor blue glaze dish with lotus design.

2. Pieces of an ivory arm.
3. Two serpentine vases with lids (Pl. XII, fig. 11).
4. Serpentine lid for a vase.
5. Six alabaster vases (Pl. X., fig. 6).
6. A mask of stucco, covered with gold foil.
7. Copper mirror with socket (Pl. X., fig. 3).
8. Two pairs of alabaster eyes set in copper with obsidian pupils, doubtless from the coffins (Pl. X., fig. 3).
9. Copper or bronze ring from a staff (?), and also butt of a staff or spear (Pl. X., fig. 3).
10. Three copper or bronze *neter* signs, 82 mm. high, probably from the coffins (Pl. X., fig. 3).
11. Disc of limestone 57 mm. in diameter.
12. Rough flint 59 mm. long (Pl. XII, fig. 6).
13. Sphere of blue glaze with black rays, pierced on one axis, diameter 32 mm. (Pl. XII, fig. 6).
14. Numerous small mud dabs in form of rough pots (Pl. XII, fig. 6, centre).
15. Two round objects of black pottery, diameter 47 mm., pierced through the centre (Pl. XII, fig. 6, left centre and bottom).
16. Slate spatula 72 mm. long (Pl. XII, fig. 6, left top).
17. Large shell (Pl. XII, fig. 6).
18. Set of men for a game (Pl. X., fig. 4). Of the tall type there are eighteen of blue glaze and two of ivory. Of the shorter type two of green glaze and five of black pottery.
19. Many cowries with the backs ground out (Pl. XII, fig. 6).
20. Discs of mother of pearl (Pl. XII, fig. 6).
21. Large amount of gold foil.
22. Sets of beads of several types:—
  - (a) Carnelian, spherical; (outer doubled string Pl. XII, fig. 9).
  - (b) Spherical, of gold foil (Pl. XII, fig. 9, inner right).
  - (c) Blue glaze, convex discoid (Pl. XII, fig. 9, inner left).
  - (d) Carnelian, fluted spherical (Pl. XII, fig. 9, top right).

(e) Blue glaze, thin flat discoid (Pl. X., fig. 7).

(f) Shell, small white discoid.

23. Silver ring with rectangular bezel on swivel (Pl. XII., fig. 9).

24. Two scarabs of Thothmes III. and a circular seal (Pl. XII., fig. 9, and Pl. IV. 21, 22 and 25).

25. Small blue glaze Bez amulet (Pl. XII., fig. 9).

26. Two jasper heart amulets (Pl. XII., fig. 9).

27. Blue glaze paste finger-ring with inscription on the bezel (Pl. X., fig. 7, and Pl. IV. 17a).

28. Five blue glaze genii amulets (Pl. X., fig. 7).

29. Degraded eye amulet in blue glaze (Pl. X., fig. 7).

30. Pieces of red ochre.

31. Few tubular beads of steatite and of blue glaze, some of the latter of large size.

32. Beads of type Pl. X., fig. 7, top row, right and left of centre, consisting of dark blue glaze, the central part of which is encrusted with fragments of a light blue glaze.

33. Fly amulet of jasper.

D 154. Shaft and barrel-vaulted chamber of brick, of much the same type as 114, except that the chamber lies north of the shaft. Badly disturbed. The contents were as follows:—

1. Three bronze mirrors, one with wooden handle (Pl. XI., fig. 1).

2. Two small shallow pans of bronze, with handles in form of goose's neck (Pl. XI., fig. 1).

3. Bronze spear-head and butt, a cutting-out knife, two kohl-sticks with chisel ends, and a small rod of bronze all shown (Pl. XI., fig. 5).

4. Bronze ring with piece of wire attached (Pl. XI., fig. 5).

5. Large number of weights(?), made by doubling up small pieces of lead sheeting (Pl. XI., fig. 5, left bottom).

6. Several pottery vases (Pl. VI., figs. 36-38, and Pl. XI., fig. 9).

7. Fragments of a large ivory spoon with fine design of lotuses (fig. 14).

8. Three scarabs (Pl. XI., fig. 5, and Pl. IV. 18-20), two of blue-green glaze, and the third, with the cartouche of Thothmes III., of dark blue glaze paste with longitudinally fluted back.

9. Small thin slips of bone and of blue and red glass paste, probably inlay from a decorated

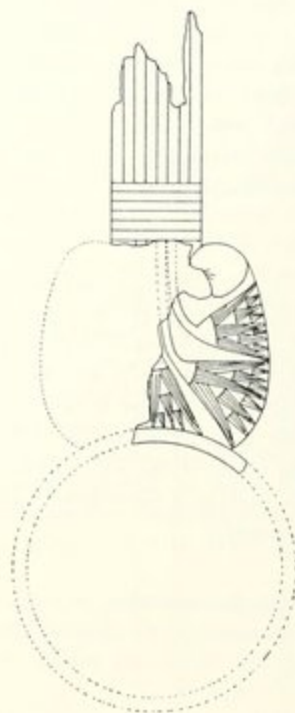


Fig. 14. Ivory spoon. D 154. Scale  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

box (Pl. XI., fig. 5, top row, right and left of centre).

10. Large wooden *dad* amulet.

11. Remains of wooden head-rest.

12. Cowries pierced for hanging (Pl. XI., fig. 5), and one other shell.

13. Small blue glaze amulets of Bez and of Bast seated (Pl. XI., fig. 5).

14. Bone spatula.

15. Potsherd with two holes pierced in it.



16. Pieces of a blue glass paste bowl.

17. Beads of carnelian, and of red, blue and yellow glaze.

D 211. Rectangular shaft, with chambers to north and to south, both plundered. In the shaft the pottery vases Pl. VI., figs. 1-30. In the south chamber an axe of bronze and a blue glaze vase with designs in black (Pl. X., figs. 2 and 10). In the north chamber a small scarab with a *men* sign, with opposed *neb* signs above and below it, ring-shaped beads of grey glass, a large fluted tubular bead of glass, a piece of bone inlay, large and small spherical beads of carnelian, and small spherical beads of blue glaze.

D 220. Shaft with chambers to north and to south. Pottery vases (Pl. V., figs. 17-27, and Pl. IX., figs. 14-18) in the shaft, and bronze cutting-out knife, similar to Pl. XI., fig. 5, in the south chamber. There is probably mixing in this tomb, some of the pottery belonging to the original burial of the XIIth Dynasty, while the rest is part of a secondary burial in the XVIIIth Dynasty.

D 223. Shaft. Chamber to south and two to north. In the shaft pieces of the blue-painted pottery of the Akhenaton period, and other vases (Pl. VI., figs. 31-3).

In the south chamber:—

1. Three ushabtis of reddish pottery with inscriptions in black on a yellow ground. They are mainly effaced, but the title of the deceased, "Singer of Osiris," and the beginning of the name Ket-her . . . are still legible (Pl. XII., fig. 10).

2. Nine hair-rings of the same type as Pl. XII., fig. 8 (left group), four in ivory, four in carnelian, and one in jasper.

3. Small blue glaze scarab with illegible inscription.

4. Tubular beads of blue glaze; flat discoid

beads of blue, yellow and red paste, some with notched edges; discoid beads of blue glaze with convex faces.

In the upper north chamber:—

1. Carnelian hair-ring of same type as in south chamber.

2. Long tubular beads, thicker at one end, five of light green glaze and one of red glaze.

3. Various beads of dark blue, red and white glaze, barrel-shaped, discoid, spherical and rugose tubular (type Pl. XII., fig. 8, left group).

4. Piece of a dark blue glaze vase.

Lower north chamber abandoned, dangerous.

In the shaft scattered bones and set of degraded blue glaze amulets, two of snake and disc, two hearts and two hands, scarab, and others uncertain, probably Bez.

D 226. Shaft with barrel-vaulted brick chamber to north of it. Plundered. The following objects were scattered about the chamber:—

1. Pottery, partly of the so-called Syrian type (Pl. VI., figs. 34-37).

2. A small bowl and a coarse spherical vase, both of alabaster (Pl. X., fig. 1).

3. Three bronze mirrors, one with ivory handle (Pl. X., fig. 1).

4. Two copper kohl-sticks of type Pl. XII., fig. 8.

5. Cylindrical ivory cup with simple lotus pattern incised round the bottom. The lid apparently swung round in a horizontal plane on a pivot which, with the hole made for it, still remains (Pl. X., fig. 1).

6. Two pairs of bronze tweezers of type Pl. XII., fig. 8.

7. Bronze cutting-out knife of type Pl. XI., fig. 5.

8. Elliptical seal of green glaze.

9. Bronze ring.

10. Tubular grater of bronze.

11. Two gold earrings of type Pl. XII., fig. 8, right group.

12. Bone necklace-threaders with ten holes.



13. Cowries, and flattened spherical beads of blue, white and yellow glaze.

D 229. Shaft with chamber to south. Plundered.

1. Two remarkable figures in yellow-brown pottery, with a slight polish, very similar to the brown Syrian ware, and decorated in black paint (Pl. XII, figs. 5 and 7). The larger, 223 mm. high, is in reality a hollow vase with mouth rising out of the head. The figure is that of a woman with black painted hair or wig. She clasps in her left arm an object, perhaps a loaf of bread. Round her neck is a necklace painted in black, and there are two bands of black paint round the waist.

The shorter figure, height 177 mm., is plain. Long ringlets hang down on both sides of the head, and the arms are outstretched.

2. Ushabti in blue glaze with illegible inscription (Pl. XI, fig. 6).

3. Two alabasters (Pl. XI, fig. 6).

4. Bronze figure of Nefer-tum (Pl. XII, fig. 8).

5. Two pairs bronze tweezers (Pl. XII, fig. 8).

6. Wooden head-rest.

7. Bronze kohl-stick with chisel end (Pl. XII, fig. 8).

8. Wooden shaft of a spindle (?) (Pl. XII, fig. 8).

9. Bronze model of a valve of a shell (Pl. XII, fig. 8, top left).

10. Four leaden earrings (Pl. XII, fig. 8, right).

11. Two carnelian hair-rings (Pl. XII, fig. 8, left).

12. Mussel and Conus shells.

13. Blue glaze scarab (Pl. XII, fig. 8).

14. Pendants, beads and amulets (Pl. XII, fig. 8).

15. Set of pottery vases (Pl. V., figs. 31-46, and Pl. X., fig. 8).

D. 305. In the shaft a number of ox bones and five vases (Pl. VII., figs. 38-41, and Pl. VI.,

fig. 15). In the chamber to south three kohl pots (Pl. X., fig. 5), two of alabaster and one of glazed silica paste, together with an eye amulet in glaze and a few beads. The pottery clearly belongs to the XVIIIth Dynasty, though the presence of the silica kohl pot suggests possible mixing with earlier objects.

D 306. Shaft with barrel-vaulted chamber of brick to south of it. Disturbed.

1. Wooden head-rest, badly damaged by white ants. Underneath the two upper ends are carved representations of the head of Bez (Pl. XI, fig. 2). At each end of the base-piece is a grotesque warrior figure (Bez?) (Pl. XI, figs. 7 and 8). The bad condition of the wood makes it difficult to interpret the figures, but it is clear that the warrior is in each case bearded and wears a tall helmet, from which descends a curling object behind. In one case he appears to be hurling a spear, and in the other shooting with a bow. He has the short chubby legs of a child, and possibly also a tail. The work is certainly not Egyptian, and for its provenance one is tempted to look to Syria, the home of many Egyptian fashions of this period.

2. Blue glaze vase with fluted sides (Pl. X., fig. 9).

3. Bronze kohl-stick, tweezers and mirror.

4. Beads of shell, copper, carnelian and blue glaze.

## 2. *Tombs of the Ptolemaic and Roman periods.*

Two tombs of this period were found. Both consisted of the shaft and brick vault usual in tombs of this age at Abydos, but they were too badly destroyed by the building of Coptic houses over them to show the details of their construction. They were both oriented local east and west.

D 221. Plundered. The following objects were found:—

1. Small leaden cup or bowl of a type very common in graves of this date at Atfih.
2. Bronze ornamental knob.
3. Several shells, including two pierced cowries.
4. A doubled piece of bronze ribbon.
5. Five small lead coins or tokens.
6. Eight bronze coins.<sup>1</sup>
7. Bronze arrow-head and bronze nail.
8. Large spherical beads of carnelian and of poor blue glaze.
9. Pieces of egg-shell.

<sup>1</sup> Mr. J. Grafton Milne, who has kindly examined these coins for me, finds them to be mostly late Ptolemaic, with one of Augustus and one of Claudius.

10. A large tubular carnelian bead.
11. Blue glaze tubular beads.
12. Small beads of pink coral.
13. Flattened tubular beads of blue glaze.

D 225. Pottery vases (Pl. IV., figs. 1-10):—

1. Small poor offering-table of rough sandstone; length, 115 mm.
2. Pieces of three blue glaze vases.
3. Two lamps of pottery.
4. Hone of black stone; length, 54 mm.
5. Pieces of leather and of copper.
6. Two Ptolemaic copper coins.
7. Half a large blue glaze spherical bead.
8. Fragment of a blue glaze figure of Bez.

## CHAPTER V.

### THE INSCRIPTIONS.

#### A.—HIEROGLYPHIC.

Dr. Alan Gardiner has done me the kindness to correct and improve my own translations. Whatever value the publication of these inscriptions may have is to be attributed entirely to him.

1. Pl. XIII, fig. 2, and fig. 15 in text. The stela was found face downwards under three

and shivered into small flakes soon after being taken from the earth. At the top are three lines of hieroglyphs which read:—

“An offering which the king gives to Osiris, head of the Westerners, the great god, lord of Abydos, that he may give offerings of bread and beer, flesh and fowl, incense and ointment to the *ka* of the overseer of the tilled-lands Si-Anhur, son of Dedet-Sobk.”

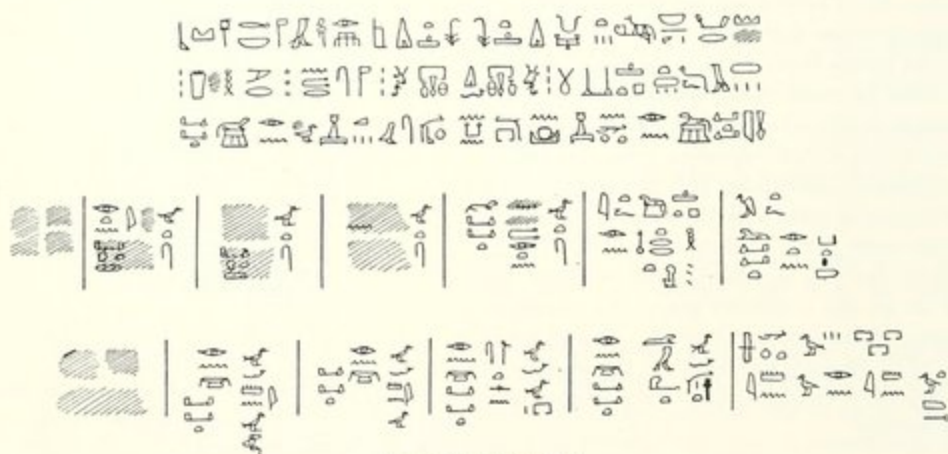


Fig. 15. Text of Stela No. 1.

metres of sand slightly north of the ruined mastaba which apparently belonged to Tombs D 109-11. As a limestone triad (see below, No. 8), found in the chamber of the mastaba, gives one of the names which occur on the stela, it is not improbable that the stela originally stood in that mastaba. It was of limestone, 95 cm. in height, with a square top cut into an ornamental cornice painted alternately red and blue. The whole stela was eaten through by salt

“An offering which the king gives to Upwawet, lord of the Sacred Land, that he may give offerings of bread and beer, flesh and fowl, offerings and meals to the *ka* of the ‘Steward of the Horizon’<sup>1</sup> Enher-nakht, son of Dedet-Sobk, justified.”

Below this inscription are the two deceased men seated one on each side of a table loaded

<sup>1</sup> I.e. the royal palace.



with offerings. In the next register are, on the right, the parents of the brothers, for brothers presumably they are, to whom the stela belongs. These parents are "His father Sebk-hotp, born of Nofret-er-rehwt" ("More beautiful than women"), and "His mother, Dedet-Sobk, born of Di(?) -ta." Opposite them on the left are five women each styled "her daughter," though the pronoun refers sometimes to Dedet-Sobk and sometimes to the latter's mother; these women are thus sisters and aunts of the principals. Their names are illegible. In the last register is, on the right, "The attendant of the sons of the house Si-Amûn, son of Sit-Amûn, justified," and five sons, the Overseer of the Khorp-land, Sebek-em-hêt son of Dedet-Nûb, the son of the house Senusret son of Dedet-Nûb, Si-Amûn son of Dedet-Nûb, Si-Amûn the Younger son of Dedet-Nûb, and a fifth son whose name is lost.

The stela is thus erected to the memory of two brothers by members of their own family and of another family, that of Si-Amûn and his wife Dedet-Nûb, whose connection with the first is not clear. The Dedet-Nûb, however, of this inscription is quite probably the same who stands in the centre of the triad statue (see below No. 8), but the two sons who there stand on either side of her are not mentioned among the remaining names of her sons on the stela. The triad was found in the ruined chamber of the mastaba of tombs 109-111, from which the stela may also have come.

2. Pl. XIV., fig. 2. A finely preserved stela of limestone, 38 cm. high, with rounded top; found in surface sand in Region W. The scenes and inscriptions are sufficiently clear in the reproduction. The text runs, under the usual scene of two wolves, openers of the ways of Upper and Lower Egypt:—

"An offering which the king gives to Osiris, lord of Abydos, and Upwawet, lord of the Sacred Land, and Min-hor-nekht, that they may give offerings of bread and beer, flesh and fowl, cloth

and thread, incense and ointment, and all things good and pure on which the god lives to the *ka* of the Osiris Neb-Sumenu,<sup>1</sup> justified, born of the lady of the house Bebi, justified. It is his brother who makes his name to live, the judge, 'Mouth (?) of Nekhen,' Si-Amûn."

"His nurse Rehwet-tut, justified."

"His father, Great One of the Southern Tens, Si-Amûn, justified, lord of honour."

"His mistress, the lady of the house Bebi, justified, possessing honour."

3. Pl. XIV., fig. 4, and fig. 16 in text. A poor small stela of limestone, 22 cm. high;



Fig. 16. Stela No. 3. (Facsimile.) Scale  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

found in surface sand in Region W. The hieroglyphs face in the wrong direction for the order in which the columns read.

"An offering which the king gives to Osiris, the great god, lord of Abydos, that he may give offerings of bread and beer, flesh and fowl, to the *ka* of the regulator of the priestly companies Enher-nakht, justified, and to the *ka* of his wife, mistress of the house, Ita-I . . . (?), justified." Below are three sons, the regulator of the priestly companies Senusret, justified, the citizen Nefer-hotp, and the attendant Sebk-o.

<sup>1</sup> *Šemenu* was a town near Gebelen. *Nb-Šemenu*, the lord of Sumenu, is Sebek.

4. Pl. XIV., fig. 5, and fig. 17 in text. Poor stela of limestone, 20 cm. high, with rounded top; found in surface sand near Region S.

"An offering which the king gives to Osiris, lord of Busiris, the great god, lord of Abydos, that he may give offerings of bread and beer, flesh and fowl, cloth and thread to the *ka* of the honoured one Redis, justified." Below are mentioned his brother Redis, steward . . . . ., his father Bertef(?), his mother Wenshunet(?), his sister Nedjeri, and a woman called Senni. The



Fig. 17. Stela No. 4. (Facsimile.) Scale  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

stela concludes, "It is his brother Mentu-hotp who makes his name to live in the western desert-cemetery."

5. Pl. XIII., fig. 4. Fine stela of limestone, 36 cm. broad; original height now indeterminable; found in surface sand in Region W. The flesh of the figures is painted red, but there is no other colouring. The upper part was unfortunately broken off in antiquity. The inscription runs:—

"The giving of praise to Upwawet, the kissing of the ground to the lord of Abydos, by the

overseer of the Delta, Pepi, justified, born of Schetep-ib. The giving of praise to the great god, lord of Abydos, the kissing of the ground to the lord of the Sacred Land, by the overseer of the Delta, Pepi, justified, born of Schetep-ib."

6. Fig. 18 in text. Upper portion of a badly-defaced stela of limestone; found in the filling of a disturbed shaft in Region B. The inscription reads:—

"The hereditary count and prince, the chancellor of the king of Lower Egypt, the great steward, Neb-onkh, justified, born of the lady of the house, Hapiu, justified. He says, 'Hail to thee, Osiris, lord of the Westerners, on this happy day on which . . . . . the *ka* of

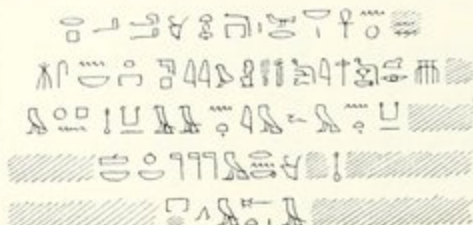


Fig. 18. Inscription No. 6.

every . . . . before the gods in thy name of Wennefer . . . . coming forth from the body . . . ."

The stela is interesting because a statue of this same man was found in 1910-11 in tomb B 58, not far from the shaft into which the stela had been thrown. Moreover, a second stela of the same Neb-onkh, dedicated by his musician Teni-o, was found near the same place in 1911-12 (see forthcoming memoir for 1910-12).

7. Pl. XIV., fig. 6. Fine limestone stela, 48 cm. high, with square top. It was found in small pieces in several disturbed shafts in Region B. Some of the fragments are mere flakes off the face, and it was necessary to mount the whole in plaster of Paris before packing it. The curious grille in the centre of the upper



register is worthy of notice; it was formed by cutting three vertical slits right through the stone, leaving two mullions standing between. The inscription reads:—

"An offering which the king gives to . . . ; all manner of [things] and all young plants to the *ka* of the Great One of the Southern Tens, Sebk-hotp, deceased."

The stela is now in the Cairo Museum.

8. Pl. IX., fig. 4, and fig. 19 in text. Small triad statue in fine limestone, 193 mm. high; found in fragments in the ruined chamber of a mastaba which probably belonged to tombs 109-111, whose chambers lie vertically under it.



Fig. 19. Inscription No. 8, from triad statue.

Each figure is roughly inscribed down the front, the inscriptions reading:—

"The man of the Department, Keman, son of Dedet-Nüb."

"The mistress of the house, Dedet-Nüb."

"The man of the Department, Nefer-pesd, son of Sit-Hathor."

## B.—COPTIC.

Two interesting Coptic inscriptions were found in Cemetery D. Sir Herbert Thompson has been good enough to correct my translations of them, and the notes which are appended are entirely his.

1. Pl. XIII., fig. 1, and fig. 20 in text. Coptic funerary stela which had been used face downwards as the cover of a drain under a late

Coptic house in Region D. The inscription is well cut but much damaged by salt. The height of the stela is 55 cm. (Cairo Museum).

"Oh Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, our father Michael, our mother Maria, our father Adam, our mother Zoe, the twenty-four elders, the virtues of the Holy Spirit, the patriarchs, the prophets, the apostles, the martyrs, the confessors [and?] men, Apa Apollo, Apa Anoup, Apa Philb, Apa Paternoute, Apa Proou, Apa



ΠΙΩΤΠΩΝΡΕ ΑΑΒΤΕΝ  
ΤΜΙΧΑΗΤΕΝΜΑΥΜΑ ΠΕΝΙΩΤ  
ΜΤΕΝΜΑΥΖΩΗΠ ΑΕΤΕΜΠΡΕ  
ΤΕΡΟCΝΑΗΤΗΜΠΕΠΝΑΕΤΟΥΑΒ Μ  
ΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΗCΝΕΠΡΟΦΗΤΗCΝΑΠΟC  
ΛΟCΜΜΑΡΤΥΡΟCΝΟΜΟΛΟΓΙΤΗC  
ΝΡΩΜΕΑΠΤΑΠΟΛΛΩΠΑΑΝΟΧΠΑΠ  
ΑΦΙΒΑΠΑΤΕΡΜΟΥΤΕΑΠΑΠΡΟΥΑ  
ΠΑΔΜΟΥΝΑΠΑΧΡΙCΤΟΤΡΕΑΠΑΤΩ  
ΟΘΕΝΕΤΟΥΑΑΒΤΗΡΟΥΑΡΙΠΜΕΥΕΝ  
ΑΠΑΛΕΟΝΤCΕΠΡΕΜΗΠΑΝΑΖΟΕΛΥ  
ΜΤΟΝΜΟCΝCΟΥΜΗΤΝΧΙΑΖΚΑΠΑ  
ΠΑΚΑΡΕΑΠΑΙΕΡΗΜΙΑCΑΠΑΖΩΡΑ  
ΠΑΙΩΖΑΝΗCΑΠΑΙΑΚΩΒΑΠΑΙΩCΗC  
ΠΑΠΩΟΙΑΠΑΠΑΥΛΕΑΠΑCΟΥΡΟΥC  
ΠΑΟΥΕΝΟCΡΑΠΑΖΛΑΠΑCΙΑΒ  
ΑΝΕΑΠΑΠΑΜΟΥΝΑΠΑΕΥΔΕΜΩ  
ΝΑΠΑΑΜΩΝΕΑΠΑΦΟΙΒΑΜΩΝΑΠΑ  
CΑΚΠΡΕΜΖΑCΟΡΕΑΠΑΤΟCΚΡΕΑ  
ΒΑΡΙΑΕΑΜΝΑΠΑΙCΥΙΡΩΝΜΝΑΠ  
CΤΡΕΜΝΑΜΑCΟΥCΑΝΘΜΝ

Fig. 20. Inscription of Coptic stela No. 1.

Amoun, Apa Christotre, Apa Toothe(?), and all the holy ones, remember Apa Leontse the man of Panaaho who went to rest on the tenth day of Choiak; Apa Makare, Apa Jeremias, Apa Hor, Apa Johannes, Apa Jakob, Apa Joseph, Apa Pshoi, Apa Paule, Apa Sourous, Apa Ounophr, Apa Hello, Apa Silbane, Apa Pamoun, Apa Eudemon, Apa Amone, Apa Phoibamon, Apa Isak the man of Hagoore, Apa Tioskre, Apa Philea together with Apa Ichiron and Apa [P]etre and Ama Sousana and . . ."



Notes:—

l. 6. It is difficult to see what can come after  $\zeta\omicron\eta\omicron\lambda\omicron\gamma\iota\tau\iota\varsigma$  except [111]. "Confessors and men" is very tame, but I do not see what other relation there can be; there is no room for "among" or "before."

l. 9.  $\chi\rho\iota\sigma\tau\omicron\tau\epsilon$  is clear, but it must be a blunder for  $\chi\rho\iota\sigma\tau\omicron\phi\epsilon$ .  $\tau\alpha\omicron\omicron\omicron$  is not a possible name, I think.  $\tau\iota\omicron\omicron\omicron$  is the natural suggestion.  $\tau\omega[p]\omicron\omicron$  for  $\lambda\omicron\omicron\omicron\omicron[\omicron]$  is possible, but not very likely. [The stone certainly seems to have  $\omega$ . T.E.P.]

l. 11.  $\lambda\omicron\omicron\iota\tau\iota\varsigma$  = Leontios, a common name, just as we often have  $\gamma\epsilon\rho\omicron\iota\tau\iota\varsigma$  for Gerontios.

At top of the inscription is a  $\chi$  [11], probably remains of  $\chi\upsilon\rho$ , often put there. For its meaning see references in Quibell, *Excav. Saqq.* (1907-8), p. 29, note 8.

"The twenty-four Elders," *Apoc.* 4/4. Cf. Quibell, *u.s.*, p. 36 (no. 27), and Gaselee, *Parerga Coptica*, 1912.

"Virtues of the Holy Spirit." These are invoked in three or four places elsewhere (see Quibell, *Excav. Saqq.*, 1908-10, p. 60, note and references).

"Patermoute and Proou," invoked together elsewhere. Cf. *ibid.*, p. 61, note 6.

"Panaaho," the modern Benhà in the Delta (Amélineau, *Géogr.*, p. 298).

"Hagoore," a place unknown elsewhere, I believe.

"Tioskre" is a way of writing the name Dioscoros.

"Ischiron," properly Ischyron.

"[P]etre," of which there is no doubt, is of course Peter.

2. Pl. XIII, fig. 3. Fine Coptic stela in soft limestone, height 73 cm.; found under three metres of sand in Region D.

"Oh Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, our father Michael, our mother Maria, our father Adam,

our mother Zoe, Apa Apolo, Apa Anoup, Apa Phib, Apa Makare, Apa Jeremias, Apa Mouses, Ama Bes, Ama Maura, Apa Simothe, Apa Johannes, Apa Jakob, and all the holy ones according to their names, remember (the) *papa* Sire who went to rest on the fifth day of Paope (and the) *papa* Joseph who went to rest on the first day of Epiphi in the peace of God, Amen. (The) *papa* Lamasou, Brother Anoup, Brother Johannes. In charity remember them, Jesus the Christ. Brother Victor . . ."

The inscription is incised and the incisions are afterwards painted red. The last visible line, "Brother Victor . . .," is merely painted in red, and was followed by another line similarly written but now illegible.

Notes:—

l. 11. Clearly  $\eta\iota\varsigma$ , I think. I do not know of it elsewhere as a woman's name, unless perhaps on the stela no. 8568 in Crum's *Copt. Mons.* (*Cat. Cairo Mus.*), pl. xxix., but this is uncertain.  $\eta\alpha\rho\epsilon$  is found as a female name on stelai nos. 8421, 8530 of the same work.

l. 28. There seems to be no doubt about  $\lambda\alpha\eta\alpha\gamma\omicron\rho$ ; one would rather have expected  $\lambda\alpha\eta\alpha\gamma\omicron\rho$  (Damasus), though I do not know of the latter occurring in Egypt.

Of the Saints invoked, Apolo, Anoup and Phib are the trio of Bawit. Makare is probably the Apa of that name often invoked on South Egyptian stelae, and is perhaps he who is mentioned in the Bawit Calendar with a festival on Pashons 23. We know nothing about him. Jeremias is probably the founder of the Saqqara monastery, and Moses probably the Archimandrite of a monastery near Abydos (see Crum in Miss Murray's *Osireion*, p. 39). The rest are unknown.

[For the title *papa* see Quibell, *Excav. at Saqqara*, 1907-8, p. 36, note 6; Crum, *Brit. Mus. Cat. (Coptic MSS.)*, p. 478, note.—T. E. P.]

## CHAPTER VI.

## THE IBIS CEMETERY.

THIS particular cemetery, forming only a small portion of an extensive human cemetery,<sup>1</sup> was situated on the south ridge, which runs at right angles from the edge of the cultivation away back into the desert towards the Royal Tombs, and was almost exclusively devoted to the preservation of the mummified remains of the Sacred Ibis (*Ibis aethiopica*, or *Ibis religiosa* of some ornithologists) deposited in a series of large jars. In close proximity to it were a number of graves dating from the Roman occupation of Egypt, i.e. from 30 B.C.-379 A.D., and judging by the pottery found in the Ibis Cemetery I should refer it to the same period. Lying between and underneath the jars were the tops of shafts belonging to unplundered graves of the VIth Dynasty. A few of the latter were opened, but they contained little of interest except a few coarsely made vases. Originally the jars, ninety-three in number, had stood in the open, but in the course of time the sand had accumulated and entirely covered them up, the top in some cases being two feet or more below the surface, thus obliterating all traces of what was lying beneath.

These jars were for the most part of a cylindrical or barrel-shaped form and, with few exceptions, made of unbaked clay, the larger examples being built up in two or three sections, and their mouths closed with two or more sun-dried bricks (Pl. XVI). Little or no design had been followed in placing the jars, as will be seen by referring to the plan (Pl. XXVI.), most of them being deposited in a

more or less haphazard fashion and in close proximity to one another. Speaking generally, the jars were rarely more than two-thirds full, while in some cases there was only a layer or two of mummies at the bottom. The contents had been preserved with bitumen and then carefully wrapped in linen bandages, the outer covering being in most cases quite a work of art, accomplished by the use of narrow strips of black and brown linen, arranged in such a way as to form a wonderfully varied series of geometrical and other patterns (Pl. XVIII.-XX.);<sup>2</sup> in fact, from this one cemetery alone at least a hundred different designs were recorded. I should here like to mention that many of the most carefully wrapped mummies were found, on examination, to contain not a complete bird, but only masses of feathers, or a few feathers and bones mixed, and in one case but a single egg.

In preparing the birds for mummification, the body was first of all placed in position, one of two methods being invariably adopted; either the head and bill were drawn forward and placed along the median ventral line, their contours showing distinctly beneath the bandages (Pl. XIX., fig. 4 *b* and *c*), or the head and bill were placed along the left side of the body close to the wing; in both methods the legs are bent forward, having the claws extended and closely pressed against the ventral surface of the body. The bird was next soaked in some bituminous substance and then wrapped with several layers of linen, so that when completed the mummy had a some-

<sup>1</sup> Referred to as Cemetery E in a forthcoming publication dealing with the site of Abydos.

<sup>2</sup> In each print the mummies are to be considered as numbered from the left, *a*, *b*, *c* etc.



what cone-shaped form with rounded ends. The first of the two methods quoted above, including the pattern, was evidently one of the most admired forms of arrangement, as examples of it were found in nearly every jar, while in some cases the entire contents were of this type with its "V-shaped" design. For the second method the "concentric square" (Pl. XX., fig. 2) pattern was frequently used, the squares being placed either in a single vertical line, or in two or three parallel rows, and by a skilful arrangement of the black and brown stripes in different ways a surprising number of variations were obtained. In every specimen the decoration was on the ventral surface of the body only, the other side being quite plain. Unfortunately the white ant had penetrated into every jar, so that many of the specimens were considerably damaged; otherwise most of the mummies were well preserved, but required rather careful handling as the linen was somewhat brittle from age and the effect of the bitumen used in the preservation—the black linen more especially so, owing no doubt to the dyeing, the fibre crumbling in many cases to powder at the slightest touch. I found, however, that, by the use of varnish blown on to the decorative covering with a fine sprayer or atomizer, I got most satisfactory results, as the varnish soaked in rapidly and in no way injured the specimens, even from a museum point of view. After two or three applications of varnish the surface became quite firm, so that after being packed in cotton-wool and sewn up in muslin the mummies arrived in England in excellent condition.

When a detailed examination came to be made of the contents of the various jars I found that at least ninety per cent. of the mummies were those of the Sacred Ibis, or some parts of this species, the balance being made up chiefly of shrews (*Acomys cahirinus*), a small insectivorous mammal, not unlike the common mouse in appearance. These animals were made up into small neat oblong or square bundles

(Pl. XX., figs. 3 and 4), often containing as many as twenty or thirty specimens each; they were all carefully wrapped in linen, the outer covering, as in the case of the birds, being generally arranged in geometrical patterns. Besides the shrews a few small circular bundles were found containing the remains of snakes (Pl. XX., fig. 3), also a very large specimen of the sacred scarab beetle, and in one jar two young puppies. Of birds other than the Sacred Ibis a few examples of the following species of birds-of-prey were recorded, viz., *Falco peregrinus*—considered by Professor Lortet as the bird sacred to the god



Fig. 21. Ibis incised on vase.

Horus, *Falco subbuteo*, *Falco* (*Cerchneis*) *tinnunculus* (Kestrel) and *Accipiter nisus*.

Of the larger mammals the complete skeleton of an ox was found lying near one of the jars, the mummies of three or four domestic dogs, and the remains of several sheep. The dogs and sheep were placed inside small brick enclosures, built close up to or between the jars (Pl. XVII., fig. 6).

For the identification of the birds-of-prey I am indebted to Mr. Pycraft, and for the dogs and sheep to Mr. Oldfield Thomas.

Three small pottery jars were also found, containing masses of broken ibis eggs; on one of these jars a figure of the sacred bird had been scratched (fig. 21).



The Sacred Ibis was in the past a by no means uncommon bird in Egypt, if one may judge by the enormous number of mummies which have been found in various parts of that country. At the present day it is to be met with on the White Nile south of Khartoum, although an occasional specimen is said to visit Egypt during the inundation, i.e. in the months of July and August, and disappear again when the Nile has subsided. This, however, has been denied by some ornithologists, and personally, although I spent two summers in Egypt and was continually travelling up and down the Nile, I never saw a single specimen. I might here mention that the bird pointed out by the tourists' dragoman as being the Sacred Ibis is in reality the Buff-backed Heron (*Ardea bubulcus*), an egret-like bird of white plumage with a certain amount of rufous colouring on the back, and a short straight beak of a dull yellowish tinge; the true Sacred Ibis, on the other hand, has a black head and neck entirely destitute of feathers, a long black sickle-shaped bill, pure white plumage, the tips of the wings black, and from each shoulder droop black feathery plumes shot with blue, purple and green iridescence. There is also another species of Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*), mummified examples of which have occasionally been found associated with Ibis aethiopica.

Among the ancient Egyptians the ibis was associated with the god Thoth, who is represented on the monuments in human form with the head of this bird. According to Budge, "Thoth, in Egyptian Tehuti, the 'Measurer,' was the scribe of the gods, and the measurer of time. In the judgment hall of Osiris he is seen standing by the side of the balance, holding a palette and reed, ready to record the results of the weighing of the heart of the deceased. In bronze figures he is represented with the head of an ibis, but he has upon it sometimes horns and plumes." A carefully made representation of this crown, in two different coloured kinds of linen, was found in jar 1075.

The worship of this god dates far back in the history of Egypt, but there is no evidence to show, as far as I have been able to find out, at what period the ibis was associated with this deity, or when it was first mummified.

In Lortet and Gaillard's great work on "*La faune momifiée de l'ancienne Égypte*," there is a description of a collection of mummified ibises obtained from various places in Egypt, such as Sakkara, Kom-ombo, Rôda and Touné; all of these examples, they say, date "from the XXth Dynasty to the Greek period."

In ancient times the chief centre of the worship of Thoth was Hermopolis Magna, which lies in Upper Egypt, some three and a half miles from Rôda, and must not be confused with Hermopolis Parva in the delta of Egypt, on which site the large town of Damanhûr now stands. Hermopolis Magna was known to the ancient Egyptians by the name of Khmunu or Chemennu, the capital of the Un or "Hare" nome, its Greek appellation being derived from the name of the god Hermes, who was supposed to correspond to Thoth. The tombs of the ancient city lie at the base of the Libyan hills to the westward, where numerous ibis mummies have been buried. The cynocephalus ape, the attendant of Thoth, is also met with, embalmed and buried in the same consecrated spot.

As a cemetery of this description has not, as far as I am aware, been previously described in detail, it has been considered advisable to give a more or less full description of the contents of each jar. The jars, unless the contrary is stated, were made of unbaked clay and the bricks sun dried, of an average measurement of 35 x 18 x 10 cm.

1001. Dome shaped jar (Pl. XXII.), the only one of this type found. The contents consisted of fifteen adult ibises, and a bundle of feathers and bones belonging to the same species, wrapped up in such a manner as to represent a human mummy.

1002. This jar was made in three sections.

Contents: Twenty adult birds, a single ibis egg wrapped in linen, and a disc 23 cm. in diameter and 8 cm. thick, containing a mass of shrews (*Acomys cahirinus*).

1003. Contents: Seven adult ibises.

1004. This jar had a small pair of handles (Pl. XXII.). The handles on all these jars are purely ornamental, as in many cases the opening between the handles and the jar was indicated only by a slight depression on either side. Contents: Twenty-five adult birds; all were, with one exception, quite plainly wrapped in wide linen bandages, bound round with fine linen thread as a slight ornamentation. Several bundles of feathers, one containing some broken bones and feathers, and two with only fragments of bones.

1005. Decorated on one side with three pairs of incised lines (Pl. XXII.). There was no bottom to this jar, but it had a small opening at the lower edge, closed on the inside with a stone (Pl. XVII., fig. 5). Contents: Twelve adult ibises, one bundle of feathers, one of shrews, two young dogs, and one containing the remains of two small hawks.

1006. This jar had two small imperforate handles, and a wavy design round the top. Contents: Seven adult birds, the head and bones of another being wrapped up separately. One dog of the domestic variety, and the remains of two young sheep.

1007. This jar (Pl. XXII.) was made in two sections, the lower edge of the upper one having a rounded prominence, which fits in closely to a corresponding depression in the upper edge of the lower section. Contents: Six adult ibises, several bundles of feathers, also wing bones with the feathers attached, four small hawks, one large falcon, and one disc, 15 cm. by 4 cm. thick, containing shrews. Externally there is often no indication of the contents of the mummy until it has been unwrapped, as the same style and design was indiscriminately used for adult birds, young, feathers or bones.

1008. This jar, similar in type to no. 1005, was decorated with one pair of incised lines, the bottom was absent, and the small opening at the base closed with a plug of mud.

1009. Contents: Twenty adult ibises, all in plain bindings.

1010. An oval dish-shaped receptacle (Pl. XVI., fig. 4, clearly shown in the top left-hand corner), made of unbaked clay, 20 cm. deep, surrounded by a brick enclosure, built close up to jar 1005. The dish itself was empty, but in the sand underneath were the remains of two young sheep.

1011. This jar (Pl. XXII.) was composed of two sections. Contents: Ten adult birds, one bundle containing the egg of an ibis and a few feathers, two of feathers, one small hawk, and two of shrews.

1012. This jar had two small perforated handles. Contents: A number of adult ibises.

1013. (Pl. XXII.) Jar with two small handles. Contents: Eleven adult and four young ibises, also three bundles of feathers and a few broken bones.

1014. (Pl. XXII.) Made of baked clay, with two lines of conventional rope pattern running round it. Contents: Forty-four adult ibises.

1015. (Pl. XXII.) Had two small perforated handles, and two lines of conventional rope pattern round the middle. Contents: Seventeen adult birds, and two bundles of feathers and bones mixed.

1016. (Pl. XXIII.) Composed of two sections, with three lines of conventional rope pattern running round the upper portion of the lower section.

1017. (Pl. XXII.) Contents: Eleven adult birds, one bundle of feathers, and three of mixed bones and feathers.

1018. Contents: Seven adult birds, and a number of small linen bundles containing bones in such a bad state of preservation that it was impossible to determine to what species they belonged.



1019. A small circular vase of unbaked clay (Pl. XXII.), the mouth of which was closed by an inverted dish of the same material, containing the remains of a very young dog wrapped in linen, and two ribs of an adult.

1019a. The head of an ox (Pl. XVI., fig. 4), on which were traces of linen; immediately behind the head was a large flat disc of unbaked clay, and lying underneath was the complete skeleton, the various bones being arranged in a more or less compact heap.

1020. (Pl. XXIII.) Contents: Seventeen adult birds, two pairs of wings, two small bundles of feathers, one of mixed feathers and bones, and one example of *Falco* (*Cerchneis*) *tinnunculus*, or Kestrel.

1021. (Pl. XXIII.) A very large jar composed of three sections, the joints being plastered over with mud. Contents: Seventy-five adult ibises, all with the V-shaped design (Pl. XXI.), a very favourite pattern in this particular cemetery; two bundles containing only the legs of ibises, two of feathers, three of mixed bones and feathers, one large bird-of-prey, and one small hawk, the latter carefully bound to represent a human mummy (Pl. XX., fig. 7), the beak, eyes etc. being painted in black on the linen covering.

1022. (Pl. XXIII.) Jar of baked clay with imperforate handles. On the side were drawn two figures in black outline, representing a man and a woman (Pl. XVII., fig. 3) standing in front of one another with a plant or tree between them. Round the head of the man was a fillet.

1023. (Pl. XXIII.) Jar with imperforate handles. Contents: Five adult and four young ibises, also one example of *Falco tinnunculus*.

1024. With open handles. Contents: Nineteen adult birds, one bundle of feathers and bones mixed, one small hawk, and one bundle of shrews.

1025. (Pl. XXIII.) Contents: Eleven adult birds.

1026. (Pl. XXIII.) Composed of two sections. Contents: Twenty-two adult birds, and one bundle of feathers and bones.

1027. Contained the remains of a box, 45 cm. long, originally painted and gilded, in which was a mass of ibis feathers; and in addition one bundle of bones and feathers, one of shrews and one of snakes.

1028. Contents: Seven adult ibises, a few bundles of feathers, and seven rectangular bundles carefully bound in various designs, with an average measurement of  $17 \times 11 \times 6$  cm., all of which contained shrews.

1029. (Pl. XXIII.) Jar with perforated handles. Contents: Nine adult birds, two bundles bound round separate bundles containing the bones of young ibises, and another of feathers bound up with separate bundles of feathers.

1030. (Pl. XXIII.) Contents: One adult ibis, one bundle of feathers and four containing mixed feathers and bones.

1031. Composed of two sections with perforated handles. Contents: Twenty-eight adult birds and one bundle of shrews.

1031a. A small enclosure of brickwork lying at the base of jar 1031, containing the skulls and bones of two horned sheep (Pl. XVII., fig. 6).

1032. Contents: Six adult and one young ibis.

1033. Contents: Five adult ibises and some broken eggs; close to the base was a brick enclosure containing the heads of two horned sheep.

1033a. Small pottery jar (Pl. XVII., fig. 4), lying on its side close to no. 1033, the mouth sealed with a cap of mud, containing the broken remains of about 100 ibis eggs.

1034. Another small pottery jar lying on the other side of no. 1033, also containing broken eggs.

1035. Contents: Twelve adult ibises, and one bundle of shrews.

1036. Empty.

1037. (Pl. XXIII.) Contents: Eighteen adult ibises and one bundle of shrews. Built up close to the base was a small brick enclosure in which were the fragments of a sheep's skull.



1038. (Pl. XXIV.) Contents: Fifteen adult birds.

1039. Contents: Sixteen adult ibises and a number of young birds; on one of the former was the design of an ibis cut out of linen and sewn on to outer covering (Pl. XVIII., fig. 7). It will be noticed that the figure of the bird is outlined in white, due to a dusting of flour before photography in order to get the necessary contrast, as the colour of the figure and the linen covering were of the same tint. One bundle of feathers made up in the form of a human mummy. In the same jar were a number of small carefully bound bundles, which were found on examination to contain compact masses of beetle remains, not the sacred species.

1040. Contents: A few small roughly made bundles, the contents of which it was impossible to determine.

1041. With several lines of conventional rope pattern. Contents: Six adult ibises.

1042. Composed of two sections. Contents: Thirty-three adult ibises.

1045. Contents: Twenty-one adult birds and one bundle of feathers.

1046. Contents: Fifty-one adult and young ibises, all simply wrapped round with strips of linen, and six with ornamental designs.

1047. Contents: Thirty-four adult birds, all of the undecorated type.

1048. Contents: Sixty-nine adult and young ibises, mostly wrapped separately, but in the case of the young birds several were placed together, and one bundle of feathers and bones.

1049. (Pl. XXIV.) Contents: Several ibises, three falcons, one being a specimen of *Accipiter nisus*, and a few bundles of shrews.

1050. Made of baked clay with small imperforate handles. Contents: Five adult ibises, one having the design of an ibis sewn on the outer covering.

1051. With perforated handles. Contents: Nineteen adult and young ibises, five bundles of feathers and bones, and one of shrews.

1052. (Pl. XXIV.) Contents: Eleven adult ibises.

1053. Large jar composed of three sections. Contents: Forty adult birds.

1054. (Pl. XXIV.) With perforated handles and made in two sections. Contents: Ten adult birds, all in a bad state of preservation.

1055. Contents: Eleven adult birds.

1056. (Pl. XXIV.) Contents: Seventeen adult birds, one with the figure of an ibis sewn on the outer covering, one bundle of feathers and one of shrews. Placed between this jar and no. 1054 was the body of a dog protected by a few bricks.

1057. (Pl. XXIV.) Composed of three sections. Contents: Ninety-four ibises, chiefly adult specimens, the remainder being young birds, several examples of the latter being often wrapped up together. Seven bundles of feathers and six containing bones and feathers mixed. One example of *Falco peregrinus* (Peregrine falcon) and one *Falco subbuteo*; the former, as far as I know, has never hitherto been found in a mummified condition.

1058. (Pl. XXIV.) Composed of two sections. Contents: Fourteen adult ibises, all wrapped in the V-shaped design, and one oblong bundle of shrews.

1059. Contents: Eleven badly preserved mummies of adult and young ibises, also bones and feathers.

1060. Contents: Fourteen adult birds, two bundles of feathers, four of bones and feathers mixed, and one of bones only; also one oblong bundle of shrews.

1061. With small perforated handles. Contents: Twenty-three adult birds, and eight bundles of young specimens, one of feathers, bones, and the head of a shrew, and another of feathers bound up with a separate bundle containing a small hawk.

1062. Contents: Two adult ibises, three young birds, and two bundles of mixed feathers and bones.

1063. Contents: Thirty-four adult and young ibises, eight bundles of mixed feathers and bones, and two small bundles of shrews.

1063a. (Pl. XXIV.) Contents: Sixteen adult ibises and one bundle of feathers and bones.

1063b. A brick enclosure built up against jar 1063a, inside of which was a mummified dog and also a sheep; both had been carefully wrapped in cloth.

1064. (Pl. XXV.) Made of baked clay, decorated with a conventional rope pattern running round the centre. Contents: Five adult ibises, six plain bundles of mixed feathers and bones, one containing an egg, the head and some feathers of an ibis, and a small hawk.

1065. Contents: Eighteen adult and young ibises.

1066. Contents: Three adult and two young birds.

1067. Composed of two sections. Contents: Fourteen adult birds, and one bundle of feathers and bones.

1068. Contents: Twenty-six adult ibises.

1069. Made of baked clay. Contents: Nine adult birds and a bundle of feathers.

1070. (Pl. XXIV.) Contents: Ten adult birds, one bundle of feathers, two of bones and feathers mixed, two containing shrews, four hawks, and the head and neck of an ibis covered with two or three layers of cloth and then soaked in bitumen, the eyes and opening between the mandibles being outlined with twisted linen thread.

1071. (Pl. XXV.) Jar, empty.

1072. (Pl. XXV.) Made in two sections. On the upper edge of the lower one a rounded elevation will be noticed, which fits into a corresponding depression on the lower edge of the upper section, thus preventing the two sections from moving out of position. This method was usually adopted when the jars were composed of two or more sections. Contents: Twenty-one adult birds, with a few bundles of mixed feathers and bones.

1073. Contents: Fifteen small and badly preserved bundles containing feathers and bones of adult and young birds.

1074. A group of ten pear-shaped vases (Pl. XVI., fig. 5) of baked clay, the lids being cut out at the larger end and covered over with a thick coating of lime. Each vase contained a single half-grown ibis (Pl. XVII., fig. 1) wrapped in the V-shaped design.

1075. (Pl. XXV.) Jar of baked clay, having near the mouth a mark like a bird's claw. Contents: A wonderful series of forty decorated ibis mummies, nearly all bound in different styles. One very fine example (Pl. XX., fig. 6) had the upper portion made in exact imitation of the god Thoth as he appears on the monuments; the head, neck and bill were composed of linen covered with a thick coating of bitumen. The erection at the back of the head was stiffened with strips made from the mid-rib of the leaves of the dôm-palm and then bound with cloth, and decorated with alternate strips of black and brown linen; several other examples of the above type were found, but unfortunately in a bad state of preservation.

1076. (Pl. XXV.) Several jars of this type were found, having no bottom and a small opening at the base. The original purpose of this kind of jar is unknown to me; several of them were found during the present season's work while removing the large mounds situated to the north of the Coptic Dêr.

1077. Contents: Seven young ibises, several small bundles of mixed feathers and bones, two hawks, and one circular bundle of shrews.

1078. Contents: Ten adult ibises.

1079. Contents: Nineteen adult and young ibises, one of which had the figure of an ibis sewn on to the outer covering (only four examples of this type were met with in this cemetery), seventeen small bundles of very young birds, feathers and bones, two hawks, one in the form of a human mummy.



1080. Contents: Ten adult birds, and two bundles of feathers and bones.

1082. (Pl. XXV.) Jar of baked clay, with four handles placed equidistantly round the mouth. Contents: Seventeen bundles of various sizes, each containing a mass of shrews, about two hundred specimens in number. One small bundle in which was a very large scarab beetle (*Scarabæus sacer*).

1083. (Pl. XXV.) Contents: Eleven adult birds, two of them wrapped to represent human mummies, and several bundles of feathers and bones.

1084. Contents: Twenty-one adult and young birds, and fifteen bundles of very young birds, bones and feathers mixed.

1085. (Pl. XXV.) This jar had a slight rounded projection on the upper edge of the mouth, probably placed there to prevent

the lid from slipping, two small handles, and three lines of conventional rope pattern. Contents: Eight adult birds, and one bundle of feathers.

1086. Sixty very badly preserved bundles consisting of ibises, feathers and shrews.

1087. Contents: Ten adult and young birds, and a few bundles of feathers.

1088. With two small handles. Contents: Seventeen adult ibises and two bundles of feathers, packed vertically with the small end pointing downwards, the usual custom being to place the mummies in horizontal layers.

1089. (Pl. XXV.) Contents: Two adult birds, and five bundles of feathers.

1090. Contents: Fifteen adult and young ibises.

1091. (Pl. XXV.) Contents: Four adult birds, and two bundles of bones.





# LIST OF TOMB-GROUPS AND IMPORTANT OBJECTS FROM CEMETERY D SENT TO VARIOUS MUSEUMS.

## Cairo :

- Leaden store vase of Coptic period.
- Coptic lamp of bronze.
- Stela No. 7.
- Coptic stela No. 1.

## British Museum :

- D 141.
- D 211.
- D 306 (carved head-rest).

## Ashmolean :

- D 166.
- Triad figure Pl. IX., fig. 4.

## Fitzwilliam, Cambridge :

- D 239.

## Bristol :

- D 226.

## Nicholson Museum, Sydney :

- D 234.

## Edinburgh :

- D 167.

## Chadwick Museum, Bolton :

- D 161.

## Manchester :

- D 114.
- D 125.

## Dublin :

- D 109. North chamber.

## Greenock :

- Stela No. 3.
- D 162.

## Australian Museum, Sydney :

- D 170.
- D 304.
- D 308.

## Wellington, New Zealand :

- D 162.
- D 212.
- D 243.

## Brussels, Musées Royaux :

- D 224.
- D 145.
- Stela No. 5.

## Glasgow :

- D 219.
- D 144.

## Smithsonian Museum, Washington, U.S.A. :

- Stela No. 2.

## Jefferson Institute, Louisville, Kentucky :

- D 102. Soul house.
- D 154.
- D 305.
- D 104.

## Art Institute of Chicago :

D 306. Blue glaze fluted vase.

## Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences :

D 303.

D 144.

## Masonic Library, Cedar Rapids, Iowa :

D 223. South chamber.

## Public Library, Brattleboro' :

D 102. Seal and amulets from upper burial.

D 241.

D 162. North chamber.

## Wellesley College, Wellesley, Mass. :

D 111. South chamber.

Stela No. 4.

## Pennsylvania University Museum :

D 302.

## Cincinnati Museum Association, Ohio :

D 109.

D 229.

## University of Chicago, Illinois :

Coptic stela No. 2.

Specimens of mummified ibises were sent to most of the above-mentioned museums. The large ibis jar with the drawing. Pl. XV., fig. 3, is now in the British Museum.

Specimens of the large pots used in the early dynastic pot-burials have been presented to the British Museum, the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, the Metropolitan Museum of New York, and the Smithsonian Museum, Washington.



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PLATES.







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1. PREDYNASTIC GRAIN KILN FROM WEST.
3. D. 168. POTTERY COFFIN.
5. D. 137. POTTERY COFFIN.
7. D. 110. VASE IN POSITION.

2. TWO VASES OF KILN.
4. SINGLE VASE OF KILN.
6. ROOFING OF KILN.
8. KILN UNDER MASTABA D. 144.

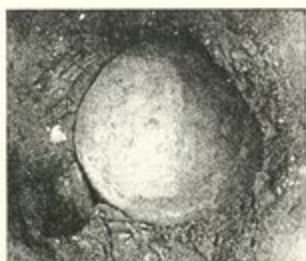




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1. D. 102. MUD PLASTER.  
3. D. 239. VASE WITH MUD PLASTER.  
5. D. 123.  
7. D. 134.

2. D. 147.  
4. D. 235.  
6. D. 132.  
8. D. 240.







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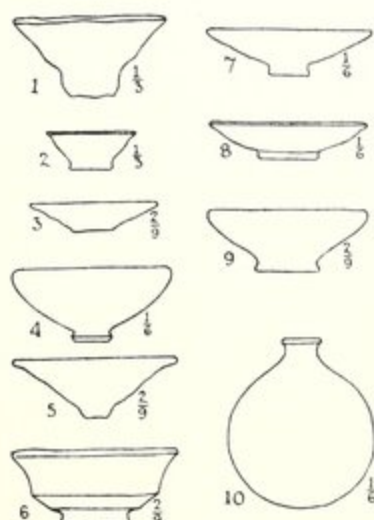
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1. D. 253. LAYER OF BRICKS.  
3. D. 146. BRICK AND STONE COVERING.  
5. MASTABAS FROM SOUTH.  
7. D. 143. NARROW COURTYARD.

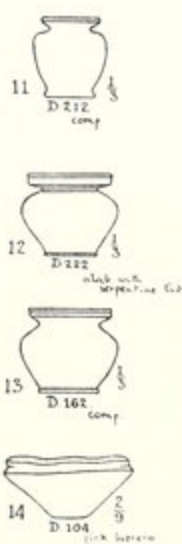
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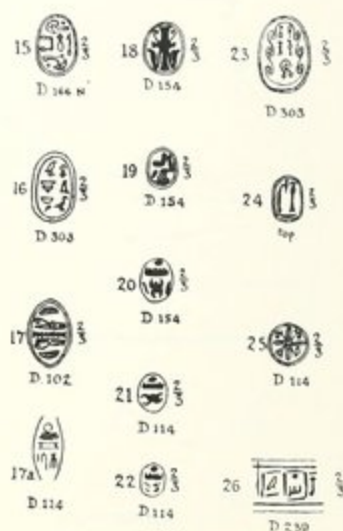




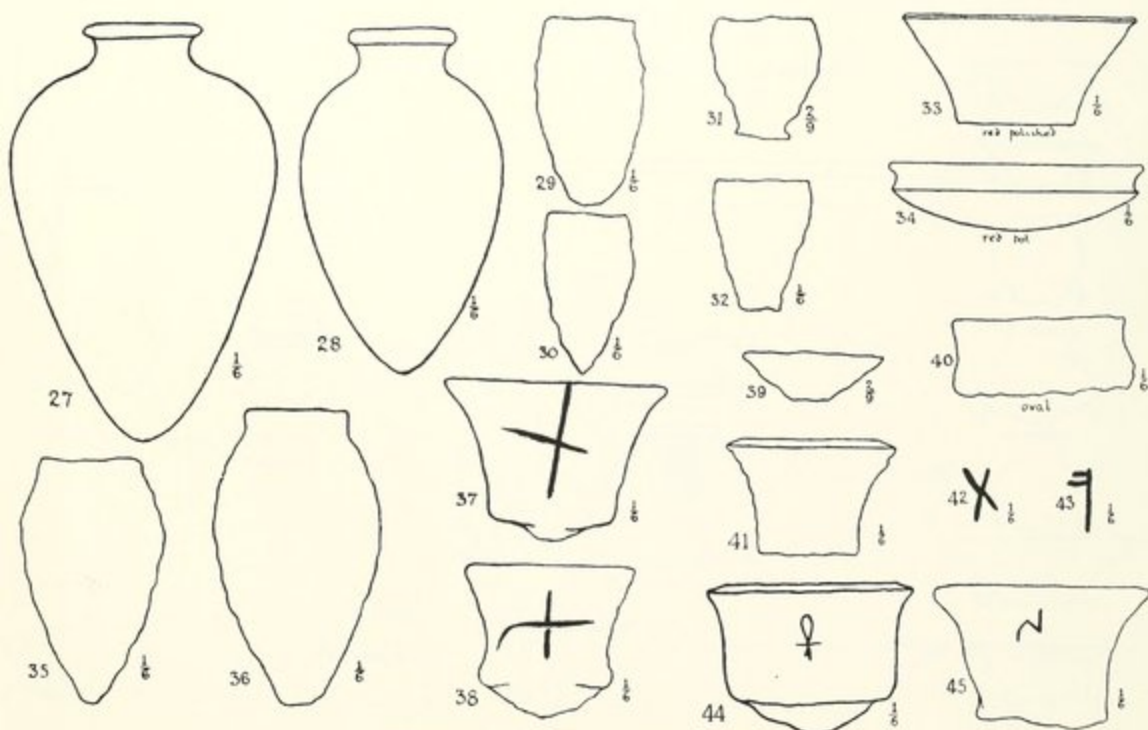
D 225. PTOLEMAIC.



STONE VASES.

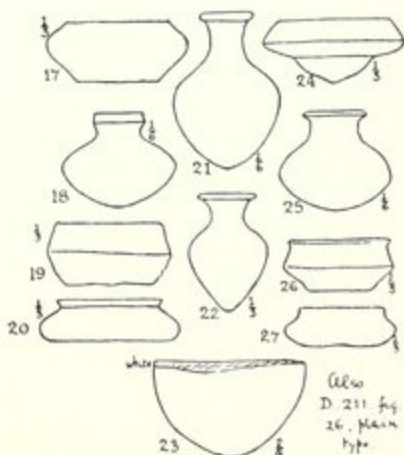
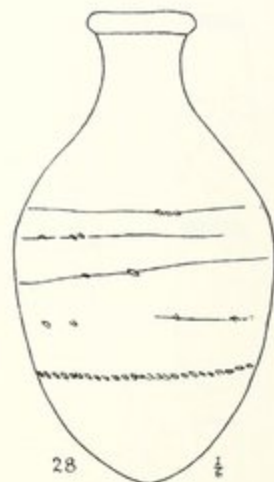
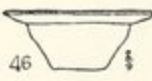
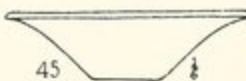
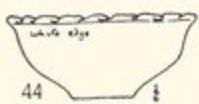
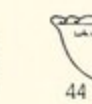
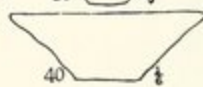
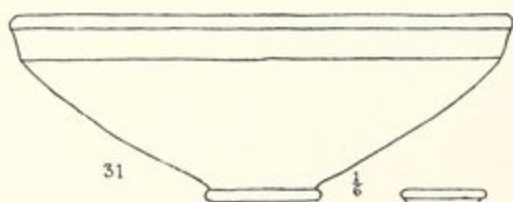


SCARABS AND SEALS.



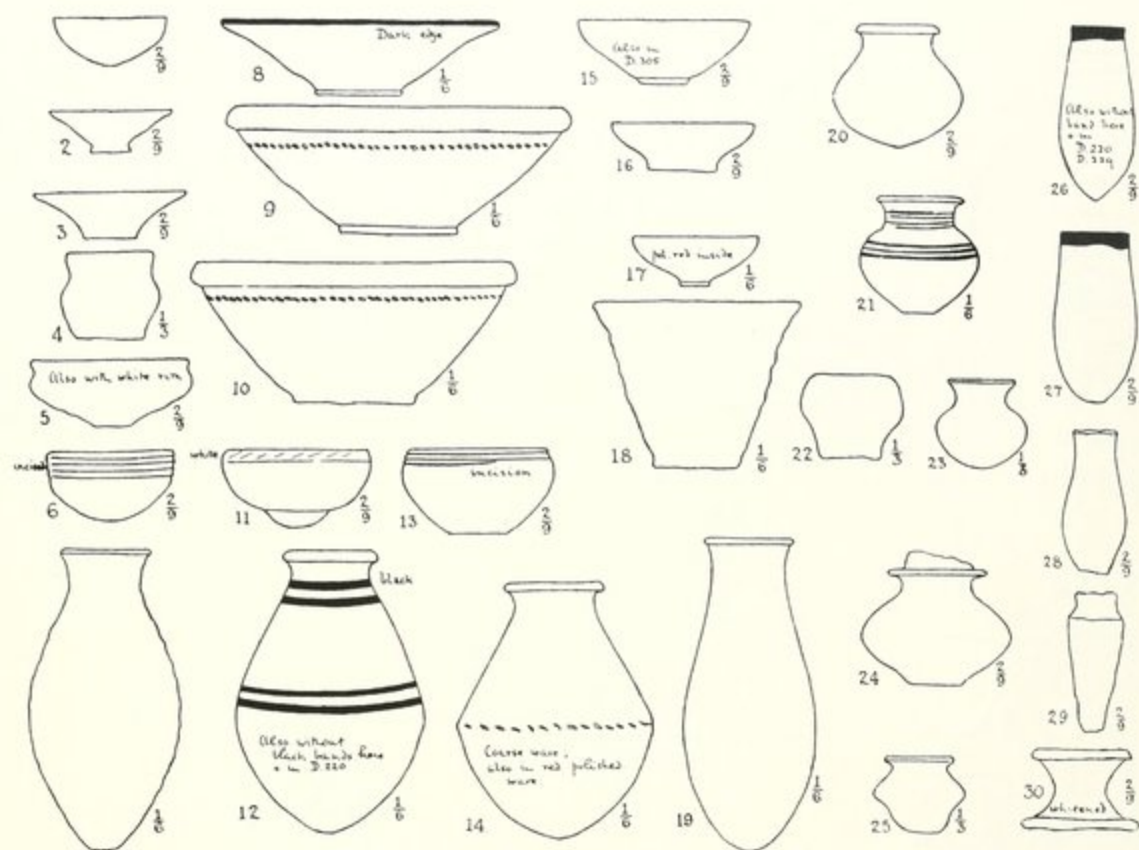
CEMETERY D. III.-IV. DYNASTY POTTERY.



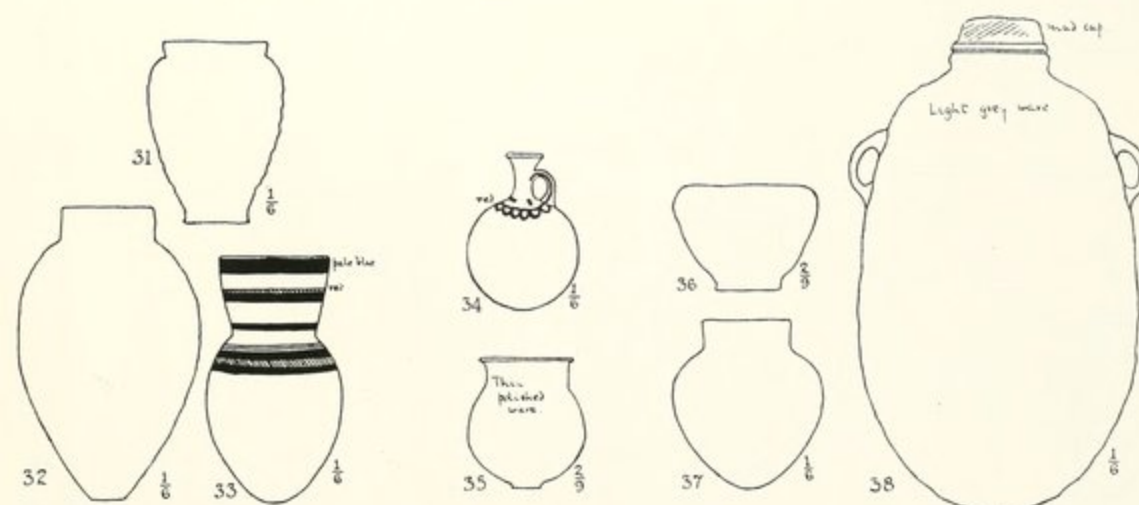
FIGS 1-3. D 204. XIII<sup>TH</sup> DYN.FIGS. 4-7. D 162. XIII<sup>TH</sup> DYN.FIGS. 8-16. D 212. XIII<sup>TH</sup> DYN.  
(PROBABLY)FIGS. 17-27. D 220. XIII<sup>TH</sup> AND XVIII<sup>TH</sup> DYNASTIES.FIGS. 28-30. D 111. XIII<sup>TH</sup> DYN.FIGS. 31-46. D 229. LATE XVIII<sup>TH</sup> DYN.







D 211. LATE XVIII DYN.



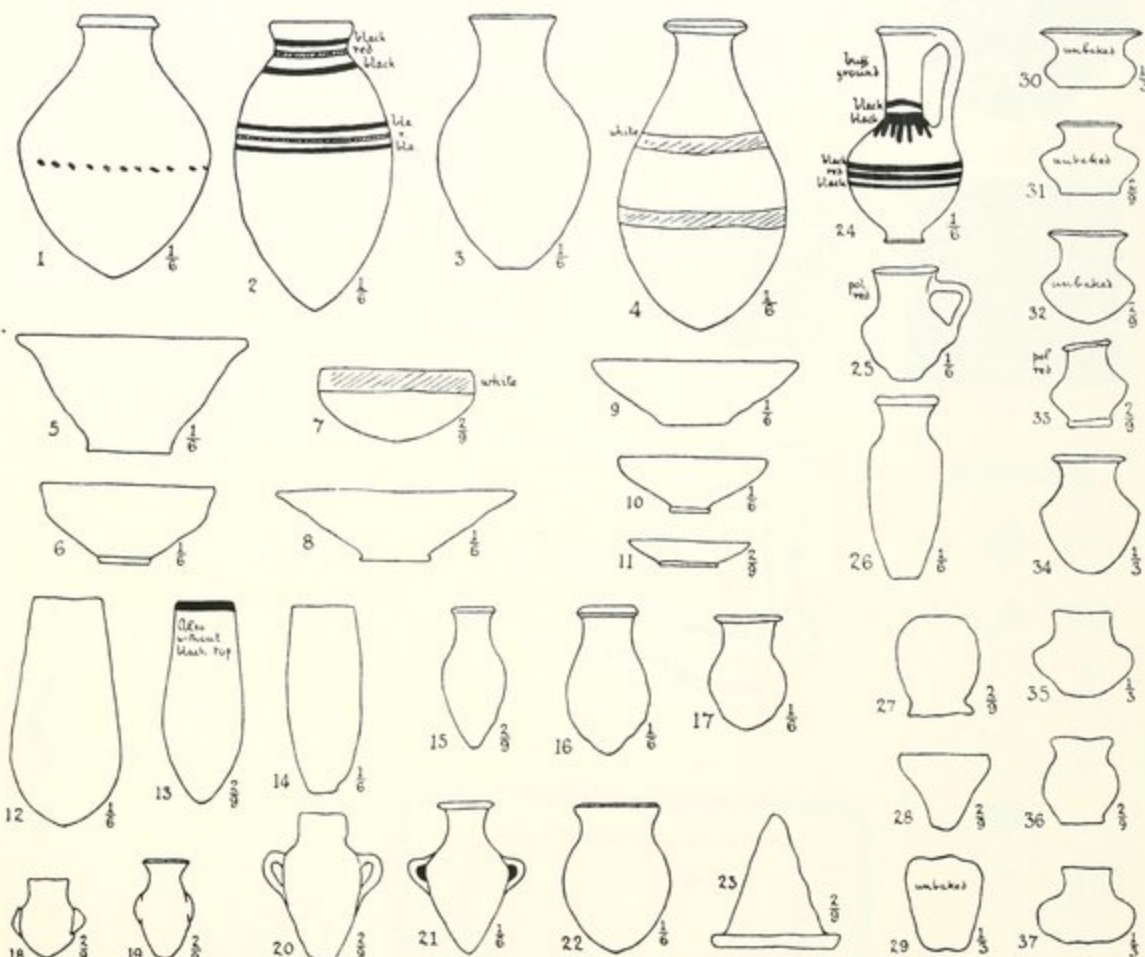
D 223. AKHENATON.

D 226. LATE XVIII.

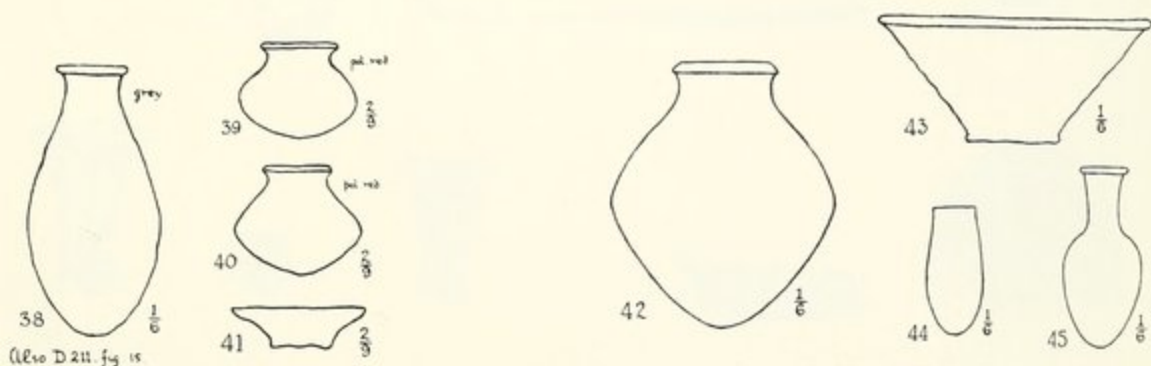
D 154. XVIII OR LATER.







D 114. LATE XVIII DYNASTY.



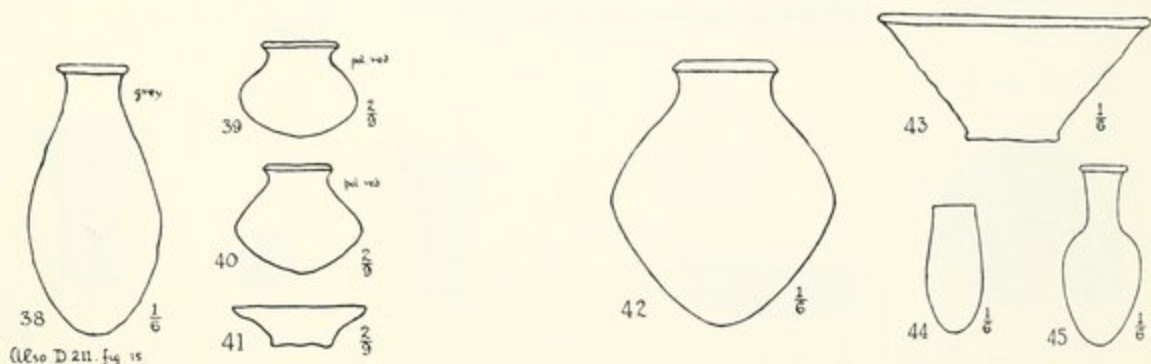
D 305. XVIII DYN.

D 102. XVIII DYNASTY.





D 114. LATE XVIIIth DYNASTY.



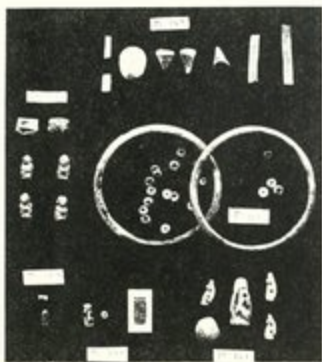
D 102. XVIIIth DYNASTY.

D 305. XVIIIth DYN.

(Also D 211. fig 15)







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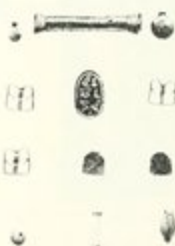
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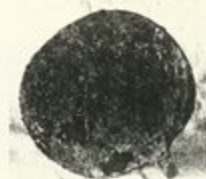
13.



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15.

1. OBJECTS FROM MASTASA CEMETERY. *See* p. 1.  
2 and 3. BURIAL POTS OF ROUGH WARE. *See* p. 1.  
4 and 6. RED POLISHED BURIAL POTS. *See* p. 1.  
5. HEAD OF STATUE. D. 135. *See* p. 1.

7. D. 161. *See* p. 1.  
8. D. 104. *See* p. 1.  
9. D. 303. *See* p. 1.  
10. D. 166. *See* p. 1.

11. D. 303. JEWELLERY. *See* p. 1.  
12. D. 107. *See* p. 1.  
13 and 14. D. 166. *See* p. 1.  
15. D. 109. *See* p. 1.







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1. D. 303. *See* p. 1.  
6. D. 104. *See* p. 1.  
8. D. 106. *See* p. 1.

2. D. 303. *See* p. 1.  
7. D. 224. *See* p. 1.  
12. D. 241. *See* p. 1.  
20. 243, 219 and 212. *See* p. 2.

3. D. 102. *See* p. 1.  
11. D. 104. *See* p. 1.  
13. D. 107. *See* p. 1.  
21. D. 234. *See* p. 1.

4. D. 109. *See* p. 1.  
9. D. 303. *See* p. 1.  
14. D. 220. *See* p. 1.  
22. D. 303. *See* p. 1.

5. D. 243. *See* p. 1.  
10. D. 222. *See* p. 1.  
19. D. 303. *See* p. 1.

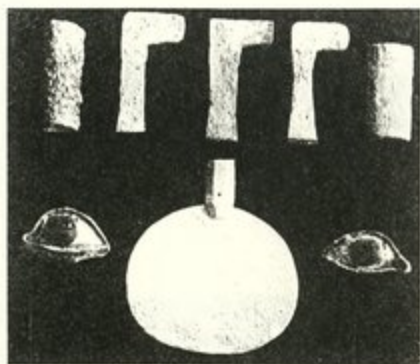




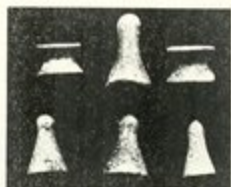
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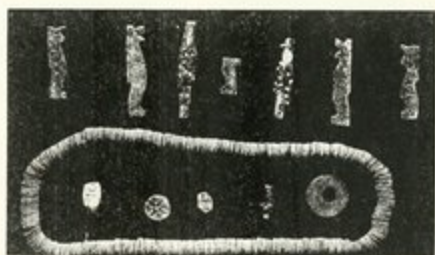
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1. D. 226. No. 1.  
6. D. 14. No. 1.

2. D. 28. No. 1.  
7. D. 14. No. 1.

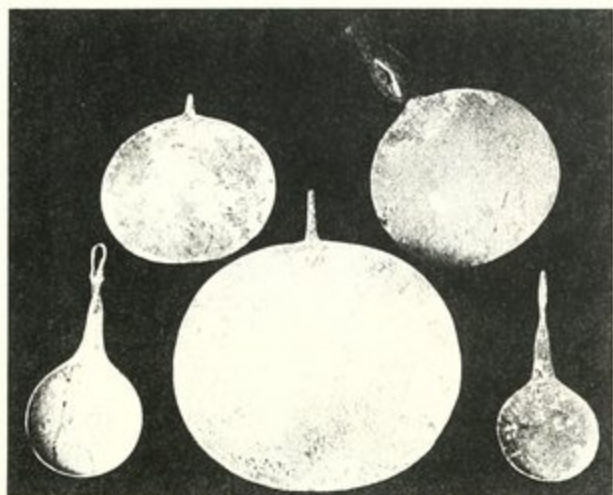
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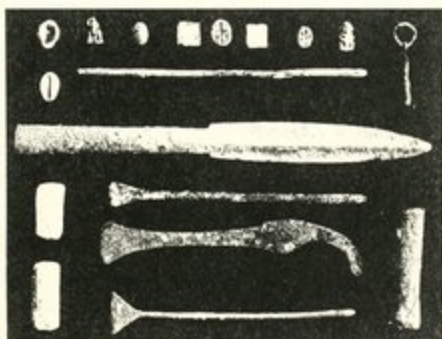




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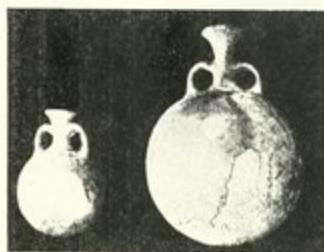
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1-4. D. 114. POTTERY. *See* 1.

9. D. 114. *See* 1.

5 and 7. D. 229. *See* 1.

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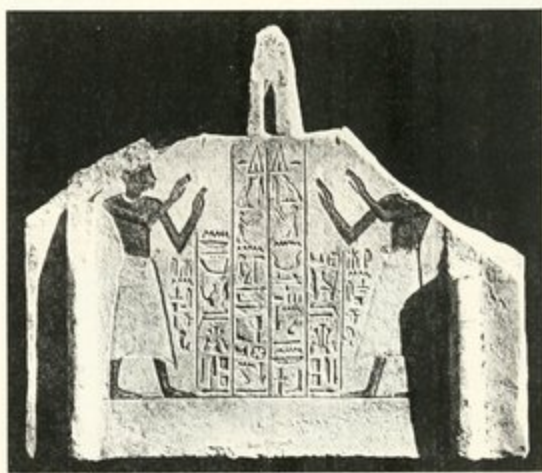
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1. COPTIC STELA. *See* 1.  
3. COPTIC STELA. *See* 3.

2. STELA. D. 109.10. *See* 1.  
4. STELA OF PEPL. *See* 5.







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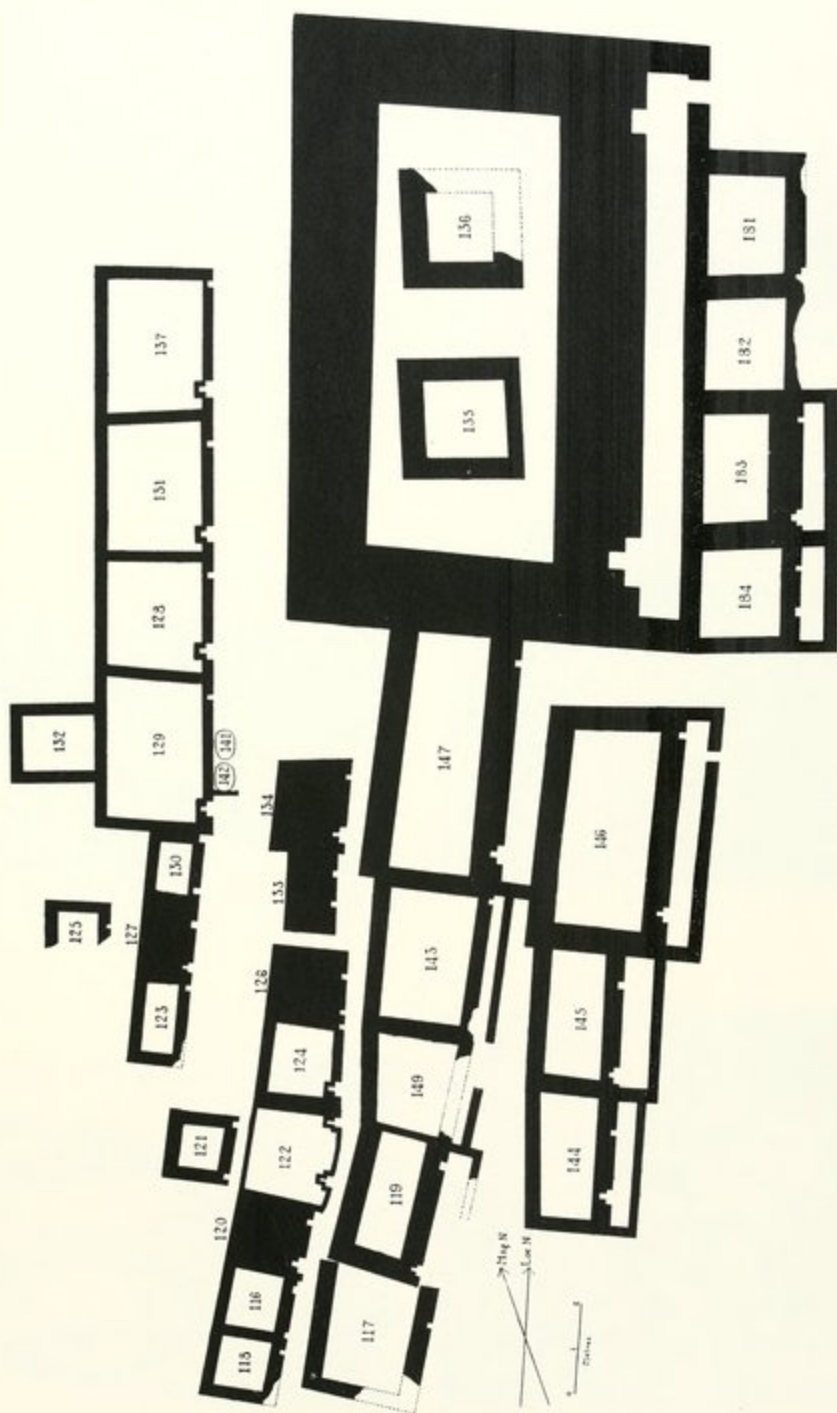


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1. SKULL AND JAW-BONES OF OX.
2. STELA OF NEB-SUMENU. *See 1.*
3. BOWL FROM GRAIN KILN. *See 1.*
4. STELA OF ENHER-NAKHT. *See 1.*

5. STELA OF REDIS. *See 1.*
6. STELA OF SEBEK-HOTP. *See 1.*
7. COPTIC STORE VASE OF LEAD. *See 1.*
8. COPTIC LAMP OF BRONZE. *See 1.*











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VIEWS OF THE IBIS CEMETERY.





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1. IBISES IN SMALL JARS.
2. VASES FROM IBIS CEMETERY.
3. DRAWING ON JAR 1022.
4. VASE CONTAINING IBIS EGGS.

5. IBIS JAR WITH HOLE AT BASE.
6. BRICK ENCLOSURE CONTAINING SHEEP'S BONES.
7. ORNAMENTED VASE.



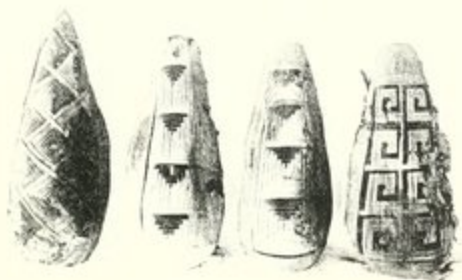




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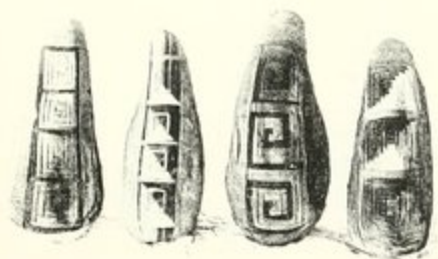
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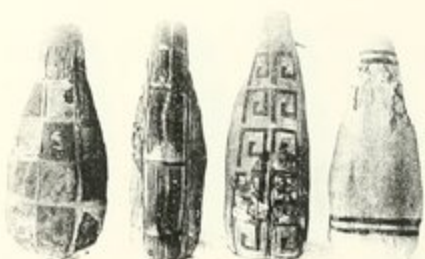
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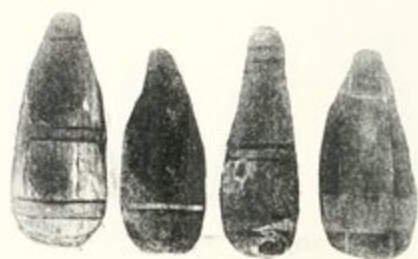


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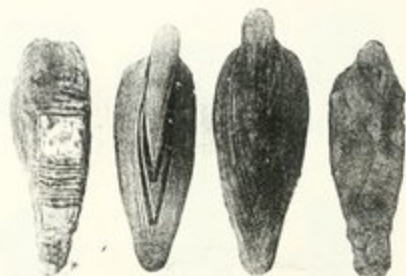
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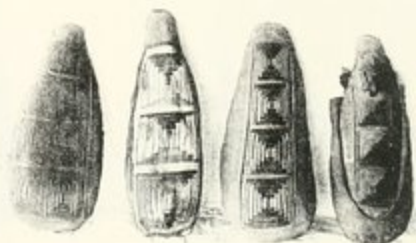
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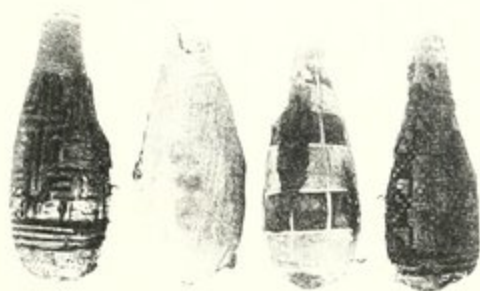
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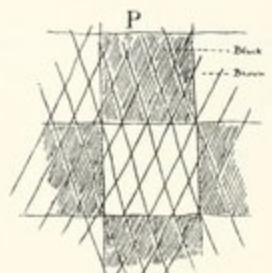
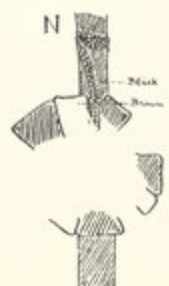
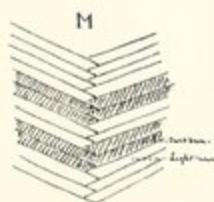
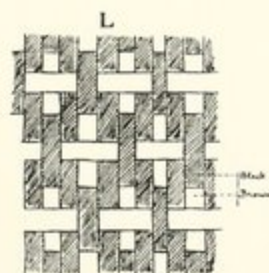
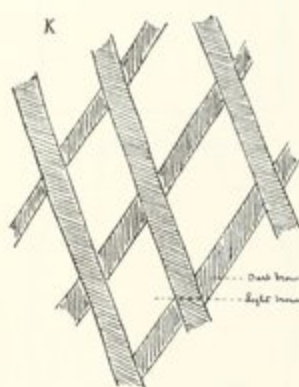
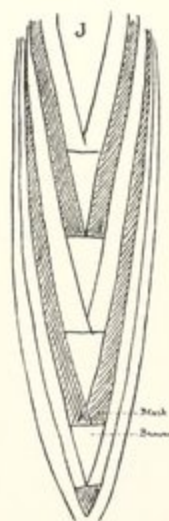
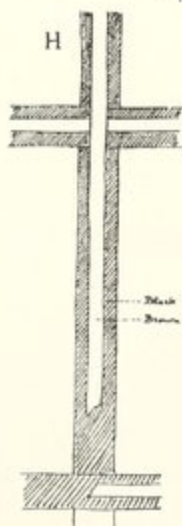
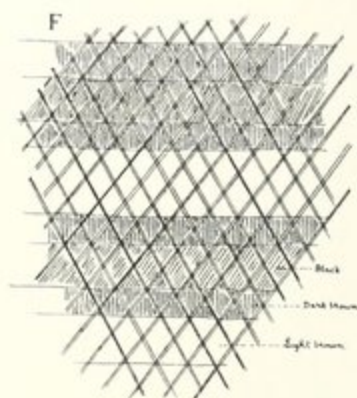
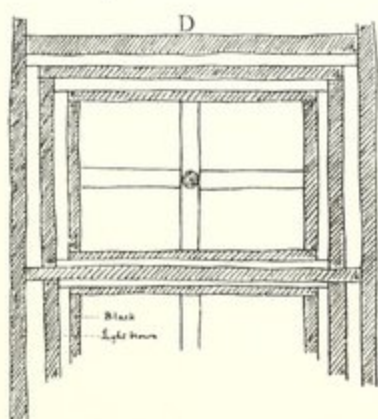
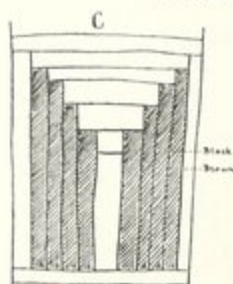
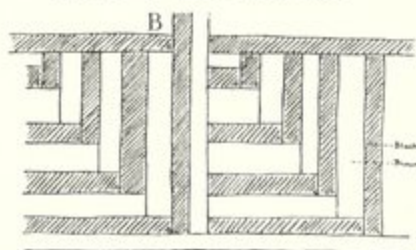
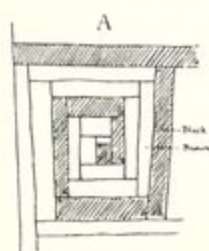


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MUMMIFIED IBISES, HAWKS, SHREWS AND SNAKES.

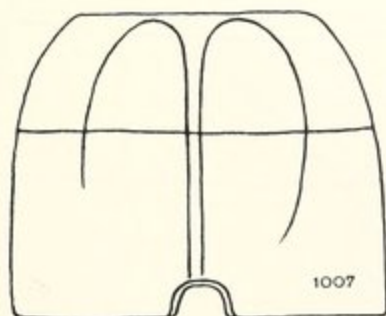
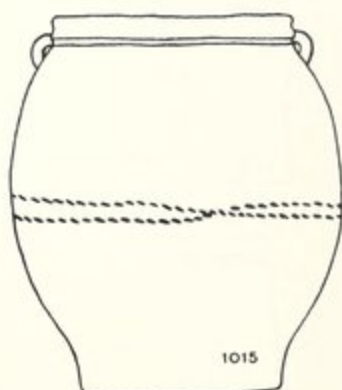
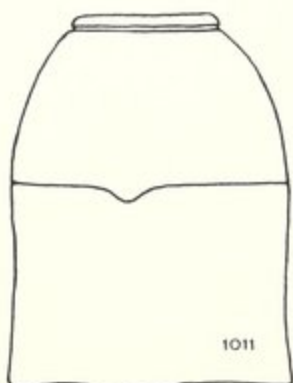
Scale about  $\frac{1}{2}$ , except in Fig. 5, where it is  $\frac{1}{4}$ .



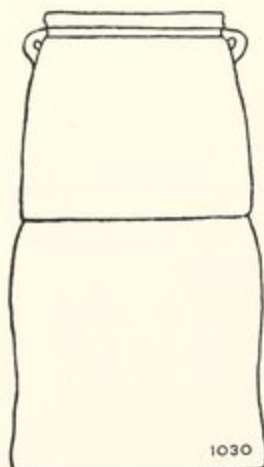
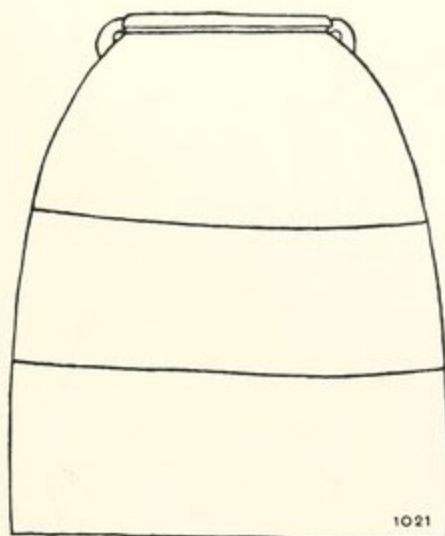
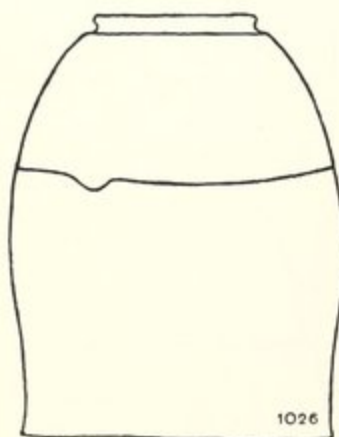
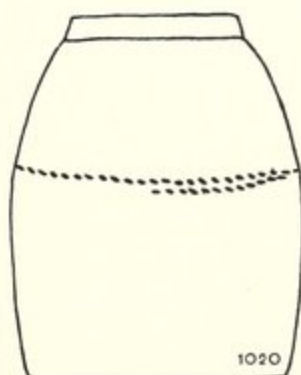
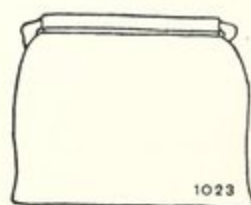
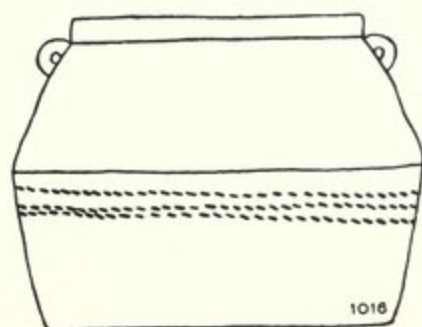






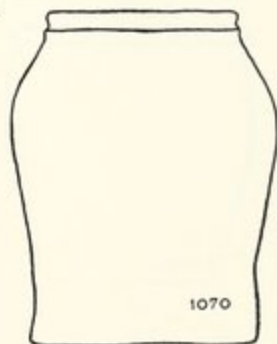
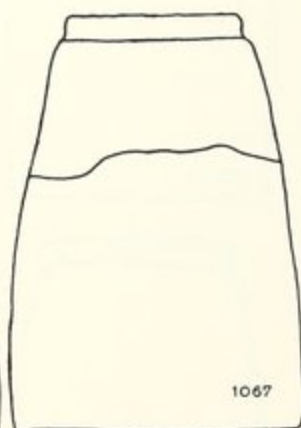
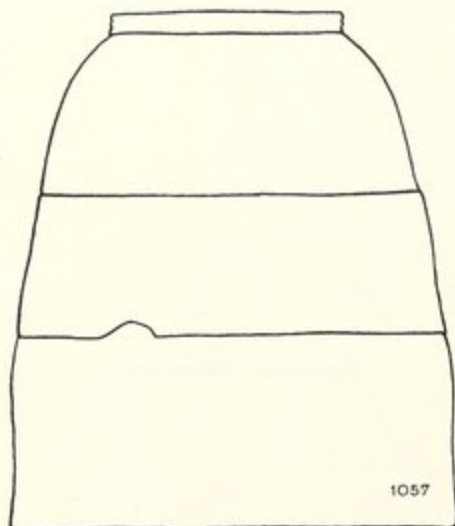
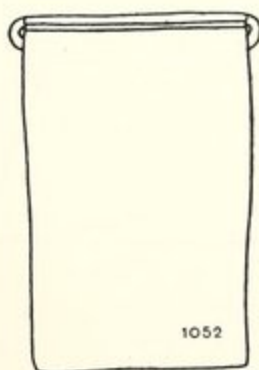
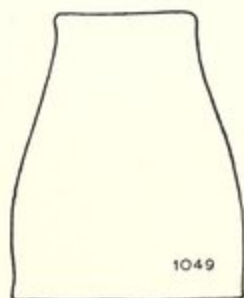
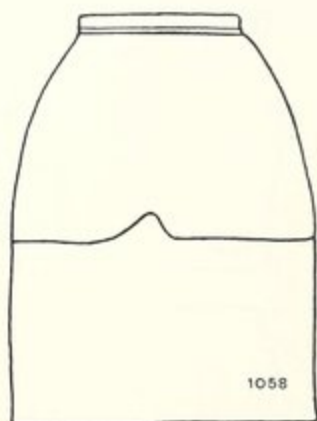
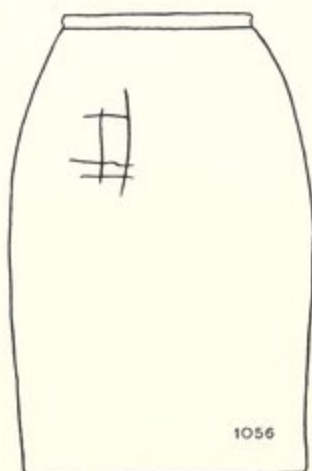
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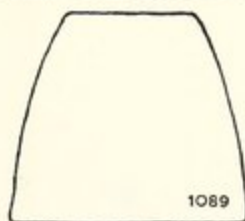
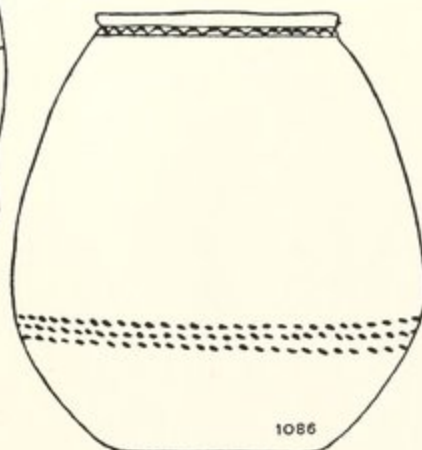
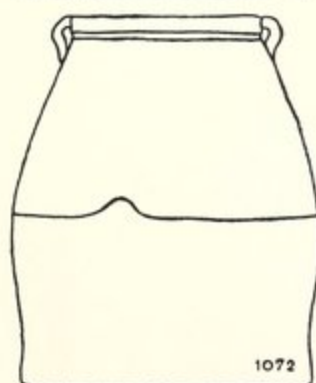
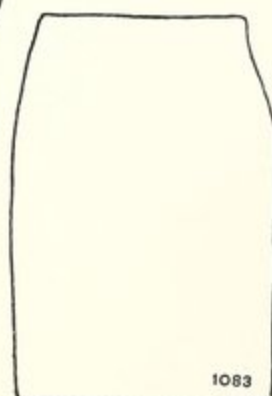
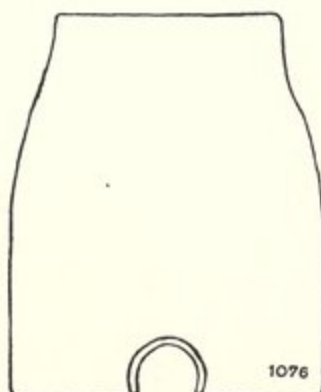
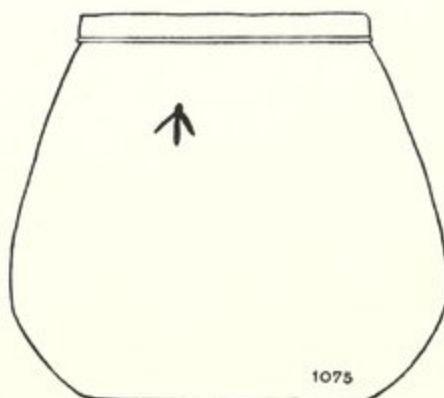






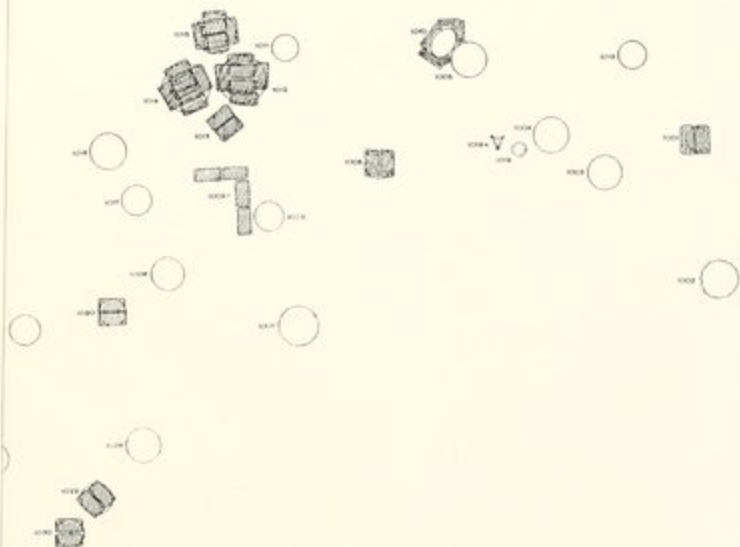


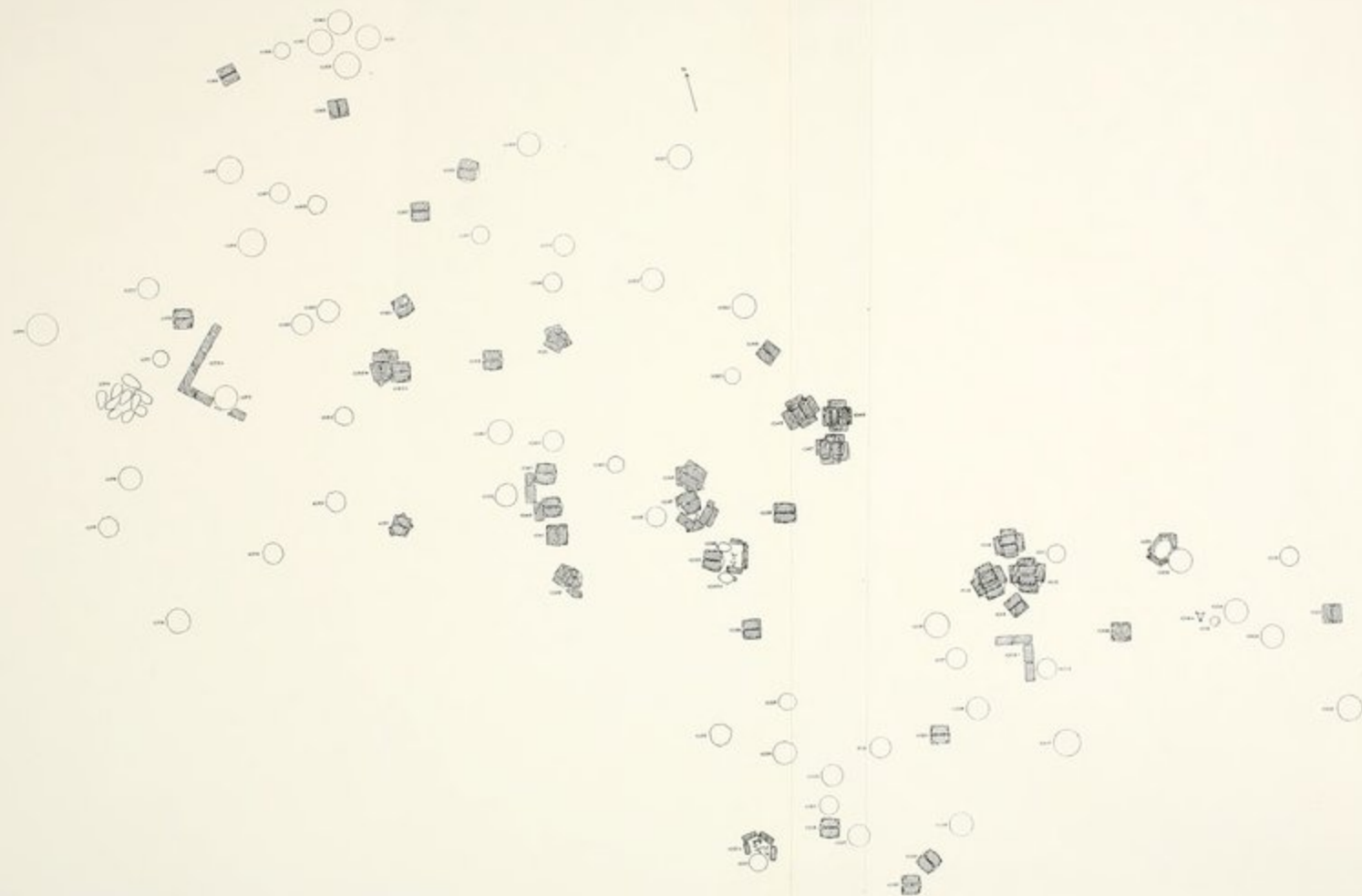












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