

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

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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

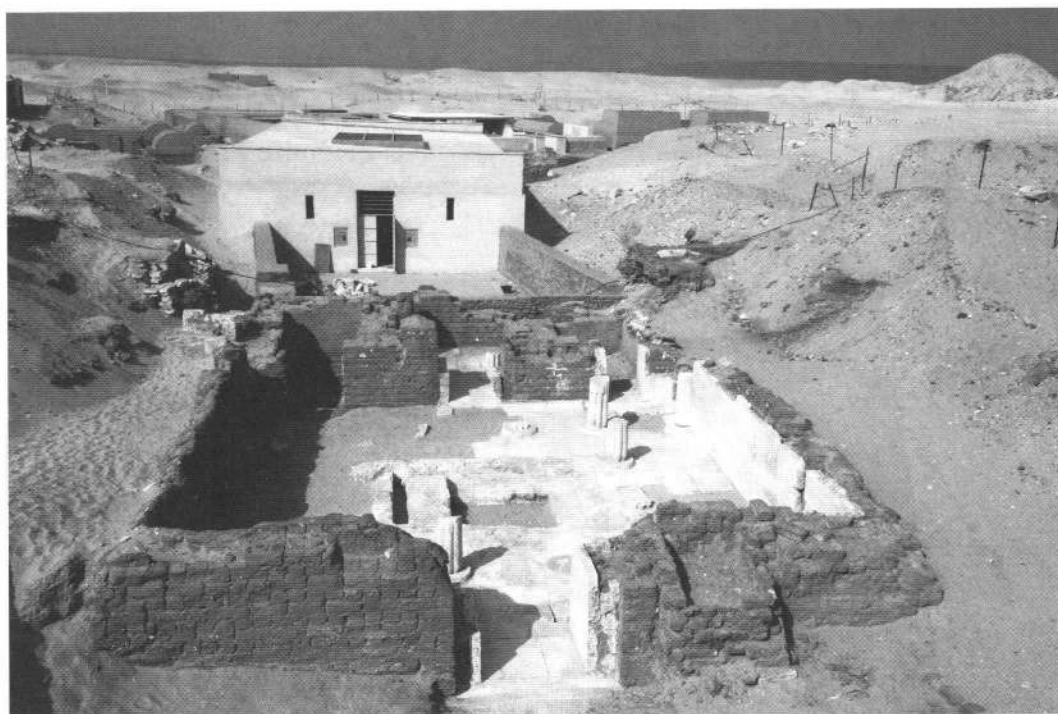


Fig. 3. General view of the tomb of Ptahemwia from the east.



Fig. 4. General view of the tomb from the south.

wide and 16 m long, the equivalent of 20 by 30 cubits. Most walls still stand to a height of about 2 m. The massive entrance gateway (perhaps once shaped like a pylon) is followed by a courtyard with a peristyle of papyriform columns (the lower part of three of these still preserved), and three chapels for the offering cult. The central chapel has a limestone floor, revetment, and two further columns, whereas the side-chapels just have mud floors and mud-plastered walls. The shaft to the subterranean tomb-chambers is situated in the centre of the court. This has obviously been entered before, presumably in the 19th century, in view of the presence of loosely stacked walls around its aperture (containing several *spolia* of Coptic date, doubtless from the monastery of Apa Jeremias). Only one of the original covering slabs is still in position.

As always, the main interest of the tomb lies in its wall-decoration. Starting with the eastern gateway, the door-jambs on its east side have been robbed away but those on the west side are at least partly extant. They show a portrait of the seated tomb-owner in exquisite raised relief, a monkey under the chair; above, the northern jamb has preserved part of an inscription with offering formulas in four columns of raised hieroglyphs, stating the name and titles of the deceased (Fig. 5). The west face of the east wall is only preserved to the north of the entrance. It is clearly unfinished and shows artists' sketches in red ink, lightly incised figures, and some sunk relief lines, thereby allowing us to record all the stages of the production process. The main scene represented here is that of the transport of the mummy of the deceased; the bark carrying the catafalque is being towed by a smaller rowing-boat, while mourners are depicted in a lower register (Fig. 6). Similar unfinished representations cover the adjacent east part of the north wall of the courtyard. Here one can just make out some scenes from spell 110 of the Book of the Dead, notably the deceased and his wife ploughing the fields of the hereafter.

After a gap presumably left by the removal of the Bologna pilaster, the rest of the north wall has preserved its properly completed sunk reliefs, which still show part of the original colours. On the right is a scene of farmers ploughing their fields (Fig. 7). It should be noted that the register lines and even the waterway depicted near the bottom are not straight but undulating, thereby suggesting a much freer conception of the landscape than is usual for Egyptian art. Further left is a depiction of the tomb-owner himself, arriving at a rectangular structure with gabled roof (Fig. 8). Presumably, this is a tent or light pavilion, rather than a house³. This seems to correspond rather well with the function of a royal butler, who was frequently sent out on expeditions or tours of inspection, or accompanied the king on the battlefield⁴. While Ptahemwia still speaks to two minor officials, his Nubian bodyguards, charioteer, and sandal-bearer stand to attention. Servants inside the pavilion run to the open door, followed by female musicians carrying a lyre, lute, and harp. At a higher level another servant pours a drink to Ptahemwia's wife, the songstress of Amun Maia. Below, a sailor is securing the sail of a boat moored to the quay in front of the pavilion. Thus the whole scene has the character of a moment frozen in time and of a continuous space, filled with anecdotal episodes depicted with great naturalism.

³ For parallels, see G.T. Martin, *The Memphite tomb of Horemheb, commander-in-chief of Tut'ankhamūn, I* (London, 1989), 36-37, n. 2 and pls. 28-29. Cf. also W. Helck, in: *LÄ VI, 1372-1373 s.v. Zelt*.

⁴ W. Helck, *Zur Verwaltung des Mittleren und Neuen Reichs* (Leiden/Cologne, 1958), 269-276.

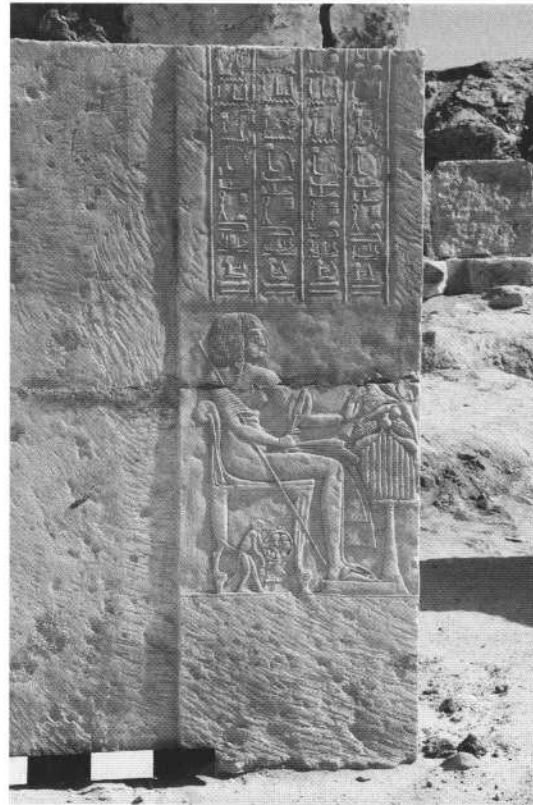


Fig. 5. North door-jamb on the west side of the eastern gateway.

The west half of this wall is occupied by a more formal scene of priests performing the ritual of opening the mouth and presenting food offerings to the deceased and his wife. The latter are seated on chairs, accompanied by other members of the family and more offerings in a lower register. The main attraction of this scene is the realistic depiction of two monkeys under the wife's chair which are eating figs, dates, and grapes (Fig. 9). A blank dado of one cubit height runs underneath, showing some interesting graffiti. A further register of representations once ran along the top of the wall, but this is now largely lost. The opposite south wall of the courtyard is completely devoid of its original revetment, and even a large part of the limestone floor of this half of the tomb has been robbed away.

A fluted half-column⁵ marks the transition from the relief wall to the western portico, which in its turn precedes the chapel area. Small parts have survived of the door-jambs of the north chapel, and only the base of the relief scenes in the entrance and on the north wall of the central chapel. The latter depict part of the funeral of the deceased, with a realistic image of

⁵ A similar item occurs in the adjacent tomb of Meryneith, as well as in the tombs of Nefersekeru (TT 107) and Kheruef (TT 192) at Thebes, and of Hatiay at Saqqara, thereby corroborating the proposed dating of the present monument.



Fig. 6. East wall of courtyard: unfinished scene of the boat procession with the mummy of the deceased.



Fig. 7. North wall of courtyard: agricultural scenes.



Fig. 8. North wall of courtyard: tomb-owner arriving at his pavilion.

the tomb itself, as well as some workshops where artisans are making arrows and other articles. Several loose relief slabs found in this area may allow us to reconstruct part of the funeral scenes on the opposite south wall of the central chapel. The chapel comprised an antechapel with two papyriform columns and an inner sanctuary, raised by a low step in the floor and screened off by two transverse walls; unfortunately practically all the revetment of this part of the tomb has been lost, including the stela which must have stood against the west wall.

The tomb can be dated to the reign of King Akhenaten (1353-1335 BC) in view of the peculiar technique and style of its decorations. Most of these have been executed in the shallow sunk relief which was the favorite medium of the Amarna age. This date is confirmed by



Fig. 9. North wall of courtyard: eating monkeys.

the characteristic details of the anatomy of the persons represented, several of which show elongated skulls, bulging stomachs, and thin arms and legs. The best example is the large-scale depiction of the tomb-owner on the north wall of the tomb (Fig. 8). This portrait is especially interesting because of its unusual posture with the head looking back over the shoulder, a position which occurs elsewhere for the depiction of minor figures but never for portraying the tomb-owner himself. Very unusual is also the representation of two of the artisans in partial frontal view. Here we should also mention the great artistic freedom of the artists, who created a number of scenes which seem to be unique to this tomb. Thereby, the tomb of Ptahemwia seems to have been constructed and decorated at the same time as the earliest phase of the neighbouring monument of Meryneith, which is now attributed to the second

quarter of Akhenaten's regnal period. Both tombs are the earliest ones found by the Leiden Expedition.

It remains to be seen whether the tomb of Ptahemwia, too, was decorated in successive phases. Some of the scenes in raised relief (such as the Bologna pilaster and the west jambs of the eastern gateway; Fig. 5) seem to betray a slightly different stylistic character more characteristic of the reign of Tutankhamun⁶. We can only speculate why the reliefs on the north and east walls were never finished. Perhaps the owner just died untimely; it is also possible that he fell from favour or was transferred to Amarna. On the north wall, he is represented with the gold of honour around his neck. However, his name ('Ptah is in the bark') may have caused a problem when Akhenaten decided to stop the worship of the traditional gods of Egypt. In the case of Meryneith, inscriptions show that that official felt forced to change his name, but for Ptahemwia there is no evidence for this. Thus, it is possible that he lost the King's favour, and the esteem of others as well as is suggested by the intentional damage to his face on the north wall portrait.

A stela now in Neuchatel (Eg. 428) and originally found in the Teti pyramid cemetery belonged to a certain Nakhtamun, servant of a royal butler Hori, son of Ptahemwia⁷. In view of the fact that this Hori is well attested during the later Ramesside period, his father (who has no title on the stela) can impossibly be identical to the present tomb-owner⁸. However, the evidence is further complicated by the find of a jamb fragment inscribed with the name Hori (his title still reads '... of the Lord of the Two Lands') directly to the east of the new tomb. It is tempting to connect this jamb with the remains of a small limestone tomb-chapel also found there, but it does not seem to have the right measurements. Unless one wants to assume a whole dynasty of royal butlers (with Ptahemwia I and his son (?) Hori I buried at Saqqara-south, and Ptahemwia II and his son Hori II attested in the Teti pyramid cemetery) the similarity in names is perhaps just a coincidence.

It has already been mentioned that several interesting relief blocks were found in the fill of the tomb. Otherwise the number of important finds was relatively small. The three chapels of the tomb proved to have been reused for the burial of numerous poorly-preserved mummies and coffins. Most of this material seems to date to the end of the New Kingdom (Dynasty XX), in view of the presence of a number of child burials accompanied by characteristic amulets and with single pots standing at the head ends of their coffins; some of the adults possessed black-varnished coffins with details carved in relief or painted in yellow. However, at the present stage of our analysis we cannot exclude that the youngest burials here may have been deposited during the Third Intermediate Period. These finds clearly need further study, and the skeletal material will be fully analysed in the 2008 season.

Excavation of two shafts in the forecourt of Tia

The forecourt of the tomb of Tia was excavated in 2006, and proved to comprise two shafts situated in its eastern corners (Fig. 1). Both of these seem to have been connected with a stela erected just to the west of it (the southern one now lost, and only the lower part of the

⁶ Cf. J. Berlandini, *Loc.cit.*

⁷ Porter and Moss, *Op.cit.* 571; now published by J. Malek, *Op.cit.*

⁸ As already stated by Malek, *Op.cit.* 133.

northern stela still extant)⁹. Therefore, it stands to reason that these shafts were part of the original design of Tia's tomb and once belonged to members of the family or servants of the deceased; a similar situation prevailed in the adjacent outer courtyard of the tomb where the southern shaft belonged to Tia's private secretary Iurudef, whereas the northern one may have served for the burial of a certain Panakhtenniut¹⁰. In order to verify this we undertook the full clearance of both shafts. The northern one proved to be 4 m deep and has a single chamber on the east side. The south shaft has a depth of 3.56 m and possesses both a west and an east chamber. Unfortunately, the scanty remains of the original burials did not indicate the identity of the persons buried here, although they seemed to indicate that the burials were indeed Ramesside in date. Both shafts had been entered during a relatively recent period, as proved by the presence of Coptic sherds in the chambers. Quite remarkably, the south shaft also contained a number of broken alabaster vessels of the Archaic Period; similar sherds have been found on the adjacent section of Horemheb's forecourt in 2005¹¹.

A note on the 'pragmatics' of the site (R. van Walsem)

Pragmatics is a term borrowed from linguistics and concerns the study of the interaction between users and their language as expressed by, for instance, the (potential) change(s) in or further specification(s) of meaning of segments of the language by that use. This approach is also productive for the interaction between a culture purveyor and space and/or material culture¹². A necropolis with its various types of tombs, their spatial distribution, and their use over time represents a segment of a 'cultural language' — as was recently demonstrated in an article by the present author¹³. A separate chapter on this matter is in preparation for the final publication of the tomb of Meryneith. Ptahemwia's tomb will be analyzed along the same lines. A definite analysis, of course, can only be given at the end of the complete excavation of the tomb and its surroundings. Yet the experience with the other tombs and some of the results of the present season warrant some preliminary observations on the contemporary and subsequent pragmatics concerning Ptahemwia's tomb.

A striking feature is the fact that the tomb's ground-level is some 0.7 m above Meryneith's, due to a rise of the terrain east of the latter's tomb. This leads to the question whether a superior position on the local desert plateau reflects superiority in rank: Ptahemwia certainly had

⁹ See M.J. Raven, R. van Walsem, *et al.*, Preliminary report on the Leiden excavations at Saqqara, season 2006: the tombs of Tia, Meryneith and Maya, *JEOL* 40 (2006-2007), 8 and fig. 6.

¹⁰ G.T. Martin, *The tomb of Tia and Tia, a royal monument of the Ramesside Period in the Memphite necropolis* (London, 1997), 5 and pl. 1; M.J. Raven, *The tomb of Iurudef, a Memphite official in the reign of Ramesses II* (Leiden/London, 1991), especially 4-7 and pl. 2.

¹¹ M.J. Raven, *et al.*, Preliminary report on the Leiden excavations at Saqqara, season 2005: the tombs of Horemheb and Meryneith, *JEOL* 39 (2005), 11.

¹² The 2001-2004 excavation programme of the RMO and the University of Leiden as accepted for co-financing by the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO) was entitled: *The 'pragmatics' of the funerary symbolism of the New Kingdom (ca. 1550-1050 B.C.) upper class as reflected in the necropolis at Saqqara (Egypt)*. The new application for the seasons 2007-2010, which likewise resulted in a NWO grant, was entitled: *The 'pragmatics' of the New Kingdom (ca. 1550-1050 B.C.) upper class necropolis eastwards of the line of tombs of Horemheb and Meryneith at Saqqara (Egypt)*.

¹³ R. van Walsem, 'Meaningful places': pragmatics from ancient Egypt to modern times. A diachronic and cross-cultural approach, in: K. Zijlmans (ed.), *Site-seeing. Places in culture, time and space* (Leiden, 2006), 111-146. Horemheb's tomb at Saqqara was analyzed, for instance, on pp. 127-133.

a high position at court¹⁴, and his eminent position may also explain that Meryneith started his tomb at a considerable distance behind Ptahemwia's and reveals something about the practice of using available space. At the present stage of our knowledge, however, we cannot judge whether such distance was mainly motivated by 'respect', or whether any tomb-owner was entitled to keep an empty area around his tomb. This pattern was only broken by later intrusive tombs, such as the Ramesside tombs of Paser and Raia, which literally lie in the shadow of the west wall of Horemheb's tomb¹⁵. Later, the 'no-man's-land' between the two monuments was converted into a closed forecourt¹⁶, but we cannot specify when this happened or who was responsible for this project.

Another noteworthy feature is that in both tombs (i.e. Meryneith and Ptahemwia) the procedure of decorating started with the western cult chapels, more or less simultaneously with the eastern entrance. This ensured that in case of an unexpected death of the owner the funerary services could be performed, whereas the monumental gateway created the possibility to draw the attention of potential visitors. The next phase was the decoration of the northern and southern walls of the courtyard, again in a west-east direction. The west part of these walls is more essential because it is immediately encompassed by the visual cone of a visitor entering the court. The east part can only be seen after proceeding through the entrance and accordingly its decoration was left till the last. The unfinished state of Ptahemwia's walls thus resembles that of Meryneith's tomb. The practice was continued in Maya's tomb, witness the magnificent decoration of the entrance portal as opposed to the unfinished walls of the outer courtyard. Horemheb's tomb reveals a different approach. Although the south and north walls of the outer courtyard were decorated from west to east, the state of the entrance of the second pylon seems to suggest that no decoration had yet started there, possibly because at that moment the decision was made to extend the tomb even further east with the forecourt.

As far as the pragmatics of subject matter or iconography is concerned, it is obvious that there was a considerable difference with Meryneith's tomb. The Opening of the Mouth scene on the north wall occurs on the same wall in the latter's tomb, though elaborated differently. The landscape scene with the pavilion, the agricultural work, and the ships reveals a completely different practice concerning the distribution of scene contents. Also the funerary scenes appear in an unexpected place (*viz.* on the unfinished east wall), whereas in Meryneith's tomb these occupied the entire south wall east of the western portico. A possible Theban connection, as far as the sculptor's repertoire of motifs is concerned, may be found in the sinuous stretch of water in Ptahemwia's agricultural representation. Similar freely 'floating' stretches of water¹⁷ occur in Khaemhat's tomb (TT 57, second half of

¹⁴ It should be noted that so far there are only three 'royal butlers (clean of hands)' attested for the Amarna period: Ptahemwia in Memphis; Parennefer in Thebes (TT 188, see F. Kampp, *Die thebanische Nekropole. Zum Wandel des Grabgedankens von der XVIII. bis zur XIX. Dynastie, I-II*, Mainz am Rhein, 1996) and Amarna (Amarna tomb 7: N. de G. Davies, *The rock tombs of el Amarna, VI*, London, 1908; here a variant of Gardiner Sign-list U26 (*ibid.* pl. 3, left, last column) was incorrectly read as *hmw*, instead of *wb3*, a mistake repeated by R. Hari, *Repertoire onomastique amarnien*, Geneva, 1976, 100); and Nakhtpaaten in Amarna (fragment of a stela, see R. Hari, *Op.cit.*, 197, transliterated as *wdpw*).

¹⁵ G.T. Martin, *et al.*, *The tomb-chapels of Paser and Raia at Saqqara* (London, 1985), pl. 2.

¹⁶ See M.J. Raven, R. van Walsem *et al.*, Preliminary report on the Leiden excavations at Saqqara, season 2003: the tomb of Meryneith, *JEOL* 38 (2003-2004), 7-8, 15 with figs. 1-2, 9, 11.

¹⁷ W. Wreszinski, *Atlas zur altaegyptischen Kulturgeschichte, I* (Leipzig, 1923), pl. 195.

Amenhotep III), indicating that this element was already conceptualized before the Amarna period. The stiff rows of field labourers in Khaemhat's tomb, however, have made way for a much more lively composition.

A new funerary use of Ptahemwia's tomb covers the end of the New Kingdom, as is testified by the intrusive burials in the western chapels. The considerable number of individuals is in marked contrast to Meryneith's tomb, where only a few intrusive burials were found in the north-west chapel, but is in line with Horemheb's tomb, where the central chapel was left empty, too¹⁸. The fact that several burials were dug into the floor of the south chapel¹⁹ is so far unique. In short, two 'systemic' pragmatic phases or 'use-lives'²⁰ are manifest in this tomb. A next, 'non-systemic' phase concerns the use of the desert surface for constructions during the Coptic period²¹.

Undoubtedly, the emptying of the subterranean parts planned for next season will reveal more details on the pragmatics of this interesting tomb. How extensive will the burial complex appear to be, and will remains of Ptahemwia's burial be found, or did he leave no further physical traces, like his neighbours Meryneith and Hatia? Experience over the past three decades has taught us that so far each tomb kept various surprises in stock, each time adding more insight into various aspects of 3300 years of pragmatics²².

Restoration of the tomb of Tia (N.J. Warner)

Following the construction of a protective shelter over the tomb of Meryneith in 2004, and the consolidation of this tomb and that of Maya in 2006, the Expedition undertook further restoration and reconstruction of the site in the present season. The work was undertaken as part of the Site Conservation Project, which was approved by the Permanent Committee of the Supreme Council of Antiquities in 2005. This year, work was concentrated on the tomb of Tia (excavated between 1982 and 1985). At the end of the project, some consolidation was also done to the tombs of Pay (excavated between 1994 and 1998) and Khay (excavated in 1986). The work was carried out on site from January 23 to February 12 under the supervision of the Inspector Madame Samia Mohamed Mahmud.

In the first place, consolidation work has been carried out on many of the walls of the tomb of Tia, as well as the pylon and the pyramid at the rear of the complex (Figs. 10-11). This has been executed in a limestone rubble masonry using a lime/sand/brick dust mortar and a lime/sand external plaster. The portions built up in this way include areas where the walls were almost totally absent, in order to convey an impression of the original plan of the tomb. The mud-brick wall separating the forecourt of the tomb from the forecourt of the adjacent tomb of Horemheb was consolidated with new mud-bricks replicating the original bonding pattern but not the size of the original bricks. This was carried out to a safe height.

¹⁸ G.T. Martin, Excavations at the Memphite tomb of Horemheb, 1976: preliminary report, *JEA* 63 (1977), 17.

¹⁹ See below, the section on skeletons.

²⁰ For the terms, see Van Walsem, in: Zijlmans, *Site-seeing*, 112. *Systemic* meaning that the participants belong to the same cultural system, sharing a common world view (e.g., the pharaonic period); *non-systemic* refers to people who share a different cultural system, often including a different world view (e.g., the Coptic period).

²¹ See below, section on pottery.

²² One should be aware that the dealings of the 19th century, when the known fragments were removed, and our own interaction with the monuments are pragmatics as well; cf. Van Walsem, *Loc.cit.*, 134-136.



Fig. 10. Tomb of Tia, general view from the east before consolidation.



Fig. 11. Tomb of Tia, general view from the east after consolidation.

Two doorways at the rear of the tomb, to the west and north of the pyramid but actually belonging to the first courtyard of the tomb of Ramose, were blocked up with new mud-brick in order to reduce sand infiltration in this area.

One limestone papyrus-bud column capital in the peristyle courtyard of the tomb of Tia was reinstated to its original height²³. This was supported on a stainless steel frame which was then filled in with rubble masonry and plastered. In the same courtyard, a missing square pillar base on the east side was rebuilt with limestone for aesthetic reasons²⁴. A large number of inscribed limestone blocks (belonging to the tomb, but of which the original location is not precisely known), which had been temporarily deposited by the excavators in the staircase passage to the south of the courtyard, were placed in purpose-made covered niches for their own protection and for the purposes of display (Fig. 12)²⁵. These niches occupy the north, and parts of the east and south walls, of the peristyle court. They reinforce an impression of the architecture of the court, and are designed to be at a height for easy viewing of the blocks. Within the central chapel area, two large impost blocks from the jambs of a doorway were reinstated close to their original height on built up brick piers.



Fig. 12. Tomb of Tia, inner courtyard with new display of relief blocks.

²³ G.T. Martin, *Op.cit.*, pl. 1, column e.

²⁴ *Ibid.*, base n.

²⁵ *Ibid.*, the blocks of scenes 21 (Pl. 16 upper), 111, 114, 116, 118-119, 121, 123, 198, 200, and 253.

Timber opening cupboards were installed in four areas to protect the most vulnerable of the reliefs from further damage. These were: one cupboard around a funerary stela in the forecourt of the tomb²⁶; one cupboard on each of the door-jambes of the main entry between the wings of the pylon; and one double-sided cupboard on the east wall of the peristyle courtyard²⁷. The cupboards follow the design of those in the tomb of Maya, being raised on steel channels off the ground and provided with adequate ventilation. They are covered with 18 mm thick contar board and galvanized metal sheet and trim, and are painted a neutral beige colour.

The area of the tomb chapels was given a protective roof, measuring 12 × 8 metres. This was constructed from mild steel welded sections supported on existing or rebuilt stone rubble walls and three steel rolled hollow section posts. The structure was covered with 18 mm thick contar board, bitumen isolation, and 5 cm of white cement mortar, and the edges given a galvanized metal trim. All exposed steel and timber surfaces were painted with a neutral beige colour. The roof is intended to provide shelter to a number of exposed reliefs and architectural elements. Next season, we hope to be able to replace the existing steel entry door to the southern (Apis) chapel by a grilled door providing a safe means of viewing the interior of the chapel as well as ventilation for the interior.

Replacement of selected areas of degraded limestone floor was carried out. A mixture of old limestone slabs on the site and new shaped rubble was used, set in a lime/sand/brick dust mortar. After excavation and recording work was completed, three tomb shafts (two in the forecourt and one near the pyramid) were covered with *in situ* reinforced concrete slabs. The cement used was white Portland cement in order to achieve a colour balance with the original limestone flooring.

A single large visitor information panel in English and Arabic, made of etched aluminium, will be installed on the south wing of the pylon at the entrance to the tomb of Tia. Some consolidation work was already carried out on the deteriorated or, in some cases, destroyed mud-brick walls around the entrance and the courtyard of the tomb of Pay, which is awaiting further restoration in 2008. Finally, a minor intervention was executed on the tomb chapel of Khay, where the modern roof was provided with a metal trim and the floor around the shaft was consolidated.

Study of pottery (B.G. Aston)

Pottery recovered this season in the tomb of Ptahemwia included a small amount of New Kingdom material from the floor of the courtyard and a deposit of sherds mostly belonging to red-slipped, silt funnel-necked jars packed into the gap between the remaining cover slab and the rim of the main shaft. Four complete late 19th to 20th Dynasty vessels were found accompanying the burials placed beneath the original floor level in the south chapel. Two of these were found *in situ*, each placed near the head end of one of the child coffins. The vessels comprised a pointed-based jar with short neck, a 'beer jar' with the tall slender proportions and wide insloping rim characteristic of late 19th to 20th Dynasty types, a red-slipped drop-shaped jar with narrow neck, and a similarly shaped jar with blue bands on a pink slip (representing

²⁶ Cf. M.J. Raven, R. van Walsem, *et al.*, *JEOL* 40 (2006-2007), 8 and fig. 6.

²⁷ G.T. Martin, *Op.cit.*, scenes [9-15], [17-20], and [26-34], respectively.

the late 19th to 20th Dynasty phase of blue-painted decoration where the colour is reduced to simple bands with the blue applied so thinly that often only grey-blue traces remain). In addition, a pink-slipped beaker with red bands was reconstructed from the fill surrounding the fragmented coffins in the north chapel. As it is also a late 19th to 20th Dynasty type, it was probably originally provided for one of these late New Kingdom burials. The top of a very tall, two-handled drop-shaped jar was reconstructed from large sherds found among the coffin fragments in the south chapel, probably used for an infant burial.

A Coptic cooking pot was found next to a Coptic floor to the south of the south chapel with its rim at floor level, and the neck of a Coptic marl (N1) amphora was discovered actually imbedded in a plastered bench in Coptic structure 2003/4 north of Ptahemwia's north chapel²⁸. The rim was just at the level of the top of the mud-brick bench and the mud in the interior of the neck was carefully smoothed to form a rounded hollow, though what these very small storage cavities would have been used for is unclear.

Reconstruction and drawing of pottery from previous seasons also continued, with nearly 200 drawings made by Lyla Pinch-Brock of New Kingdom and Late Period pottery from the forecourts of the tombs of Horemheb and Tia (excavated in 2004-2006), and from south of Horemheb's tomb (excavated in 1999-2000). Recording and reconstruction of blue-painted pottery from the tomb of Maya (excavated in 1987-1988) yielded a new form of *hes*-vase with a bizarre forked double false spout.

In addition, the four unusual long-necked, one-handled jars found with the deposit from the burial chamber of the Tias (found in 2004)²⁹ have been identified as Oasis jars based on the shape of the base³⁰, the potmark of two long vertical strokes, and the fabric which is a grey-firing clay new to the New Kingdom necropolis and more like marl fabric H1 (Vienna System Marl D) than the orange to pink firing Oasis fabric P25 previously identified from Saqqara³¹.

Study of human remains (L. Horáčková)

Most human skeletal remains discovered this season came from the three western chapels (north, central, and south) of the newly found tomb of Ptahemwia. In all the chapels the skeletal material was found mixed with fragments of coffins, pottery, amulets, and beads. The greatest quantity was excavated in the south chapel, the smallest amount in the central chapel.

In the north chapel human remains were discovered of at least 20 individuals (3 nearly complete skeletons, and the rest only partly preserved), both adults and children. Three individuals had evidently been buried in coffins, since their skeletal remains were found lying on top of wooden planks. Unfortunately, all coffins were found in fragments only. One coffin was excavated about 150-120 cm above floor level; it had a lid of yellowish colour with

²⁸ For the latter structure, see M.J. Raven, R. van Walsem, *et al.*, *JEOL* 38 (2003-2004), 8 with figs. 1 and 9.

²⁹ See M.J. Raven, *et al.*, Preliminary report on the Leiden excavations at Saqqara, season 2004: the tomb of Horemheb, *JEOL* 38 (2003-2004), 38 and fig. 14.

³⁰ An unusual 'button base'. Compare D.A. Aston, *Die Grabungen des Pelizaeus-Museums Hildesheim in Qantir-Pi-Ramesse, I: Die Keramik des Grabungsplatzes Q1* (Mainz, 1998), 537 nos. 2200-2201, 539 nos. 2208, 2212-2213; C. Hope, in: R. Friedman, *Egypt and Nubia, gifts of the desert* (London, 2002), 120, fig. 3m; S. Marchand and P. Tallet, Ayn Asil et l'oasis de Dakhla au Nouvel Empire, *BIFAO* 99 (1999), 342, fig. 14.

³¹ D.A. Aston, in: M.J. Raven, *Iurudef*, 48, pl. 51.62.

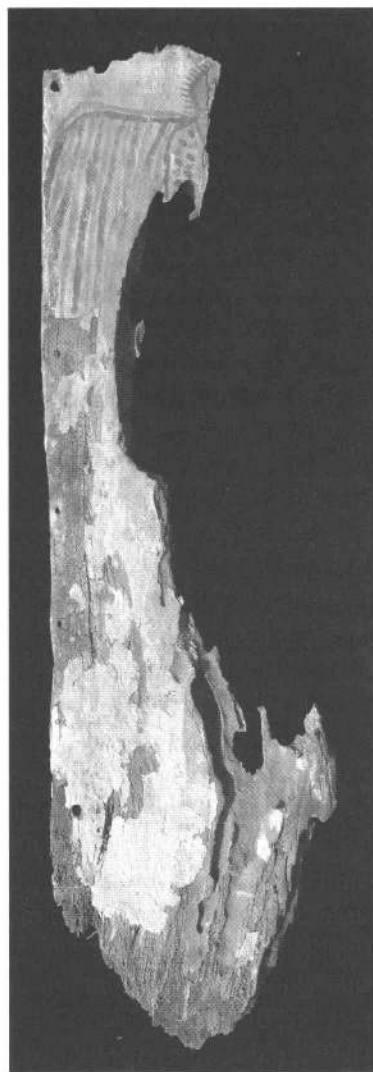


Fig. 13. Coffin lid with stylized vulture design.

details in black and was oriented with its head end towards the east (Fig. 13). Planks of the second coffin (without decoration) were found in the south-west quadrant of the chapel, about 20-30 cm above floor level. Fragments of the third coffin lay approximately 60 cm above floor level just inside the entrance to the chapel, with its detached mask lying to one side. One of the skeletons of an adult individual was found wrapped in a reed mat (in the north-east quadrant, close to the north wall; another mat proved to contain an incomplete skeleton of a 6-8 months old infant. Eleven individuals (55.0 %) were found lying in dorsal position, three in ventral position (15.0 %), three on their right side and three in left-side positions (15.0 % each). Except for three nearly complete skeletons, the skeletal material was found to be incomplete and many of them were not placed in anatomical position (either they had been reburied, or their positions betray the activities of tomb robbers). Thirteen individuals (65.0 %) were buried with their heads directed to the west, in six individuals (30.0 %) the heads were oriented to the east, and one individual (5.0 %) was placed with the head to the north. In those cases enabling to evaluate the skeletons (i.e. skeletal remains found in relatively good conditions) the upper limbs had been placed along the bodies, except for two cases where the upper limbs were crossed in the area of the pelvis. The maximum concentration of skeletal remains has been observed at a level of approximately 40 cm above the chapel floor. It should be checked during the season 2008 whether or not this stratum with burials continues under the original floor level, as in the south chapel (see below).

In the central chapel no more than three individuals were uncovered. A lid and side-wall of a coffin were found directly on the pavement, turned upside down with the lid's painted face to the floor. The lower half of the lid was black coloured, the upper half white with at the head end the contours of a mask. This coffin contained only a small number of bones, but the skull and some long bones of the lower limbs of an adult individual were found nearby.

Finally, in the south chapel were found the human remains of minimally 56 individuals. Nearly all bones here were no longer in the normal anatomical position. About 60 % of the buried individuals were children, mostly babies and juveniles. A well preserved lower stratum of child's coffins was found in their original positions, deposited side by side in trenches cut in the bedrock about 60 cm under the original floor level (Fig. 14). A burial of a newborn in a reed mat was discovered about 20 cm below floor level, lying along the



Fig. 14. South chapel from the south, showing lower stratum with child's coffins.

north wall and 50 cm from the west wall. The upper strata of coffins and their contents had clearly been disturbed. The greatest number of skeletal remains was found in the east half of the chapel, especially in the south-east quadrant; the north-west quadrant proved to contain the lowest concentration of material. The majority of the larger fragments of coffins were also found in the east half of this chapel, especially along the south and north walls near the entrance where they may have been stacked by robbers in order to provide easier access to the chapel. The coffins proved to be mostly shattered and also the bone fragments had been dispersed over a large area and mixed together in one or more layers. Therefore, the exact number of buried individuals can only be determined after a detailed anthropological/medical examination of the skeletal remains; this is planned for the season 2008.

Fragments of one coffin were found 60-70 cm above the floor in the middle part of the west half of the chapel; its cartonnage was decorated in yellow and blue colours. It seemed to contain an individual buried on his/her abdomen, presumably indicating that the coffin had been overturned. Numerous small beads of faience and shell and a detached mask were found in the vicinity of this coffin, between the south-west and south-east quadrants.

The lid of a second coffin was found in a transversal position in the central part of the chapel, about 40 cm above the original floor level with the head end to the south; a wooden hand and wooden mask were found nearby. A nearly complete child skeleton was found between the coffin's lid and its bottom; the child's body lay on the right side with the head to the south. A wooden plank painted black with yellow details and inscribed for a woman



Fig. 15. Right-hand side of a coffin inscribed for a woman Asetnofret.



Fig. 16. Shabti of the scribe of the granary of the palace, Amenemone.

Asetnofret was found along the left side of the lid (Fig. 15).

Large fragments of two coffins were discovered along the south and north walls in the entrance to the south chapel. One of the coffins placed against the south wall was decorated with a depiction of the deceased in pleated linen garments, painted in reddish-brown and yellowish colours on a background of white plaster; underneath, skeletal remains wrapped in a reed mat were discovered, with a wooden whip handle lying on top of the mat. The skeletal remains were those of an adult individual who had been embalmed; his/her skeleton was lying on the left side with the head to the west. Another skeleton found here was lying in the opposite direction. A coffin part located against the north wall in the north-east quadrant of the chapel was turned with its (yellowish) coloured side towards the floor, with its head end directed to the west; a detached mask was found nearby. Small wooden fragments of all these coffins were found dispersed over the whole area of the chapel. Among the other finds, we may mention a small basket discovered upside down about 35 cm from the centre of the south wall at the level of the original floor, and a blue faience shabti of a certain Amenemone, scribe of the granary of the palace, found about 50-60 cm above floor level in the south-east quadrant (Fig. 16).

Finally, some isolated bones were found accidentally in the course of the season during the removal of surface layers of sand. These accidental finds were only assessed with respect to the occurrence of paleopathologic changes.

Other tasks

All reliefs of the tomb of Ptahemwia were conserved by the SCA restorers before the end of the season; they also treated the reliefs and paintings in the tomb of Meryneith once again. At the end of the season, all reliefs of the tomb of Ptahemwia were protected with plywood screens; that in front of the main relief walls was made to the design of Nicholas Warner. All shafts found were sealed with a layer of concrete. The barbed wire fence around the excavated area was extended to include the newly-found tomb. All minor objects and the loose relief fragments were stored in the expedition's magazine to the south of the tomb of Horemheb. The photography and drawing of the extant wall decoration of the tomb of Ptahemwia could be finished.