

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 Asianique
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-Ägyptischen 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 2008: THE TOMB OF PTAHEMWIA

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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 22th, 2008 and continued until March 7th. The staff consisted of Dr Maarten J. Raven (field director), Dr Harold M. Hays (deputy field director), Dr Ladislava Horáčková (anthropologist), Dr Barbara G. Aston (ceramicist), Dr Rob J. Demarée (hieraticist), 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 Ben J.L. van den Bercken and Mr Daniel M. Soliman (field assistants). Dr Kim Duistermaat, Dr Ilona Regulski and Dipl.-Ing. Claudia Lacher briefly joined the mission for the project in the Second Dynasty tomb (see below).

The fieldwork was carried out in close collaboration with Mr Usama Abdessalam el-Shimy (Director of Saqqara) and was supervised in the field by the Inspector Mr Adel Ragab Ali Basiuny. The Expedition wants to express its gratitude to Dr Zahi Hawass (Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Antiquities), Mr Magdy el-Ghandur (Chairman of the Department of Foreign Missions), and to the members of the Permanent Committee of the SCA. We thank Dr K. Duistermaat (Director of the Netherlands-Flemish Institute in Cairo) and her staff for logistic help and hospitality, and the Egypt Exploration Society for the use of the dighouse at Saqqara. Financial support for this season's work was again received from the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research as part of a four-year grant. The costs of our conservation programme were borne by the cultural fund of the Netherlands Embassy in Cairo, the Friends of Saqqara, and al-Ahram Beverages; to all of these partners we hereby express our gratitude.

Work was concentrated this year in and around the tomb of the royal butler Ptahemwia, a contemporary of King Akhenaten, which was discovered in 2007. Otherwise the Expedition conducted a brief investigation under the previously excavated tomb of Maya, treasurer of Tutankhamun and Horemheb, where a Second Dynasty tomb was located. Study and recording was undertaken of the relief fragments, pottery, and skeletal material found during the 2007 season. Finally, we take the opportunity to publish a brief report on the restoration and consolidation campaign executed during the months November 2007 to January 2008, just before the arrival of the Expedition in the field.

Excavation of the substructure of the tomb of Ptahemwia

The tomb of the 'royal butler, clean of hands' Ptahemwia was discovered in January 2007, and the complete superstructure could be excavated before the end of that season¹. The plan

¹ See now M.J. Raven, R. van Walsem *et al.*, Preliminary report on the Leiden excavations at Saqqara, season 2007: the tomb of Ptahemwia, *JEOL* 40 (2007), 19-39.

of the tomb proved to be of the usual type with a pylon gateway, peristyle courtyard, and three cult chapels. The main shaft of the tomb was located in the centre of the courtyard. Only one of its covering slabs was found to be extant; this and the presence of drystone walls erected around its aperture betrayed it had already been entered before. In view of the presence of a number of architectural elements of the Coptic period inside these walls, the walls in question must have been erected when the nearby Monastery of Apa Jeremias (the most probable provenance of these *spolia*) was already in disrepair. Presumably, therefore, this intrusion of the tomb's substructure took place during the 19th century, when the whole necropolis was being rifled for art treasures and at least two blocks were removed from the superstructure of Ptahemwia's monument². In 2007, dismantling these later walls already produced a considerable quantity of Nile silt potsherds, which were found between the remaining covering slab and the sides of the ledge surrounding the shaft's aperture. More of these sherds were recovered when the slab was finally removed at the beginning of the present season and preparations were made for the excavation of the shaft proper³.

The shaft proved to be 9 metres deep (Fig. 1). It gives access to an antechamber (A) in the south, leading to a descending corridor (B, Fig. 2) and burial-chamber (C) in the west. Presumably, this west complex was originally closed off by limestone slabs laid across the stairwell halfway Corridor B, with blocking stones erected on top of them. It should be noted that the west chamber (C) lies almost exactly under the central chapel of the superstructure. A second complex, likewise once blocked by slabs of limestone, opens to the south of the antechamber. This consists of an L-shaped room (D), leading to a side-chamber with a 4.80 m deep pit (E) and a further burial-chamber (F) at the bottom. The whole underground complex was found largely filled by wind-blown sand, which had penetrated via the main shaft but also via a secondary shaft (2008/10) to the south of the tomb. The latter breaks through the ceiling of Chamber D. Originally it belonged to an Old Kingdom mud-brick mastaba, but it was reused during the Late Period to form the access to an extensive burial complex lying further south (not explored by the Expedition).

It cannot be specified when exactly the bottom of shaft 2008/10 broke through to Ptahemwia's Chamber D, but as a result of this a certain amount of Persian-period funerary material (mainly potsherds and amulets) was found mixed in with the fill covering the floors of the burial-chambers A, D and E. This fill consisted of a c. 0.4 m high deposit of fragmented mummy material and some decayed wood. Since this stratum also contained New Kingdom pottery and objects and even some Coptic potsherds, it is quite clear that its deposition on the floors cannot be attributed to either of these periods but must have resulted from the action of robbers. The west complex (B and C) was found almost empty, doubtless the result of its excavation by our predecessors in the 19th century. On the other hand, Chamber F was the only uncontaminated New Kingdom context and still contained a quantity of pottery and some decayed wood of the original coffins deposited here. Otherwise some inlays of coffins (eyes and eyebrows), a few beads, and a scarab with the name of Thutmose IV (Fig. 3) are the only finds to attest that indeed the underground complex was used for New Kingdom interments. Unfortunately, inscribed material proving that this concerned Ptahemwia and his relatives is lacking.

² The blocks now in Cairo and Bologna; see *ibid.* 20 with n. 2.

³ For more details, see below in the section devoted to the pottery.

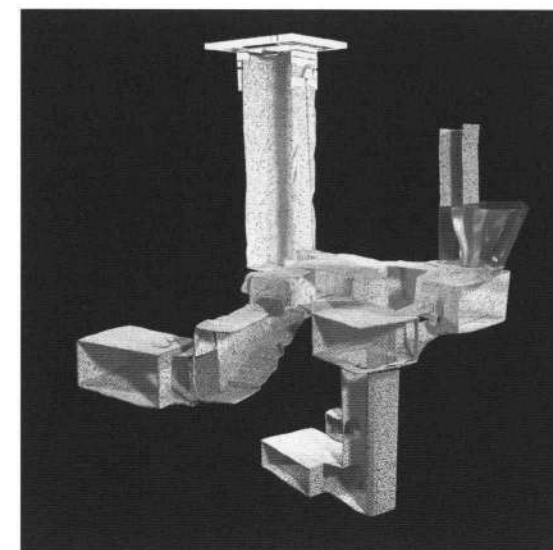


Fig. 1. The subterranean complex of the tomb of Ptahemwia.

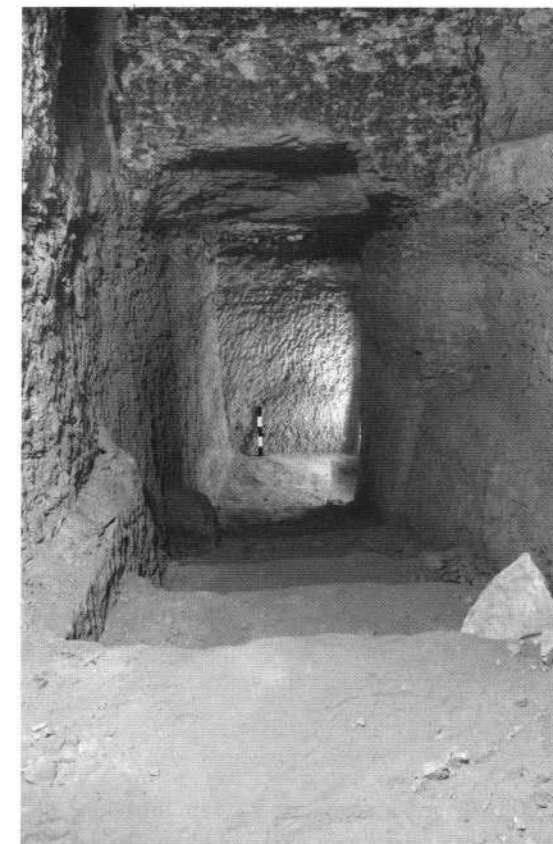


Fig. 2. Descending corridor B of the subterranean complex of the tomb of Ptahemwia, looking west.

Sondage in the north chapel of the tomb of Ptahemwia

In 2007, a total of 21 individual burials had already been excavated from the fill of Ptahemwia's north chapel. However, excavation was stopped at the original floor level, and it was only afterwards that we discovered that similar burials in the south chapel continued under floor level. Therefore, it was now decided to make an additional sondage in the north chapel, in order to check whether perhaps some more burials had been missed. Indeed, three additional interments of children were discovered, which were duly registered and will be added to the total number of skeletons to be studied in the course of next season.

Excavations to the east of the tomb of Ptahemwia

A small limestone chapel (2007/6) in front of the entrance of Ptahemwia's tomb was already discovered by the Expedition in 2007. Unfortunately, this did not contain any wall-reliefs or inscriptions to inform us about its owner. In the meantime, three loose relief fragments probably belonging to the decoration of this chapel have been identified among the loose blocks found during the seasons 2007 and 2008, but these do not bear any name. In an endeavour to find out more about the identity of the tomb-owner, it was decided to investigate the small shaft belonging to this chapel and situated in front of it. To this end, an area of about 8 x 12 m to the east of the chapel was excavated. This indeed exposed the full aperture of the shaft of chapel 2007/6, which was then emptied. It proved to be 4.70 m deep and gives access to a west chamber (A) with one shallow niche (B) and two side-chambers (C and D). Apart from some remains of decayed mummies, coffins, and cartonnages (including an attractive facial mask, Fig. 4), hardly anything was found in these rooms, and inscribed material was sadly lacking altogether. This means that the owner of the chapel is still unknown, although its architectural type and wall-reliefs allow us to date it to the Ramesside period.

The sondage further east and south of this chapel led to the discovery of several other structures (Figs. 5-6). Immediately to the east of shaft 2007/6 lies a Late Period shaft (2008/2, unexcavated), which had been surrounded secondarily with drystone walls containing fragments of limestone (including a jamb fragment inscribed for Iniuia), mud-bricks, and Coptic sherds. In this case, the walls seem to belong to a domestic structure of some kind, since they continued eastwards beyond the perimeter of the shaft proper. Here, they were stacked on top of the limestone slabs of another limestone tomb-chapel (2008/6), likewise without reliefs or inscriptions but doubtless belonging to the Ramesside period again. It consists of a limestone floor, on top of which still stand parts of the ashlar forming the north and south walls of the chapel, with two bases of square pillars in the east entrance. To the south of the two limestone chapels emerged the north-west corner of a large mud-brick tomb of Dynasty XVIII type (2008/5). The part exposed thus far comprises the outlines of one side-chapel and the north half of a central chapel, including one relief slab still *in situ* and depicting the owner and his wife in front of three fishermen. None of these structures was further explored.

Excavations to the south of the tomb of Ptahemwia

To the west of shaft 2008/10 (see above), one further limestone chapel of Ramesside date (2007/10) was investigated in the narrow strip exposed along Ptahemwia's south perimeter wall (Figs. 5 and 7). This was of slightly different type than the two chapels found to the east of the



Fig. 3. Scarab inscribed with the name of King Thutmose IV and found in the pit of Chamber E.



Fig. 4. Mask of a coffin found in the shaft of chapel 2007/6.

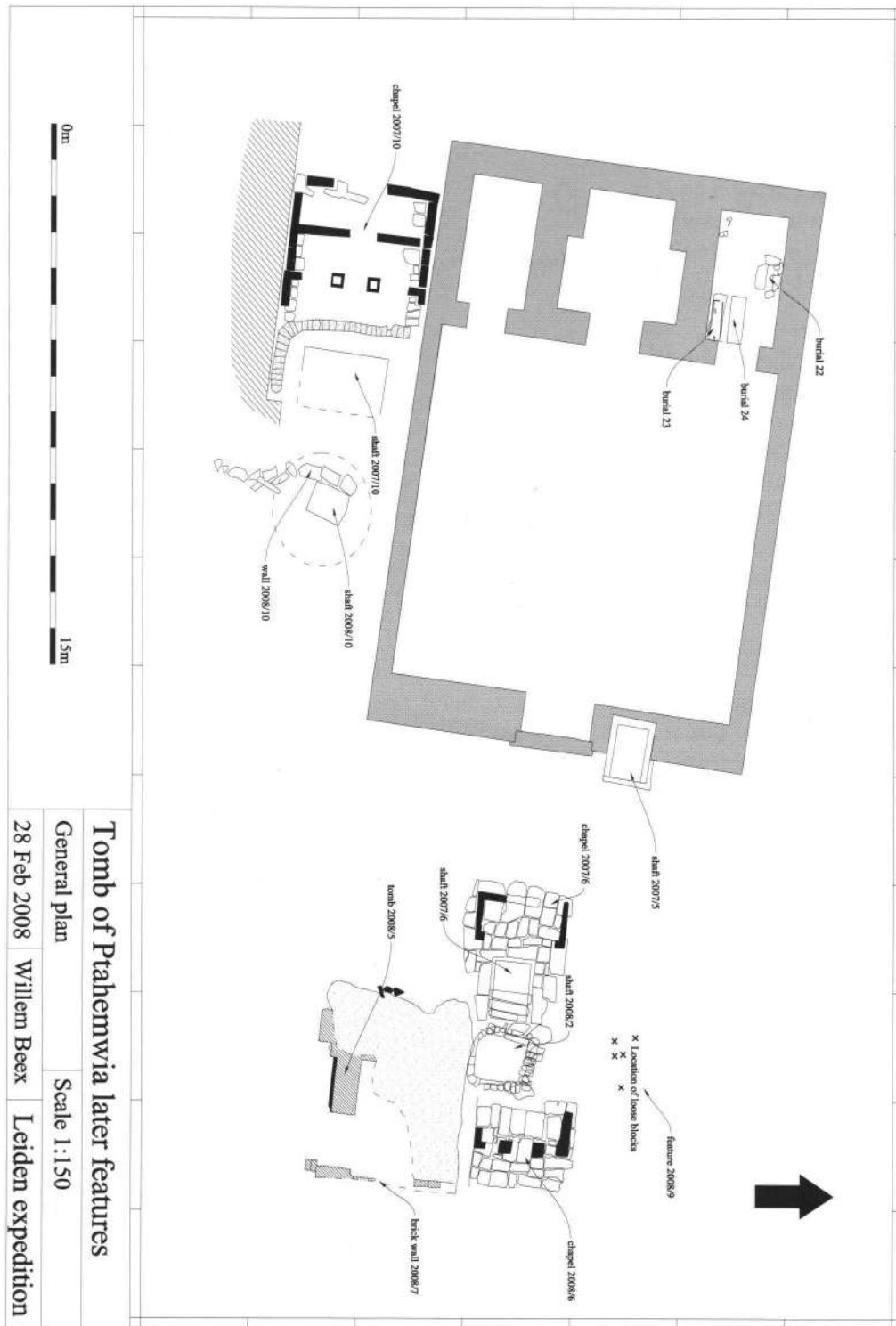


Fig. 5. Plan of the structures excavated around the tomb of Ptahemwia.

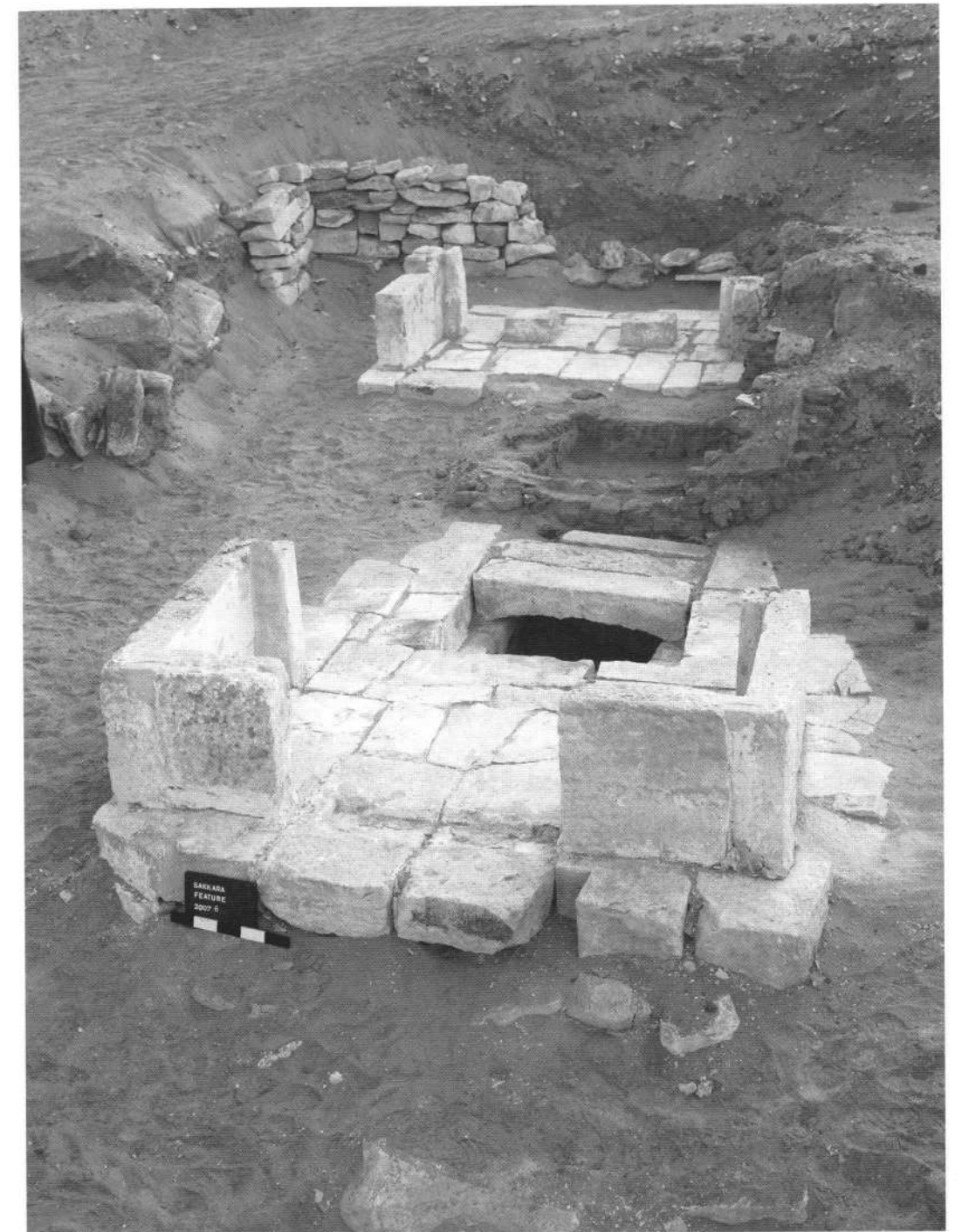


Fig. 6. Chapels 2007/6 and 2008/6 and shaft 2008/2, looking east.



Fig. 7. Chapel 2007/10, looking west.



Fig. 8. Gabled stela fragment inscribed for Nebiau.

tomb. Although similarly built of limestone slabs erected on top of a stone floor, it had screen walls separating an inner sanctuary from an antechapel with two square pillar bases. Part of this tomb had already been seen in 2007, but now also its south half could be exposed, which has been built against a massive mud-brick wall belonging to a further 18th Dynasty tomb (2008/11). The limestone chapel also had a shallow shaft to the east of its floor; because this had been much damaged by stone robbers, it could not be safely excavated to its full depth. Instead, further work was suspended at a depth of 4.35 m, after two small chambers to the north of the shaft had been briefly inspected. Unfortunately, this means that again we have no idea of the tomb-owner's identity, since the extant walls of the superstructure bear no reliefs or inscriptions.

Excavations to the north of the tomb of Ptahemwia

To the north of Ptahemwia's tomb, a shallow sondage had already been executed in 2007 in order to relieve the pressure of the sand on the perimeter walls. This had resulted in the find of some beautiful relief fragments, including a block almost certainly from the tomb itself. Therefore, the Expedition decided to remove some more sand here in order to exclude the possibility that more wall decoration would be overlooked in this area. However, no more fragments were found which belong to Ptahemwia's tomb, though a very interesting fragment turned up of a gabled stela belonging to a certain Nebiau (Fig. 8). This depicts the owner kneeling and praying to the Aten, and is datable to the Amarna period in view of its general style and orthography.

Epigraphical studies: Imenemwia and Ptahemwia (H.M. Hays⁴)

One of the most intriguing inscriptions discovered during the course of the previous 2007 season is from the panel of a column in the northwest corner of Ptahemwia's courtyard (see Fig. 9). Aesthetically, the crudeness of the carving is matched by that of the sunk relief on the north, south, and east walls of the tomb's central chapel. But in terms of the tomb's historical situation, the last three lines are of great interest: 'The Osiris the royal butler, clean of hands, he of the favor of the lord of two lands, [who followed] his lord while he was yet a prince,⁵ /// Imenemwia'.⁶

Because of the similarity of names, the sameness of titles, the absence of any other male benefactor in the tomb, and the presence of the name on a primary architectural feature,⁷ this

⁴ The following research is indebted to that of R. van Walsem on changes to the name of Meryneith, owner of the adjacent tomb.

⁵ With otiose *z*. On the term, see C. Vandersleyen, *Inepou: un terme designant le roi avant qu'il ne soit roi*, in: U. Luft (ed.), *The intellectual heritage of Egypt, studies presented to László Kákosy* (Budapest, 1992), 563-566. According to *ibid.*, the word is 'généralement déterminé par l'hiéroglyphe de l'enfant', as here. See further M. Gabolde, *Tenttepihou, une dame d'Atfih, épouse morganatique du futur Thoutmosis IV*, *BIFAO* 104 (2004), 231 with ns. 15-17, for which reference I would like to kindly thank the author.

⁶ Charitably interpreted as honorific transposition of the phonetically spelled word *wib* in advance of the preposition *m*, the final boat-sign serving as non-phonetic determinative of this common phrase. Only one other column panel from the tomb preserves any inscription, though unfortunately lacking a name.

⁷ Cf. the nearby tomb of Horemheb, where all eight column panels showing a male benefactor and preserving a name are inscribed to the tomb-owner. One panel inscribed for a woman is assumed to represent the tomb-owner's first wife. See G.T. Martin, *The Memphite tomb of Horemheb Commander-in-Chief of Tut'ankhamūn. I. The reliefs, inscriptions, and commentary* (London 1989), 45-48, 105-106, and pls. 36-39 and 126: inscriptions [31], [34-39], and [90-91].

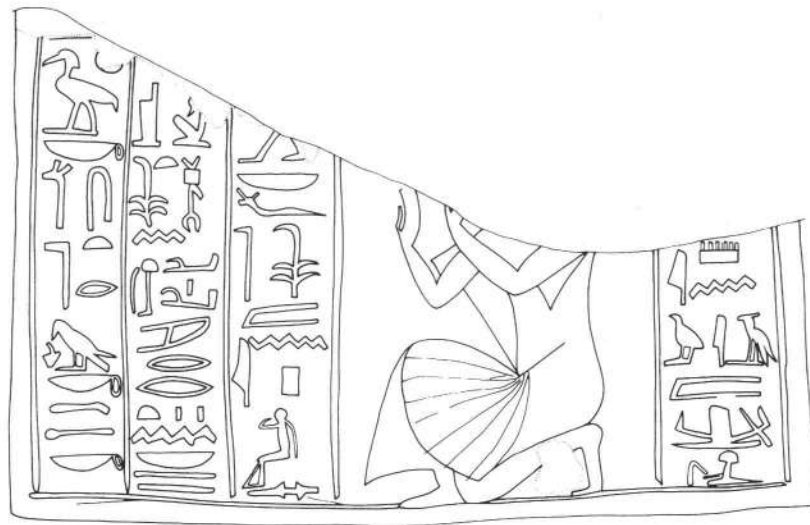


Fig. 9. Panel on northwest pillar, 1:4 scale (drawing by D. Schulz).

Imenemwia may be presumed to be identical to the tomb-owner, Ptahemwia. If so, Imenemwia/Ptahemwia may be counted among those personages who changed their names for political-religious reasons around the reign of Akhenaten. Two situations for this particular change can be conceived.

First, it could be hypothesized that 'Ptahemwia' was the original name, later changed to 'Imenemwia'. As the direction of the change would imply an overt expression of loyalty to the god Amun, it would have to have taken place after the time of Akhenaten, thereby signalling an embrace of traditional religious beliefs.

The chief problem with this theory is in the form of a pilaster from the tomb now at Bologna, as this item is stylistically dated to the reign of Tutankhamun.⁸ It therefore falls into the period in which the name change might be supposed to have happened, but the quality of the pilaster's carving is substantially different and markedly superior. Further, though the main title 'royal butler, clean of hands' is present there as everywhere else in the tomb, its other honorifics are different: it lacks 'he of the favor of the lord of two lands'⁹ but adds 'sole friend, mouth who pleases the whole land, jackal of the two uraei'. More still, the content of the pilaster's hymn may be readily understood as entering into the post-Amarna discourse, as it begins with an invocation of the sun-god specifically in the form of the disk (*itn*), but is dominated by characterizations of the god in terms of how the full pantheon of deities reacts to and is dependent upon him.¹⁰ The Bologna pilaster is thus already a testament of adherence to traditional religious ideas, of the sort which this first hypothesis would imply, but the name 'Ptahemwia' is maintained on it. The post-Akhenaten date of the pilaster, its difference in

⁸ See J. Berlandini, *Les tombes amarniennes et d'époque Toutankhamon à Sakkara, critères stylistiques*, in: *L'Égyptologie en 1979*, vol. 2 (Paris, 1982), 208 with n. 74.

⁹ Found on the panel as well as caption to the tomb-owner Ptahemwia on the north wall of the courtyard; see M.J. Raven, R. van Walsem et al., *JEOL* 40 (2007), 26 Fig. 8.

¹⁰ See the translation of J. Assmann, *Ägyptische Hymnen und Gebete*, 2nd ed. (Freiburg, 1999), 158-159.

honorifics, its henotheistic content, and the maintenance of the name 'Ptahemwia' are incongruent with seeing the name change as from 'Ptahemwia' to 'Imenemwia' after the time of Akhenaten. It may be added that such a devotional name change is, to my knowledge, not otherwise attested; it is difficult to imagine the intensity of motivation that would have been necessary for a denizen of Memphis to tacitly reject the god of his city.

By the second hypothesis, the original name is 'Imenemwia', and thus the pillar represents one of the earliest stages of carving, since everywhere else the tomb-owner is called 'Ptahemwia'. Given the historical timeframe in which the tomb was certainly constructed, the change would have been motivated by the king's ostracism of the god Amun. This hypothesis poses its own problems, although they seem chiefly to consist of modern preconceptions.

It is a commonplace to suppose that Akhenaten hunted all gods other than the Aten, but this is not the case. Although there is an official Ptahmose who changed his name to 'Ramose',¹¹ this may have been due to personal zeal or a more constant proximity to the king, as suggested by the Amarna location of his tomb. Otherwise, the god Ptah was evidently compatible with Akhenaten's religion: Ptah's iconography is attested on stelae and small objects from Amarna,¹² at Memphis the nomen of Amenhotep III is found erased by the iconoclasts, while they left images and names of Ptah alongside it untouched,¹³ and at Thebes the image of Amun was even once replaced with that of Ptah by Akhenaten's agents.¹⁴ In an environment where the representation of the god Ptah was acceptable, it is conceivable that a name constructed with the god's was similarly acceptable.

Indeed, so far as the Saqqara necropolis was concerned, the name of Amun itself seems not to have been attacked there during the heresy.¹⁵ This fact establishes the existence of conditions in which the original name could have survived Akhenaten's iconoclasm.

It might be supposed that a more obvious replacement might have been found in 'Raemwia',¹⁶ but that name could well have been out of favor due to its traditional cultic¹⁷ implications: the name's semantic content must refer to a terrestrial image of the sun carried in a shouldered bark or towed on a body of water. It is perhaps for this reason that the name 'Imenemwia' seems not to be attested.

¹¹ See *Urk.* IV 2023, 13-14, and M. Gabolde, *D'Akhenaton à Toutankhamon* (Lyon, 1998), 22.

¹² A. Stevens, *Private religion at Amarna, the material evidence* (Oxford, 2006), 293.

¹³ See É. Grebaut, *Le Musée Egyptien*, I (Cairo, 1890-1900), pl. 7; J. Berlandini Keller, *Aménophis III, pharaon à Memphis*, *Les Dossiers d'Archéologie* 180 (1993), 18; and R. Krauss, *Akhenaten: Monotheist? Polytheist?*, *BACE* 11 (2000) 95.

¹⁴ See S. Bickel, *Untersuchungen im Totentempel des Merenptah in Theben III. Tore und andere wiederverwendete Bauteile Amenophis' III* (Stuttgart, 1997), 91 with Fig. 38 and pls. 64 and 86, and see 90-91 with Fig. 37 and pl. 27 for a similar alteration to Ptah-Sokar-Osiris; Gabolde, *D'Akhenaton à Toutankhamon*, 29; Krauss, *loc. cit.*

¹⁵ Gabolde, *D'Akhenaton à Toutankhamon*, 33, citing four monuments. To these may be added Berlin 7320 (the personal name *imn-m3*) and Cairo JE 33256 (the title *nd sntr imn-r*); for their localization and pre-Amarna dating, see B. Gessler-Löhr, *Pre-Amarna tomb chapels in the Teti Cemetery North at Saqqara*, *BACE* 18 (2007), 71 and 77, for which reference I would like heartily to thank the author. The evident Saqqara survivability of the god's name in tombs is in contrast to its Theban treatment; see P. Der Manuelian, *Semi-Literacy in Egypt: some erasures from the Amarna Period*, in: E. Teeter and J. Larson (eds.), *Gold of praise, studies on Ancient Egypt in honor of Edward F. Wente* (SAOC 58, Chicago, 1999), 286-289.

¹⁶ Ranke, *PN* I, 217.15.

¹⁷ For the asserted absence of "a mysterious figure which could be hidden in a shrine within the sanctuary, and hence no possibility of magnificent processions where the god could be paraded before the population" in Akhenaten's religion, see R.J. Leprohon, *Cultic activities in the temples at Amarna*, in: D. Redford, *The Akhenaten Temple Project*, Vol. 2 (Toronto, 1988), 50.

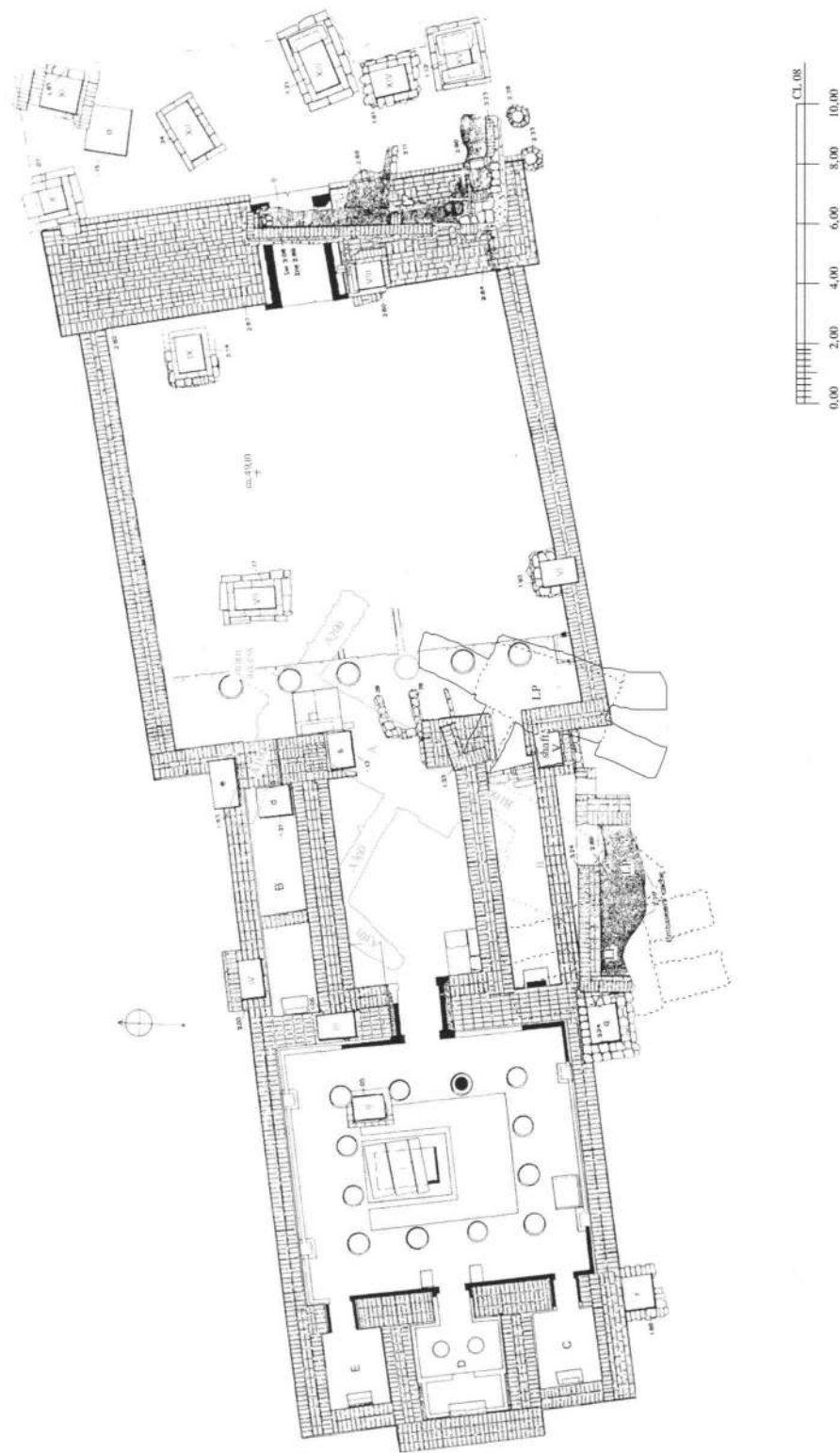


Fig. 10. Provisional plan of the Archaic Period complex under the tomb of Maya.

That the names 'Imenemwia' and 'Ptahemwia' could co-exist in a tomb without modification might seem to pose a final problem, especially in view of the physical recarving of names in the adjacent tomb of Meryneith. But this phenomenon occurs elsewhere at Saqqara, from precisely the same period, and with a tomb-owner of similar political circumstances.¹⁸

A new Second Dynasty tomb (I. Regulski, K. Duistermaat, C. Lacher)

In 1991, the Anglo-Dutch Expedition emptied a secondary shaft dating to the Late Period and situated in the corner between Maya's outer courtyard and his south chapel (A)¹⁹. At roughly 9.10 m underground, a burial-chamber of that period was investigated, but an adjacent complex behind a break-through leading to the west was left unexplored. Of this complex, it was only noted that it seemed to belong to the Old Kingdom. However, a comparison with material found under the tomb of Meryneith in 2002 rather pointed to the Second Dynasty²⁰. Further exploration of the mysterious complex under Maya's tomb was considered to be advisable. A short season of two weeks (February 2 to 16) was organized by the Netherlands-Flemish Institute in Cairo in cooperation with an architect from the German Archaeological Institute Berlin. The aim was to decide whether a future project in this structure is feasible, and more specifically:

- To establish the size and character of the complex, and make a detailed plan.
- To investigate the technical possibilities for excavating the structures extending below the New Kingdom tomb.
- To establish a more specific date for the tomb.

After emptying the shaft, the work largely consisted of cleaning the easily accessible parts of the substructure (Fig. 10). This undertaking was very successful in fulfilling all the aims listed above. Architectural comparison and study of the discovered objects, in particular, led to a better understanding of the complex below the tomb of Maya and offers numerous points of departure for further research.

Shaft V gives access to a Late Period underground chamber of rectangular shape (l. 4.50, w. 2.50, h. 1.80 m) with three niches in the north and south and a bench along the east wall. At its north-western corner, a break-through, probably also of Late Period date, leads into a large room (Chamber A, Fig. 11). The latter was the focal point of our excavation and is Early Dynastic in date. The whole room was found almost completely filled with debris. It is a large chamber (l. 7.70-7.85, w. 2.32-2.77, h. 1.75-1.88 m) oriented north-east/south-west and with corridors going off in every direction. Two pilasters (one in the west and another in the east, both 0.65 m wide and 0.05-0.13 m deep) divide Chamber A into two parts. Next to the western pilaster, Corridor A300 (l. 4.85, w. 0.62-0.75, h. 1.34-1.63 m) leads to the west and turns south after 4.85 m, to continue for another 2.75 m. The latter part (A301) was re-used for a

¹⁸ At Bubasteion I.27, where the tomb-owner's names of Hatiay and Raiay are maintained; see A. Zivie, *Hatiay, Scribe du temple d'Aton à Memphis*, in: G.N. Knoppers and A. Hirsch (eds.), *Egypt, Israel, and the Ancient Mediterranean world, studies in honor of Donald B. Redford* (Leiden, 2004), 227-228.

¹⁹ See M.J. Raven, *The tomb of Maya and Meryt, II: objects and skeletal remains* (Leiden/London, 2001), 64 and pls. 3-5 (Shaft V).

²⁰ For this find, cf. M.J. Raven, R. van Walsem *et al.*, Preliminary report on the Leiden excavations at Saqqara, season 2002: the tomb of Meryneith, *JEOL* 37 (2003), 98-100; R. van Walsem, Une tombe royale de la deuxième dynastie à Saqqara sous la tombe Nouvel Empire de Meryneith, campagne de fouille 2001-2002, *ArcheoNil* 13 (2003), 6-15.



Fig. 11. General view of Chamber A of the Archaic Period complex.



Fig. 12. Stone vessels found in the Archaic Period complex.

later burial. The two other corridors A100 (leading north-west; l. 3.32, w. 0.83, h. 0.93-1.14 m) and A200 (leading north-east; l. 3.18, w. 0.85-1.08, h. 0.97-1.50 m) are dead ending, too. The later shaft 'd' in the tomb of Maya²¹ hits the ceiling of corridor A100 at its south wall. To the south, a corridor (B100) leads into a second Early Dynastic room (Chamber B), which was re-used as part of another Late Period tomb. This room was not completely investigated in the present campaign. The main access to Chamber A seems to have been in the north, but for lack of time and because of sand running in though a later shaft we did not continue here. At several places small hemispherical recesses were found, typical of Second Dynasty underground galleries. Chamber A is very similar to Corridor F of the tomb of Ninetjer located to the north²², especially regarding the measurements, the arrangement of the corridors, the division of the room by two pilasters in a small southern and a large northern part, and the location of the entrance in the north. These architectural similarities as well as the presence of the hemispherical recesses point to a date in the Second Dynasty.

Despite the later re-use of parts of the underground structure, most of the excavated material turned out to be Early Dynastic in date. Only the upper layer of the debris in Chamber A and Corridor A301 yielded bones, pottery sherds and faience beads connected to later burials. In Corridor A100 a small amount of Coptic pottery was found on top of the fill under shaft 'd'. The most important Early Dynastic finds are hard stone vessels, pottery, and sealings. In addition, some fragments of corroded copper, charcoal, bone and a small fragment of gold leaf were discovered.

A total of 183 diagnostic fragments of stone vessels were found, yielding a large variety of types and materials (Fig. 12). Most of them (126) are bowls, but a considerable number of small calcite jars (39, of which 8 complete and 5 dummy vessels) could also be recorded. In addition, five fragments of a plate and many pieces of one large offering plate were discovered. A wide range of materials was used, including calcite (117), breccia (25), diorite (13), indurated limestone (8), calcite with limestone layer (4), limestone (4), recrystallized limestone (3), schist (3), and anorthosite gneiss (1). Two calcite bowl fragments carried an inscription, written with black ink on the inside of the vessel. Both probably yield a personal name. The writing style resembles the palaeography of many of the ink inscriptions discovered among the stone vessel deposit below the Djoser pyramid²³. The latter has recently been dated to the end of the Second Dynasty²⁴.

Chamber A and Corridors A100, 200 and 300 yielded more than six hundred fragments of pottery. More than two thirds of all fragments were from so-called 'beer' jars made of a coarse Nile clay with organic inclusions, while there were very few (c. 5%) other vessels made of Nile clays. About 30% of all fragments were made of marl clays. After sorting and fitting 70 diagnostics were described and drawn, including six vessels that were preserved from rim to bottom and one lid. Many large sherds of large jars (and occasionally beer jars,

²¹ M.J. Raven, *The tomb of Maya and Meryt, II*, pl. 3 (unexcavated).

²² G. Dreyer, Ein unterirdisches Labyrinth: Das Grab des Königs Ninetjer in Sakkara, in: G. Dreyer/D. Polz (eds.), *Begegnung mit der Vergangenheit – 100 Jahre in Ägypten. Deutsches Archäologisches Institut Kairo 1907-2007* (Mainz am Rhein, 2007), 130-138.

²³ P. Lacau/J.-P. Lauer, *La pyramide à degrés, V: Inscriptions à l'encre sur les vases* (Cairo, 1965).

²⁴ I. Regulski, 2nd Dynasty ink inscriptions from Saqqara paralleled in the Royal Museums of Art and History, Brussels, in: S. Hendrickx et al. (eds.), *Egypt at its origins, studies in memory of Barbara Adams* (Leuven, 2004), 950-970.

too) had been used in antiquity as a digging tool, presumably by tomb robbers. Many of these re-used sherds could be refitted with other fragments from the original pots. Five more or less complete beer jars and many rim and base fragments show that these vessels have an elongated oval shape with a slightly pointed base. The rim is simple and directed inward, while the transition from rim to body is mostly very gradual. Several jars had been covered in a thick layer of unfired mud. One more or less complete 'wine' jar was found. It is a rather small, elongated vessel with a folded rim. Around the shoulder and near the base are applied bands of clay, and there is a potter's mark on the body. This buff-orange jar was made of a marl clay with fine sand inclusions. Two body sherds with potter's marks were found as well. Other vessels were only preserved in fragments, and include rounded or pointed bases and rims of large jars with low necks or without necks, both in marl clays and occasionally in Nile clays. The very small number of bowls include one made of Nile clay with fine sand inclusions. It has a simple rim and the inside surface is burnished in a careless stripy pattern. A first assessment dates the pottery firmly to the end of the Second Dynasty²⁵.

Many fragments of clay sealings were found, but only three fragments yielded an impression. One of them clearly displays the name of king Khasekhemwy, the last king of the Second Dynasty and the predecessor of Netjerikhet/Djoser (Fig. 13). The discovery of his royal name is of exceptional importance. Since Khasekhemwy was buried at Abydos, we are probably dealing with the tomb of a high official or a member of the royal family. The sealings are very fragile but many show a regular pattern on the reverse, suggesting that they were attached to boxes or at least to a flat surface. Bag sealings were also found but large vessel sealings were completely absent or not preserved as such.

In conclusion, it can be stated that the 'archaic' underground complex below the tomb of Maya dates to the reign of Khasekhemwy and probably belonged to a high official of that time. The presence of private burials from that period in this area was hitherto unknown and raises interesting questions regarding the nature of this part of the Saqqara necropolis. It could furthermore shed light on the reasons why Djoser chose this area for his imposing funerary complex when he abandoned the Abydene cemetery around 2686 BC.

Study of pottery (B.G. Aston)

Pottery work this season began with the reconstruction and recording of pottery from two New Kingdom contexts excavated last year. The first (Shaft 2005/1) is located to the east of a large stela base in the forecourt of the tomb of Tia and Tia, and was likely intended for the burial of a relative or retainer of the Tias²⁶. One 'beer jar' of early Nineteenth Dynasty type discovered in mint condition was undoubtedly part of the original burial goods, but most of the rest of the pottery found in the tomb was of Second Dynasty date. A minimum of 7 different marl jars and 4 silt jars were recorded. Perhaps this tomb belongs to the same individual with antiquarian interests who collected the rims of Early Dynastic stone vessels that were

²⁵ Personal communication by D. Raue and J. Smithe, spring 2008.

²⁶ See M.J. Raven *et al.*, Preliminary report on the Leiden excavations at Saqqara, season 2005: the tombs of Horemheb and Meryneith, *JEOL* 39 (2006), 6; 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 (2007), 8; *id.*, Preliminary report on the Leiden excavations at Saqqara, season 2002: the tomb of Ptahemwia, *JEOL* 40 (2007), 28-29.



Fig. 13. Seal impression with the name of Khasekhemwy.

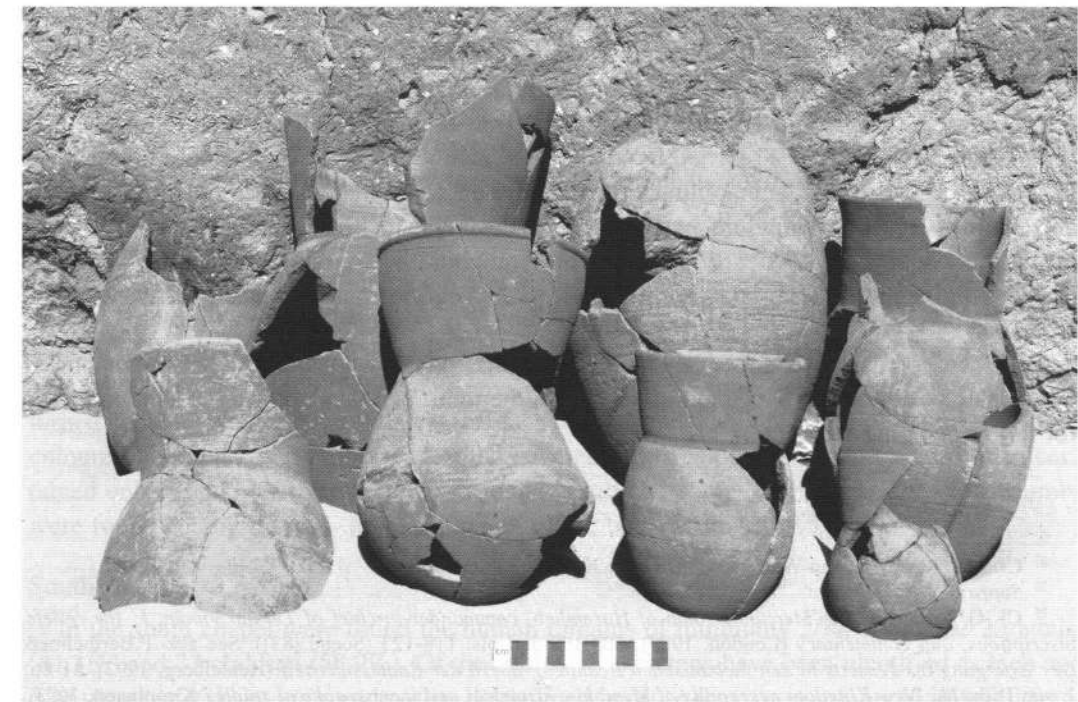


Fig. 14. Red-slipped funnel-necked jars found around the aperture of Ptahemwia's main shaft.

found in a deposit along the north wall of Horemheb's forecourt, immediately to the south of this shaft²⁷.

The second New Kingdom context to be reconstructed was a deposit of 17 red-slipped funnel-necked jars found in tiny pieces in the gaps between the remaining covering slab and the rim of the shaft of Ptahemwia's tomb (Fig. 14)²⁸. There can be little doubt that here we have the actual remains of the 'breaking of the red pots' ritual for destroying enemies of the deceased and vanquishing evil, depicted in relief on the walls of several New Kingdom necropolis tombs, including those of Horemheb and Meryneith²⁹. Though all the reconstructed vessels exhibited the basic funnel-necked jar shape, there was a surprisingly large amount of variation in size, proportions (drop-shaped to shouldered), and details such as plain or modelled rims.

Excavations in 2008 encompassed the investigation of two late New Kingdom chapel and shaft complexes, east (2007/6) and south (2007/10) of Ptahemwia's tomb. The burial-chambers of Shaft 2007/6 were practically empty when found, but among the remains of coffins dragged into the bottom of the shaft were a set of five red-slipped marl dishes with what appear to be five matching lids dating to a Late Period reuse of the tomb. Some late New Kingdom pottery remained at floor level in and around Chapel 2007/10, while pieces of two very large marl amphorae with the typically Ramesside wide, carinated base were found at the bottom of the shaft along with four well-preserved dishes and bowls, three with straight rims.

Further excavation in the north chapel of Ptahemwia's tomb revealed three more burials below the floor level, and though no pottery was found *in situ* there, a slender, long-necked jar of late Dynasty 19 to Dynasty 20 date could be almost completely reconstructed and was undoubtedly provided for one of these burials. In addition, the base and shoulder of a pointed-base marl amphora of late Eighteenth Dynasty was recovered from the fill below floor level, inscribed on the shoulder with a hieratic wine docket specifying Year 7.

The main shaft of Ptahemwia's tomb initially seemed rather disappointing, as the western burial-chamber reached by a stairway appeared to have been completely emptied. A second burial-chamber (F) reached by a shaft in Chamber E turned out to be more promising, as the substantial fill remaining in the room contained many bones, coffin fragments, and exclusively New Kingdom potsherds. These remain to be reconstructed next season, but in the last few days a nearly complete marl amphora has already been built. A hieratic docket from a marl vessel specifying 'good quality natron' has also been recovered from Chamber F.

The focus of the work by Lyla Pinch-Brock this season was additions and revisions of drawings of elaborate blue-painted pottery from the tomb of Maya and Meryt, in preparation for its forthcoming publication³⁰.

²⁷ Cf. M.J. Raven, R. van Walsem *et al.*, *JEOL* 39 (2006), 6 and 11.

²⁸ *Supra* 6.

²⁹ Cf. G.T. Martin, *The Memphite tomb of Horemheb, commander-in-chief of Tut'ankhamūn, I: the reliefs, inscriptions, and commentary* (London, 1989), 100-102 and pls. 118-123 (Scene [83]). See also P. Barthelmeß, *Der Übergang ins Jenseits in den thebanischen Beamtengräbern der Ramessidenzeit* (Heidelberg, 1992), 81-86; J. van Dijk, *The New Kingdom necropolis of Memphis, historical and iconographical studies* (Groningen, 1993), 173-188.

³⁰ D.A. and B.G. Aston, *The tomb of Maya and Meryt, III: the pottery* (London, in preparation).

Study of human remains (L. Horáčková)

Human skeletal remains studied this season came from the 2007 excavations in the west chapels of Ptahemwia and in shaft 2005/1. Further excavation was carried out of the deepest layers in the north chapel, where three child's skeletons were found. Altogether eleven individuals from the central chapel and the partly preserved skeletons of 56 individuals from the south chapel of Ptahemwia (both adults and children) were studied. Skeletons and their parts were studied macroscopically, their dimensions and basic demographic parameters (for the determination of sex and age) were ascertained. In anthropological analyses, the variability and the pathological changes on the skeletons were also studied. Detailed results of these analyses will be presented in the monograph being prepared.

Shaft 2005/1

From shaft 2005/1, 2 individuals were recorded in the west chamber and 7 individuals in the east chamber (both adults and children).

A man, approximately 20-25 years old, was buried in the west room. The preserved parts comprise a mesocranium skull with mandible and several fragments of the postcranial skeleton. A separate spinal process and inferior articular processes (intra-articular spondylolysis) were found at the vertebra L5. The terminal surface of the vertebral corpus was eroded. There were osteophytes as long as 7 mm at the lower edge of the vertebral corpus. The symptoms of the vertebral deterioration possibly indicate a forward displacement of the loose vertebral corpus (spondylolistesis). The traces of degenerative-productive process bear evidence of a chronic form of the affliction.

Only a seriously damaged mandible was preserved from the skeleton of the second adult individual in this chamber (probably a man).

Two men (both 40-50 years old) and two women (one of them lived 20-25 years and the other one 40-50 years) were buried in the east chamber. Furthermore, three children (ages 1-1.5 years, 3-4 years and 8-9 years) were buried here together with the adults. All skeletal remains were incomplete and mainly preserved as fragments.

Central chapel

In the central chapel of Ptahemwia's tomb were found the fragmented skeletal remains of at least 6 adult individuals (three women and three men) and 5 children (one newborn, one 3-4 years old, one 11-12 years old, and two 13-15 years old). One of the adults was buried in a wooden coffin, of which the lid and one side-wall 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 few bone fragments but a female skull and some long bones of the lower limbs were found nearby (age 25-30 years, height of the body about 151-153 cm).

South chapel

In the south chapel were found the human remains of minimally 56 individuals: 23 adults (41.1%) and 33 children (58.9%). Of the adults, 13 skeletons have been identified as men and 6 as women; 4 skeletons could not be determined because they were preserved in small fragments only. Among the children buried in the chapel there were 19 newborns and children

under 6 years of age (infant I category), 11 children who died between 7-14 years (infant II category), and 3 juvenile individuals who died between 15-18 years.

Nearly all bones in the superficial layers were no longer in the normal anatomical position. Skeletal remains preserved just in fragments were scattered over a large area and intermixed. The upper strata of coffins and their contents had clearly been disturbed. The accumulation of intermixed bones in proximity to coffin fragments made it difficult to judge which skeletons were buried in coffins and which outside them. A relatively well preserved lower stratum (mainly burials of children and infants) was found in their original positions, deposited side by side in trenches cut in the bedrock under the original floor level. It is possible to presume that the chapel had originally been intended solely for burials of children; a similar layout with child burials concentrated in the lower strata was noticed in the north chapel.

A relatively large amount of pathological lesions were found in this rather small skeleton set. Traumas were most frequent among the paleopathological findings. Among the most interesting cases belong the multiple injuries (polytrauma) of a man approximately 40-50 years old, namely a healed fracture of the left humerus, and fractures of both radii and the left pubis and ischium. Injuries were well healed in other cases (fracture of left radius, rib, clavicle), too, but some of them were complicated by post-traumatic arthrosis (e.g. in case of an adult with a healed fracture of the right talus neck) or by osteomyelitis (an extensive post-inflammatory deformation of the left humerus distal end of one of the men).

The occurrence of tooth radicular cysts opened from outside were relatively frequent, especially in the molar part of a maxilla. Traces of degenerative diseases were found in the examined set, as well. Many vertebrae (the exact number of affected individuals cannot be specified, as most of the vertebrae were isolated and intermixed), especially lower thoracic and lumbar vertebrae, were affected with a spondylarthrosis. Arthrosis of the big limb joints was sporadic in this set; it was only found at the right ulna distal end of one adult man. Arthrosis of the temporomandibular joint with extensive arthrotic changes at the mandible head was also found (a man 40-50 years). A complete fissure of the sacral canal (spina bifida occulta) was diagnosed in one case (Fig. 15).

Porous changes of an orbit (cribra orbitalia), as a non-specific manifestation of stress effect, occurred in the case of 3 adult females and 8 children. Furthermore, symptoms of general inflammatory diseases were noticed on the infant skeletons. A thick layer of reactive new bone formation at the inner surface of the frontal bone of a child (approximately 7-10 months old) most probably indicates an affliction by tuberculous meningitis.

From a paleopathological point of view, the most interesting find is represented by the occurrence of four round lesion focuses in the flat cranium bones of a 4-5 year old child (Fig. 16). These are situated at the right part of the frontal bone, at the right parietal bone in proximity of the lambda suture, at the left parietal bone in proximity of the asteria, and at the infratemporal surface of the right side greater wing of the sphenoidal bone. The focuses were characterised by an equal size (10x10 mm), the lamina externa was destroyed and the granular diploe (sequestrum?) was visible. The lesion edges were slightly serrated and sharp. The lesions were surrounded by a thin active zone (5-8 mm wide) with a small oscula. The lamina interna was destroyed by the lesion process, too. Almost no reaction was noticeable in its vicinity. Differential diagnostics primarily indicate a relatively rare tuberculosis of the skull, though a histiocytosis X (eosinophilic granuloma) cannot be excluded. The age at death of the



Fig. 15. Case of spina bifida occulta in the sacrum of a male from the south chapel of the tomb of Ptahemwia.



Fig. 16. One of the round lesions in the skull of a 4-5 year old child from the south chapel of the tomb of Ptahemwia.

child, the nature of the lesions, as well as their localization are typical of both diseases. A histological and X-ray examination of the affected skull and especially a detection of the occurrence of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* DNA in the bone tissue will be necessary to make the final diagnose. If the presumed tuberculosis diagnose is confirmed, this paleopathological finding will represent an important contribution to the epidemiology research of this disease, which becomes a threat for the present population again.

Others

The isolated bones found accidentally in the course of the removal of surface sand layers during the whole season were only assessed with respect to the occurrence of paleopathological changes.

Consolidation and site management project (N. Warner)

Architectural conservation work at the necropolis concentrated this season on two tombs: one that had already been the subject of major reconstruction work dating from the 1980s (Horemheb), and the other only just excavated in 2007 (Ptahemwia). The work was carried out in collaboration with the SCA Inspector Yasser Hassan Abd al-Fattah, commencing November 26, 2007 and ending January 6, 2008.

The reconstruction work previously carried out on the tomb of General Horemheb was noted for the large amount of concrete used in the roofing of the inner courtyard. This imposed considerable loading on mud-brick walls and limestone columns (both original and reconstructed) which resulted in cracks appearing and emergency scaffolding being installed on the south side of the courtyard. After a full timber bracing of the columns of the courtyard had been made, the removal of all concrete elements was carried out without causing any damage to the tomb.

In place of the concrete, a lightweight steel structure was installed that took care to avoid any superimposed load on the one surviving intact limestone column in the courtyard. Loading from the two north-south transverse box beams was carried on the existing reconstructed limestone columns and a substantial timber spreader plate on top of the already reconstructed north and south mud-brick perimeter walls. Above the steelwork, a sheathing of composite timber boards was fixed, over which bitumen roll insulation was applied with a torch. This was then covered by a thin screed of white cement mortar. The whole roof was slightly angled into the courtyard (Fig. 17). On the east side of the courtyard, the roof was extended to give protection to the entrance passage and the statue niches at the west end of the statue chamber. Around the perimeter of the courtyard, a flat suspended timber ceiling was constructed, and the whole of the roof void was naturally ventilated at its edges to avoid any possible problems caused by condensation within the structure. In order to prevent the damage to the reliefs caused by bird-droppings, the open centre of the courtyard was covered by a galvanized steel mesh resting on stainless steel tension wires, and a mesh door in a steel frame was installed at the entrance to the courtyard. The reinforced concrete planks covering the burial shaft also exhibited serious defects. Due to the fact that the planks had been covered with plastic sheet and sand, there was absolutely no ventilation of the shaft, which resulted in severe rusting of the reinforcement in the planks due to condensation. The planks were removed and replaced with a ventilated steel opening cover in a steel frame.

Apart from the works to the inner courtyard, a number of other interventions were made to the tomb of Horemheb. A second, much smaller, roof was installed over the passageway from



Fig. 17. Tomb of Horemheb, general view of the inner court, after consolidation.



Fig. 18. Tomb of Horemheb, columns of outer courtyard and new roof over entrance of statue-chamber.

the outer courtyard into the statue chamber, whose walls bear fine reliefs (Fig. 18). In the outer courtyard itself, missing sections of the reconstructed limestone masonry lining the walls and missing lintels were completed with new limestone blocks to give the walls a more 'finished' appearance. Also, the incomplete and water-damaged reconstructed columns on the west side of the courtyard were completed, and all the holes at the top of these columns were blocked to prevent them filling with water whenever it rains. The deformed timber entrance door to the tomb was also repaired to a better working condition. Throughout the tomb, missing sections of limestone paving were replaced, using old paving stones wherever possible. Finally, some limestone masonry consolidation of the entrance gateway within the first pylon was executed, bringing both sides of the gateway to a consistent height.

The tomb of Ptahemwia, unlike that of Horemheb, provided the opportunity to work on preventive conservation without having to deal with previous reconstructions (Fig. 19). All of the mud-brick perimeter walls of the tomb were consolidated, including the entrance pylon. The chapels on the western side of the courtyard were roofed with a simple timber structure, boarded and then waterproofed with bitumen. A layer of mud-bricks and *tafla* were placed over this roof to make it blend with its surroundings. There was no evidence that these chapels had ever been vaulted, but a new roof was required not only to protect the central chapel with its surviving limestone architectural and decorative features, but also to provide storage space to accommodate finds in the side chapels. These chapels were given timber doors, while a steel mesh door was installed in front of the central chapel.

Since the tomb's excavation in early 2007, a temporary timber shelter had been placed over the most precious reliefs on the north and east sides of the courtyard. In 2008, this covering was replaced with a more durable steel-framed shelter, with pull-up louvred shutters that allow viewing of the reliefs at a safe distance, and also provide shade from the full force of the south sun (Fig. 20). The roof of the shelter rests on the reconstructed north and east walls of the courtyard, and is fully ventilated. Two separate opening timber cupboards protect the reliefs on the inner door-jambs of the entrance.

A certain percentage of the limestone lining wall of the tomb's interior was reinstated with new limestone ashlar masonry in order to protect existing relief blocks and provide a visual continuity of this surface in at least the northern half of the tomb. To the south, the limestone lining and floor was entirely robbed out. Areas of missing flooring were only replaced inside the central chapel and immediately outside it. This also gave the opportunity of indicating in outline the position of one of the now-missing column bases of the courtyard's peristyle. A large number of the badly-damaged limestone blocks lining the edge of the burial shaft had to be replaced in order to define the limits of the shaft and provide an abutment for the courtyard paving. Reinforced concrete planks were prepared in order to serve as covering slabs of the shaft after the Expedition finished excavating it.

At the entrance to the tomb itself, two large monolithic limestone blocks, carved with a batter in profile, were installed as replacements for the lost door-jambs, whose dimensions followed the original mason's marks on the surviving flooring. In order to preserve the evidence of the original door pivot and yet keep the new entrance door in the same position, the new wooden door was raised on a stainless steel bracket at its base. The top of the door pivots from a timber beam that is part of a series of shorter beams forming a continuous lintel over the Late Period shaft which was cut into the face of the north wing of the pylon.



Fig. 19. Tomb of Ptahemwia, general view from the east, after consolidation.

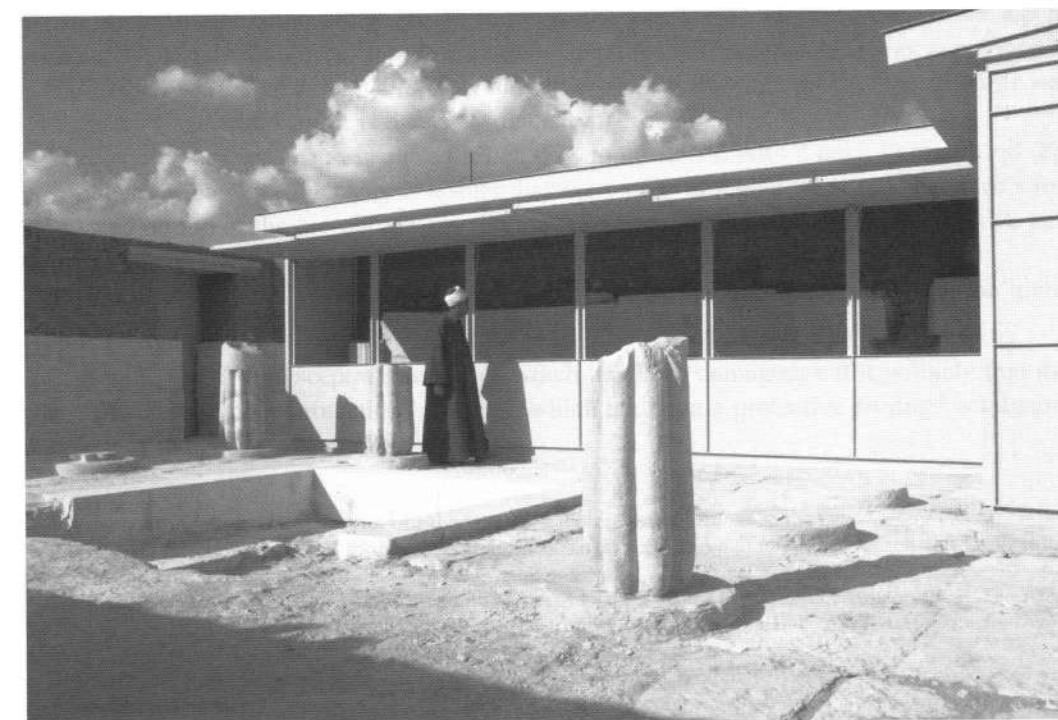


Fig. 20. Tomb of Ptahemwia, shelter erected over relief walls.

Other tasks

All relief fragments found in and around the tomb of Ptahemwia during the seasons 2007-2008 could be studied and recorded in facsimile drawings before the end of the season; the small fragments were also photographed, whereas the larger blocks still need to be recorded in photography during the next season. All small fragments of the season 2007 were transferred from the Expedition's magazine to the south chapel of the tomb of Ptahemwia. At the end of the season the whole site was secured as far as possible. Thus the main shaft of Ptahemwia's tomb was closed by placing the concrete covering slabs prepared for that purpose. To the east of the tomb, shaft 2008/2 was secured with cement, tomb 2008/5 was backfilled with sand, and the shaft of 2007/6 was refilled and its covering slabs laid back. To the south of the tomb, shafts 2007/10 and 2008/10 were both refilled. Finally, shaft V of the Maya complex was also filled with clean sand again, after the doorway leading to the Late Period crypt at its bottom had been blocked with fired brick.

A FRAGMENT FROM THE OSIRIS CHAPELS AT DENDERA IN BRISTOL


OLAF E. KAPER

A sandstone slab with Ba-bird and text

The Egyptian Gallery in the City Museum and Art Gallery, Bristol, possesses a fragmentary sandstone relief block with the registration number H 4972, which is the subject of the present article (Fig. 1).¹ The block was bequeathed to the museum in 1956 as part of the collection of Charles R. Mapp, when Leslie Grinsell was curator of Archaeology and Anthropology.² It is not known from where Mapp had obtained the items in his collection. He had been a schoolmaster in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, and was not trained as an Egyptologist, although he had a collection of books on the subject. Grinsell remarked in his autobiography: "My recollection is that the assemblage contained a fair proportion of modern fakes such as any collector without special knowledge would be likely to accumulate".³ Apart from antiquities, Mapp also collected geological specimens. The geology collection of the Cheltenham & Gloucestershire College of Higher Education (formerly in the Cheltenham Museum) is based on the Mapp collection, which is said to have been assembled in the early 20th century.⁴

The dimensions of the block are as follows: height 31 cm, width 32 cm. There are no remains of plaster or colour. The piece remains unpublished. Previously it was mentioned in L.V. Grinsell's *Guide Catalogue to the Collections from Ancient Egypt* as: "a sandstone slab with Ba-bird and text" and it is dated "Ptolemaic or Roman".⁵

The block bears an image in raised relief showing a falcon with a male human head (ba-bird), facing right (Fig. 2). There is a solar disk set on top of the human head. The bird's feet are placed on top of the hieroglyph *nbw*, "gold". Its wings are spread out in a protective gesture and between the wings three separate elements are added:

1. A seated image of Osiris holding the sign of life on his knees and seated on the hieroglyphs *nb* and *hnt*: .
2. Behind Osiris is a sceptre, the top of which has been damaged, but it is likely that this was a *hw*-hieroglyph, "protection", through which is drawn a protective *šn*-ring,⁶ set against the back of the god.

¹ I am grateful to Sue Giles, Curator of Ethnography & Foreign Archaeology at the City Museum & Art Gallery for permission for publication and for her kind assistance. Thanks are also due to Aidan Dodson and Dyan Hilton for introducing me to the collection.

² Grinsell, *Guide Catalogue to the Collections from Ancient Egypt*, City Museum Bristol 1972, 12; Aidan Dodson and Sue Giles, 'Ancient Egypt in the City and County of Bristol, England', *KMT a Modern Journal of Ancient Egypt* 18/4 (2007), 20-32, p. 29.

³ L.V. Grinsell, *An Archaeological Autobiography*, Gloucester and Wolfeboro 1989, 30.

⁴ Information obtained from the website of the South West Museums Council, dated November 1999.

⁵ Grinsell, *Guide Catalogue*, 62. A more specific dating as "Ptolemaic" is given in the inventory on p. 83.

⁶ On this feature, cf. S. Cauville, *Le temple de Dendara: Les chapelles osiriennes*, Dendara X, 2 vols, Cairo 1997, 240,9: *šn [hr] irt mkt=k*.