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Preliminary Report of Excavations at Dahshur North, Egypt

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Preliminary Report of Excavations at Dahshur North, Egypt

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—1st Field Season, March-April 1997—

INTRODUCTION

The Egyptian Culture Center of Waseda University and Tokai University Research & Information Center carried out the general survey in March 1996⁽¹⁾, at the site of Dahshur North (Figs.1, 2). The area was supposed to be new on the Memphite topography and on the ecological studies of the Memphite area in the Dynastic period⁽²⁾. The result of the general survey suggested that the area was a necropolis in the New Kingdom, and then the first season of the excavations was carried out from March 2 to April 10, 1997.

One of the most conspicuous architectural remains was a mud brick construction,

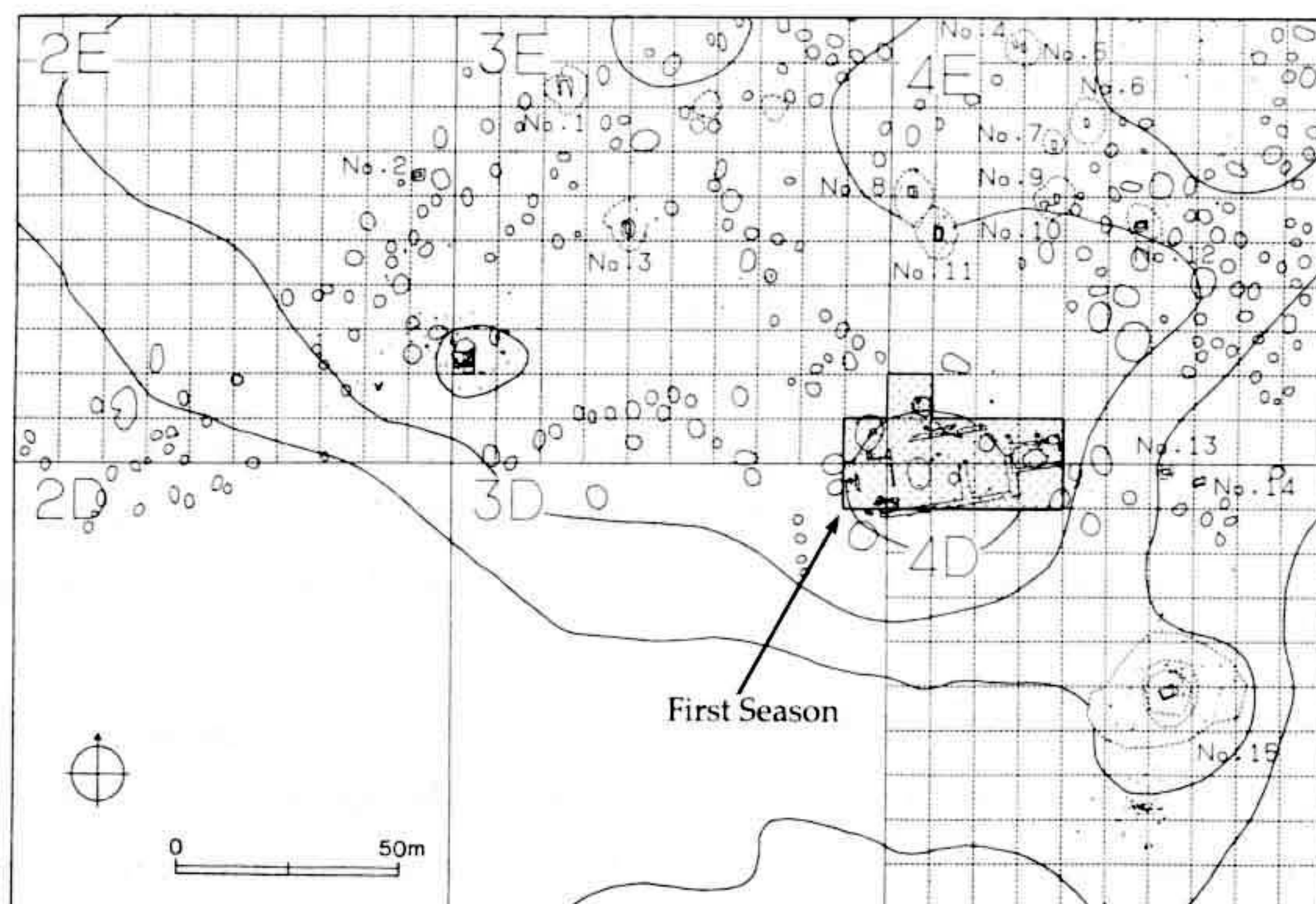


Fig.1 General plan showing sites of work

and though the upper part was lost completely, the plan suggested that it was a typical tomb-chapel in the New Kingdom period. This season we excavated here a ramp or a court in front, and consequently, the shaft was detected at the center of the second court. The shaft was lined with the limestone blocks. Its depth was measured 13m from the floor level of the court, and two doorways to the several chambers were found at the bottom.

We only cleaned the shaft, and left the chambers as they were, and a number of objects were found mostly in the lower part of the shaft. The most remarkable point was that the relief blocks found in the shaft bottom had the representation of the motifs in the late 18th Dynasty or the early 19th Dynasty period. Total assemblage of the finds such as pottery sherds or ornamental objects also suggested this date and considering the large scale size of the tomb-chapel and elaborate construction of the shaft, the owner must be a high official. Anyhow, the result of the excavation is completely new in the topography of the Dahshur area⁽³⁾.

We would like to express our thanks to S.C.A.'s messieurs, in particular to his excellency, the secretary general, Dr. 'Aly Hasan. As for the areal control, we also thank Dr. Zahi Hawass, the general director of the Giza inspectorate, Mr. Muhammad Hagrass, the general director of the Saqqara inspectorate, Mr. Magdy al-Gandur and 'Izat Muhammad, inspectors of the Saqqara inspectorate.

I: METHOD OF EXCAVATION

Through the general survey, we found that, the shafts distributed in the area of 300m EW and 100m NS (2E-4E), and the central part could be dated to the New Kingdom. It will be the first trial for the site by the scientific research, and the site was expected to be new for the Memphite topography, because the New Kingdom monuments had not been reported in Dahshur area.

Now the main subject was on the mud brick construction, and grid system was set around it (Fig.1). As for the mud brick construction itself, the general plan seemed to be clear, including ramp, courts, chapel, and side rooms. We took off the surface deposit along the central axis of the plan (Fig.2) to observe the method of the construction.

Sand deposit did not accumulate thickly, because limestone chips, possible indicating the presence of floor pavement, were observed on the surface. Then, the cleaning work went on, and shafts were found in the both courts. Red sand composed of the larger size of quartz particles was obviously artificial⁽⁴⁾, and they were observed in

both courts. The soft limestone flakes, accumulated around the Shaft A and side rooms. The shaft enabled observing the strata, and in the case of the second court, gravel appeared 3m below of the surface, and limestone bedrock appeared. The shaft entrance cut the edge of the bedrock and underground chambers were made by cutting the lesser part of the bedrock.

As for the area outside the mud brick construction, we paid attention on the strata from the gravel. Gravel was found in the northern area of the mud brick construction and from the level of the gravel, which appeared at the section of the shafts, it descends towards the south. On the gravel, sand deposit accumulated, and possible pavement could be observed attaching to the northern wall of the tomb-chapel. After the tomb was abandoned, a part of the tomb-chapel wall collapsed, and sand deposit accumulated there on. Some recessed pits were observed on the layer of the collapsed wall, and a pyramidion was found in one of these pits.

Simple burial using wooden coffins or reed mats were found around the tomb-chapel and brick wall of the side rooms, and the date of those simple burials was not certain⁽⁵⁾.

II: REMAINS

1: Introduction

We excavated the area concentrating on the mud brick construction this season. The general plan of the mud brick construction was divided into the ramp, courts,

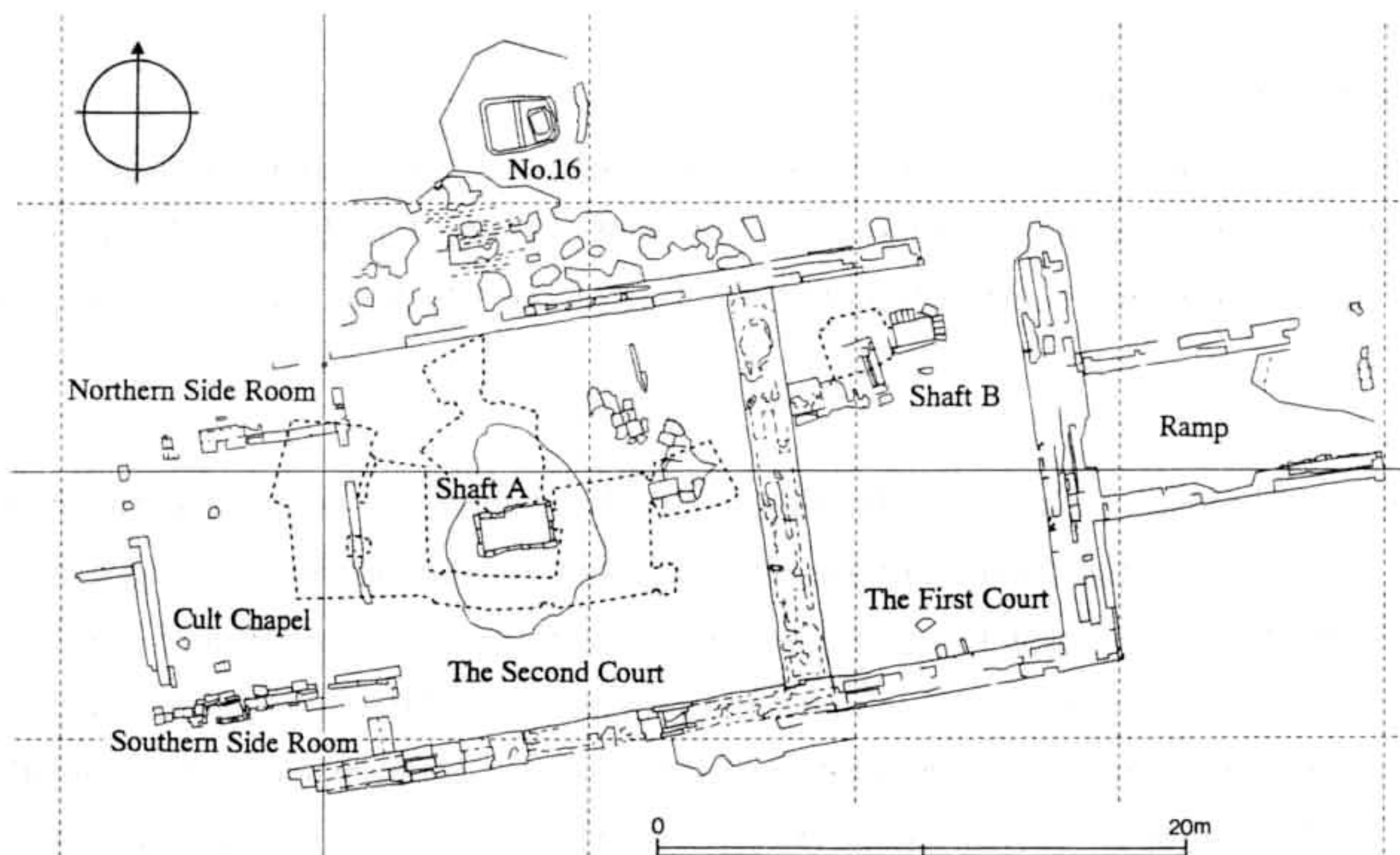


Fig.2 Plan of the tomb-chapel

chapel with side rooms beside it (Fig.2, Pl.1-1,2), and it turned out to be a tomb-chapel, because the shaft and underground chambers were found. As for the underground remains, we only took off the sand deposit of the shaft in this season, its general sketches are noted later. Outside the tomb-chapel, an unfinished shaft was found, and we numbered it Shaft 16, because a total of 15 shafts have been observed in the last season.

2: Remains belonging to the tomb-chapel

1) Approach (Pl.1-1)

Parallel walls run in the front, and in the sand deposit between them, pottery sherds painted blue dated in the New Kingdom were found. Tomb-chapels with the approach have been reported in Abydos or Gurab⁽⁶⁾, but rarely in the Saqqara area. Side walls of the ramp were measured 10.8m long and 6.3m wide, and arranged on the longitudinal axis of the whole construction. The examples of such a space in the late 18th Dynasty were a court, and became a portico in the Ramesside period.

2) The first court (Pl.1-1)

Thick wall of 160cm wide remained between the ramp and the first court. At the northern end, reddish sand was used as an under layer. In the northern area of the court, the shaft (Shaft B) was found (Fig.2). This shaft was lined with bricks and plastered on the surface. Its depth was 6.5m and the doorway to the western chamber, with the dimensions of 2.5m in length and 1.8m in width, was found. This season, we cleaned sand deposit of the shaft, and left the cleaning work of the chamber for the future.

3) The second court (Pl.1-2)

The second court was 15m square, and here red sand was used for the under construction. At the northeast corner, a part of floor remained, and its level was higher than anywhere in this construction. On the axis of the EW line, the shaft was found (Pl.2-1).

4) Shaft

The soft limestone flakes accumulated thickly around the shaft, and the gravel came 2m below of the floor with 2m accumulation. The shaft entrance appeared at 4m below of the floor, which was dressed by the 13 courses of limestone blocks⁽⁷⁾ in a standard size of 52×26×22cm, which corresponded to Talatat⁽⁸⁾ (Pl.2-2). They were built in the upper space of the shaft entrance by cutting the bedrock, and set together with mortar, but the northern part curved slightly inward, because of the crushing caused by the soil pressure (Fig.2). The surface of the blocks was carbonized.

5) Underground chambers

Two doorways to the several chambers appeared at the bottom, where it was measured 13m below the floor. At the bottom of the shaft, dense distribution of relief blocks were found and their motifs were characteristic and available for the possible date for this tomb, which was described later (Pl.2-3).

From the eastern entrance, Room A with smaller chambers of Room B and C appeared. Thick sand accumulated in Room A, and fragments of scattered pottery sherds were found on the floor of Room B. At the southwest corner of Room A, Room D was connected. Room D was narrow with 1.4m wide, and this room leads to Room E. Ceiling of Room E seemed to have collapsed, and huge blocks were accumulated on whole the space.

From the northern entrance, Room F with a small chamber of Room G appeared, where sand deposit accumulated. All the chambers were disturbed already and the walls were carbonized, but we hope that we can get more information on the tomb owner by the future cleaning work of those chambers⁽⁹⁾.

6) Chapel and side rooms (Pl.1-2)

The chapel was 8.8m square, and the floor pavement has not been found yet. Most bricks seem to have been gone, and the last few courses were preserved.

3: Area outside the tomb-chapel

At the northern wall of the tomb-chapel, a part of the collapsed wall was found (Pl.1-2). Limestone pyramidion was found in this area, which had the height of about 60cm (Pl.3-1). Another collapsed wall was found in the southern area of the building, and dense distribution of the small relief blocks were found (Pl.3-3). As described above, simple burial using a wooden coffin was found attached to the approach. Beside the northern collapsed wall, Shaft 16 was found but it turned out to be unfinished at 1.2m below the surface gravel.

III: FINDS

1: Introduction

More than one thousand fragments of various objects were uncovered during the excavation from the site. Most of these objects probably dated to the late 18th Dynasty to the early 19th Dynasty.

2: The description of the finds

1) Fragments of limestone relief blocks (Pls.2-3, 3-3)

More than twenty fragments of relief blocks were unearthed from the bottom of

Shaft A. They carved in sunk relief. There remained color traces on several blocks. You may find the selected relief blocks at Pls.2-3 and 3-3. Blocks showing a facade of a temple with priests, a male offering bearer, and a portrait with golden necklace. Judging from the style and shape of relief motifs, these relief blocks presumably date to the end of 18th Dynasty to the beginning of 19th Dynasty after 'Amarna period'⁽¹⁰⁾.

2) Architectural objects

A limestone pyramidion (Pl.3-1) was uncovered from collapsed walls. The height of the pyramidion is 60cm. There was a shallow hole at the bottom of it⁽¹¹⁾.

3) Pottery

The clay of potsherds is divided into Silt and Marl⁽¹²⁾. Most of potsherds from the site belong to Silt group. Blue-painted pottery fragments were uncovered over the excavated area (Pl.3-7). Pottery with blue-painted decoration is very popular in the late 18th Dynasty to 19th Dynasty. There were several fragments from plant pots and miniature vases.

4) Canopic jars

Fragments of alabaster (Pl.3-6) and faience canopic jars were unearthed⁽¹³⁾. Most of Canopic jars were from Shaft A. Lids of jars were shaped as four sons of Horus: Imsety, Hapy, Duamutef, and Qebefsenuf. One of alabaster Canopic jars has an inscription on the body. We could deciphered the name and his title, as "Overseer of the royal stable, Mes"⁽¹⁴⁾.

5) Fragments of polychrome glass vessels

We found two fragments of glass vessels with core technique from Shaft A. They had wavy and pinnate decorations on them.

6) Beads

A number of beads of various shapes and sizes were recorded from the site. Most of them are blue faience and glass.

7) Rings

A complete blue faience ring with a design in the shape of lotus flower was uncovered from the debris of Shaft A (Pl.3-8). We know that the group of blue faience rings with the same size and design were discovered from the royal tomb of Tutankhamen in the Valley of the Kings by Howard Carter⁽¹⁵⁾. A bronze ring with gold coil was also found from Shaft A (Pl.3-9).

8) Amulets

A number of amulets of various materials and kinds were uncovered. They consist of Tyet, papyrus scepters, and snake heads types⁽¹⁶⁾.

9) Sockets and inlay pieces of artificial eyes

We found fragments of sockets and inlay pieces of artificial eyes. Most of them are fragmentary.

10) Inlay pieces

A number of fragments of glass inlay pieces in the various shapes of hieroglyphic letters were recovered during the excavation.

11) Wooden objects

Fragments of wooden plaques were uncovered and some of them had carved inscriptions on them.

12) A fragment of statuette

A part of the head from a limestone statuette was found in the debris near the collapsed walls. The head with the Atef crown and Uraeus on the artistic feature of the statuette (Pl.3-2).

13) Shabtis

Shabtis of a variety of materials were found from the excavated area (Pl.3-4,5). The materials are including stone, faience, wood, and clay. Most of them are fragmentary and from Shaft A. A fine small green faience face from shabti was also unearthed. We could deciphered several names and titles on them, as Mes, Hwy, Amenk3, and Pashedw⁽¹⁷⁾.

CONCLUSION

This season, we excavated the mud brick construction found in the general survey, and the shaft was 13m beneath the floor, and underground chambers were revealed, the construction turned out to be the tomb-chapel in the New Kingdom. Many objects were found mostly from the Shaft A, and relief motif or other kinds of objects such as pottery sherds painted blue, ornamental objects, and small statue suggested the period from the late 18th Dynasty to the early 19th Dynasty, therefore Post 'Amarna period.

The New Kingdom remains were new for the Dahshur area. It was most noteworthy that the tomb-chapel had the large scale which was comparable with the tomb of Horemheb, and its shaft was elaborately lined with the limestone blocks, it must have belonged to some high official in the New Kingdom period.

Thus the owner must be identified, and the mud brick stamp with the name of "Ip3y" was most suggestible⁽¹⁸⁾. Anyhow, New Kingdom monuments or cemetery have not been reported so far⁽¹⁹⁾, the result of the excavation will reveal new information

on the Memphite necropolis studies.

Abbreviation

(Periodica)

- ASAÉ *Annales du Service des Antiquités de l'Égypte*
CCÉ *Cahiers de la Céramique Égyptienne*
CMM *Collegium Meditarranistarum Mediterraneus*
JEA *The Journal of Egyptian Archaeology*
MDAIK *Mitteilungen des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts abteilung Kairo*
RE *Revue d'Égyptologie*

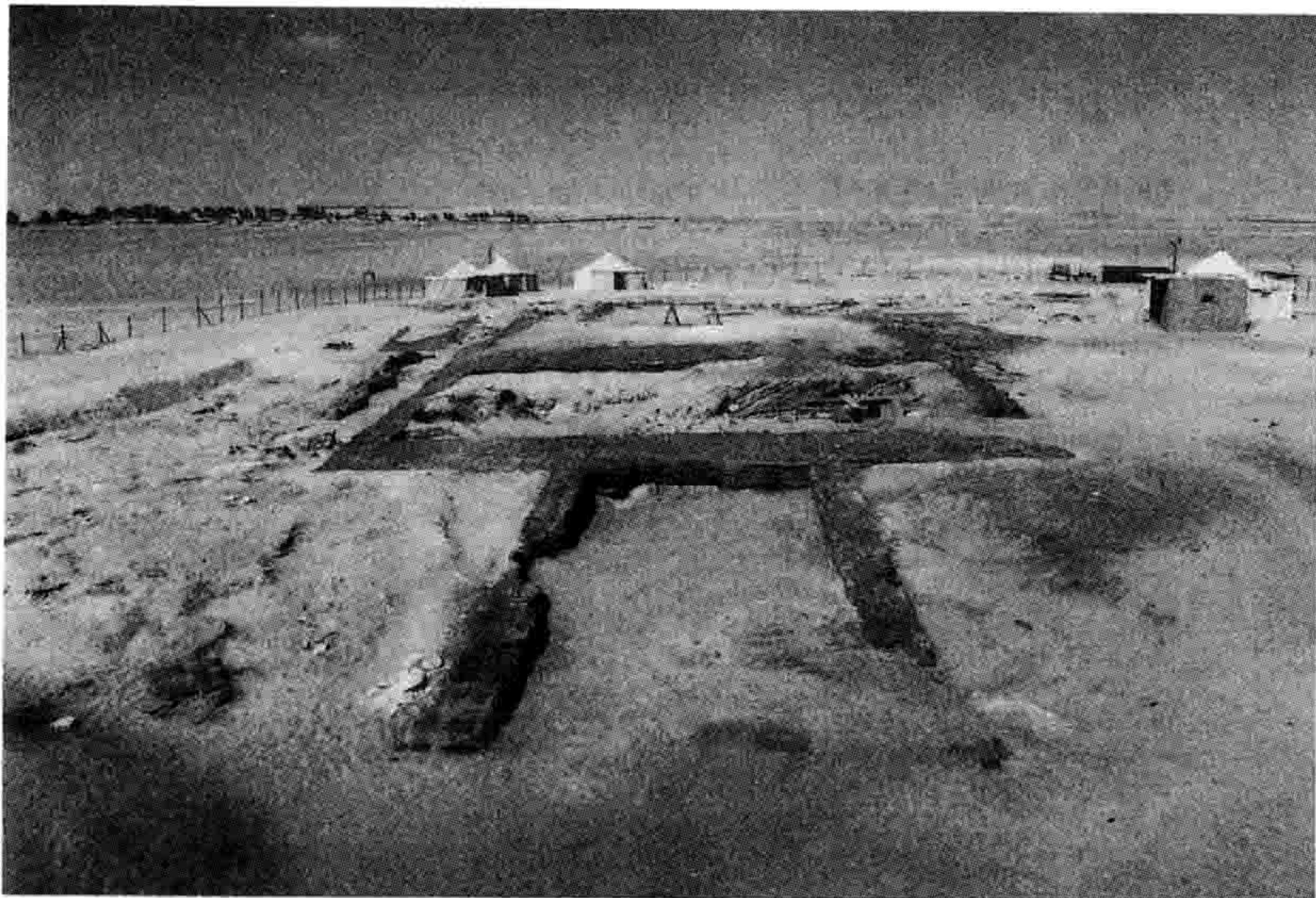
(Catalogues)

- AEJ (British Museum) C. Andrews, *Ancient Egyptian Jewellery*, London 1990
EGA (Boston Museum of Arts) *Egypt's Golden Age: The Art of Living in the New Kingdom 1558-1085 B.C.*, Boston 1982
SE (Metropolitan Museum) W.C. Hayes, *The Scepter of Egypt*, Vol.1, 2, New York 1959

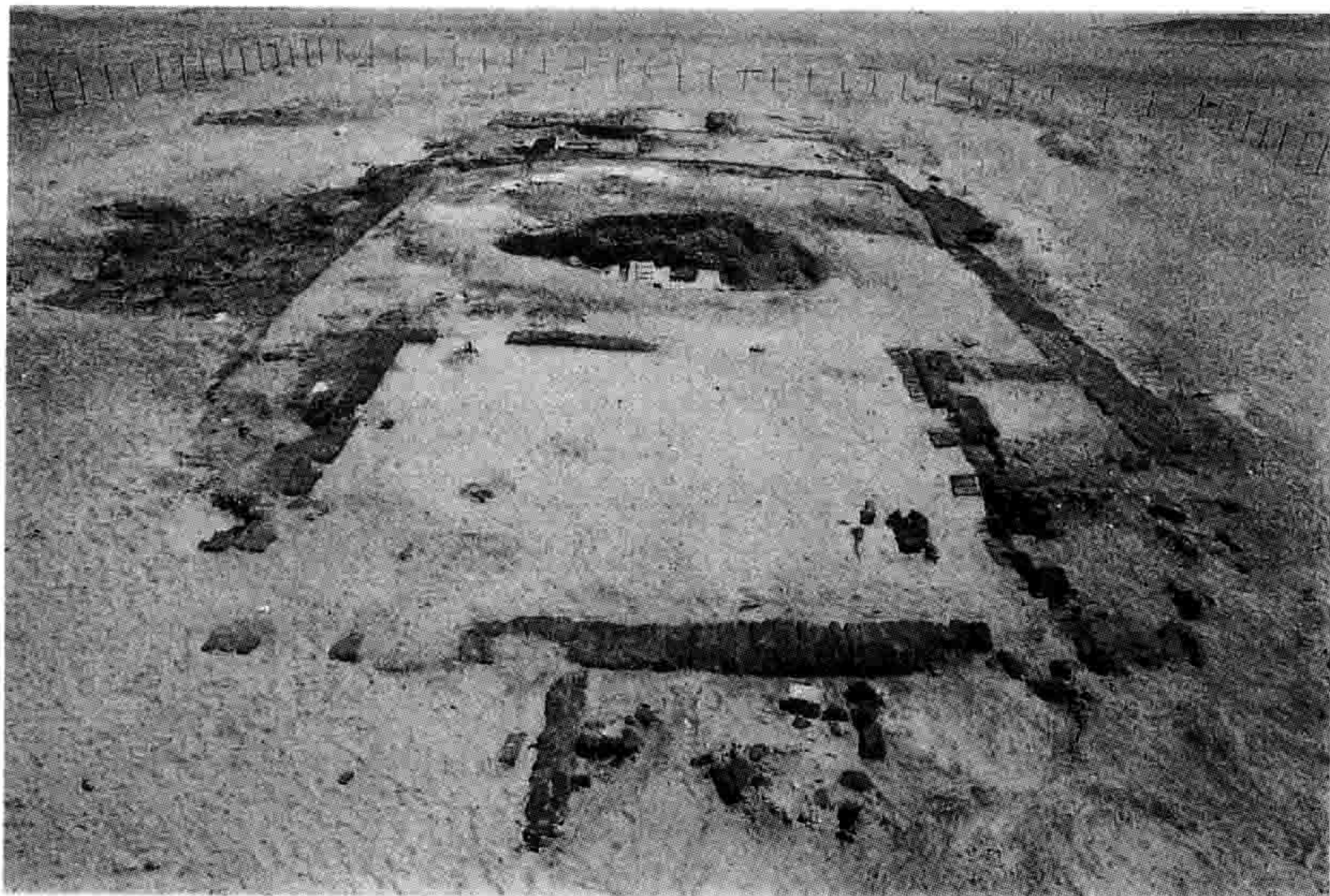
NOTES

- (1) S. Yoshimura, J. Kondo, S. Hasegawa, T. Sakata, M. Etaya, T. Nakagawa, S. Nishimoto, "A Preliminary Report of the General Survey at Dahshur North, Egypt," Annual Report, *CMM*, XX (1997), 3-24.
- (2) The site is located on the limestone bedrock, which is enough higher than the flood level in the Dynastic period. S. Rushdi, *The River Nile—Geology, Hydrology and Utilization*, Oxford 1993, 133-152. The ramp of the mud brick construction descends towards the breaking point of the cultivation into the desert, where is supposed as an access water front from Memphis.
- (3) Lepsius made a topographical map of the south Saqqara and Dahshur, in which the site area is included, but nothing was mentioned for the remains. C.R. Lepsius, *Denkmaeler aus Aegypten und Aethiopien*, Berlin 1885, Abth. I, Bl. 35, Text I, 208.
- (4) The using and function of the sand in the foundation trench, see D. Arnold, *Building in Egypt*, Oxford 1991, 113.
- (5) The so-called "simple burial" distributed in the area around Memphis and those dated between mid 18th Dynasty and Graeco-Roman period. Some examples from Saqqara, see C.M. Firth and B. Gunn, *Excavations at Saqqara Teti Pyramid Cemeteries*, Cairo 1926, 66-83; N. Kanawati, et al., *Excavations at Saqqara North-West of Teti's Pyramid*, Sydney 1984, 59-80. Some variations of "simple burial," see M.J. Raven, *The Tomb of Iurudof*, London 1991, 8-14.
- (6) The examples of the tomb-chapel with the ramp entrance were found at Gurab and Abydos. D. Randall-Maciver and A.C. Mace, *El Amrah and Abydos*, London 1902, 83, pl.xxv D14.
- (7) Although lined walls of the shaft were common method in Ancient Egypt, lined walls of the Shaft A were remarkable elaborate. Some limestone using examples from Memphite area, see G.T. Martin, *The Memphite Tomb of Horemheb Commander-in-Chief of Tut'ankhamun*, London 1989, 14 "Shaft iv"; H. Schneider, et al., "The Tomb of Maya and Meryt: Preliminary Report of the Saqqara Excavations, 1990-1," *JEA*, 77(1991), 10, figs. 2-4; Raven, *op.cit.*, 8, pls. 2,5.
- (8) J. Gohary, *Akhenaten's Sed Festival at Karnak*, London 1992, 215; (ed.) B.J. Kemp, *Amarna Reports V*, London 1989, 138, 140. On the information of the Talatat blocks found at the Memphite area, see J. Málek, "The Temple at Memphis, problems highlighted by EES survey," (ed.) S. Quirke, *The Temple in Ancient Egypt*, London 1997, 90-101.
- (9) As for the plan of the substructure, see F. Petrie and G. Brunton, *Sedment II*, London 1924, pls. lxxxii-lxxxiv.

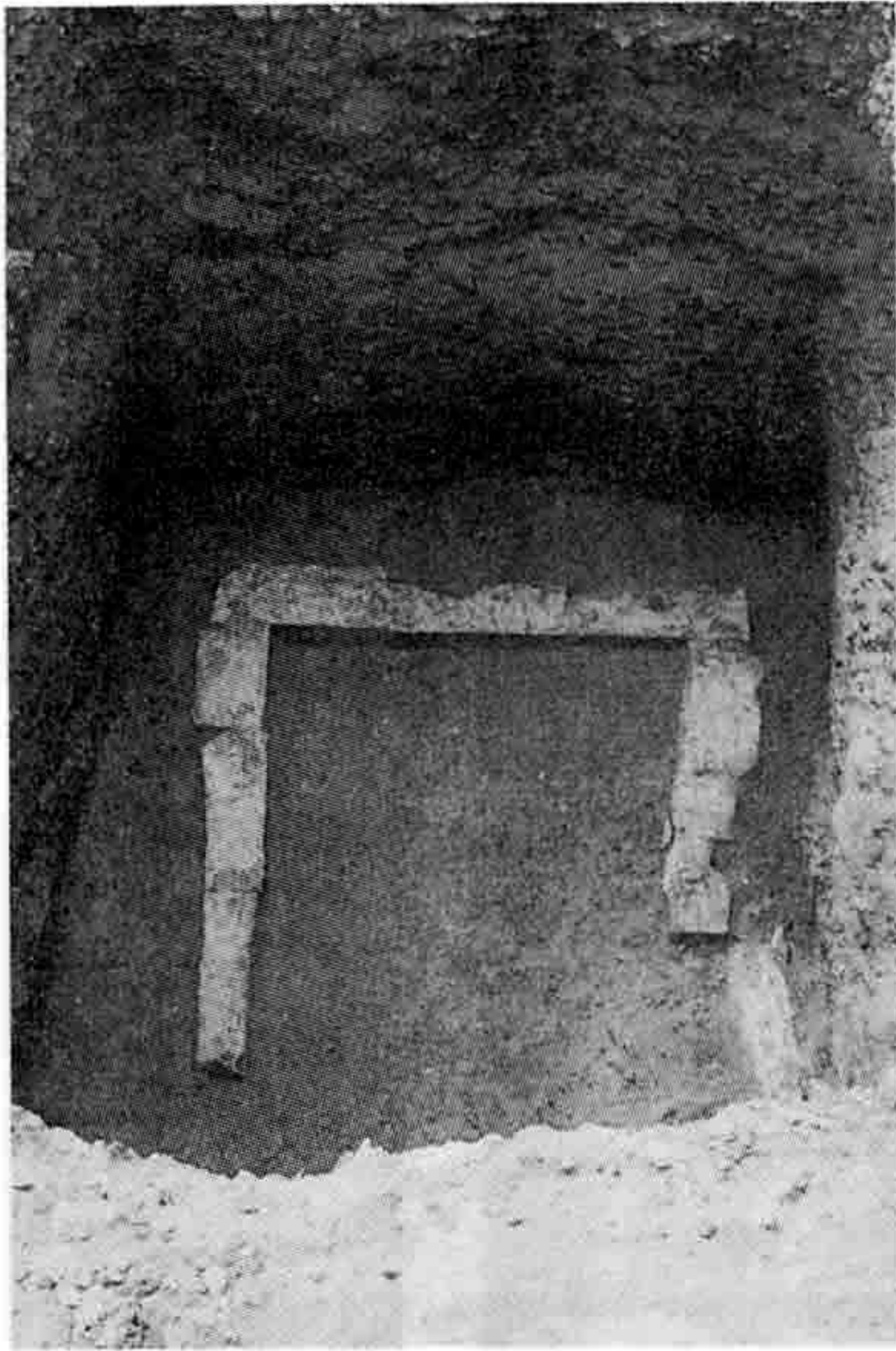
- (10) The motif style of the priest and their worshipping pose are characteristic in the period effected by 'Amarna art. See N. de G. Davies, *The Rock Tombs at el-Amarna 4*, London 1908, pl. XVII. The noble with the golden necklace is represented on the mural relief of the tomb-chapel. Martin, 1989 *op.cit.*, 40-43, pl. 34 (21), 87-92, pls. 106, 107 (72). Oxes in front are rarely represented. G.T. Martin, *Corpus of Reliefs of the New Kingdom from the Memphite Necropolis and lower Egypt 1*, London 1987, 29-30, pls. 24 (70), 26 (72); S. Redford and D. Redford, *The Akhenaten Temple Project 4, The Tomb of Re'a (TT201)*, Toronto 1994, Pl. VII.
- (11) It must be discussed whether this pyramidion was topped on the superstructure of the tomb-chapel or not. The pyramidion itself seemed to be re-used. Tomb-chapel with pyramid on its upper construction, see S. Tawfik, "Recently Excavated Ramesside Tombs at Saqqara," *MDAIK*, 47 (1991), 403-409; G.T. Martin, *The Tomb-Chapels of Paser and Ra'ia at Saqqara*, London 1985, Pl. 29.
- (12) There are some variations of the Marl clay pottery in the New Kingdom, as Bell or Hope pointed out. M. Bell, "Regional Variation in Polychrome Pottery of the 19th Dynasty," *CCÉ*, 1 (1987), 49-76; C.A. Hope, "Innovation in the Decoration of Ceramics in the Mid-18th Dynasty," *ibid.*, 97-122. Among the Nile silt pottery group, vase fragments with a hole are found, which are supposed to be kinds of flowerpot. P. Lacovara, *Deir el-Ballas Preliminary Report on the Deir el-Ballas Expedition, 1980-1986*, Indiana 1990, Pl. XVI. The decoration painted blue ranges from the early 18th Dynasty to the Ramesside period, and they are classified. C.A. Hope, "Blue-Painted and Polychrome Decorated Pottery from Amarna," *CCÉ*, 2 (1991), 105-118.
- (13) Most of the faience are discoloured by the fire, when the underground chambers were disturbed. A part of the surface glaze turned into the purple color, which seemed not to be the violet faience using the cobalt for its manufacture. It will be reported by the chemical analysis in future. A. Kaczmarczyk and R.E.M. Hedges, *Ancient Egyptian Faience*, Warminster 1983, 244.
- (14) Besides the Canopic group, characteristic forms of stone vessels were found. Some fragments of vertical body have ribs, and an example with three ribs and separated foot is introduced as an appearance under the reign of Amenophis III, *EGA*, 129, no.120. The bottle in the form of a pregnant woman is found. Its feature resembles with that of Taweret, and the contents are supposed to be a mixed oil. *ibid.*, 293, no.404. As for the handle represented an ibex, the well-known example is an alabaster jar of King Mery-en-Ptah. The jar has handles in the form of heads of the slim horned Nubian ibex. Our example also has holes, which seemed to have ears made of precious metal. *SE*, 2, 354, pl. 221.
- (15) From drawing by Carter of a selection of faience ring recovered from the floor of the Annexe. N. Reeves, *The Complete Tutankhamun*, London 1990, 150. Faience ring decorated with a lotus flower and two buds were popular from the reign of Amenophis III until that of Ramesses II. *EGA*, 248, nos. 343, 344.
- (16) Lotus in faience, Tyet in glass, Ujat eye in glass, and so on. C. Andrews, *Amulets of Ancient Egypt*, London 1994. Snake head is made of stone, and the example is; see F. Erika, *Das Grab des Nefersecheru (TT296)*, Mainz am Rhein 1985, Schlangenkopf, 141, 142, Tafel XLI, LXVII, no.122.
- (17) Among them, the group with white glaze had the characteristic feature of the 19th Dynasty. H.D. Schneider, *Shabtis*, Leiden 1977, 3/3/1/22, Part II, 102, Part III, 40.
- (18) Most of the stamps were illegible, but among them, the name "Ip3y" could be read. His title will be checked by following season.
- (19) Information on the Saqqara area, see D.G. Jeffreys and H.S. Smith, "Memphis and the Nile in the New Kingdom; A Preliminary Attempt at a Historical Perspective," in (ed.) A.-P. Zivie, *Memphis et ses nécropoles au Nouvel Empire*, Paris 1988, 55-66.



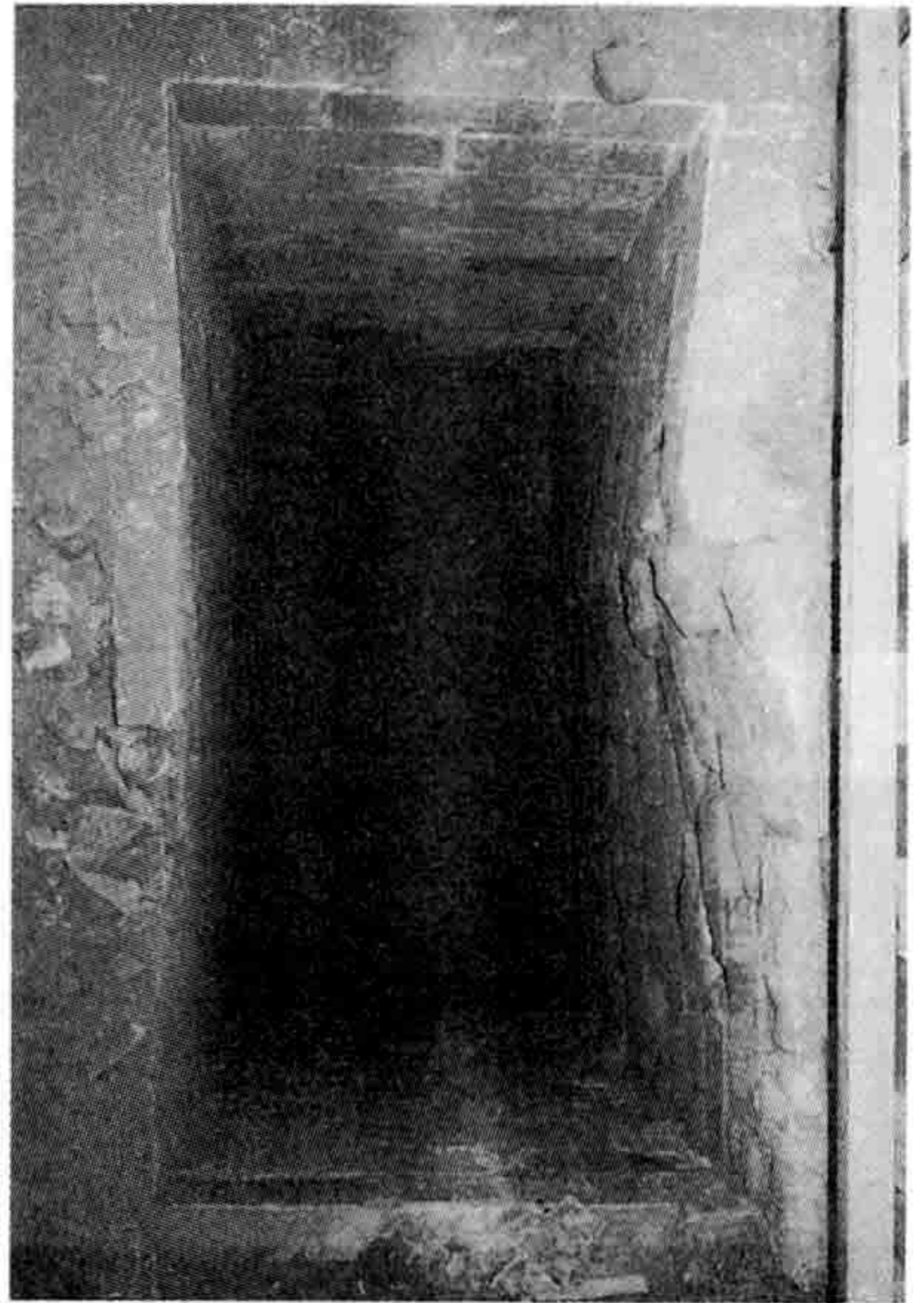
Pl.1-1 Tomb-chapel from the east



Pl.1-2 Tomb-chapel from the west



Pl.2-1 Shaft A



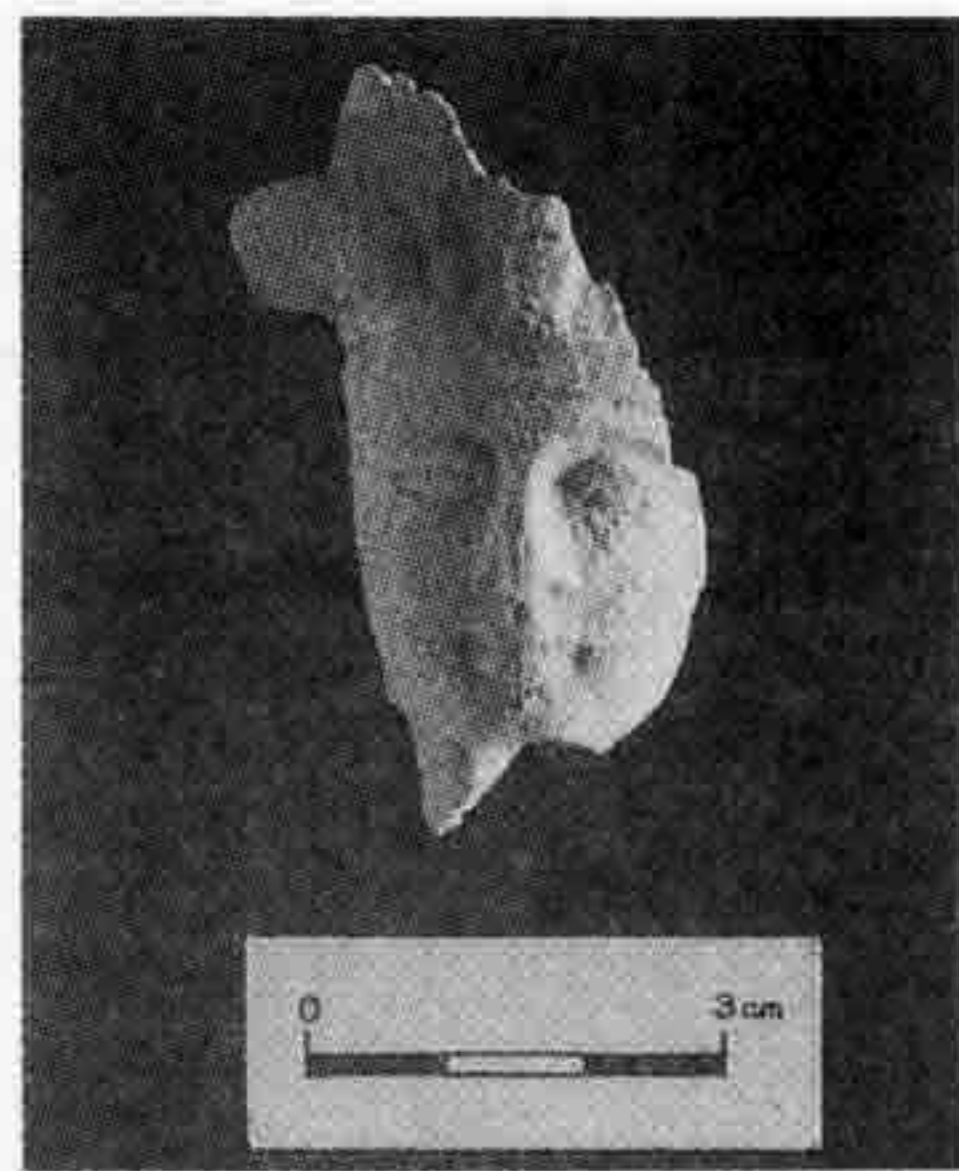
Pl.2-2 Shaft A (from above)



Pl.2-3 Reliefs from the Shaft A



Pl.3-1 Pyramidion



Pl.3-2 Head of statue



Pl.3-3 Relief



Pl.3-4 Shabti



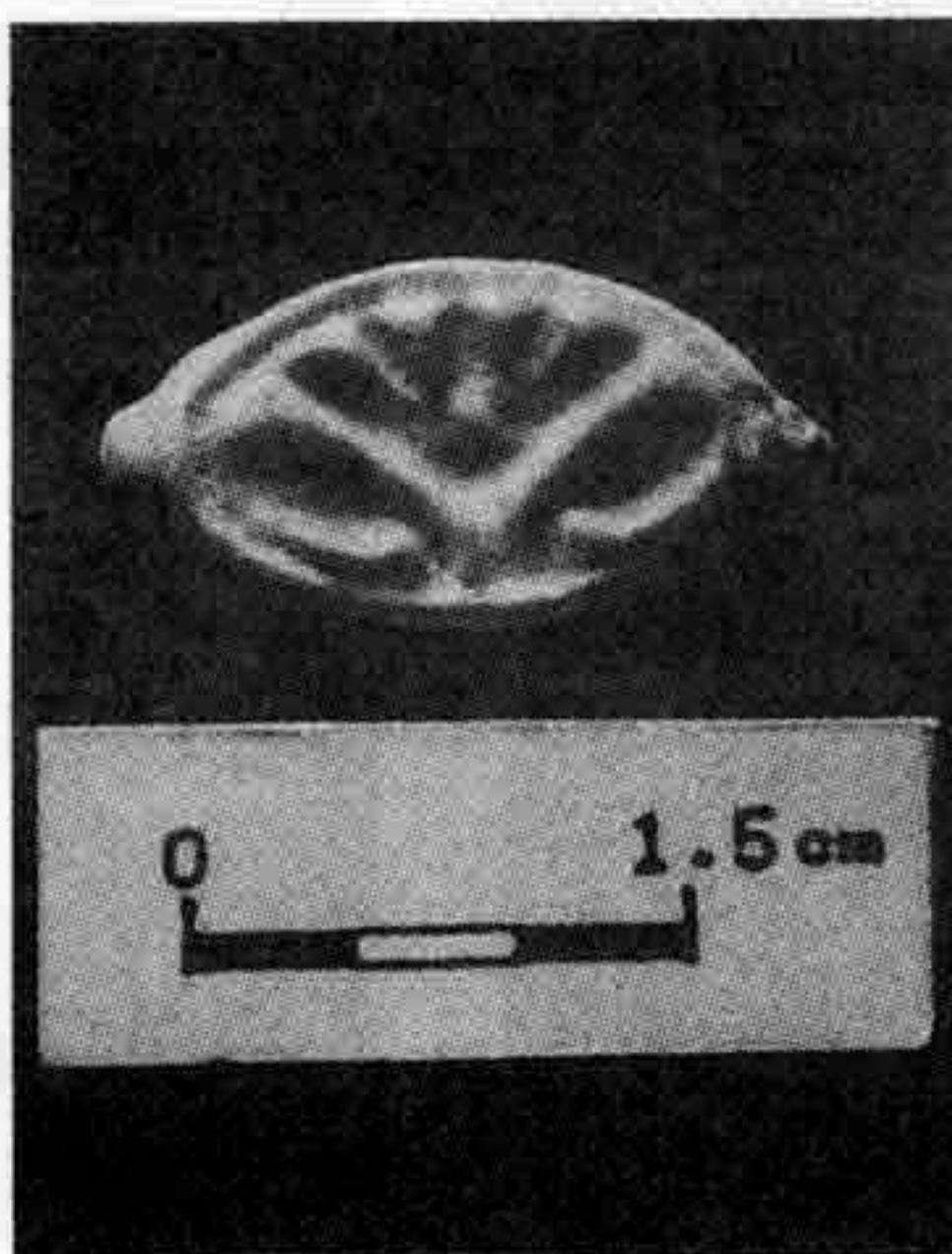
Pl.3-5 Shabti



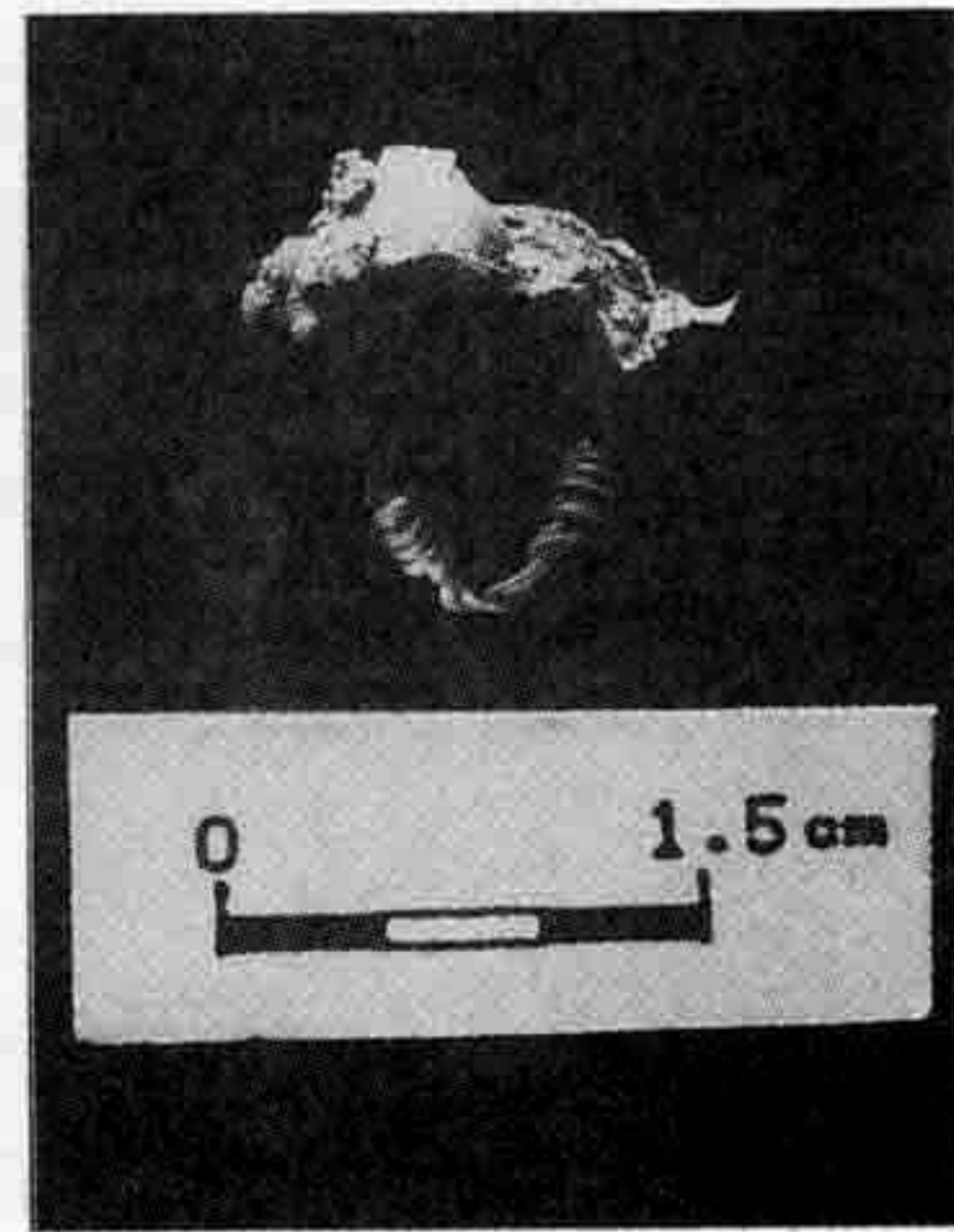
Pl.3-6 Canopic jar



Pl.3-7 Painted pottery



Pl.3-8 Ring



Pl.3-9 Ear ring

—2nd Field Season, July-September 1997—

INTRODUCTION

The Egyptian Culture Center of Waseda University and Tokai University Research & Information Center carried out the second season's excavation at the site of Dahshur North (Figs.3, 4), from July 26 to September 10, 1997. In the general survey of March 1996, the mud brick construction was found, which was supposed to be a tomb-chapel of the New Kingdom with the scale of 47m in length and it was comparable with the tomb of Horemheb at Saqqara⁽²⁰⁾ (Pl.5-1, 2).

Then we excavated this area in the 1st seson of March 1997, and inside the plan of the mud brick construction, the main shaft was found at the second court, and it was 13m below the floor level. Shaft entrance was elaborately lined with limestone blocks, and consequently, two entrance doorways to several chambers appeared at the bottom, in which the eastern one leads to the westernmost chamber located under the cult chapel room of the plan. As sand deposit accumulated thickly in the shaft and eastern chambers, we cleaned these parts in this field season and found many objects.

Total assemblage of the objects in the shaft such as relief blocks, ornaments,

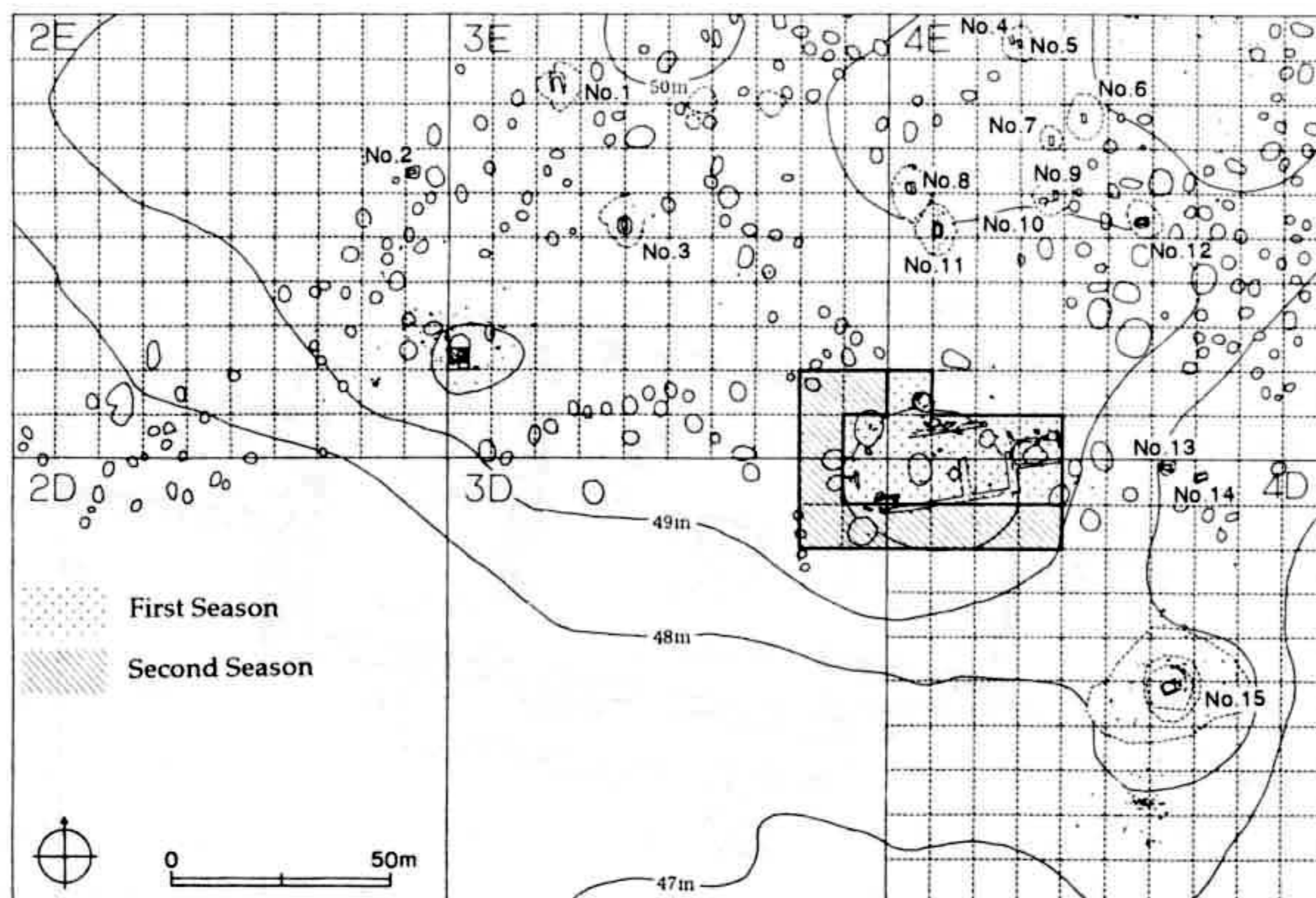


Fig.3 General plan showing sites of work

or pottery sherds suggested the period of the late 18th Dynasty or the early 19th Dynasty and in this season, we found scarabs and shabtis. Then we could suppose the period of reusing the shaft and underground chambers of the tomb-chapel.

Beside the excavation of the tomb-chapel, we enlarged the grids around it, and found several shaft tombs, in which jar sealings or sealing stamp on the plaster of the brick wall referring to the name of Akhenaten or Tutankhamen, were found. Then there is a possibility that the cemetery around the tomb-chapel was established around this period, and the result of the excavations will give us a lot of information on the Memphite topography in the New Kingdom⁽²¹⁾.

We would like to express our thanks to S.C.A.'s messieurs, in particular to his excellency, the secretary general, Dr. 'Aly Hasan. We also thank Dr. Zahi Hawass, the general director of the Giza inspectorate, Mr. Muhammad Hagra, the general director of the Saqqara inspectorate, Mr. Magdy al-Gandur and Sha'ban Ahmad, inspectors of the Saqqara inspectorate.

I: METHOD OF EXCAVATION

As for the tomb-chapel, only the foundation of brick wall remained, and the upper part was lost completely. Then the excavation of the tomb-chapel was carried out by following its general plan (Fig.4), and the main subject was to observe the method of construction of the floor and the brick wall. It will be described from the architectural point later, and here the general strata of the site are noted. The most conspicuous

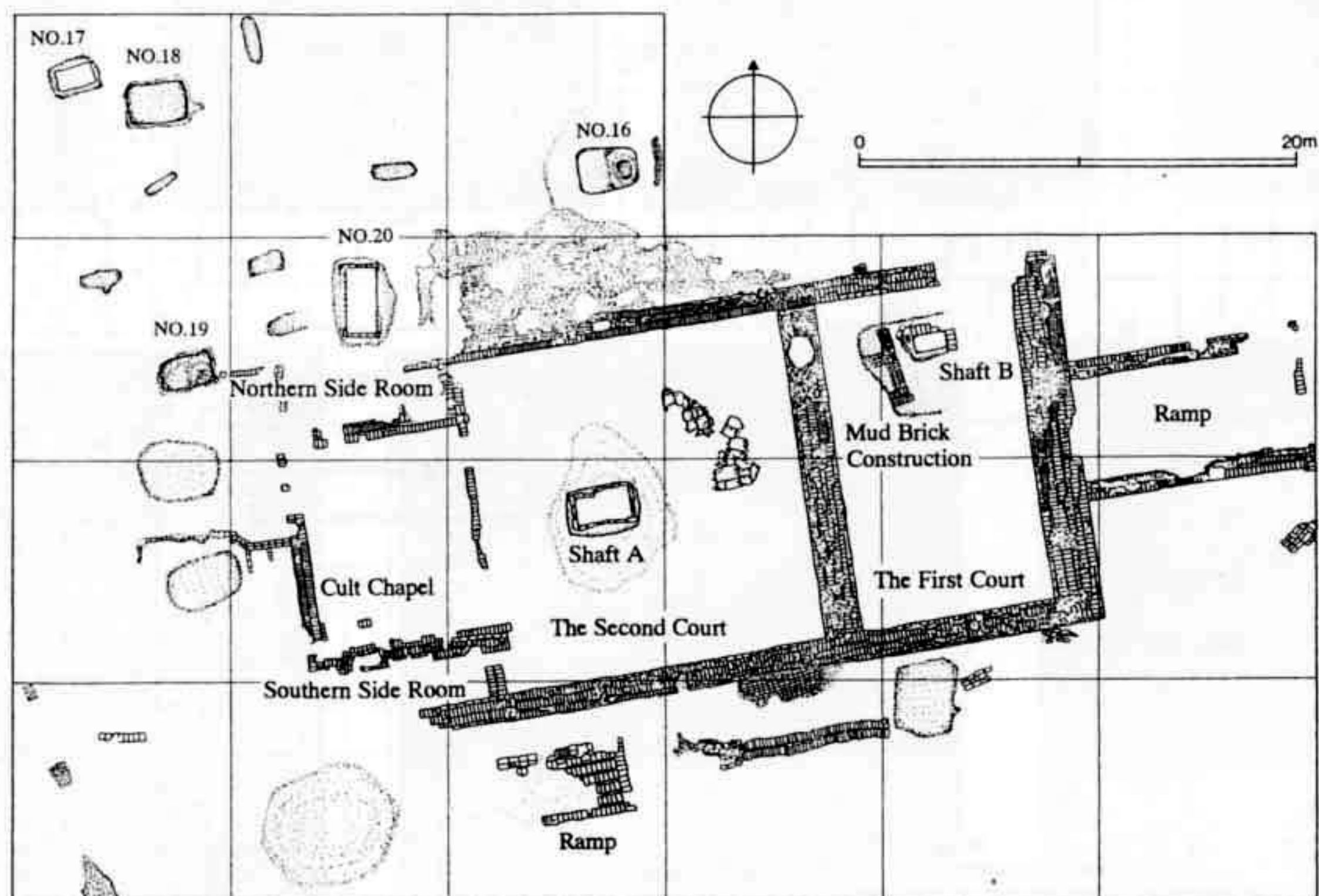


Fig.4 Plan of the tomb-chapel

example of the artificial layer was red sand composed of larger size of quartz particles and pebbles. In both courts, this red sand could be observed, and sand was also used for the under construction of the floor.

The shaft section was enabled observing the strata from the bedrock. As for the main shaft of the tomb-chapel (Shaft A), the gray limestone chips layer which was composed of soft limestone flake, accumulated thickly, and we supposed that this resulted from the digging of the limestone bedrock to make a shaft and its accumulation seemed artificial⁽²²⁾. The gravel appeared under this limestone chips layer, and it accumulated in about two meters, in which no dynastic relics were contained. Finally the bedrock came, the edge of the shaft entrance was cut, and the under ground chambers were dug in the lesser part of the bedrock.

As for the area outside the tomb-chapel, we excavated here according to the grid system. As mentioned before, the site was 700m square, and we divided this area into 100m squares, totaling 49 major grids. The central hilltop was measured 100m (NS) × 300m (EW), so that from 2E to 4E, where the tomb-chapel stands (Fig.3). Each major grid was divided into 10m grids, for a total 100 minor grids. Then the grids which we concerned this season were 3D-89, 90, 99, 100, 4D-81~84, 3E-9, 10, 19, 20.

Sand deposits accumulated only about 30cm from the surface, and removing it, limestone chips layer of the same feature as we mentioned in the part of shaft A appeared. Limestone chips layer was thick and wide in the western area (3D-89, 90, 99, 100, 3E-9, 10), including that the area behind the chapel place of the plan and in the eastern area (4D-84, 94), so that beside the ramp. This limestone chips layer also seemed to be artificial, because it covered the sand which accumulated on the gravel. Gravel came under the sand deposit in the northern area (3E-19, 20), and it seemed to descend towards the southern area⁽²³⁾.

The wall foundation of the tomb-chapel seemed to be constructed partially on the limestone chips layer, which resulted from the digging of the bedrock for the shafts around the tomb-chapel.

II: REMAINS

1: Introduction

The architectural remains were divided mostly into two categories, so that the remains belonging to the tomb-chapel and the shafts or simple burials around the tomb-chapel(Fig.4).

As for the tomb-chapel remains, we describe the under construction of the floor in

the first court mainly, and the underground chambers which were connected from the shaft in the second court. We excavated the chapel place of the plan also, but nothing was found except the sand deposit and limestone chips layer. The shafts located outside the tomb-chapel counted from the Shaft 17 to the Shaft 20 (Pl.8-1), because we have observed 15 shaft tombs on the hilltop and the Shaft 16 on the northern side of the tomb-chapel. As for the superstructure of these shafts, besides such shaft tombs, we found other pits which will become shafts in later excavations.

2: Remains belonging to tomb-chapel

1) First court

The original floor level of the first court was not certain, but the artificial red sand was used for the under layer. At the lowest level of this limestone chips accumulation, another brick wall was found. It was composed of compartments with an axis slightly different from the axis of the main building, and passed under the northern wall foundation of the first court. Then we concluded that another building in the previous period existed and new construction, the tomb-chapel of the larger size was built over it (Pl.8-3).

The small shaft (Shaft B) was found in the first court, and its entrance seemed to come from the floor level. The mud bricks coated by plaster were used for the lining of the shaft. The depth was 6.5m and from the bottom, entrance doorway appeared leading to the small room on the western side with the scale of 2.5m in length and 1.5m in height. A few objects such as the clay shabtis inscribed with black ink, were found in this shaft.

2) Second court

In the second court, we excavated three rooms inside the shaft in this season, including Room A to Room C (Fig.5, Pl.6-1). During cleaning of the bottom of the shaft, a part of the sealing blocks at the doorway to the Room A appeared⁽²⁴⁾. Sand deposit accumulated thickly in Room A and many objects such as relief blocks, shabtis, beads, and so on were found here⁽²⁵⁾ (Pl.6-2~5). Room C was like a recess attached to the southeast corner of Room A and nothing was found⁽²⁶⁾. Room B is connected with Room A, and as sand deposit did not cover it, the floor could be observed before the cleaning work. At the doorway to the Room B, a part of the sealing blocks also remained. After the excavation, many objects such as sherds of Canaanite jars, shabtis, or ornamental objects were found.

3: Remains outside the tomb-chapel

1) Shaft 17

Shaft 17 was located northwest of the tomb-chapel in the Grid 4D-83 and shaft entrance cut the gravel of 1.5m accumulation and the following limestone bedrock. The shaft depth was about 10m and the entrance doorways to the eastern side and western side were found (Fig.6). The eastern doorway was connected with Room A which was about 4m square and fragments of bones or some ornamental objects were found. At the bottom of the shaft, there were two doorways to the eastern Room A and the western Room B, where sand deposit accumulated. In the Room B, the skull and bones were scattered, and a group of faience beads were picked up around it, which were reconstructed later (Pl.7-3). In the westernmost wall, there was a small hole from where a room belonging to another shaft could be recognized.

A part of the sealing wall using the mud brick remained at the doorway, and on which the plaster with seal impression of the name "Akhenaten" was observed⁽²⁷⁾ (Pl.7-1). The jar sealings with the name "Tutankhamen" were also found in the Room B (Pl.4). Motif of the relief blocks and pottery decoration also suggested the characteristic style in this period.

2) Shaft 18

Shaft 18 was located beside Shaft 17 and it was abandoned before it was completely dug. The depth was 1.2m, and the reason of its abandonment seemed to be the existence of huge rock included inside the gravel, which was difficult to remove. The

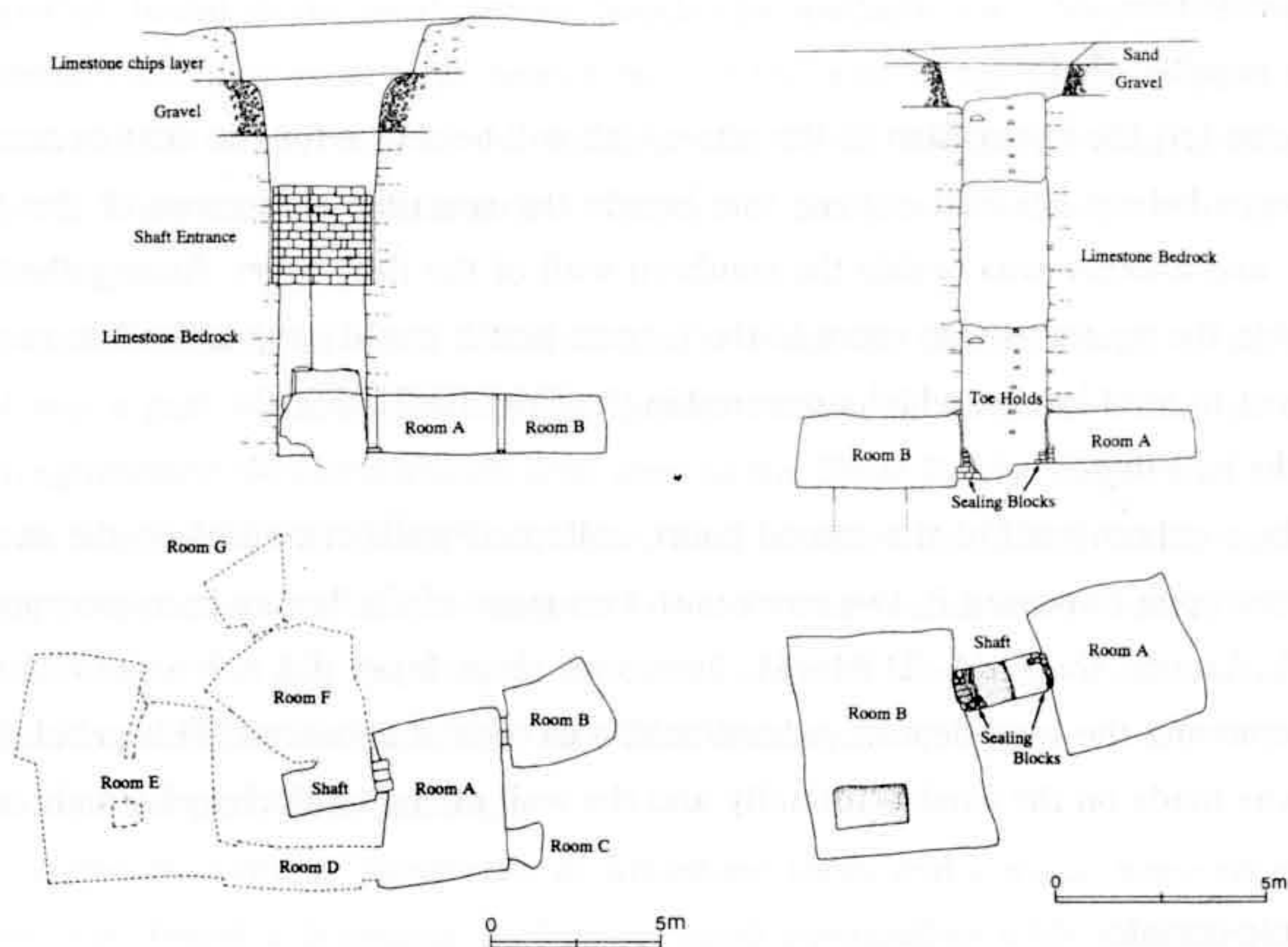


Fig.5 Plan and section of Shaft A Fig.6 Plan and section of Tomb No.17

bedrock was not cut down. Very few objects were found.

3) Shaft 19

Shaft 19 was located at the west of the chapel of the plan of the tomb-chapel, where a total of three pits were found side by side, of which the northern most one was numbered Shaft 19. The tomb was surrounded by limestone chips layer. Mud bricks and limestone blocks were used as a stopper of sand laying between limestone chips layer and gravel. The shaft entrance was cut into the gravel but before it reached the bedrock, the shaft end appeared. The depth was 2.2m and at its bottom, bones and a scattered group of red polished pottery were picked up. The tomb was plundered but we were not sure whether it was used as it was or not.

4) Shaft 20

Shaft 20 was located beside the northern side room of the tomb-chapel, and the shaft entrance with the scale of 3.1m in length and 1.6m in width appeared 2m below of the surface (Pl.8-1). It had an axis of N-S direction, which was completely different from the others, and it was lined with the mud bricks. Removing the sand deposit in the shaft, a part of limestone statue with a worshipping pose was revealed, and its owner's name was suggested by its back inscription as "P3 (shedw?)" (Pl.8-2). This season, we confirmed that the shaft was made by cutting the stable bedrock and we left the cleaning work covering the tomb by the brick-cements to protect it for the next excavation.

5) Pits, possible shafts

We also left the excavation of the pits which will be shafts for the next excavation. Two were behind the cult chapel, one beside the southern side room of the tomb-chapel, and another was beside the southern wall of the first court. Among them, the pit beside the southern side room is the biggest and it could have a shallow ramp or pavement of mud bricks, which appeared in the Grid 4D-81 (Fig.4).

6) Bricks in a line

At the southern wall of the second court, collapsed walls remained on the sand deposit, and upon removing it, two rows with two steps of the bricks in a line appeared (Pl.8-4). Around the Grid 4D-81~84, limestone chips layer did not accumulate and upon removing the sand deposit, a hard pebble pavement appeared. This pebble pavement was made on the sand artificially and the wall of the tomb-chapel stands on this layer.

7) Simple burials

Simple burials using a wooden or pottery coffin and reed mats were found at more

than ten points around the tomb-chapel though their date are unknown.

III: FINDS

1: Introduction

In this field season, we made clearance of the substructure of the tomb-chapel, consisting of three chambers at the bottom of Shaft A. During the excavation, a number of fragments of funerary objects, of various kinds and materials, were unearthed. They consist of clay, faience, glass, alabaster, basalt and so on. Most of objects, we found, were fragmentary and carbonized. Most of the precious objects must have been lost already, but we hoped to find some objects which could suggest the owner and the period of using the tomb. Judging from the motif and style of relief blocks and the characteristic form of the pottery, we presumed that the site dated to the late 18th Dynasty to the early 19th Dynasty.

From several finds, as scarabs, rings, jar sealings and seal impression, we could recognize the names of pharaohs; Akhenaten, Tutankhamen, and Ramesses II.

2: The description of selected finds

1) Relief blocks and stela

As in the case of the 1st season, the distributions of the relief blocks around the tomb-chapel were divided into two groups, so that, a relief group found in the Shaft A and another found in the sand deposit beside the southern wall. Most of them were fragmentary but they must have been a part of the wall of the upper construction in the tomb-chapel or the wall of the substructure. From Room A, relief blocks were recovered. They had the characteristic feature of the late 18th Dynasty to the early 19th Dynasty.

The most conspicuous motif of relief blocks from the southern wall of the tomb-chapel was a part of the figure with the golden necklace, but most of another blocks were fragmentary. At the northern wall near to the Shaft 20, the large relief with the name of "Pashedw" was found⁽²⁸⁾. Another kind of relief motif had votive scene and mummy preparation in the two registers, which was found from Shaft 17 (Pl.7-2). After the proportion and the style of the motif of relief blocks the shaft of the tomb-chapel, it could date presumably the late 18th Dynasty.

2) Architectural part from buildings

During the excavation, fragments of limestone torus and cornice were recovered. And we also found a fragment of faience small pyramidion with an inscription on it⁽²⁹⁾.

3) Pottery

Most of pottery sherds from the site belong Silt group. There were several fragments from plant pots and miniature vases. Silt group was composed of various kind of forms, such as plates, vases, jars and miniatures. Blue-painted pottery fragments were uncovered over the excavated area. Pottery with blue-painted decoration is very popular in the late 18th Dynasty to 19th Dynasty. Besides Silt clay pottery produced in Egypt, a group originated in the foreign country such as Canaanite jars in which wine was stored was found mostly from Room B of Shaft A. Jugs with characteristic handle with spiral decoration were imported probably from the Mycenaean area, which came also from Room A and B of Shaft A⁽³⁰⁾.

4) Canopic jars

Canopic jar sets were made of alabaster or faience. The lids were represented in the figure of Hapy, Duamtef, Imsety and Qebefsenuief, the four sons of Horus. Some of them were represented in colors for its detail. They were found in the sand deposit of the Shaft A. Besides lids, fragments of the Canopic jar body were found, in which three registers of the inscription with the name of "Mes, the overseer of the royal stable" suggest the same owner of Shabti's example⁽³¹⁾.

The alabaster vase of the complete form with a horizontal rim was found in the sand deposit outside the tomb-chapel.

5) Glass ware

Some fragments of the core glasses were found from the Room A of the Shaft A. Some had festoon decorations and iridescence⁽³²⁾.

6) Beads

A number of beads of various shapes and sizes were recorded from the site. Most of them are blue faience and glass⁽³³⁾. The most conspicuous was beads group which is found in Shaft 17. Nearly 200 pieces were collected around the skeleton, and various kinds of fruit, such as date, pomegranate, or another kind of floral design (Pl.7-3), as we could see such example in the 'Amarna period and Tutankhamen collection. Two lotus-shaped faience collar-terminals were also recovered⁽³⁴⁾.

7) Rings

Faience rings with the name of Tutankhamen, were from Room A of Shaft A(Pl.6-3).

8) Amulets

Amulets were also composed of different kinds of materials and motifs. There was an example made of carnelian, representing *Wedjet* eye.

9) Sockets and inlay pieces of artificial eyes

We found fragments of sockets and inlay pieces of artificial eyes. Most of them are fragmentary. Each part was made of glass attached probably with mortars.

10) Wooden objects

Fragments of wooden plaques were recorded.

11) Scarabs

Faience scarab on the golden frame and limestone scarab with the name of Rameses II (Pl.6-4) and the name of Tutankhamen was found on another faience scarab. There was a big granite scarab but without inscription. All of them were found in the Room A and B of Shaft A.

12) Stone statue

We found a body of limestone statue from Shaft 20. On the back of the statue, there was carved the name of "Pa[shedw]" filled with blue pigment (Pl.8-2).

A small rectangular base of statue made of the stone was from Shaft 17.

13) Shabtis

Shabtis were also composed of different kinds of material. The biggest one was made of basalt without inscription and its feet were lost. It was measured 22cm in height and 9cm in width. There remained original red color partial on it (Pl.6-5). A fragment of alabaster shabti of Mes was also found. A number of fragments of blue faience shabtis were recovered.

14) Seals

1. Mud sealing representing the so-called necropolis seal: Anubis and "Nine captives" (Pl.6-2) was recovered from Shaft A ⁽³⁵⁾.

2. Seal impressions upon doorway

Seal impressions were evidently stamped on the entrance of the plastered doorway of Shaft 17 after the burial, for ovals. The impressions are fragmentary and indistinct. It shows the cartouche of Akhenaten (Fig.7-2).

3. Jar Sealing: More than thirty fragments of jar sealings were from Shaft 17. Most of them are painted blue with the name of Tutankhamen⁽³⁶⁾(Pl.4).

15) Jar labels

Two jar labels were recovered. Jar label No.1 is from Shaft 20. Jar label No.2 is from Shaft A.

1. Jar label No.1 (JL-1): "rnpt-sp 23 irp... n ḥm-nṯr..., Year 23, wine... of priest..." This jar label shows the characteristic features of the late 18th Dynasty, judging from its paleographical point of view. We have no record, such as a high regnal year after

Year 20 of King Horemheb. We may presume that JL-1 refers to the reign of Amenophis III.

2. Jar label No.2 (JL-2): “rnpt-sp 7 irp..... r'-ms-sw-mri[-imn]....., Year 7, wine...of ... Ramesses-mry-Amen (Ramesses II)...(Fig.7-3)” It is very important to consider the date of the site that JL-2 was mentioned the early regnal year of Ramesses II on it.

16) Basin

A rectangular limestone basin was found from Room B of Shaft A. Its maximum exterior dimensions are 21.0×13.6×6.5 cm.

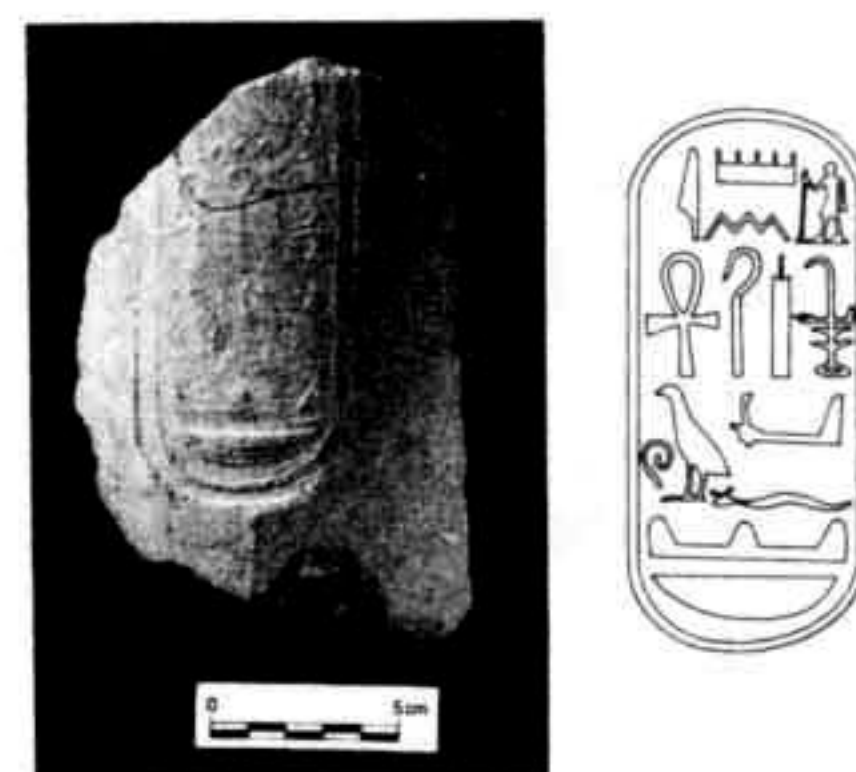
CONCLUSION

This season, we intended to clarify the owner's name of the tomb-chapel, and we could read the name “Ip3y” from the brick stamps in which the titles were written such as “Osiris, Royal Scribe Ip3y, justified,” “He who was loved by the Lord of two Lands, True Royal Scribe, Royal Butler, clean of hands, Ip3y, justified (Fig.7-1).” Then we tried to identify this person's name. We found many objects from the shaft deposit, but there was nothing to refer to this name⁽³⁷⁾. The owner's name of scarabs or finger ring were suggestible, in which the name “Tutankhamen” and “Ramesses II” were recognized. Besides them, many other owner's names could be read from the shabtis such as Mes, Amenemopet, and so on. Then we supposed the shaft of the tomb-chapel was reused in the Ramesside period.

The tomb-chapel was surrounded by several shaft tombs, as we could find more than 8 pits which could be shafts in the neighboring area in this season. The shaft can be dated to the late 18th Dynasty as we could read Tutankhamen's name from the jar sealings and Akhenaten's name from the seal impressions. Now we are going to consider the formation of the Memphite necropolis in the New Kingdom especially in the Post-'Amarna period by our excavations at Dahshur in the near future⁽³⁸⁾.



Fig.7 Stamp impressions (1, 2) and jar label (3)



Pl.4 Jar sealing

NOTES

(As for the bibliography, see the abbreviation and notes of 1st Field Season's report, pp.10-11.)

- (20) S. Yoshimura, et al., *op.cit.*, 3-24.
- (21) Few New Kingdom objects were listed in the report of the Dahshur area so far, but they were treated as a contamination without referring to the existence of the remains. G. Jéquier, "Rapport préliminaire sur les fouilles exécutées en 1924-1925 dans la partie méridionale de la nécropole Memphite," *ASAÉ*, 25(1925), 55-75. A. Fakhry, *The Monuments of Snefru at Dahshur*, Cairo 1959-61.
- (22) In the first season, grey and soft limestone chips were observed accumulating beside the Shaft A and scattering around the both side rooms. But this season, this layer were found in the wide area, and sometimes the worker called it "Tafla," but it seemed to originate to the digging of the shafts.
- (23) As we reported, we found 15 shafts as a total around the tomb-chapel. In the case of Shaft 8 or Shaft 11, which are located at just north of the second court, the gravel is observed under the slight accumulation of the sand deposit, and grey limechip layer is not existed between them. Then it seems evident that the gravel descends towards the south, especially between Shaft 16 and Shaft A of the tomb-chapel.
- (24) The three limestone blocks remained at the entrance of Room A, and it seemed to be a part of blocking. see Martin, 1989 *op.cit.*, 145-46, pl. 159.
- (25) Some reliefs were found from the sand deposit of the Room A. It must be discussed whether those reliefs originated from the superstructure or in the subterranean chambers. Room B seemed to be for storing some equipments mainly jars. G. Brunton and R. Engelbach, *Gurob*, London 1927, pls. VIII, XIX, 11.
- (26) Room C seemed to be nitch and unfinished. see Martin, 1989 *op.cit.*, 154, pls. 166-167.
- (27) The examples of the seal impressions on the blocking, see N. Reeves, *The Complete Tutankhamun*, London 1990, 92-93; N. Reeves, *Valley of the Kings*, London 1990, 34-35, 65, fig. 20; O.E. Kaper, "The Door Sealings and Object Sealings," in (ed.) J. Baines, *Stone Vessels, Pottery and Sealings from the Tomb of Tut'ankhamun*, Oxford 1993, 143-153, pls. 40-48. Although most of the seal impressions were fragmentary and unclear, the name of Akhenaten was identified from some specimens.
- (28) The inscription with the name of "(P3) shedw" was inscribed in the bigger size of 13cm in width, and it seemed to be re-used. The sculpture with the name of "P3 (shedw)" was found from the Shaft 20 located beside it.
- (29) Faience pyramidion of Kenro in the reign of Ramesses II has 28cm in height and 39cm in width. E. Hofmann, *Das Grab des Neferrenpet Gen. Kenro (TT178)*, Mainz am Rhein 1995, 84-85, Farbtafel XIV, b.
- (30) The tall neck fragment of the jug; the form effected from the Syrian prototype is dated from the Amenophis III to the 'Amarna period. *EGA*, 82, no.61. Bourriau pointed out that in the case stored in the Ashmolean, the clay is Marl version, and only the shape was influenced from the Syrian region. J. Bourriau, *Umm el-Ga'ab*, 123, no.244. "Stirrup vase" of a low and biconical body with two vertical handles and a spout are usually refered to the Mycenaean product. Its painted decoration of the wide and thin band in black or red, and the painted central notch disk is also characteristic in the period of Late Helladic III A: 2, and it is called "Amarna Decoration." *EGA*, 156, no.165. Bourriau, *op.cit.*, 124, no.246 and 135-136, no.267. R. Merrillees and J. Winter, "Bronze age trade between the Agean and Egypt - Minoan and Mycenaean pottery from Egypt in the Brooklyn Museum," in *Miscellanea Wilbouriana*, 1 (1972), 101. Applique decoration painted blue is also popular in the New Kingdom pottery group. M. Guidotti, "A proposito dei vasi con decorazione Hathorica," *Egitto e Vicino Oriente*, 1 (1978), 105-118. C.A. Hope, "Blue-painted and polychrome decorated pottery from Amarna: Preliminary corpus," *CCÉ*, 2 (1991), 40, Fig. 7a, Pl.5b.
- (31) Not only the group of the Canopic jars, small vessels which are supposed to be kinds of

Kohl pots were found. W.M.F. Petrie, *The Funeral Furniture of Egypt*, London 1937, Pl. XXX, no.687.

- (32) Twisted decoration on the rim appeared in the reign of Amenophis II. In the festoon decoration of the rim fragment, the characteristic yellow glass which is popular in the reign of Amenophis III and 'Amarna Period, is contained. B. Nolte, *Die Glasgefäße im alten Ägypten*, Berlin 1968, 47-77. Blue glass has some variations and they are classified by the chemical analysis. A.P. Kozlof, "The Malqata/ el-Amarna Blues: Favorite Colours of Kings and Gods," in (eds.) E. Goring, N. Reeves and J. Ruffle, *Chief of Seers*, London 1997, 178-192.
- (33) There is a possibility that glassy faience are included in some of the beads or inlays. Cooney referred that the decline of the glass making in the Third Intermediate Period resulted from the increasing of the glassy faience, and Nicholson also pointed out the appearance of the glassy faience in the time of the 22nd Dynasty. P.T. Nicholson, *Egyptian Faience and Glass*, Shire Egyptology Series, No.19, Princes Risborough 1993, 37. Contrarily, the possibility that the glassy faience can be observed among the objects dated from the Middle Kingdom to the New Kingdom, is suggested. C. Lilyquist, R.H. Brill, and M.T. Wypyski, "Glassy Materials," in (ed.) C. Lilyquist and R.H. Brill, *Studies in Early Egyptian Glass*, New York 1993, 5-22.
- (34) The openwork broad collar was reconstructed by kinds of beads found in Shaft 17 with faience terminal plaques in the form of Lotus flower at both sides. See *EGA*, 235, no.308, *SE*, 2, 303, Fig. 188, 321, Fig. 203. 1) Zoned lotus-petals: Central part is white and both sides are yellow and blue. C. Andrews, *Amulets of Ancient Egypt*, London 1994, pl.105, 2) Date: The surface is coloured turquoise-blue and purple-red. Andrews, *ibid.*, pl.65(a), 3) Lotus seed-vessel or pomegranate: Central part is white and lower part is yellow or white. Andrews, *ibid.*, pl.65(n), 4) Thistles or corncockles: Central part is green with check-striped decoration and lower part is turquoise-blue. Andrews, *ibid.*, pl.65(o), 5) Daisy: Center is yellow and has 28 white petals. Andrews, *ibid.*, pl.65(f). Another kind of bead is disk shape, which were popular in the 18 Dynasty down to the Rammesside period, *EGA*, 238-239, no.316.
- (35) As for the sealing motif of the small lumps of clay attached to cords or strips representing Anubis and nine captives, see Baines, *op.cit.*, 154-158. The same motif were stamped on the plastered door blockings of the Tutankhamen's burial chamber. Baines, *ibid.*, 143-146. Also, N. Reeves, *Complete*, 53, 92-95, 202-203.
- (36) Tutankhamen's jar sealings from the tomb are listed. J. Baines, *op.cit.*, 87-138.
- (37) We expect to find his another titles from kinds of objects, proceeding the cleaning work of the subterranean chambers.
- (38) Necropolis formation in the New Kingdom at Memphis area will be discussed associating with the cemeteries in the Saqqara area for the moment. At the south of Unas's causeway, the tomb-chapels dated from the end of the 18th Dynasty to the reign of Ramesses II. G.T. Martin, *The Tomb-Chapels of Paser and Ra'ia at Saqqara*, London 1985; G.T. Martin, 1989 *op.cit.*; G.T. Martin, *The Hidden Tombs of Memphis*, London 1991; S. Tawfik, *MDAIK*, 47(1991), 403-409. Another cemetery is located at the east and north of the Teti's pyramid. C.M. Firth and B. Gunn, *op.cit.*; N. Kanawati et al., *op.cit.* Besides those cemeteries on the desert, rock cut tombs were also used in the New Kingdom, and they are located at the lower part of Saqqara cliff. A.-P. Zivie, "La tombe d'un officier de la XVIIIè dynastie à Saqqarah," *RE*, 31 (1979), 135-151; A.-P. Zivie, "Tombe rupestres de la falaise du Bubasteion à Saqqarah—campagne 1980-1981," *ASAÉ*, 68(1982), 63-69; A.-P. Zivie, "Tombe rupestres de la falaise du Bubasteion à Saqqarah—IIè et IIIè campagnes (1982-1983)," *ASAÉ*, 70(1984), 219-232; ed. A.-P. Zivie, *op.cit.*; A.-P. Zivie, *Découverte à Saqqarah, Le vizir oublié*, Paris 1990.

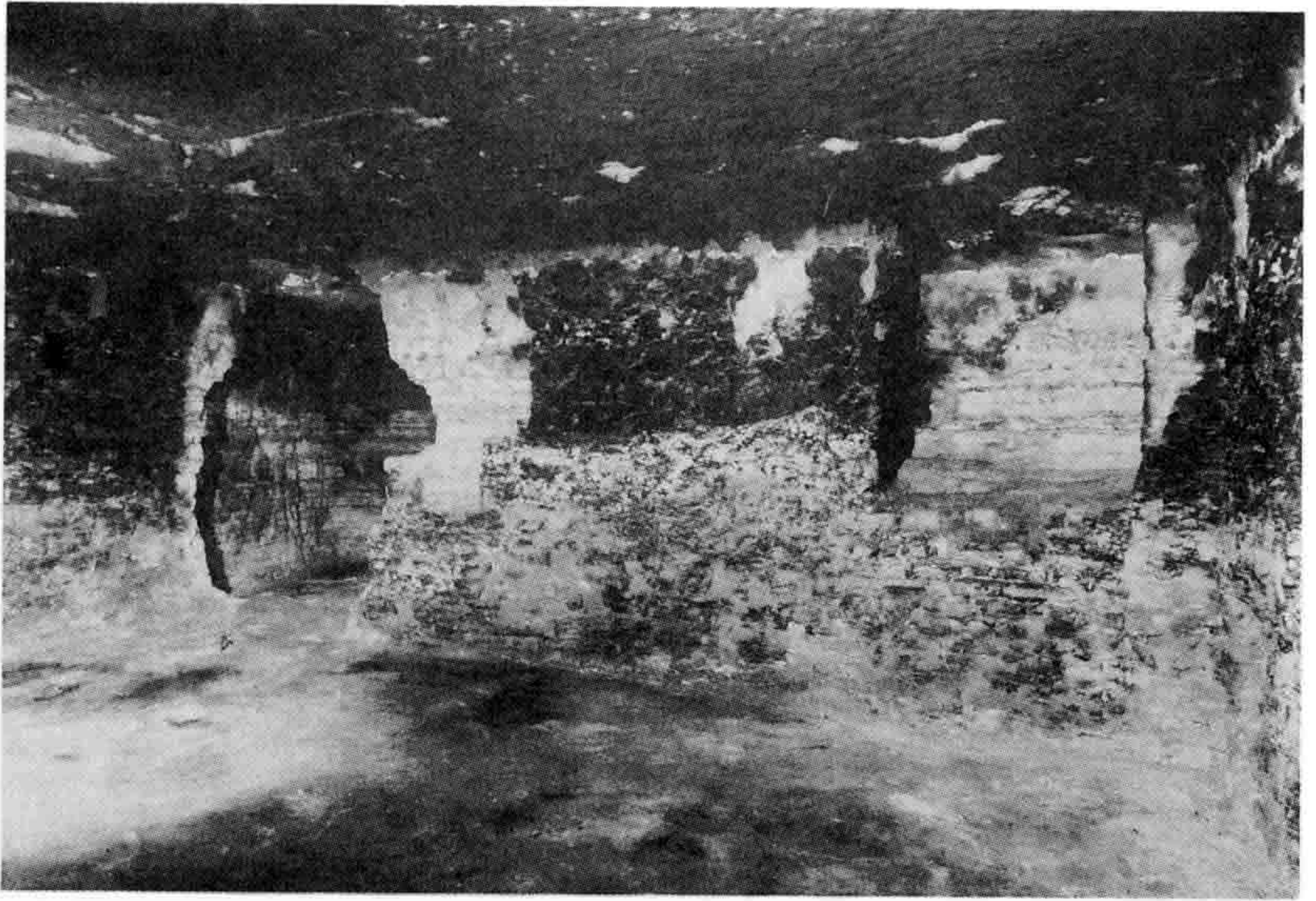
We thank Mr. Takao Kikuchi, Ph. D student of Heidelberg University, Mr. Koichiro Wada, researcher of the Egyptian Culture Center of Waseda University, Mr. Takaharu Endo, graduate student of Department of Architecture, Waseda University, providing information and helping the work.



Pl.5-1 Tomb-chapel from the southeast



Pl.5-2 Tomb-chapel from the west



Pl.6-1 Room A, B and C (Shaft A)



Pl.6-2 Mud sealing



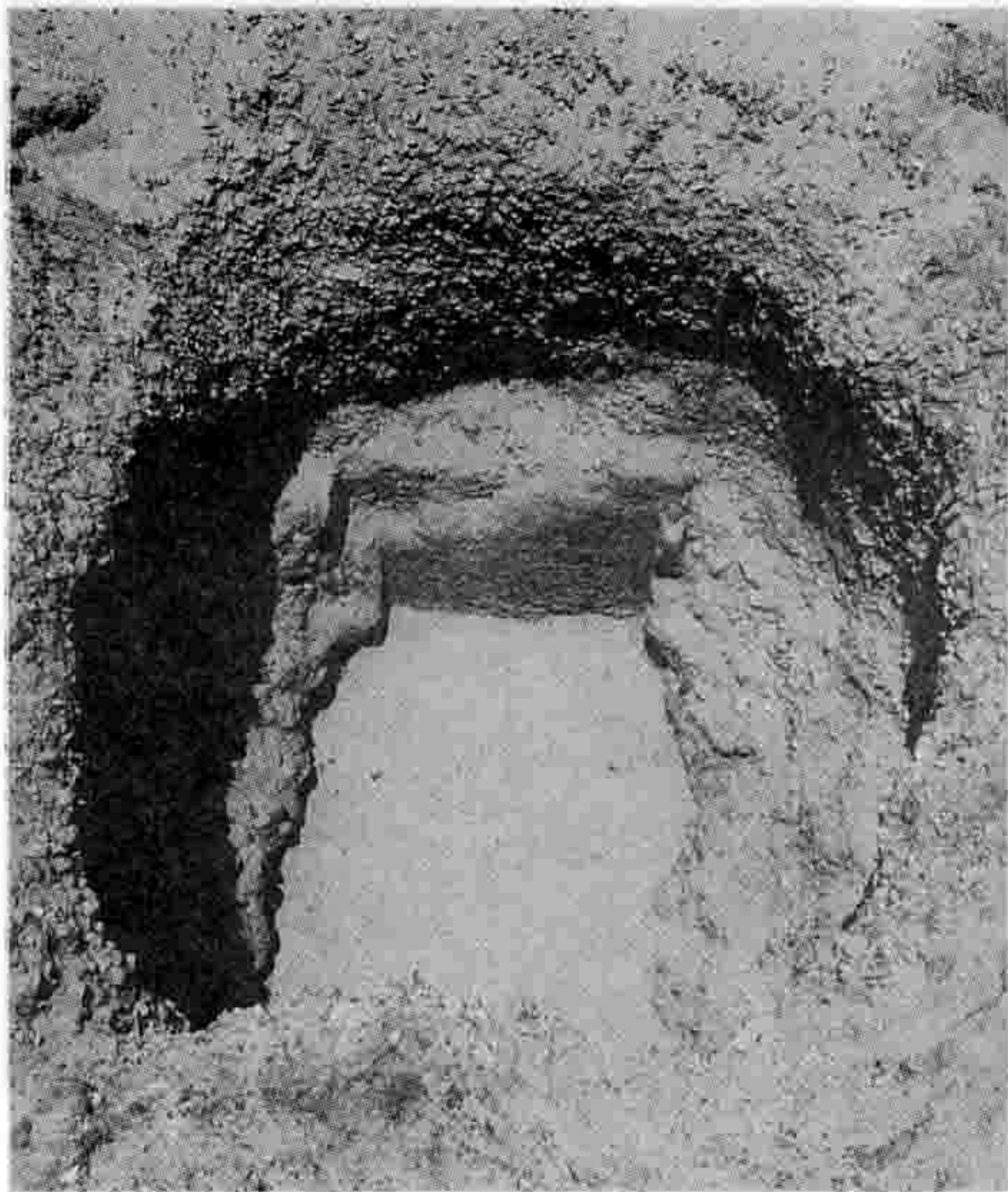
Pl.6-3 Faience ring



Pl.6-4 Scarabs



Pl.6-5 Shabtis



Pl.8-1 Shaft 20



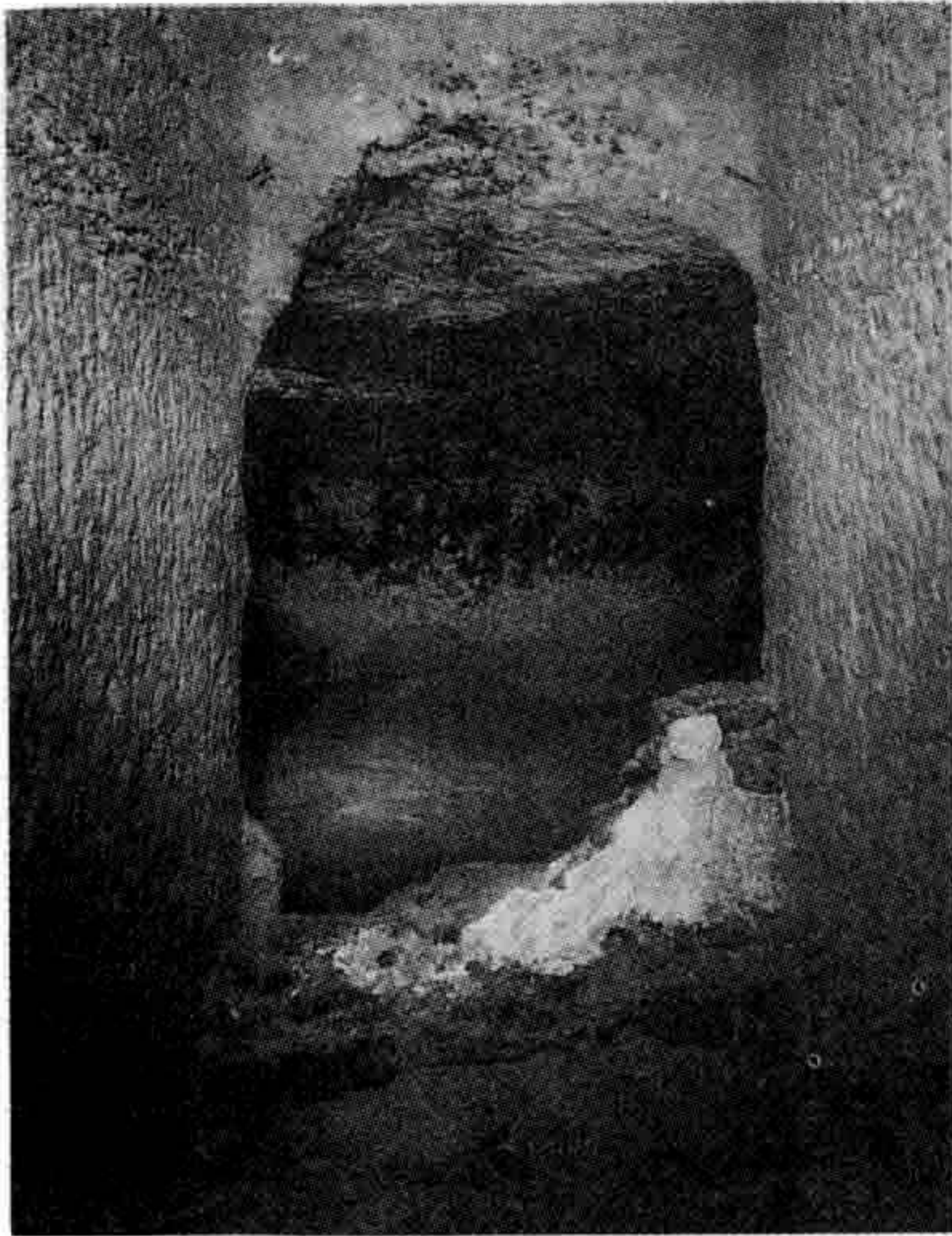
Pl.8-2 Part of the statue



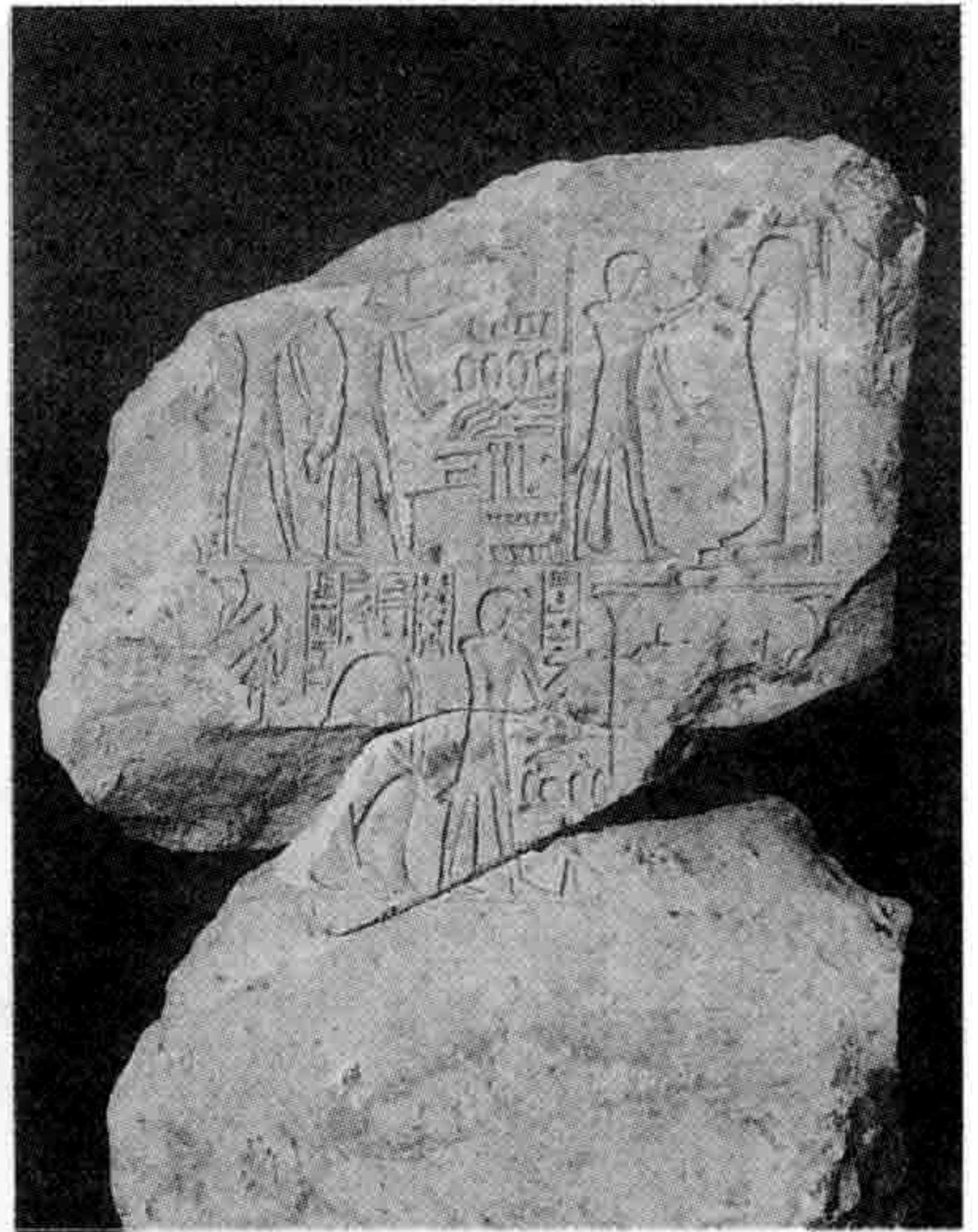
Pl.8-3 Mud brick construction in the first court



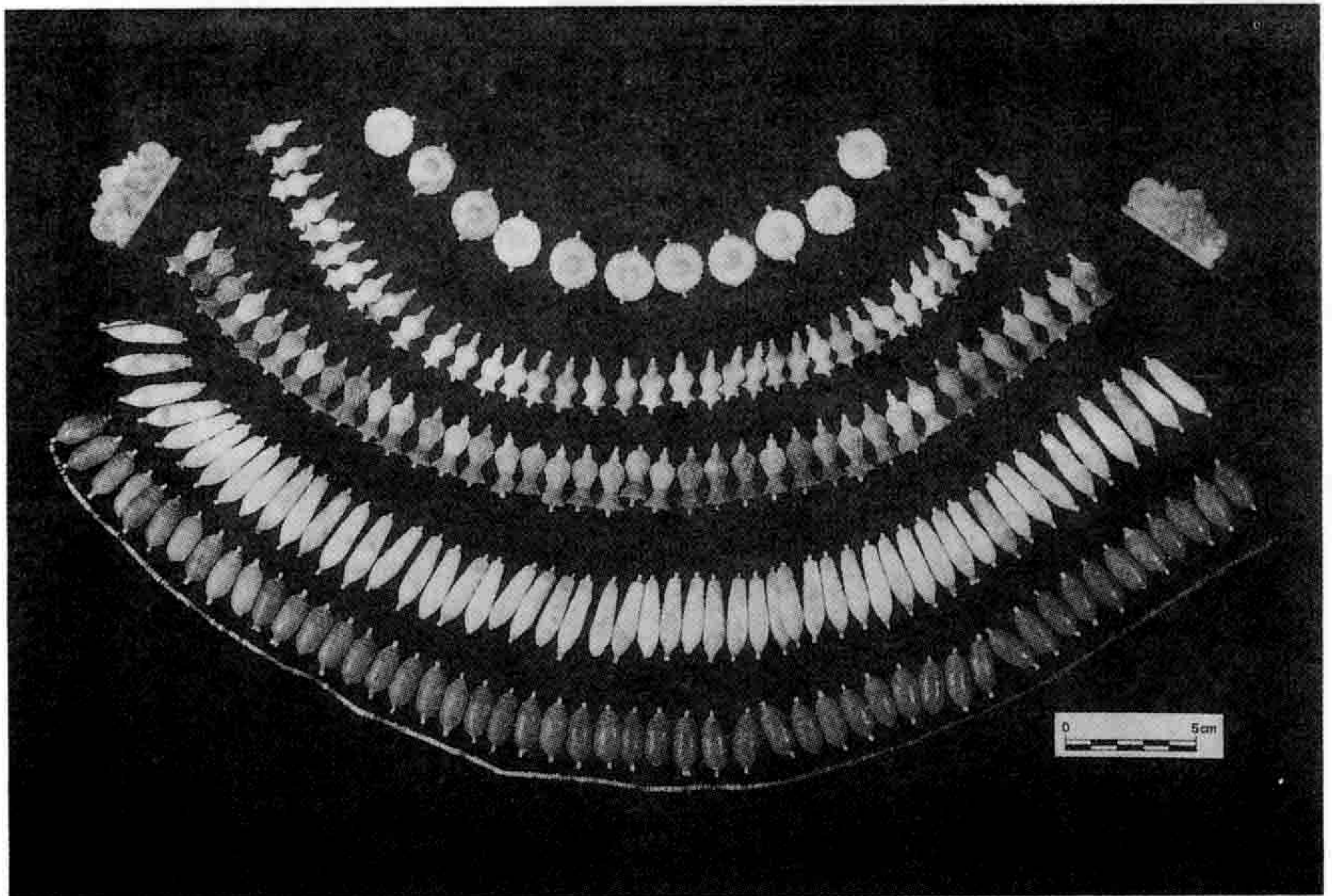
Pl.8-4 Mud bricks in a line



Pl.7-1 Entrance of the Room B (Shaft 17)



Pl.7-2 Relief



Pl.7-3 A group of beads (after reconstruction)

エジプト ダハシュール北地区発掘調査報告 ——第1次調査(1997年春期)——

吉村作治／近藤二郎／長谷川奏／中川 武／西本真一／柏木裕之／坂田俊文／恵多谷雅弘

早稲田大学と東海大学の合同研究班は、96年3月にエジプト ダハシュール北地区において遺跡の分布調査を行い、その結果、調査対象地区が王朝時代の広大な墓域によって構成されていることが明らかとなった。さらに墓域中央部で検出された日乾煉瓦遺構は、その平面プランから、新王国時代に特徴的な礼拝施設を有する墳墓(トゥーム・チャペル)であると推測された。遺構の長軸は47mを測り、類例遺構の中ではほぼ最大規模となるため、同遺構の建造者と年代の決定が急務となった。

そこで97年3月から4月にかけて、当該地区において第1次の発掘調査が行われた。調査の結果、礼拝室と推測されるプランの前面にあたる中庭部分から、竪坑(シャフト)と地下の部屋構造が検出されたため、本遺構が埋葬施設を有することが明らかとなった。

シャフトは床面より13mの深度を測る長大なもので、入口部分は石灰岩の切石で精巧に葺かれていた。地下の部屋は、東側からまわりこんで、最終的に西側礼拝室の直下に至る基本構造を有していた。これらの地下遺構は既に盗掘を受けていたが、シャフトからは多くの遺物を取り上げられたため、これら出土遺物の検討から、建造者を特定していく手がかりがえられることが期待された。

出土遺物の中で最も顕著なものは、シャフトの基底部分で集中的に取り上げられたレリーフであり、そのモチーフの様式から、第18王朝末期から第19王朝初期に位置づけられた。青色顔料を用いた彩文土器やロータスを象徴したファイアンス製指輪は当該の時期を代表する遺物であり、さらには石灰岩製の頭部像はアテフ冠を戴く人物を写実的な技法で描いており、アマルナ美術の強い影響が観察された。

ダハシュール地区から新王国時代の遺構が検出されること自体が、学史の上では初めての例となるが、年代的な位置づけではこれが第18王朝末期から第19王朝初期に絞り込まれた。さらにシャフト入口は極めて精巧に仕上げられた希少な例であるだけに、建造者は当該時期のメンフィス地区を代表する人物であることはほぼ確実であり、同人物を特定していくことが、改めて本調査の課題となった。

エジプト ダハシュール北地区発掘調査報告

——第2次調査(1997年夏期)——

吉村作治／近藤二郎／長谷川奏／中川 武／西本真一／柏木裕之／坂田俊文／恵多谷雅弘

早稲田大学と東海大学の合同研究班は、97年7月下旬から9月上旬にかけて、エジプトダハシュール北地区において第2次の発掘調査を行った。本調査の課題の一つはトゥーム・チャペルの建造者を特定していくことであり、さらにトゥーム・チャペルを取りまく墓域の構成と、墓域が成立する歴史的背景の解明がめざされた。

トゥーム・チャペルの地下遺構に関しては、第1次調査でシャフト内の発掘を完了した段階であったが、第2次調査では、東側の入口から入った3室のクリーニングを行った。レリーフ・土器やガラスなどの器類・装飾品などの出土遺物の総体は、第18王朝末期から第19王朝初期に位置づけられたが、スカラベやジャーラベルなどに記された文字資料はさらに有効であり、トゥトアंकアメンあるいはラメセス2世といった具体的な王名が読みとられたのである。またシャブティ資料からは、数名の被葬者名と称号が判明しており、さらにカノプス壺もアラバスターやファイアンスなどによる複数のセットが検出されていることから、特に地下の遺構に関しては、後者の王の時代に再利用が行われたと考えられた。日乾煉瓦の押印からは、“イバイ”の名が検出されているために、トゥーム・チャペルの建造者の特定に、大きな手がかりとなった。

一方、トゥーム・チャペルの周囲は、約1500平米にわたる掘り下げを行い、多くのシャフトが分布していることが新たに確認された。その中で、最も明確な地下構造を有するシャフトでは、極めて希少な例であるが、地下の部屋入口部分で封鎖壁の一部が検出され、ここに押された封印からアクエンアテンの名が読みとられた。また地下の部屋内部からは、トゥトアंकアメンの名を有する封泥印が多数検出されたのである。

したがって、トゥーム・チャペルを取りまく墓域は、アクエンアテンあるいはトゥトアंकアメンの在位年代周辺に成立している可能性が高くなり、本遺跡調査は、新王国時代の中でも、特に当該諸王の時代におけるメンフィス葬送地区の成立背景という、極めて重要な課題に大きく寄与するものと考えられる。