

COMMUNICATIO

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REPORT ON THE WORK ON THE HUNGARIAN MISSION IN 2001 IN THE AREA OF THE THEBAN TOMB NO. 32

The Hungarian Mission resumed its work in TT 32 and in the area surrounding it on the 22nd February 2001.¹ The excavation was closed on 9th April 2001. The Field Director was Professor László Kákósy, the staff consisted of the following members: Gábor Schreiber egyptologist, Zsolt Vasáros surveyor, János Kárpáti technician in archaeology. The Egyptian Antiquities Organisation was represented by inspector Miss Wafaa Gomaa Amin.

In this year's season our team focused its effort on two main areas of the field.

I. STRUCTURE G

In the seasons 1995 and 1996 the Mission worked in a subterranean rock tomb near to the eastern pylon of the outer court of TT 32. (Structure G. Former name Corridor Tomb II, Third Intermediate Period). (*Fig. 1*) We have changed the name because during the recent season it turned out that it does not belong to the type of the Theban Corridor Tombs.²

Like all of the tombs discovered in this area, these burials have been badly depredated. Remains of coffins demonstrated that these cave-like chambers with roughly executed walls were utilised for multiple burials. In chamber 1 and 2 of Structure G a lot of remains of anthropoid coffins were unearthed in 1996. Room 1 of this tomb contained an embalmers' cache.³ It is remarkable that this cache was placed inside the tomb, while commonly they were found outside the burial places.⁴ Three big jars contained mummy wrappings, refuse of embalming substances, such as red dust (probably saw dust) and several tubular blue beads as well. Recent pottery finds and restorations suggest a dating to the second half of the Third Intermediate Period. G. Schreiber gave the following description of one the characteristic jars. "Two-handled storage jar. The jar was made of dense, hard marl A₄ fabric. The exterior surface is greenish-grey and has been left uncoated. Tall bag shaped body, sharply articulated rim. Jars of this type are characteristic of the period between 750–650 BC."⁵ (*Fig. 2*) The several yellow-varnished fragments⁶ of coffins may indicate that this type widely attested in the XXI–XXII dynasties survived in the subsequent centuries. This question, however, needs further investigations.

The work interrupted in 1996 has been resumed in February 2001. We have cleaned the side chambers no. 2 and 3. In chamber 2 a shaft was detected with the side chamber no. 4 at the bottom.

¹ The excavation activity in TT 32 had been terminated in 1997 with the discovery of the pyramid. The study of the mass of finds continues, however.

² H. E. WINLOCK: Excavations at Deir el Bahri 1911–1931. New York 1942, 5; M. E. WINKLOCK In: BMMA IX/1. January 1914, 14.

³ Cf. e. g. A. J. SPENCER: Death in Ancient Egypt. Harmondsworth 1982, 115.

⁴ *ibid.*

⁵ A. J. SPENCER: Dynastic Egyptian pottery. In: I. FREESTONE–P. GAIMSTER: Pottery in making, 67.

⁶ A. NIWIŃSKI: 21st Dynasty Coffins from Thebes (Theben V). Mainz 1988.

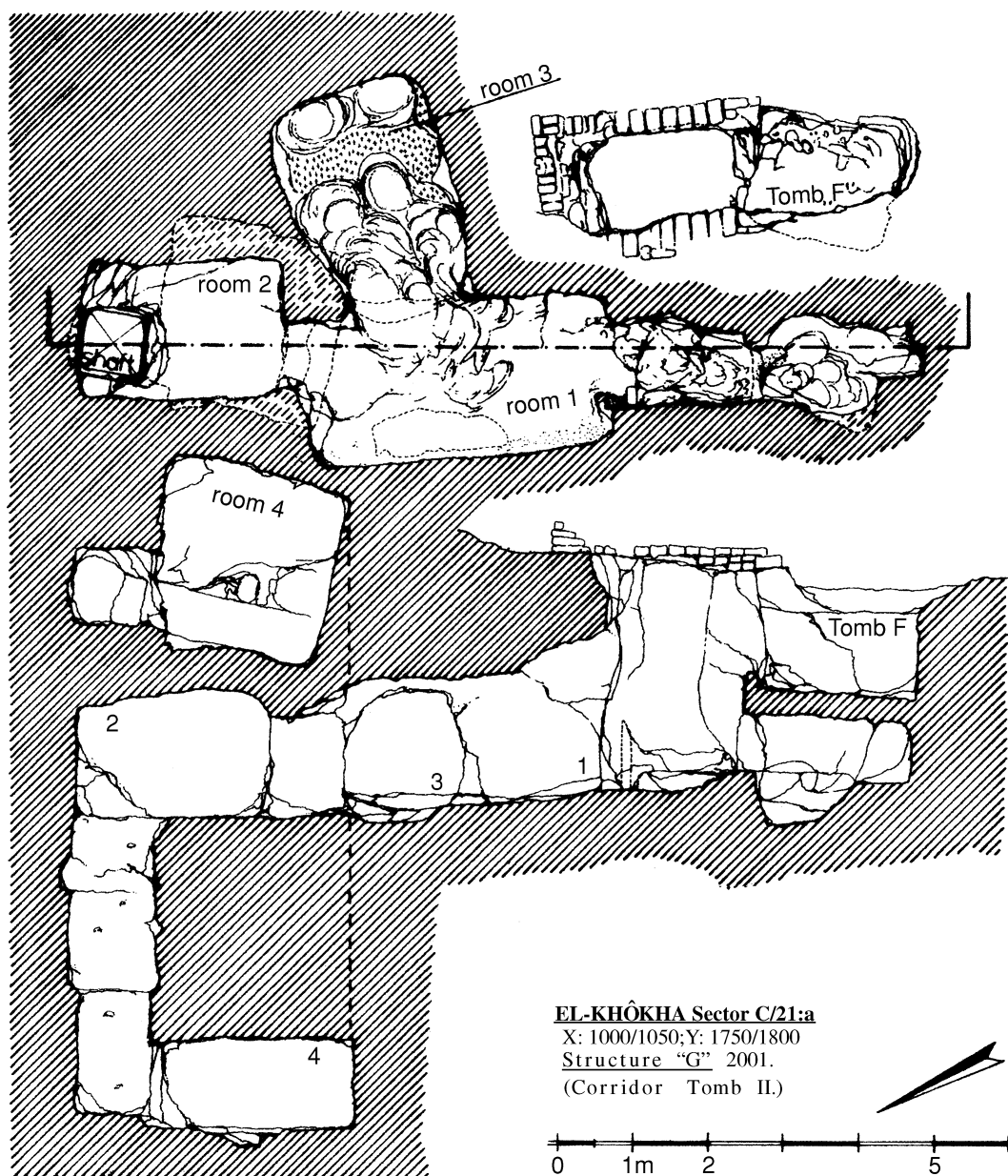


Fig. 1. Plan and section of Structure G

Two sets of terracotta shabtis came to light in chamber 4. (See finds no. 5–6). This type of primitive funerary figurines, moulded and mass-produced, was never studied in detail. Similar sets have been dated to the Dyn. 25.⁷ Most likely they survived until the Ptolemaic Period. Although the burials were plundered and widely destroyed the remains of furniture decoration in the form of *djed* and *tjet* symbols suggest that this structure was used as burial place by the Theban middle class.

⁷ L. M. BERMAN–K. J. BOHAČ: The Cleveland Museum of Art. Catalogue of Egyptian Art. 1999, 448–9.

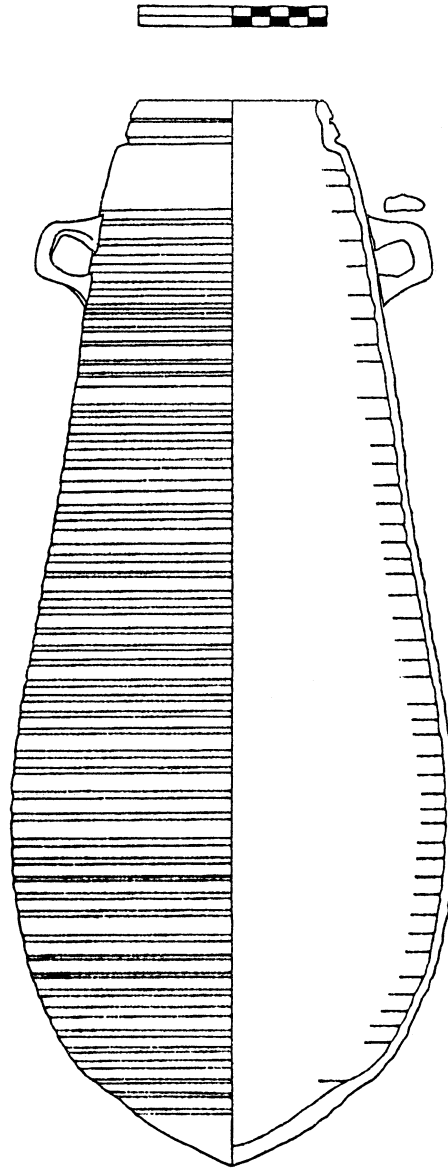


Fig. 2. Storage jar from Structure G

II. CORRIDOR TOMB I

Extensive excavation activity was carried out in the area to the south-west of the pylon of the outer forecourt of TT 32. The aim of this excavation has been to make an open space in front of the entrance of the so-called Corridor Tomb I (former name Corridor Tomb B) situated in the outer court of TT 32 and excavated several years ago by the Hungarian Mission.⁸ This work which had necessitated the removal of

⁸ L. KÁKOSY: Ninth preliminary report on the Hungarian excavation in Thebes: Tomb No. 32. (Season 1992). *ActaArchHung* 46 (1994), 21–31; L. KÁKOSY: Tenth preliminary

report on the Hungarian excavations in the Tomb No 32. (Season 1993). *ActaArchHung* 47 (1995) 3–10.

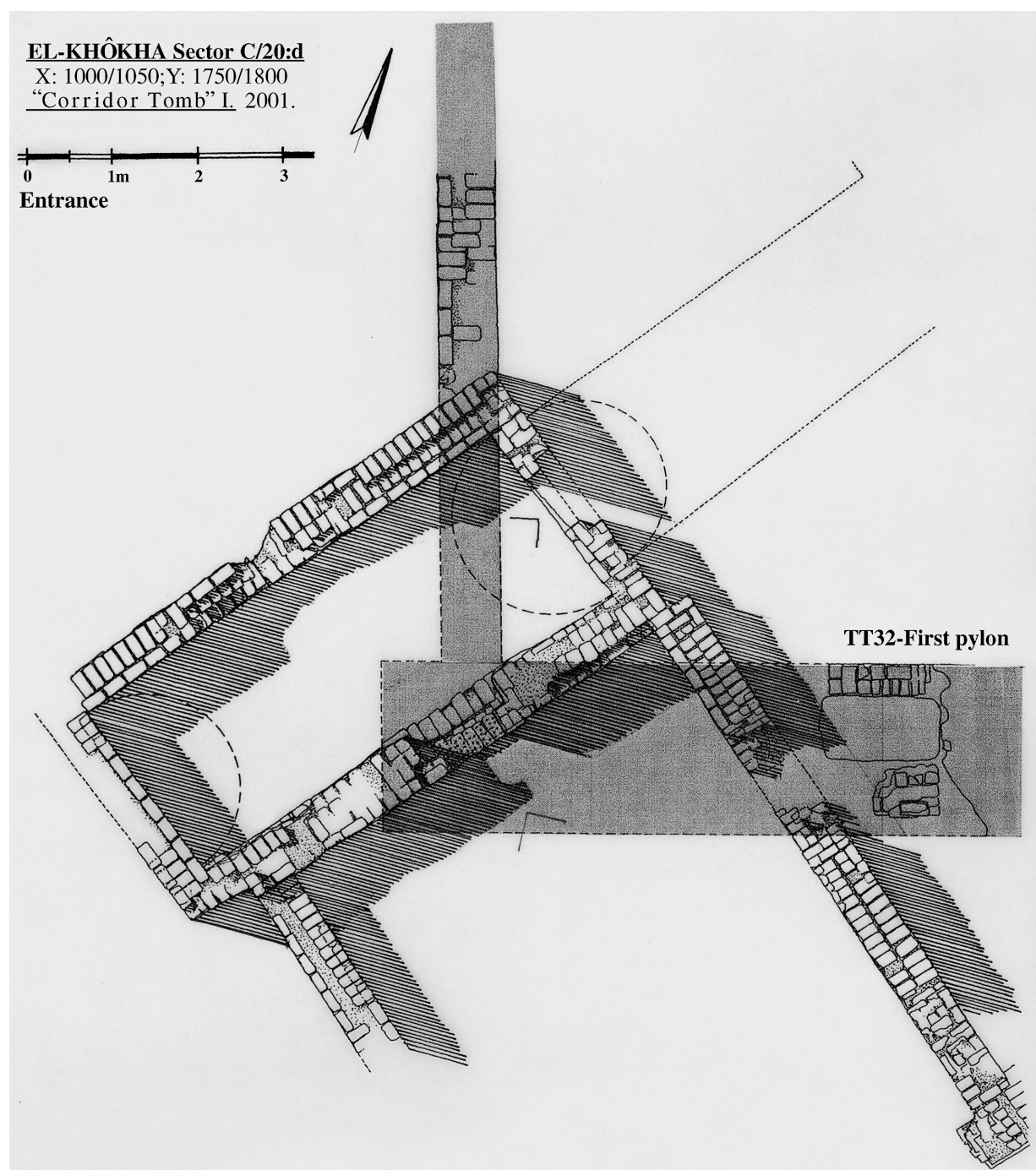


Fig. 3. Entrance of Corridor Tomb I

enormous heaps of debris led to the discovery of a room with a door at its southern side, most likely the Ptolemaic entrance to Corr. Tomb I (*Fig. 3*). The mud brick walls of this foreground show that at least on one occasion they needed a rebuilding. Near to the inner entrance to the vaulted section of the tomb several scraps of demotic and Coptic papyri came to light. Demotic papyri were found at the entrance of similar vaulted tombs by Carter and Lord Carnarvon.⁹

Beside this foreground, already outside of Corr. Tomb I. the remains of a workshop for lime-burning were recovered.

III. OTHER ACTIVITIES

Mr. Gábor Schreiber made considerable progress in his special project aiming at making a comprehensive work on the pottery fragments with floral decorations in Hellenistic style found in and around TT 32 during the past fifteen years. In addition, he made a survey of the pottery material of the excavations of the previous years, first of all in the boxes containing sherds coming from Structure G.

A modern digital camera opened the way for a new-style computerised documentation of the finds not only of the recent season but also of the previous years. This work was done by Mr. Zsolt Vasáros. New plans of the courts of TT 32 with indication of heights were prepared by Mr. János Kárpáti.

IV. FINDS

In the following we give the list of some of the remarkable finds.

1. Funerary cone.¹⁰ It bears a damaged stamp with originally four columns of text which can be completed as follows: [*m3' hrw*] *hr Wsjr hrj k3t nsw z3' hsb jhw jmj-r3 jhw n* [*Jmn B3k n Jmn*] ['Justified by]. Osiris. Overseer of the works of the King, accountant scribe of the cattle, overseer of the cattle] of [Amun, Bakenamun]'. The top of the cone is broken away.

DAVIES-MACADAM no. 108.¹¹

Found in the area sector K over the foreground of Corridor Tomb I west to the pylon of the outer court.

Height 6,1 cm

Diameter of the stamp 7.3 cm (*Fig. 4*)

There were two other Bekenamun cones in the same sector.

2. Funerary cone with the stamp of *z3' jmj-r3 hmwt nb nt Jmn Jmn htp*. The scribe, overseer of all the works of Amun, Amenhotep.

The top is broken away, stamp with faint signs.

Sector K over the foreground of Corridor Tomb I

DAVIES-MACADAM 314.

Height 11.2 cm

Diameter 7.8 cm (*Fig. 5*)

3. Funerary cone with elliptic stamp of [*z3'*] *pr hq snnw* scribe of the treasury Sennu.

Found on the same site

DAVIES-MACADAM 578

Fragment.

Height 3.9 cm

Diameter 5.6 × 5.9 cm (*Fig. 6*)

⁹ The Earl of CARNARVON–H. CARTER: *Five Years' Explorations at Thebes*. London–New York–Toronto–Melbourne 1912, 43.

¹⁰ L. MANNICHE's paper In: D. B. Redford (ed.): *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Egypt*. Cairo 2001, 565–567.

¹¹ N. DE GARIS DAVIES–M. F. L. MACADAM: *A Corpus of Inscribed Egyptian funerary Cones*. Oxford 1957.



Fig. 4. Funerary cone of Bakenamun



Fig. 5. Funerary cone of Amenhotep



Fig. 6. Funerary cone of Sennu

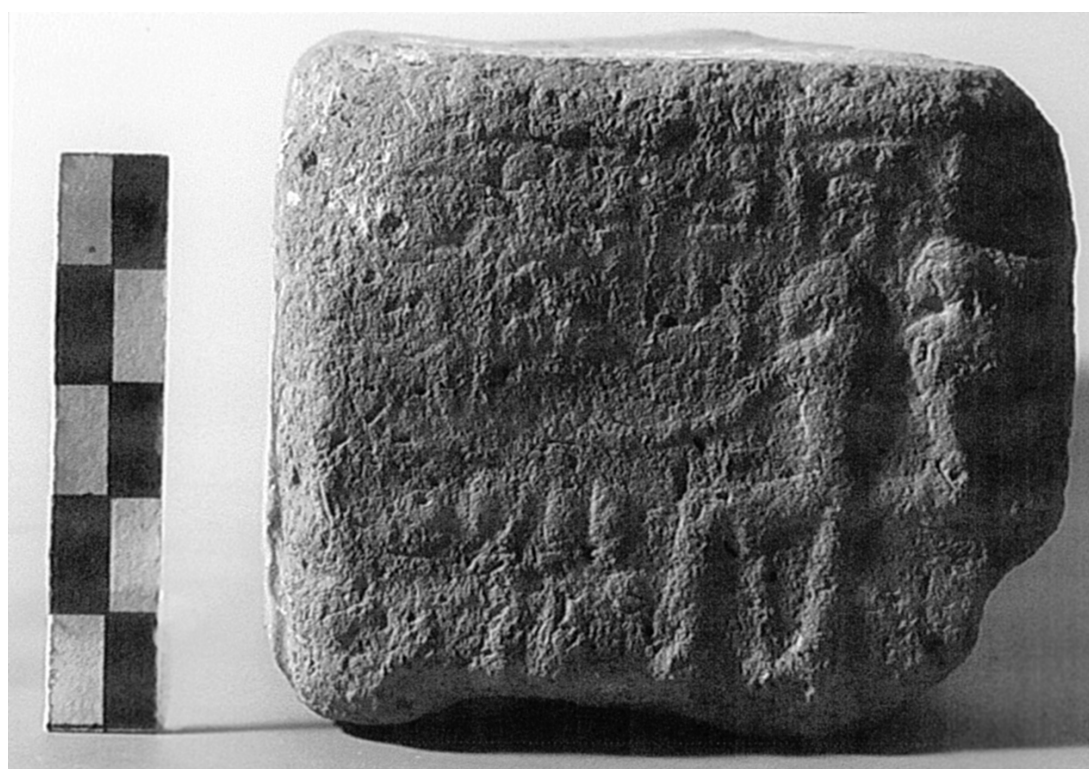


Fig. 7. Burnt brick with stamp

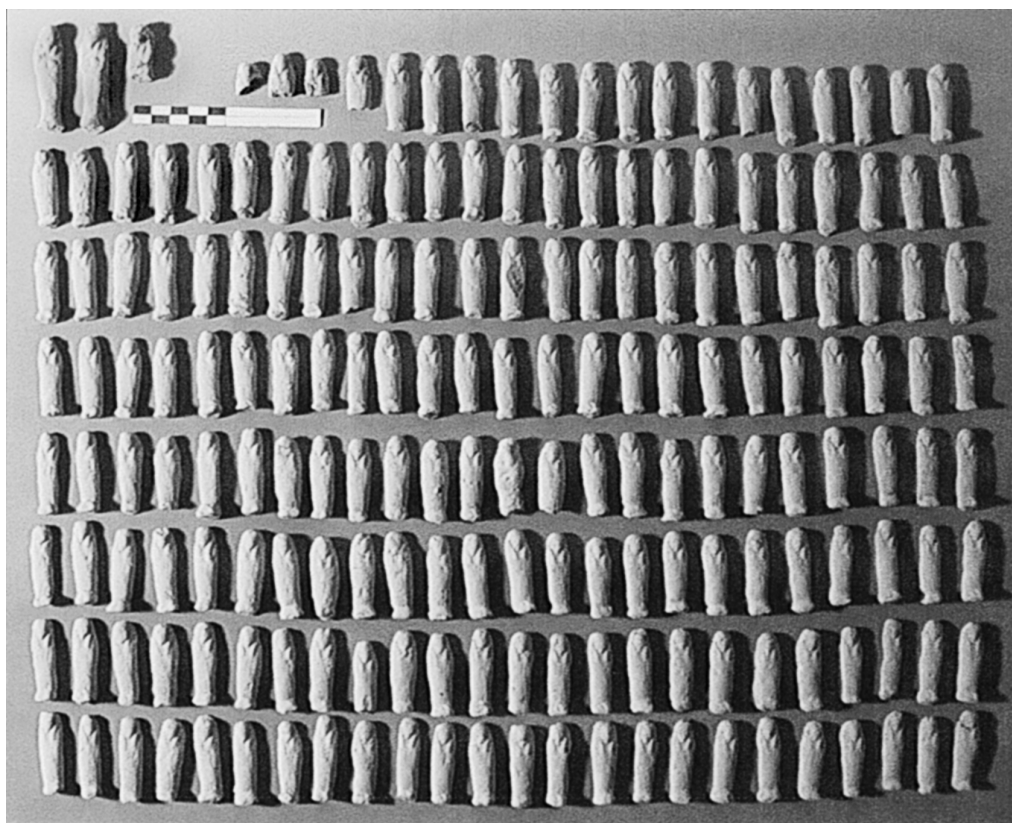


Fig. 8. Set of shabtis no. I

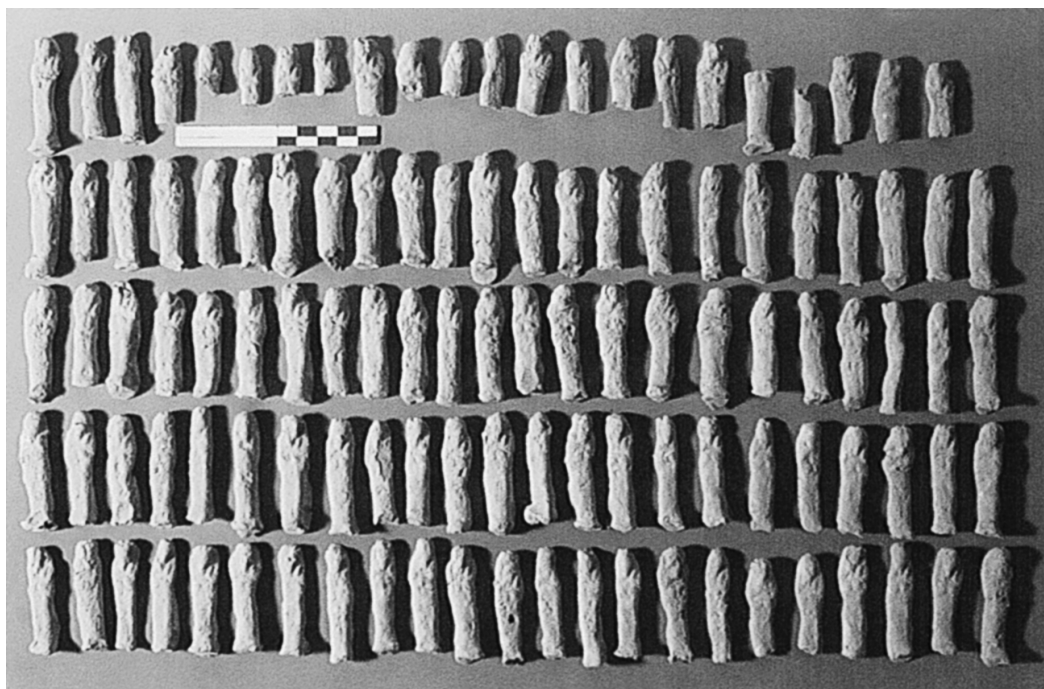


Fig. 9. Set of shabtis no. II

4. Burnt brick with a rectangular stamp on the short side. A very rare type differing in shape from the common funerary cones. The scene includes a man with his wife seated on chairs behind each other. A table with food offerings is placed in front of them. Due to the poor quality of the imprint the inscription is hardly readable. As ...*nbt pr sn*... can be recognized, the stamp can be identified as that of 'Ḫw and can be completed as [*jdñw zḫ nsw*] Ḫw *nbt pr sn [ñw]* 'deputy of the King's Son (of Kush) Aaw. The mistress of the house Sennu.'

Found on the same site

DAVIES-MACADAM 599

5.9 × 5.6 cm, height 3.9 cm (*Fig. 7*)

5. Set of shabtis no. I.¹²

Small terracotta shabtis. The head dress can be recognized. The arms are crossed over the breast. The back is flat, sometimes uneven.

187 complete figurines and many fragments

Structure G chamber 4.

Height 4.3 cm with tiny differences. (*Fig. 8*)

6. Set of shabtis no. II.

Small terracotta shabtis of a type different from set I. They are of crude modelling and the size is slightly bigger. The arms are crossed over the breasts. The back is flat sometimes uneven.

Structure G chamber 4.

95 complete figurines and many fragments

Height 5.9 cm with tiny differences (*Fig. 9*)

7. Blue glazed faience shabti.

Fragment. Head and legs are missing

Inscription *shd wsjr jmj-rḫ pr n Jmn dhwtj* ... 'The overseer of the domain of Amun Djehuti ... is illuminated.'¹³

Structure G chamber 3.

Height 4.7 cm

8. Blue glazed faience shabti.

Fragment. Head and legs are missing

Inscription *wsjr nb (?) bḫ Mwt*. Osiris Neb-Ba(?) - Mut

Corr. Tomb I. foreground

Height 4.9 (*Fig. 10*)

9. Portrait head of a young man.

Sandstone.

The statue of high artistic quality remained unfinished. The eyes and the ears are not fully elaborated. The nose is damaged. The wig is plain. On the top of the head a tiny trace of red pigment. The eyes and ears remained unfinished. The neck section is flat bottomed showing that the head was not part of a statue. It could be best considered as a sculptor's study, that is a model head. At the same time it could be interpreted as a late resurgence of the reserve heads¹⁴ of the Old Kingdom.

Structure G chamber 3

Height 9.7 cm

width at the bottom 9.2 cm

width at the top 6.5 cm

width at the chin 8.6 cm (*Fig. 11*)

¹² On sets of shabtis cf. H. D. SCHNEIDER: Shabtis. Leiden 1977 I, 336–337.

¹³ The interpretation of the *shd wsjr* formula is still open to debate. The mummy and the mummiform figurine was perhaps regarded as the glorified illuminated form of the deceased.

¹⁴ On reserve heads D. B. Bedford (ed.): see R. TEFNIN In: The Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Egypt III. Cairo 2001, 145–147.



Fig. 10. Blue-glazed shabti (fragment)

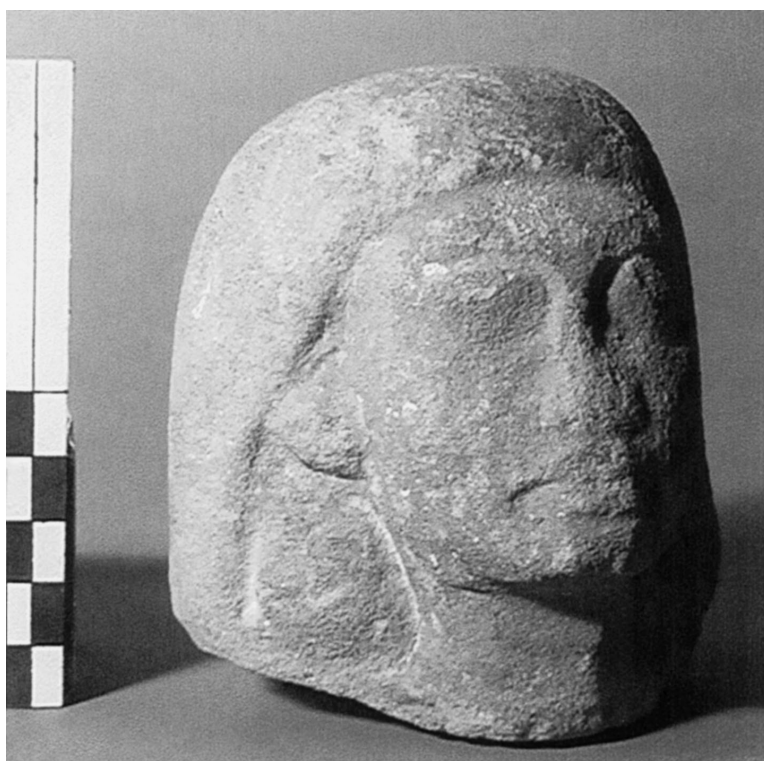


Fig. 11. Sandstone head of a young man

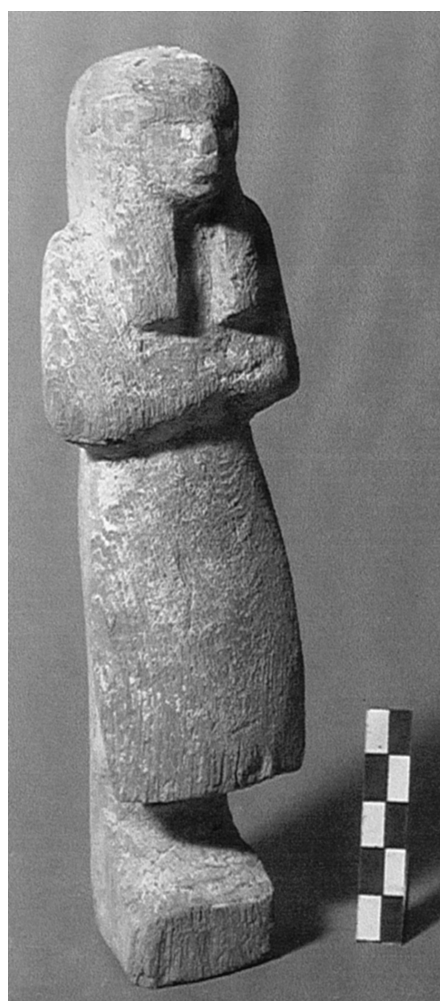


Fig. 12. Wooden statue of a woman



Fig. 13. Coptic ostrakon

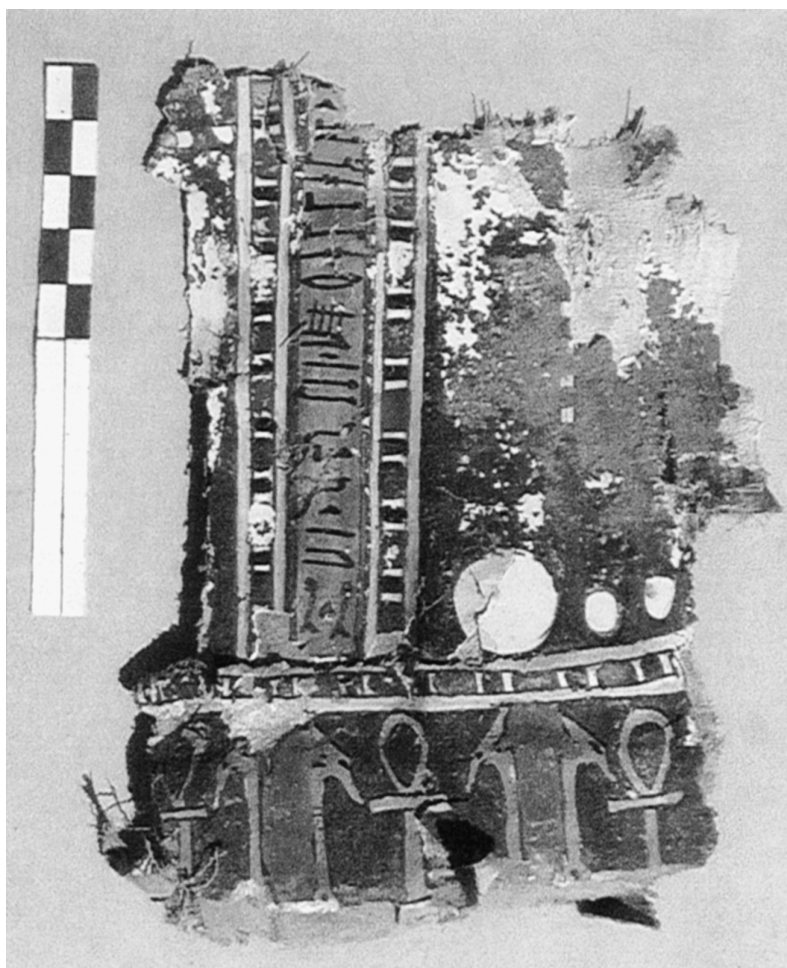


Fig. 14. Fragment of a cartonnage

10. Statue of a woman

Wood

Complete but nothing remained of the original painting

Standing statue with long wig. Her arms are crossed over the chest.

The shape of the statue suggests that it was most likely used as a shabti.

Found in the foreground of Corridor Tomb I

Height 18 cm

width at the arms 5.8 cm

thickness at the head 3.5 cm (*Fig. 12*)

11. Coptic ostrakon

Hard limestone

Wide parts are covered with soot and dust

Coptic text of seven lines

Found in the foreground of Corridor Tomb I

13.5 × 8 cm (*Fig. 13*)

The ostrakon needs cleaning before reading the text

12. Cartonnage

Linen covered with a thin layer of painted plaster

Fragment of the foot-part of a coloured cartonnage. The ground colour is dark blue. It bears the depiction of the forepart of a brown-coloured foot with white toe-nails. The strap of the sandal with alternating white and black squares starts beside the big toe. Below the foot a decoration consisting of *w3s* and '*nh*' sign follows. At the left side of the cartonnage a yellow column bears an inscription written with black hieroglyphic signs.

... *djs 'wjs r šzpt nt dt dt m (n)hḥ*. 'She gives her arms that you may receive for yourself (your) body for ever and ever.' The text is a variation of the utterance of Nut frequently written on lids of coffins.

Found in the foreground of Corridor Tomb I

10.5 × 15.9 cm (*Fig. 14*)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To conclude, I wish to express, also in the name of the Mission, my best thanks to Dr. Gaballa Aly Gaballa General Secretary of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, Mr. Sabry Abd el-Aziz Khater General Director in the west bank of Luxor, Mr. Mohammed El-Biely Director of Antiquities on the west bank of Luxor as well as to our inspector Miss Wafaa Gomaa Amin for their kind assistance during our work.

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