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|------------------|--|----------|--|
| JBL | Journal of Biblical Literature | RA | Revue d'Assyriologie et d'Archéologie orientale |
| JCS | Journal of Cuneiform Studies | RB | Revue Biblique |
| JDAI | Jahrbuch des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts | RdEg | Revue d'Égyptologie |
| JEA | Journal of Egyptian Archaeology | RGTC | Répertoire géographique des textes cunéiformes (TAVO Beihefte) |
| JEOL | Jaarbericht Ex Oriente Lux | RHA | Revue Hittite et Asiatique |
| JESHO | Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient | RIMA/B | Royal Inscriptions of Mesopotamia, Assyrian / Babylonian Periods |
| JNES | Journal of Near Eastern Studies | RIME | Idem, Early Periods (Toronto) |
| JNSL | Journal of North-West Semitic Languages | RIA | Reallexikon der Assyriologie |
| JRAS | Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society | RQ | Revue de Qumran |
| JSOT (S) | Journal for the Study of the Old Testament (Supplement) | RSF | Rivista di Studi Fenici |
| JSS | Journal of Semitic Studies | RSO | Rivista degli Studi Orientali |
| KAI ² | Kanaanäische und aramäische Inschriften (Donner - Röllig) | RT | Recueil de Travaux |
| KTU | Die keilalphabetischen Texte aus Ugarit (AOAT 24) | SAAB | State Archives of Assyria, Bulletin |
| LÄ | Lexikon der Ägyptologie | SAA(S) | State Archives of Assyria (Studies) |
| LAPO | Littératures anciennes du Proche-Orient | SAACT | State Archives of Assyria, Cuneiform Texts |
| LSS | Leipziger semitistische Studien | SAK | Studien zur altägyptischen Kultur |
| MAD | Materials for the Assyrian Dictionary | SAOC | Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization |
| MANE | Monographs on the Ancient Near East | SCCNH | Studies on the Civilization and Culture of Nuzi and the Hurrians |
| MARI | Mari, Annales de recherches interdisciplinaires | SD | Studia et documenta ad jura orientis antiqui pertinentia |
| MÄS | Münchener ägyptologische Studien | SMANE | Sources and Monographs from the Ancient Near East |
| MDAI | Mitteilungen des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts | SMS | Syro-Mesopotamian Studies |
| MDOG | Mitteilungen der Deutschen Orient-Gesellschaft zu Berlin | SS | Studi Semitici (Roma) |
| MEE | Materiali Epigrafici di Ebla (Napoli) | StBoT | Studien zu den Bogazköy-Texten |
| MHEM/T | Mesopotamian History and Environment, Memoirs/Texts | StEbl | Studi Eblaiti |
| MIO | Mitteilungen des Instituts für Orientforschung | StOr | Studia Orientalia (Helsinki) |
| MRS | Mission de Ras Shamra | TAVO | Tübinger Atlas des Vorderen Orients |
| MSS | Münchener Studien zur Sprachwissenschaft | TUAT (E) | Texte aus der Umwelt des Alten Testaments (Ergänzungslieferung) |
| MVAeG | Mitteilungen der Vorderasiatisch-Aegyptischen Gesellschaft | UF | Ugarit-Forschungen |
| NABU(M) | Nouvelles Assyriologiques Brèves et Utilitaires (Mémoires) | UVB | Vorläufiger Bericht über die ... Ausgrabungen in Uruk-Warka |
| NAPR | Northern Akkad Project Reports | VAB | Vorderasiatische Bibliothek |
| NEA | Near Eastern Archaeology (continuation of BA) | VDI | Vestnik Drevnej Istorii |
| OAA (S) | Old Assyrian Archives (Studies) | VT (S) | Vetus Testamentum (Supplement) |
| OBO | Orbis Biblicus et Orientalis | WAW | Writings of the Ancient World (SBL) |
| OEAE | The Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Egypt (2001) | Wb | Wörterbuch der ägyptischen Sprache WO Die Welt des Orients |
| OEANE | The Oxford Encyclopedia of Archaeology in the Near East (1997) | WVDOG | Wissenschaftliche Veröffentlichungen d. Deutschen Orientgesellschaft |
| OLA | Orientalia Lovaniensia Analecta | WZKM | Wiener Zeitschrift für die Kunde des Morgenlandes |
| OLP | Orientalia Lovaniensia Periodica | YNER | Yale Near Eastern Researches |
| OLZ | Orientalistische Literaturzeitung | ZA | Zeitschrift für Assyriologie und Vorderasiatische Archäologie |
| OMRO | Oudheidkundige Mededelingen, Leiden, Rijksmuseum van Oudheden | ZAh | Zeitschrift für Althebraistik |
| OrAnt(C) | Oriens Antiquus (Collectio) | ZAR | Zeitschrift für Altorientalische und Biblische Rechtsgeschichte |
| OrNS | Orientalia, Nova Series | ZAW | Zeitschrift für die Alttestamentliche Wissenschaft |
| OrSuec | Orientalia Suecana | ZÄS | Zeitschrift für Ägyptische Sprache und Altertumskunde |
| PEQ | Palestine Exploration Quarterly | ZDMG | Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft |
| PLB | Papyrologica Lugduno-Batava PRU Le palais royal d'Ugarit (MRS) | ZDPV | Zeitschrift des Deutschen Palästinavereins |
| PSD | Philadelphia Sumerian Dictionary | ZfA | Zeitschrift für Althebraistik |

PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE LEIDEN EXCAVATIONS AT SAQQARA,
SEASON 2006: THE TOMBS OF TIA, MERYNEITH AND MAYA

MAARTEN J. RAVEN, RENÉ VAN WALSEM,
BARBARA G. ASTON, AMANDA DUNSMORE AND SALIMA IKRAM

Introduction

The joined mission of the Leiden Museum of Antiquities and the Faculty of Archaeology/Department of Egyptology of Leiden University resumed its work at Saqqara on January 25th, 2006, and continued until March 2nd. The staff consisted of Dr Maarten J. Raven and Dr René van Walsem (field directors), Dr Barbara G. Aston and Ms Amanda Dunsmore (ceramists), Dr Salima Ikram (palaeozoologist), Drs Willem F.M. Beex (surveyor), Ms Anneke J. de Kemp (photographer), Ms Dorothea Schulz (draughtswoman), Ms Carina van den Hoven and Ms Jacqueline Smolders (field assistants).

The fieldwork was carried out in close collaboration with Mr Kamal Wahid (Director of Saqqara) and Mr Usama Abdessalam el-Shimy (Inspector of Saqqara-South), and was supervised in the field by the Inspector Mr Mustafa Zaki Taha. The Expedition wants to express its gratitude to Dr Zahi Hawass (Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities), Mr Magdy el-Ghandur (Chairman of the Department of Foreign Missions) and to the members of the Permanent Committee of the SCA. We are also grateful to Dr G. Borg (Director of the Dutch-Flemish Institute in Cairo) and his staff for logistic help and hospitality, and to the Egypt Exploration Society for granting us the use of the Saqqara dighouse. Financial support for this season's work was received from the Society of Friends of Saqqara, whereas the restoration project of the tombs of Meryneith and Maya was realised thanks to a generous grant from the cultural fund of the Dutch Embassy in Cairo.

The work of the Dutch mission this season was a mixture of excavation, study, and restoration. After the excavations of the tomb of Meryneith (2001-2003) and of the forecourt of the tomb of Horemheb (2004-2005) the fieldwork was now concentrated on clearance of the forecourt of the adjacent tomb of Tia. A considerable backlog of material excavated during previous seasons could be recorded for publication. Otherwise, a successful start was made with the implementation of the Consolidation and Site Management Project submitted in 2005. Below, the various team members will report in more detail on their specific tasks.

Clearance of the forecourt of Tia

The forecourt of the tomb of Tia (Fig. 1) was already partly cleared in 1983 until about 3.5 m east of the tomb's pylon. The reason for this limited clearance was the fear to expose

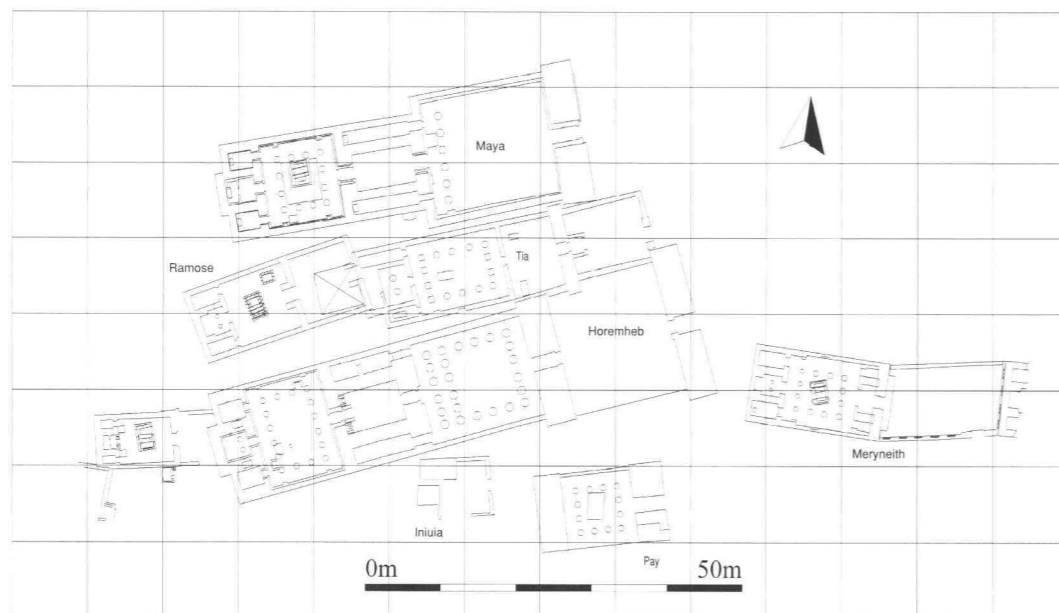


Fig. 1. Plan of the site showing the location of the tomb of Tia.

other tombs, which was considered inconvenient at the time¹. The presence of a 6 meter high sand hill on the east side further made it impossible to clear the remaining part of the forecourt at that stage. However, a substantial portion of the hill has been dug away over the past few years as a result of the excavation of the tomb of Meryneith (2001-2003) and of the forecourt and first pylon of the tomb of Horemheb (2004-2005). This means that it was now much simpler to explore what was left of the rest of Tia's forecourt. A narrow strip of this forecourt was already exposed in 2005 when the wall separating it from Horemheb's forecourt was cleared². Less than three weeks of excavation were sufficient to expose the remaining part.

The forecourt of Tia measures 10.45 m from east to west and 8.44 m across (Figs. 2-3). It is paved with slabs of limestone, raised about 1 metre above Horemheb's floor. It is bounded in the west by the tomb's pylon, in the south by the north wall of Horemheb's forecourt (75 cm thick and still standing for eight courses to a height of *c.* 95 cm), in the east by a mud-brick wall with a simple gateway. Another mud-brick wall closes the area in the north. The east and north walls were clearly built by Tia as one project, whereas Tia's pylon and the south wall, of course, antedate these constructions. The north and east walls are 55 cm thick and still stand to a height of *ca.* 92 cm (eight courses of alternating layers of headers and stretchers) up to 145 cm in the south-east corner where the wall abuts Horemheb's first pylon. Originally, they must have been considerably higher, which is indicated by an unfinished strip

¹ K.J. Frazer, in: Martin 1997, 4. Cf. *ibid.* Pl. 1, H.

² See M.J. Raven, B.G. Aston, and L. Horáčeková, Preliminary report on the Leiden excavations at Saqqara, season 2005: the tombs of Horemheb and Meryneith, *JEOL* 39 (2005), 7, figs. 2, 4.



Fig. 2. Plan of the forecourt of Tia.



Fig. 3. General view of the forecourt of Tia, looking west.

of masonry on the east face of the north wing of Tia's pylon, proving that the north wall was at least 90 cm higher at this point. The north and south walls both show remains of a *c.* 1.5 cm thick layer of white plaster, which is absent on the east wall. The inner face of the north wall has preserved considerable parts of a rounded kerb running along the foot of the wall, which protects the latter where the lower course of bricks is resting on a stratum of rubble. On the outer face, it can be seen that this stratum of rubble extends down to at least the foundation level of Tia's pylon, about 27 cm under the floor of the forecourt.

The gateway in the court's east wall is roughly aligned with the doorway through the pylon in the west (Fig. 4). It is formed by a 195 cm wide gap in the mud-brick masonry, flanked by two mud-brick jambs. The east, west, and outer faces of these jambs display a marked batter. There must have been a *c.* 40 cm wide stone door-sill, now missing, which was supported on a foundation course of mud-bricks aligned with the west face of the jambs. East of that, there still lies a 51 × 56 cm large limestone slab with a pivot hole for the southern of a set of double doors. This slab still bears the imprint of a stone jamb of L-shaped plan (Fig. 5). Two such jambs must have reduced the width of the doorway to some 157 cm. It should be noted that south of this doorway and its mud-brick jamb, the wall continues for a mere 42 cm before abutting Horemheb's first pylon; the masonry of both elements is not bonded together.

In 2005, an empty stela base was found close to the south wall of Tia's forecourt³. In the present season, a similar base (2006/5) was found opposite the other near the north wall. This is 34 cm high and still bears the lower part of a stela in sunk relief (77 cm high, 90 cm wide, and 15 cm thick). Two registers remain (Fig. 6), the first showing men and women adoring a headless male deity, seated on the right. In the second register, on the right, there is a depiction of a standing Hathor, cow-headed and crowned with horns, disk and feathers. The goddess is adored by one woman, two men, and again five women, all facing right. The texts accompanying the figures have been preserved, giving their names. Unfortunately, the texts do not indicate whether these persons were related to Tia in any way.

Stylistically, the stela seems to date to Dynasty XIX. Perhaps it was erected by one of Tia's servants or assistants, who may very well have been buried in the shaft (2006/6) immediately to the east of the stela, in the north-east corner of the forecourt. Such a burial would rather remind one of the situation on Tia's outer courtyard, where two members of Tia's household were buried (one of them Iurudef, the other not certainly identified)⁴. Possibly, shaft 2005/1 in the south-east corner of the courtyard belongs with the other (now empty) stela base in the same manner. Excavation of the shafts was not possible in the present season and had to be postponed to the future.

The forecourt had no other decorative or architectural features. Two irregular holes in the pavement in the west half may have been tree pits or plant beds, since they contained a thin layer of black soil. The southern one (2006/7) is 150 cm from east to west and 145 cm across. It has been lined with a single row of bricks. The northern pit (2006/8) is much smaller (75 cm from east to west, 65 cm across) and likewise has an edge of a single line of mud-bricks. Its fill of loose sand contained a few fragments of charcoal.

³ See previous note, fig. 4.

⁴ K.J. Frazer, in: Martin 1997, 5.



Fig. 4. The east wall with gateway, looking east.



Fig. 5. Details of the floor of the entrance, showing a pivot hole and the imprint of a now lost doorjamb.



Fig. 6. The northern stela in the forecourt of Tia.

A large hole in the centre of the east half of the pavement is all that remains of a Late Period shaft (2006/4) which was built up from chunks of stone and rubble through the drift sand to a height of 1.20 m above the floor. Another similar shaft (2006/3) was situated in the middle of the eastern doorway. Its upper edge was originally 160 cm above Tia's floor level. The part surmounting Tia's floor level was constructed from large chunks of *tafl* and some mud-bricks, held together with yellowish sandy plaster. Like the other shaft it was dismantled by the Expedition down to pavement level. Its construction has left a large hole in the northern doorjamb and in the limestone threshold of the entrance doorway. There is no pavement further east.

Not many finds of interest were made in the sand and rubble filling the forecourt. The most striking objects are the following. A New Kingdom wooden clapper is ending in a damaged female head wearing a heavy wig and *wesekh*-collar; originally, there must have been a carved hand on top of the wig. On the wig and collar there are clear traces of use (Fig. 7). Another surprise was a fragmentary limestone votive stela depicting Queen Mutnodjmet seated behind



Fig. 7. Wooden clapper.



Fig. 8. Part of a votive stela showing Queen Mutnodjmet.

presumably (a cartouche is missing) Horemheb wearing the blue crown (Fig. 8). A set of four crudely shaped New Kingdom terracotta shabtis with black hieratic ink inscriptions in three horizontal lines on the front were found just above the pavement in the north-east corner of the courtyard (Fig. 9). A most intriguing find is also part of a limestone lion's muzzle of monumental size, probably of Ramesside date. Some hieratic, demotic and figured ostraca were also recovered, among which the head of a falcon was artistically the most satisfying. Among the fragments of relief and inscriptions a block from the tomb of Tia itself, depicting the head of the princess Tia, could be added to the collection of stray remnants of this tomb (Fig. 10). So far unique for the New Kingdom iconographic material from this area is a relief fragment representing the bark of Ptah carried in procession on the shoulders by priests (Fig. 11).



Fig. 9. *Rais* shabti of terracotta.

At the end of the excavations, the north and east slopes surrounding the excavated area were terraced and provided with neat drystone retaining walls, and an access route to the tomb of Tia was cleared around Horemheb's first pylon. All newly found shafts were protected against unwanted entry by layers of concrete over their tops. The stela (2006/5) was protected by a wooden cover. Several gaps in the brick walls were restored and consolidated.

Restoration of the tomb of Meryneith

The tomb of Meryneith, steward of the Memphite temple of Aten during the reign of King Akhenaten (and later high priest of the Aten under Tutankhamun), was discovered by the Dutch mission in 2001⁵. In view of the large number of extant reliefs and paintings, the Expedition soon decided that this tomb deserved a special effort in order to be preserved for posterity. To this end a protective shelter was erected over the tomb by the architect Nicholas Warner in November-December 2004⁶. At the same time we realised that the tomb of Meryneith was not the only funerary monument in need of conservation. Of the ten tombs excavated jointly with the Egypt Exploration Society since 1975, most have undergone a certain measure of restoration, consolidation, or even reconstruction as soon as they came up from the desert sand. However, some of these early restorations were executed in non-permanent materials only and are already falling apart. Sometimes these actions have proved to be detrimental to the preservation of the original remains, as in the inner courtyard of the tomb of Horemheb reconstructed with a heavy concrete roof. Significant areas of surviving reliefs have had permanent structures built around them which have been rendered inaccessible by blocking walls, or temporary plywood facings placed in front of them. This gives the site a ramshackle appearance not in keeping with its architectural and aesthetic importance.

⁵ For this find, see M.J. Raven, R. van Walsem, B.G. Aston, and E. Strouhal, Preliminary report on the Leiden excavations at Saqqara, season 2001: the tomb of Meryneith, *JEOL* 37 (2001-2002), 71-89; id., season 2002, *ibid.*, 91-109.

⁶ See M.J. Raven, B.G. Aston, and L. Horáčeková, Preliminary report on the Leiden excavations at Saqqara, season 2005: the tombs of Horemheb and Meryneith, *JEOL* 39 (2005), 12-13 and figs. 9-10.

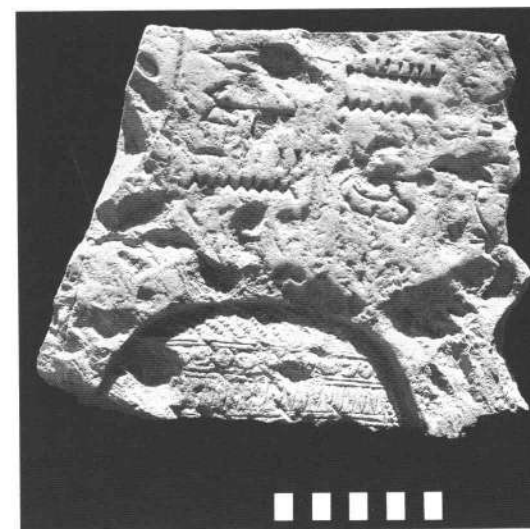


Fig. 10. Limestone relief block showing head of the princess Tia.

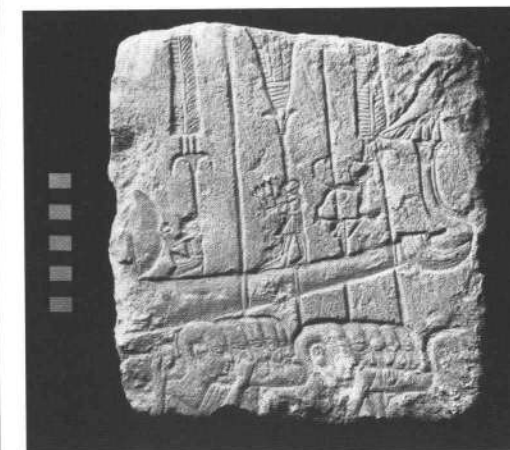


Fig. 11. Fragment of a relief showing the procession of a divine bark.

Therefore, the Expedition planned to use the services of Nicholas Warner in order to execute further consolidation and reconstruction of the tomb of Meryneith, as well as of the other tombs excavated by the Anglo-Dutch Mission in the years 1975-1998. This was formulated as a separate Conservation and Site Management Project, which was approved by the Permanent Committee of the SCA in the course of 2005. To our great satisfaction, the cultural fund of the Dutch Embassy in Cairo consented to finance a first season of conservation work. This year, work was concentrated on the tombs of Meryneith and Maya.

Accordingly, protective walls were constructed lining the internal perimeter of Meryneith's tomb (Fig. 12). These walls, built in fired brick with lime render, help to protect the fragile mud-brick structure behind. At the same time, they consolidate the extant wall-reliefs. Thirdly, these walls enabled the Expedition to reposition a number of loose relief blocks to their original walls. Six blocks were inserted in the south wall of the peristyle courtyard; these depict scenes from the burial cortège of the deceased, with the transport of the mummy, a statue and the catafalque, wailing women, a storeroom full of offerings, and a columned portico representing the tomb itself. On the corresponding north wall, part of an offering bearer was restored to a scene depicting the deceased adoring various gods. On the south half of the courtyard's west wall, three relief blocks help to suggest the outlines of a scene representing the Ritual of Opening the Mouth for the seated couple of tomb-owners. Two blocks were restored to the central chapel, one depicting offering bearers in the south-east corner of the antechapel, and the other with a figure of Meryneith himself in the south-west corner of the inner sanctuary. Finally, a partial figure of the standing deceased could be reconstructed to the doorway of the north-west chapel. It should be stressed that none of these blocks actually joins the extant reliefs, so that these reconstructions should be considered as no more than approximations of the original layout.



Fig. 12. General view of the peristyle courtyard of the tomb of Meryneith, showing protective walls and inserted relief blocks.

A special effort was made with the entrance gateway of the tomb. When found, this was still lined with two beautiful reliefs on the reveals, both of them depicting the deceased standing above a row of offering bearers⁷. Unfortunately, both figures were headless, but the two blocks making up the upper course of the north reveal could be picked up from the debris and were repositioned during the season 2005⁸. After a prolonged study of the hundreds of small relief fragments found in the tomb, we now managed to piece together a substantial part of the top course of the south reveal as well (Fig. 13), plus an additional fragment of the north one. Both walls were consolidated in brickwork, and finally also the two doorjambs (missing when the tomb was found) were re-erected in new materials. Thus the entrance to this tomb gives a much better impression of its original appearance.

Other jobs done comprise the restoration of the rim of the central shaft and the installation of spotlights around the courtyard, thereby further giving the tomb the character of a site museum. Two modern wooden doors leading to the western chapels were removed; all remaining relief fragments stored there were moved to another storage area. Cataloguing and description of these fragments continued, in preparation of the final report on this tomb.

⁷ See M.J. Raven, R. van Walsem, *et al.*, *JEOL* 37 (2001-2002), figs. 3 and 5.

⁸ *Ibid.* Fig. 6; cf. M.J. Raven, *et al.*, *JEOL* 39 (2005), 13 and fig. 11.



Fig. 13. South reveal of the entrance gateway to the tomb of Meryneith, after reconstruction.

Restoration of the tomb of Maya

As already mentioned, the other conservation project undertaken this year concerned the tomb of Maya. Following its excavation in the years 1987-1988 most reliefs were covered by panels of plywood fixed to the walls by a few courses of bricks. This meant that nothing could be seen of these splendid reliefs; at the same time, the protective covers started to deteriorate themselves. In order to remedy this situation, Nicholas Warner installed a series of painted timber cupboards on steel channel bases which can be opened by means of hinged doors (Fig. 14). This means that the reliefs on the outer and inner jambs of the entrance gateway, the north and south reveals of the doorway leading into the inner courtyard, and the reliefs on the east and west walls of that courtyard can again be seen and are well protected at the same time. For the south wall of the inner court a different solution was realised by the construction of a new roof on steel supports built over the south portico (Fig. 15). This creates a sheltered lapidarium in which the fragmentary double statue standing there can be displayed on its original base. Several loose relief blocks from the tomb were put on temporary display under this roof as well; in the near future we hope to insert some more relief fragments in the built up south wall of the portico.

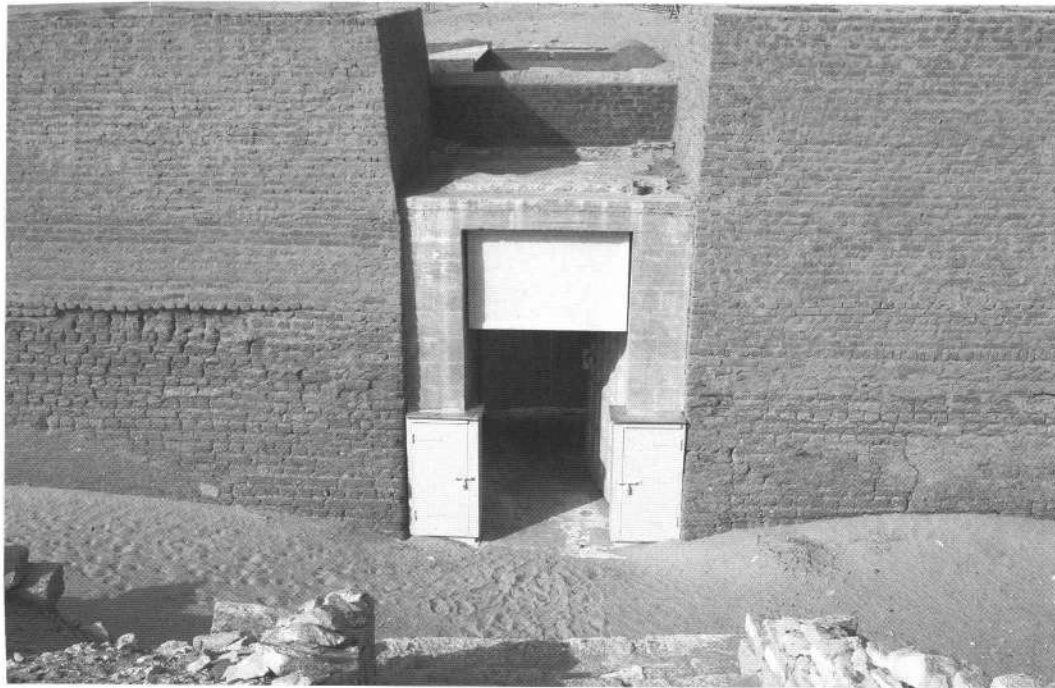


Fig. 14. Entrance to the tomb of Maya, with hinged doors protecting the reliefs and sun screen above.



Fig. 15. Modern roof erected over the south portico of Maya's inner courtyard.

The cumbersome access doors of the pylon gateway were adapted, and sun screens fixed above them to protect the colours of the reliefs in the 'vestibule' between the wings of the pylon. The ventilation of the underground tomb-chambers reconstructed in a concrete basement under the outer courtyard was improved by replacing the panelled access door by a grilled one and by installing new air channels. Some of these were embedded in a new kerb surrounding the aperture of the access shaft to the basement, which has the further benefit of preventing sand infiltration to the shaft. Other channels open in the sides of a newly built *mastaba* used to display architectural fragments in the outer courtyard. A new insulated door was installed over the access shaft. Several repairs were executed to the rim of the original shaft and to the paving slabs of the tomb. Thus the tomb is now ready to be opened to visitors. Both here and in the tomb of Meryneith bilingual signs in etched steel will be installed to either side of the entrance in order to provide the necessary information.

The pottery

(1) Pottery from the tombs of Tia and Horemheb (B.G. Aston)

The most interesting pottery find this season was two slender, long-necked, two-handled jars of Ramesside date found in the corner formed by the north jamb of the Tia forecourt gateway and the east forecourt wall. These were broken and somewhat disturbed (part of the top of one is missing) but they are otherwise complete. They may be associated with the four pottery shabtis found at about the same level (30 cm and 15 cm above Tia pavement level, respectively) in the nearby north-east corner of the forecourt. Only a handful of New Kingdom pottery was found on the floor of the forecourt, in the area immediately around the base of the north stela, though this included part of a Mycenaean stirrup jar spout. More of a New Kingdom pottery deposit found last year north of Horemheb's first pylon was recovered at a height of 1.4 m above Tia pavement level. Besides ostraca showing various figures, there were also sherds from beer jars re-used as paint pots or containing plaster, so this deposit may be remnants left by the New Kingdom tomb builders.

Simultaneously with the excavation, the recording of the deposit of pottery originally deriving from the burial chamber of Tia's tomb and recovered in a robbers' dump in 2004-5 was being carried out. With the help of Carina van den Hoven and Jacqueline Smolders, 98 drawings of Tia pottery were made as well as 21 drawings of the New Kingdom pottery deposit found in the south-east corner of Horemheb's forecourt in 2004. Late Period pottery from caches and disturbed burials in the forecourt of Horemheb's tomb was also recorded.

Interesting finds from within the surface debris recovered this year include a body sherd from a Cypriote Black-on-Red ware juglet with concentric ring decoration — a type of decoration not previously found in the New Kingdom necropolis — and a body sherd from a Late Period marl clay jar with an applied pinched handle next to a modelled Bes face.

(2) Pottery from the tomb of Meryneith (A. Dunsmore)

During the last three weeks of the 2006 season, work continued on the recording and drawing of pottery from the tomb of Meryneith, excavated during the 2001, 2002 and 2003 seasons. Previous seasons had concentrated on recording the Early Dynastic pottery and much of

the late New Kingdom pottery from the courtyard. This season the aim was to complete all the recording and drawing of the rest of the material, in order to be able to write the final report. However, given the limited time available, it was not possible to record all the pottery fully. Much of the material is well known from the site and it was deemed unnecessary to record everything in detail, especially given the lack of stratigraphy for much of the material. The Late Period pottery was also typed as much as possible to the forthcoming volume on Late Period pottery from the site. In all over 155 drawings were completed.

The pottery derived from all areas of the site, including the underground chambers, the tomb's forecourt and courtyard, and areas cleared around the outside of the tomb's superstructure. Much of the material was unstratified although there were a few deposits of pottery over the northern half of the forecourt which appear to have been left *in situ*, most notably a stack of four small dishes of New Kingdom date found upside down just above the floor in the north-west corner of the courtyard.

The vast majority of material ranged in date from the late New Kingdom, generally from Dynasty XIX onwards (although there appears to be some earlier XVIIIth Dynasty material present) through to the Late Period. As expected, there were also a number of fragments of imported amphorae dating to the fifth century BC. A few Old Kingdom sherds occurred and pottery of the late Roman and Byzantine Periods was also present, but this material has not been dealt with in this report as a separate volume on the late Roman and Byzantine pottery is planned for the future.

Animal bones (S. Ikram)

This season a collection of bones found in Horemheb's forecourt, but originating from the neighbouring tomb of Tia were studied. The majority of these were from monkeys. Thus far a minimum of seven individuals have been identified. At least two are baboons (*Papio* spp.), while the remainder have not yet been identified to genus. They are all members of the family *Cercopithecidae* (Old World monkeys), and might include colobus or monkeys from the genus *Cercopithecus*. The animals were of different ages, with the long-bone epiphyses unfused, to some with fused epiphyses, and some that were older, with worn teeth and signs of disease, notably osteoporosis. Further work with comparative collections needs to be carried out before determining the genus and species of these creatures, and their ramifications to the history of the tomb and its owners.

PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE LEIDEN EXCAVATIONS AT SAQQARA, SEASON 2007: THE TOMB OF PTAHEMWIA

MAARTEN J. RAVEN, RENÉ VAN WALSEM, BARBARA G. ASTON,
LADISLAVA HORÁČKOVÁ, AND NICHOLAS WARNER

The joined mission of the Leiden Museum of Antiquities and the Faculty of Archaeology/Department of Egyptology of Leiden University resumed its work at Saqqara on January 17th 2007 and continued until February 28th. The staff consisted of Dr Maarten J. Raven (field director), Dr Ladislava Horáčková (anthropologist), Dr Barbara G. Aston (ceramicist), Drs Willem F.M. Beex (surveyor), Mr Peter Jan Bomhof and Ms Anneke J. de Kemp (photographers), Ms Dorothea Schulz and Dr Lyla Pinch-Brock (artists), Mr Nico T.B. Staring and Mr W. Paul van Pelt (field assistants). Mr Nicholas J. Warner was again engaged as director of the Conservation and Site Management Project. Dr. René van Walsem was unable to join the mission in the field this season.

The fieldwork was carried out in close collaboration with Mr Ibrahim Suleiman and Mr Usama Abdessalam el-Shimy (Directors of Saqqara) and was supervised in the field by the Inspector Mr Galal Muawad Muawad el-Mishad. The Expedition wants to express its gratitude to Dr Zahi Hawass (Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities), Mr Magdy el-Ghandur (Chairman of the Department of Foreign Missions), and to the members of the Permanent Committee of the SCA. We also thank Dr K. Duistermaat (Director of the Netherlands-Flemish Institute in Cairo) and her staff for logistic help and hospitality. The Egypt Exploration Society again allowed us to use the dighouse at Saqqara. Financial support for this season's work was received from the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research, which once again magnanimously provided us with a four-year grant. We are greatly indebted to the Netherlands Embassy in Cairo for bearing the costs of our conservation programme.

After the completion of work in the tomb of Meryneith (found in 2001) and clearing the forecourts of the tombs of Horemheb and Tia (in 2004-2006) the Leiden mission was ready for a new challenge. This was found in the clearing of a new funerary monument, situated due east of the forecourt of Meryneith's tomb and already located during our season 2003 (Fig. 1). This proved to be the tomb of Ptahemwia, a contemporary of King Akhenaten, which will be described in detail below. Otherwise the expedition managed to finish the last bit of the tomb of Tia, *viz.* the full excavation of two shafts situated in the forecourt. Further study was undertaken of some pottery found in previous seasons. Finally, the consolidation project directed by Mr Warner was concentrated on the tomb of Tia, and also undertook some work in the tomb of Pay.

Excavation of the tomb of Ptahemwia

The tomb of Ptahemwia is situated directly to the east of the tomb of Meryneith. Already during the clearance of Meryneith's forecourt in 2003, it was found that the east wall of that