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Preliminary Report of Excavations at Dahshur North, Egypt

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—3rd Field Season, March 1998—

INTRODUCTION

The Egyptian Culture Center of Waseda University and Tokai University Research and Information Center carried out the third season's excavation at the site of Dahshur North (Fig.1), March 1-31, 1998.

We would like to express our thanks to SCA, in particular to his excellency, the secretary general, Dr. Gaballah 'Aly. We also thank Dr.Zahi Hawwas, the general director of the Giza Inspectorate, Mr.Muhammad Hagra, Mr.Magdy al-Ghandur, and Mr. 'Abd al-Hamid of the Saqqara inspectorate.

As we have reported already, a necropolis of the New Kingdom period was unearthed by our research at Dahshur North, and in the central area, the tomb-chapel was revealed (Fig.2), in which the superstructure was missing but its general plan composed of a ramp, courts, and a chapel was reconstructed (Fig.3)⁽¹⁾. Only the presumable owner's name and his title "Ip3y, the true royal scribe and the royal butler" were stamped on the brick, but nothing else remained⁽²⁾.

Then the shaft was found at the court and a great numbers of objects were uncovered by the archaeological clearance of the underground chambers. The characteristic artistic style of the Post Amarna period represented on the relief was suggestible for the dating. The New Kingdom topography was new for the Dahshur area⁽³⁾, and the period was noteworthy as Memphis recovered its political status after the Amarna period. The result of the research was expected to provide valuable information on the study of this period, which has not been obvious so far.

This season, the subject was to make a chronological outline of the site. Then, the main work was an archaeological clearance for the chambers of the tomb-

chapel to determine the sequence of the digging. We have finished the clearance of Rooms A - C already (Fig.4 - 1), and some private names on shabtis or scarabs suggested that the chambers were re-used several times, especially between a period of Tut'ankhamun in the 18 the Dyn. and of Ramesses II in the 19 the Dyn.⁽⁴⁾ We expected to proceed with the work in the western chambers Rooms D-E but the bed-rock was too weak, and we decided to excavate the northern chambers Rooms F-G this season.

In the northern part, sand debris rushing from the shaft accumulated (Shaft A-1 ; Pl.2-1), and by removing the debris, a shaft opening leading to the lower level was found in the floor (Shaft A-2 ; Pl.2-2). Some blocks had relief motifs (Pl.2-3) and simple burials were found in the debris (Pl.2-4), and Shaft A-2 formed a ramp (Pl.2-5). More blocks were picked up from Shaft A-2, and Room H appeared at 1m below the Room F floor. Thus the debris containing such blocks was predated to the burials⁽⁵⁾. We left the excavation of Room H until for the coming season.

The tomb-chapel of Ip3y is surrounded by shafts, and in the Shaft 17 two chambers and a shaft opening leading to the lower level was revealed last season. Thus we continued to excavate the debris inside it.

On the ground, we enlarged the grids at the northeastern part of the tomb-chapel (4E-12 ~ 14). Around this area, the gravel was observed, and we found the gravel sloping down from northwest to southeast.

REMAINS

1) The tomb-chapel of Ip3y

The clearance work on the ground was carried out at the north side of the large sized tomb-chapel of Ip3y located at the center of the cemetery this season. The aim of the excavation at this sector is in order to record the traces of the collapsed north wall at the second court, from which the original height could be estimated. On the ground of the north side of the tomb-chapel, approximately 20 layers of brick consisted of the header courses have been preserved. It would be roughly reconstructed to a height of ca. 4m, which seems to be almost same in the cases of Horemheb and Maya at Saqqara⁽⁶⁾.

Concerning the substructure of the tomb, clearance work at the Rooms F and G was completed. Both of the rooms are roughly dressed, and the entrance to the Room F installed at the longitudinal side of the Shaft A-1 seems to be uncommon. The above mentioned two rooms are, therefore, thought to be constructed

somewhat later, or at least not included in the preliminary whole scheme, based on the observation from the architectural point of view. The cleaning at the bottom of the Shaft A-1 led us to the discovery of Shaft A-2, which the opening is extended over the floor of Shaft A-1 and Room F. Shaft A-2 is not cut down vertically to the floors, but forming a steep slope leading to the innermost Room H (Fig.4-2). Due to the limitation of time, the clearance at the doorway of Room H could not be finished and the observation using a fiberscope TV camera was only conducted with the help of the National Television Association (NHK: Nippon Housou Kyoukai) (Pl.2 - 6). One of the most significant results in this season was the discovery of a sarcophagus in Room H, which seems to be made of granite (Pl.1).

It has been already reported that the north and south inner sides of the Shaft A-1 represent the traces of chisel marks of cutting out and that the width of the shaft had been once tried to be expanded in order to lower a certain larger object than the dimensions of the shaft. The position of newly found Shaft A-2 is supposed to correspond to the width of the hacked areas seen on the north and south sides of the Shaft A-1, and this fact seems to lead us that the Rooms F, G, H had been prepared hastily for the sarcophagus. This hypothesis will be attested in near future.

2) Other shafts

Regarding the Shaft 17, the clearance was finished and a preliminary plan and section drawings were delineated (Fig.5). Shaft 17-1 leads to the Rooms A and B, and Shaft 17-2 opened on the floor of Room B connecting to innermost Room C⁽⁷⁾. A rock-cut ledge or mastaba runs parallel to the north and east sides of the room. At each doorway of Rooms A-C, the traces of blocking by mud bricks have been observed (Pl.4-1).

Concerning Shaft 21 located to the north of the tomb-chapel of Ip3y, the stone blocks lining the mouth of the shaft have been visible (Pl.5-1). Around the shaft, the limestone chip layer has been artificially accumulated in a circle, which would suggest the construction process of the shaft and provide information on the re-use of the soil yielded from the digging.

3) A newly found building beneath the tomb-chapel of Ip3y

The identification of a predated mud brick structure newly found beneath the tomb-chapel of Ip3y last season was conducted. The structure is again comprised of the tripartite plan to the west and a rectangular court in front of them (Pl.5-2), and a shaft lined with limestone blocks could be detected at the center of this court(Pl.5

-3)⁽⁸⁾. This building is evidently determined to be another tomb-chapel at the site, though the size is half in length compared with that of Ip3y. The fact that the longitudinal axis of this small tomb-chapel is slightly deviated to the Ip3y's tomb-chapel is interesting in view of the architecture (Pl.5-4). On the date and owner of the tomb, the next season of excavation is awaited.

FINDS

The description of selected finds

1) Relief blocks (Pl.3-10, 3-11)

During the first and second field seasons, we have discovered more than three hundred fragments of relief blocks by excavation. In the third season, approximately 170 pieces of relief blocks were found in the excavated area. Most of large sized blocks came from Shaft A-1 and Shaft A-2. On the other hand, relief blocks from the northern and southern walls of the tomb-chapel were relatively small sized fragments.

From Shaft A/Room F, Room G, and Shaft A-2, jambs, and side pillars and a pilaster with the decoration of Djed pillar were recovered (Pl.3-12). Djed Pillar decoration was very popular in the Ramesside Period⁽⁹⁾. One of the limestone relief blocks has the cartouche of the throne name of King Horemheb on its surface.

2) Stelae

We reconstructed a very fine limestone rectangular stela from seventeen small fragments mainly from Shaft 17 (Pl. 4-4). The height of the stela is approximately 104 cm and the width 64 cm. At the upper register, the owner and his wife are adoring the God Osiris. And his sons, namely those who have the title of the priest of Goddess Wadjet and Hwyt, give offerings to their parents. The name of the owner of the stela is Ptahemwia and his titles are the first prophet of Goddess Neith and the overseer of the all priests of the two lands. His wife, Naita, has the title of the royal nursery⁽¹⁰⁾. The lower part of the stela has four lines of the offering text of *htp-di-nswt* formula. This stela originally belonged to Shaft 17, so Ptahemwia is one of candidates of the owner of Shaft 17. Judging from the style of figures and text, the stela has the characteristic feature of the late 18th Dynasty, probably under the reign of Amenophis III. Several fragments of round-topped limestone stelae were recovered from Shaft A/ Room F.

3) Shabtis (Pl.3-8)

We found fifty three shabtis. Most of them were recovered from Shaft A-2 and

nearby. They were composed of faience, wood, and stone. We could decipher several private names on shabtis, such as Kha', Pashedw, Hwy, Ipwnefer.

4) A lower part of stone statuette (Pl.3-9)

A lower part of stone statuette of a high official was unearthed. It has no inscription and face. Judging from the style of sculpture, it belonged to the Ramesside Period.

5) Canopic jars (Pl.3-4, 3-5, 3-6)

Fourteen faience fragments from lids and bodies of Canopic jars were found. Fragments of calcite and granite Canopic jars were also recovered. No Canopic jars and stone vessels were from Shaft 17.

6) Scarabs (Pl.3-3)

Five scarabs were found, but no royal scarabs included. There are symbolic motifs such as fish and uraeus on its under surfaces.

7) Amulets

Nine amulets of different kinds of materials and motifs were recovered. Most of them were made of stone or faience.

8) Beads, rings, and earrings (Pl.3-2)

During the third field season, we found 123 beads in total. At the northern part of the excavation area, a blue faience bead with the name of Neferuptah, who was a princess of Amenemhat III of the 12th Dynasty, was picked up on the surface. The inscription on the bead with black ink is ; *s3t -nswt nfrw-ptḥ* , "a royal daughter, Neferuptah." An ivory or stone made earring, fragments of faience rings were also recovered. A faience ring (Pl.3-1) with the name of 'Ankhesenamun, who was the queen of Tut'ankhamun, was unearthed from the debris of Shaft A/ Room F.

9) Lotus-shaped faience collar-terminal

A lotus-shaped faience collar-terminal was also recovered from the Shaft A / Room F.

10) Sockets and inlay pieces of artificial eyes

We recovered fourteen fragments of glass sockets and inlay pieces of artificial eyes. These fragments were divided among three parts; black eye, white part and frame. Apart from artificial eyes, fifty one inlay pieces were discovered from the excavations.

11) Stone palette (Pl.3-7)

A fragment of a stone palette was recovered from Room F during the 3rd field season. The inscriptions on the palette is as follows; ...-*ḥ3t ms.n mn't-nswt 'Ib.f*

imy-r pr mry-r' ..., “-hat, his mother a royal nursery, Iaibef, (father), steward, Mery-ra”⁽¹¹⁾. The name of the owner is presumably Wserhat or Amenmhat.

12) Stone Basin

Two limestone basins were recovered from Room A and Shaft A-2.

13) Pottery(Pl.4-3)

Most of pottery fragments were recovered from Shaft A and Shaft 17. We have collected 438 fragments from the site in total. Very few pottery fragments were found on the ground remains.

14) Jar-label (Pl.4-2)

We also found the same example of JL-1 which was found in the second season. The label has the inscription ; *rnpt-sp 23 irp...n. hm-ntr...*, “Year 23, wine... of priest...”

CONCLUSION

We have done three seasons of excavations at Dahshur North, and revealed a necropolis of the New Kingdom period, in which a tomb-chapel was found. The area is surrounded by monuments of the Old Kingdom or the Middle Kingdom, belonging to Snefru, Sesostri III or Kendjer, but the New Kingdom topography was new.

Thus the title of Ip3y, who was surely high official according to its large scale of the tomb, became the subject of the discussion, but nothing was gained except a brick stamp till now. The period of Tut'ankhamun was remarkable, as his name was observed on some objects, and in this season, his queen 'Ankhesenamun's faience ring was found, which has not been found in the Saqqara area so far.

As for the period when the necropolis was formed, a limestone stela of Ptahemwia was suggestible, as the scene was represented by the style before Amarna art was established. In addition, a smaller sized building was revealed beneath the court, and it is predated to Ip3y's tomb-chapel.

Another aspect concerns the stage when the tomb-chapel was re-used, and regnal years of Ramesses II was mentioned by the inscribed objects. In this season, we found a room in the northern part of the underground chambers, where a granite sarcophagus was observed inside. The side wall of Shaft A-1 seems to have been enlarged to lower this sarcophagus, which will be clarified in the next excavation.

For the present, exvations at Dahshur North will continue concentrating on the Ip3y's tomb-chapel, and it became evident that the historical background of the

necropolis formation could be dated before the Amarna period or through the period when Memphis was centralized after this historical epoch⁽¹²⁾.

Abbreviations

(Periodical)

CMM *Collegium Mediterranistarum Mediterraneus*

JEA *The Journal of Egyptian Archaeology*

MDAIK *Mitteilungen des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts abteilung Kairo*

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. S.Yoshimura, J.Kondo, S.Hasegawa, T.Nakagawa, S.Nishimoto, H.Kashiwagi, T.Sakata, M.Etaya, "Preliminary Report of Excavations at Dahshur North, Egypt-1st Field Season, March-April 1997-, -2nd Field Season, July-September 1997-," Annual Report, *CMM*, XXI (1998), 3-32.
- (2) The titles such as "Osiris, royal scribe Ip3y, justified," or "He who was loved by the lord of two lands, true royal scribe, royal butler, clean of hands, Ip3y, justified" were observed on the mud-brick stamp. *CMM*, XXI, 24.
- (3) J. Málek and D.N.E. Magee, "A Group of Coffins at Northern Saqqara," in *Bulletin de la Société d'Égyptologie de Genève*, No.9-10, (1984-85), 166-168. J. Málek, "Two problems connected with New Kingdom Tombs in the Memphite area," *JEA*, 67(1981), 156-165.
- (4) A faience scarab had the name of Tut'ankhamun and a mud necropolis seal representing Anubis and "Nine captives" were recovered. Besides such inscribed objects, pottery groups composed of Canaanite jars or Mycenaean "Stirrup vases," which was typical in this period, were reconstructed from the fragments scattered in the debris of chambers. In addition, jar sealings found in Shaft 17 had the name of Tut'ankhamun. On the contrary, faience scarab on the golden frame or limestone scarab had the name of Ramesses II, and jar label suggested the early regnal year of Ramesses II. See, *CMM*, XXI, 21-24, notes (27), (30).
- (5) Those simple burials were difficult to determine the date. As for the examples, see C.M. Firth and B. Gunn, *Excavations at Saqqara, Teti Pyramid Cemeteries*, vol.I, Cairo (1926), 66-81, N. Kanawati et. al., *Excavations at Saqqara, North West of Teti's Pyramid*, vol.I, Sydney 1984, 59-76.
- (6) In the case of Horemheb and Maya at Saqqara, the wall height of the court was ca.3.7m. G.T. Martin, *The Memphite Tomb of Horemheb, Commander-in-chief of Tut'ankhamun*, I, London 1989, 13. G.T. Martin, "The Tomb of Maya and Meryt, Preliminary Report on the Saqqara Excavations, 1987-8," *JEA*, 74(1988), 6.
- (7) The substructures of which floor leading to the innermost room of the lower level, seemed to be similar to those of Tomb-chapels at Saqqara. See, G.T. Martin, *op.cit.*, 1988 and 1989, *The Tomb-Chapels of Paser and Ra'ia at Saqqara*, London 1985. M.J. Raven, *The Tomb of Iurudef, A Memphite Official in the Reign of Ramesses II*, London 1991. S. Tawfik, "Recently excavated Ramesside Tombs at Saqqara 1 : Architecture," *MDAIK*, 47 (1991).
- (8) Inner side of the shaft was measured ca. 1.2m, which was rather smaller, when compared to the shafts distributed around the area.
- (9) J. van Dijk, *The New Kingdom Necropolis of Memphis*, Groningen 1993, 151-172.
- (10) The name of Naita is not listed in the H. Ranke, *Die Ägyptischen Personennamen*, Band I, Glückstadt 1935.
- (11) As for the name of Mery-ra, see J. van Dijk, *op.cit.*, 157, 158.
- (12) J. van Dijk, "The Development of the Memphite Necropolis in the Post Amarna Period," in A.-P. Zivie ed., *Memphis et ses nécropoles au Nouvel Empire*, Paris 1988, 42-43. A.-P. Zivie,

Découverte à Saqqara, Le Vizir oublié, Paris 1990.

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

エジプト ダハシュール北地区調査報告

——第3次発掘調査——

吉村作治／近藤二郎／長谷川奏／中川 武／西本真一／坂田俊文／恵多谷雅弘

早稲田大学古代エジプト調査室と東海大学情報技術センターの合同調査班は、カイロの南に位置するダハシュール北地区で新王国時代の大規模な墓域を検出した。該期の遺跡がこの地区で報告されるのは初めてであり、これまでピラミッドなどの記念碑的建造物だけで著名であったダハシュールの地域史を書き替える成果が期待された。

第1次調査では、調査地区の中央で神殿型の平地墓が検出され、中庭部分に設けられた豎坑（シャフト）につながる地下の埋葬施設がみつかったために、当面はこの埋葬施設内のクリーニングと、神殿型平地墓の周囲に分布するシャフトの発掘調査を行うことが、墓域全体の形成年代を推測する最も簡明な手段と考えられた。第2次調査までに得られた資料には、ツタンカーメン王に関連する遺物が多くみられたため、同王の在位年代を中心とする第18王朝末期が墓域の形成期と深く関わり、さらにラメセス2世の名を有する遺物群の存在から、地下の埋葬施設は第19王朝初期まで繰り返し利用されたと考えられた。

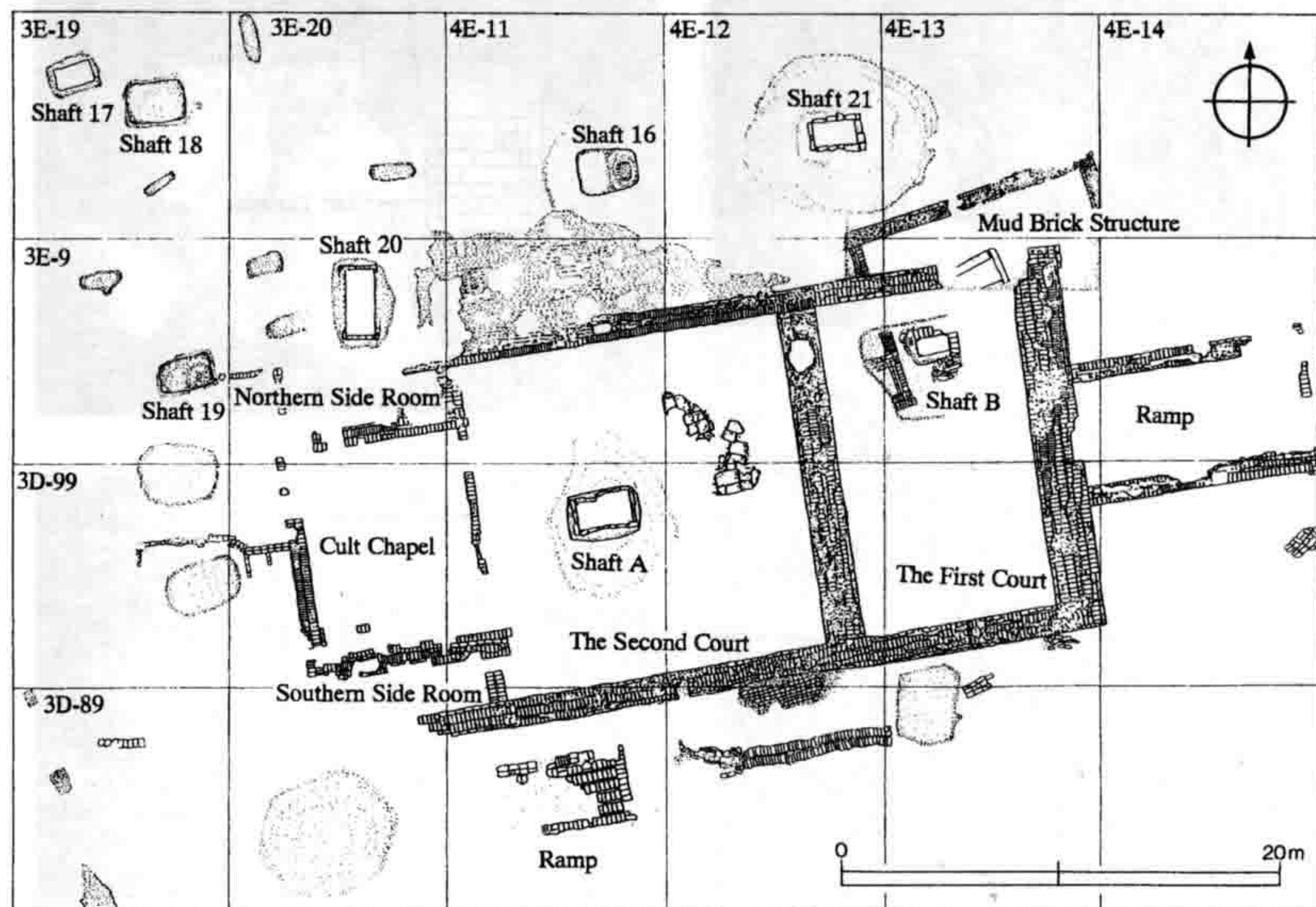
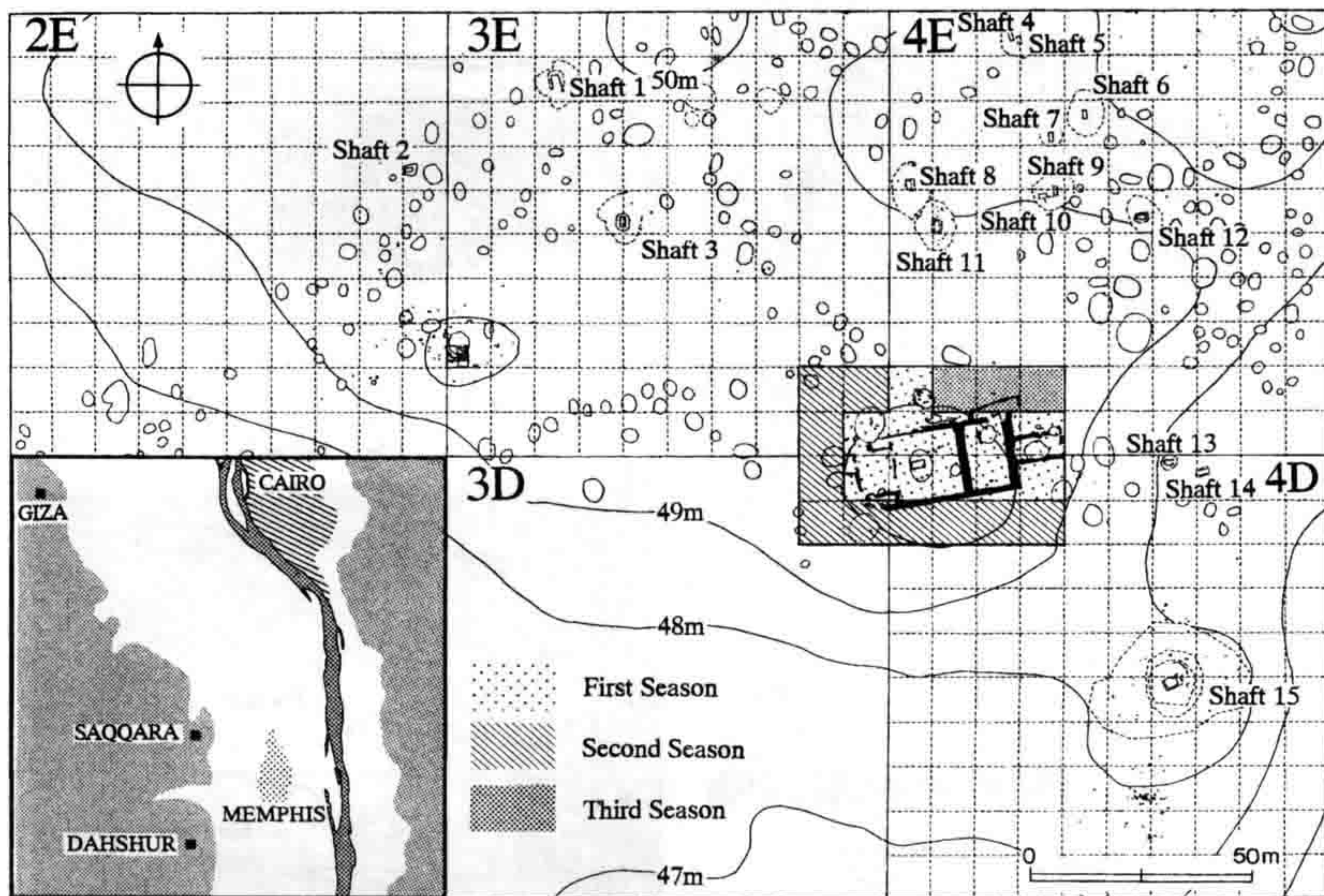
さて1998年3月に行われた第3次調査では、神殿型平地墓自体の建造年代に関しては、これまで日乾煉瓦から読み取られていた「王の書記、王の執事、イパイ」という称号以外に当該の人物像を窺わせる資料はみられなかったが、神殿型平地墓の成立時期と同墓が後世に再利用された時期に関わる重要な知見が得られた。

まず現在調査を進めている神殿型平地墓は、これに先行する時代の小振りな同型平地墓の直上に構築しているものであることが判明したために、前身の平地墓調査を通じて、特に墓域形成に関わる年代の資料が得られることは確実となった。神殿型平地墓に隣接するシャフトからは形成期に関わると推測されるステラが出土し、モチーフの美術様式から、墓域はアマルナ時代に先立って成立していた可能性が得られた。

一方、神殿型平地墓の地下の埋葬施設では、クリーニングの過程で、地下の二層目につながるシャフトと部屋が検出され、部屋内部には花崗岩製の棺が置かれていることが判明した。地上面からつながるシャフトの壁面部分には、元来構築されていた内壁を掘削し広げた痕跡がみられ、これが棺を降ろすことに由来したものであると考えられるため、ここでは埋葬施設の再利用の過程が検証されよう。

上記の成果によって、ダハシュール北地区の発掘調査は、エジプト史の中でも最も良く

知られた政治・宗教上の画期であるアマルナ時代の前後と深く関わり、さらに同時代の終焉と共に、メンフィスが政治上の地位を回復していく時代が墓域形成の歴史背景となることが明らかとなった。



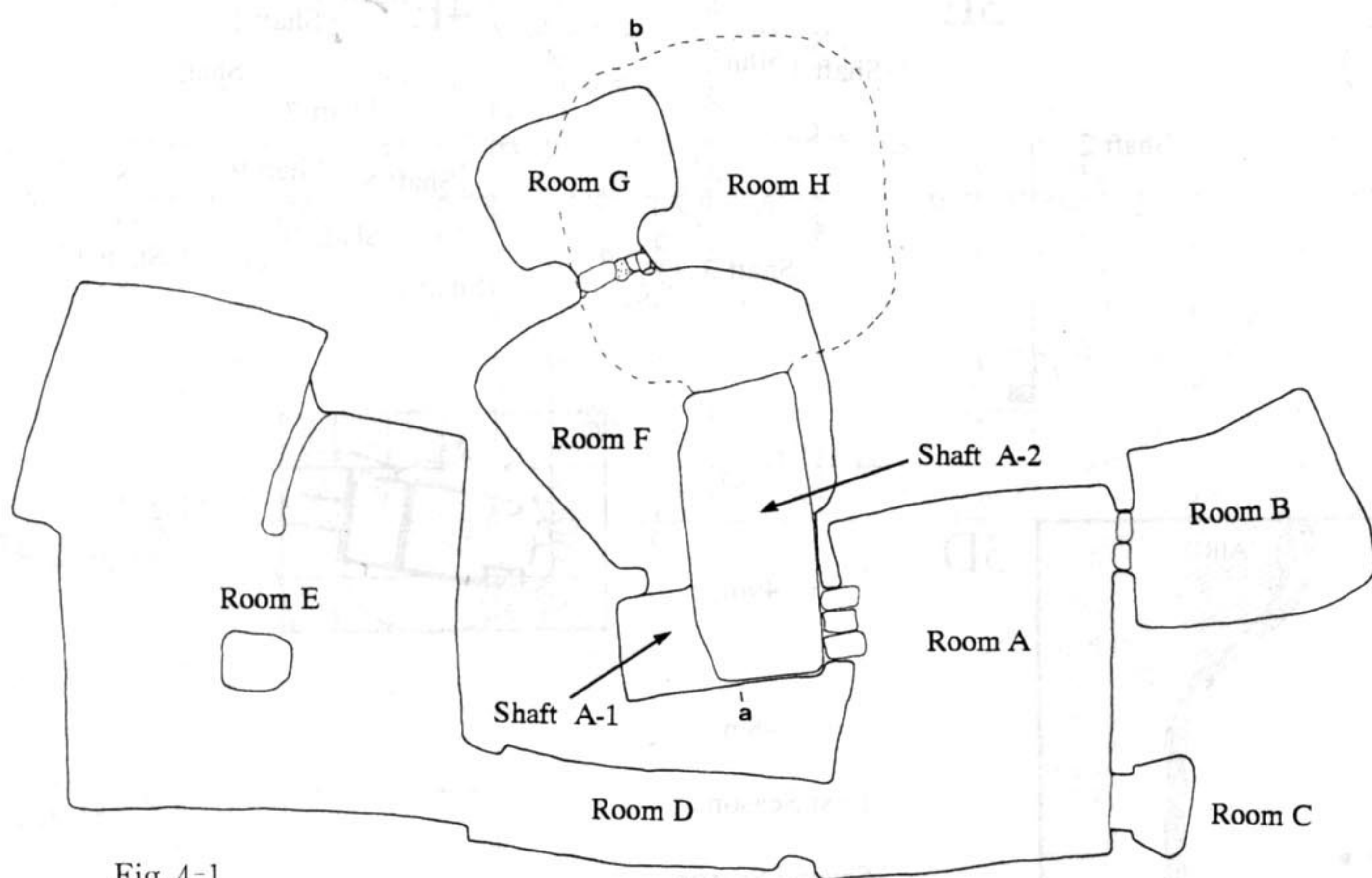
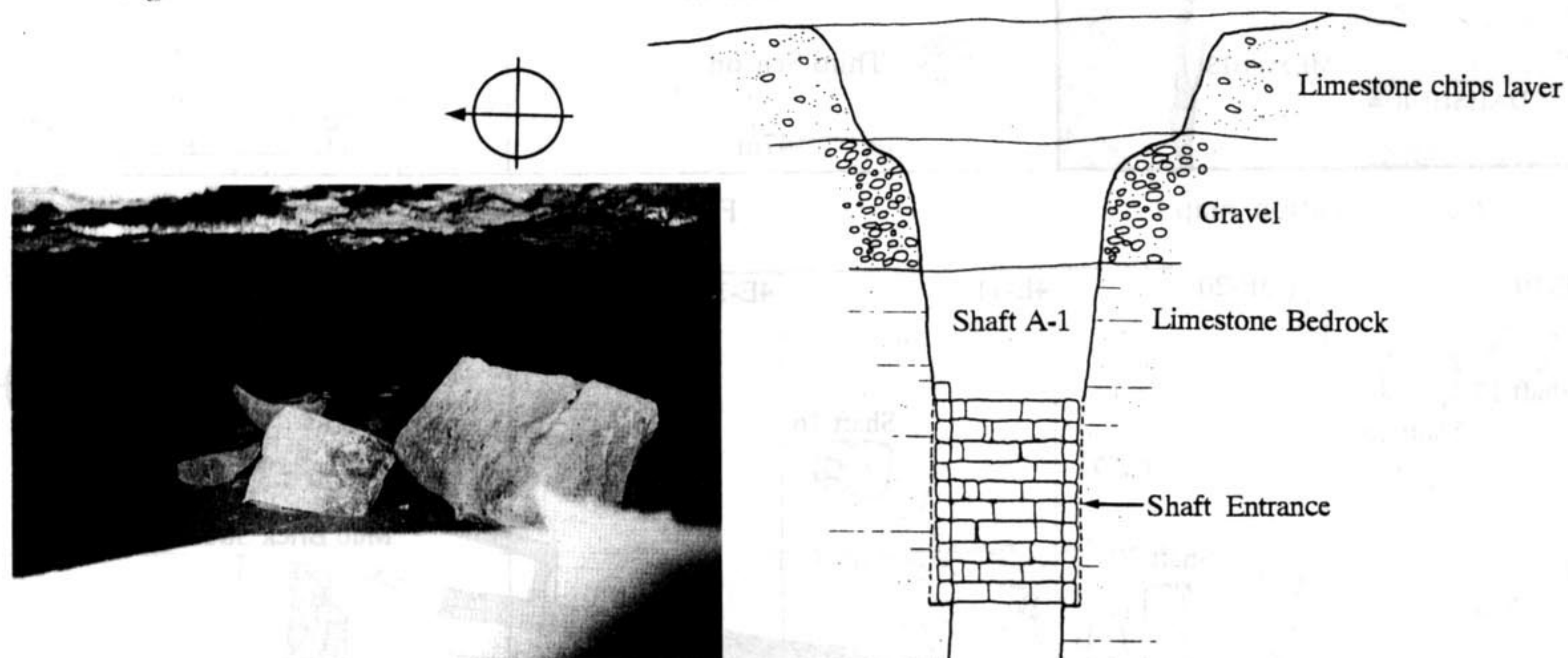


Fig. 4-1



Pl. 1 Sarcophagus found in Room H

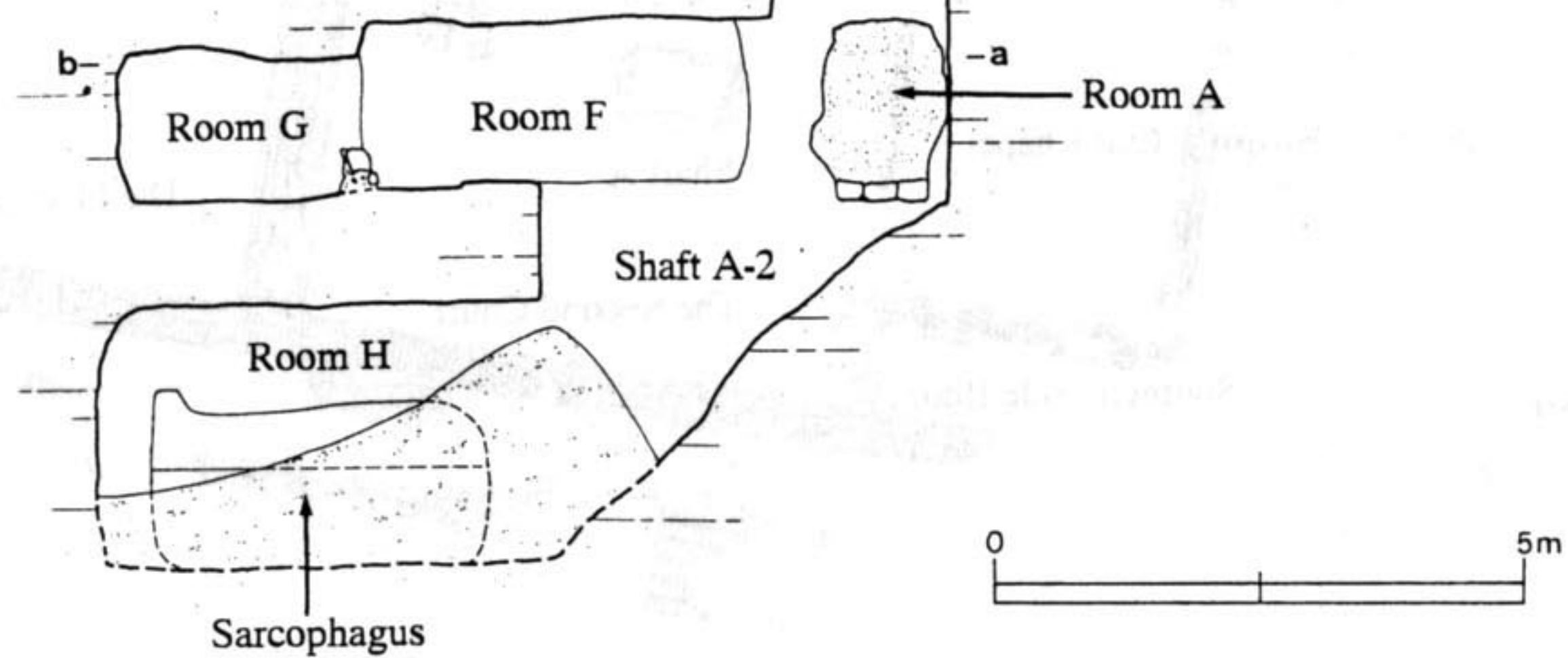
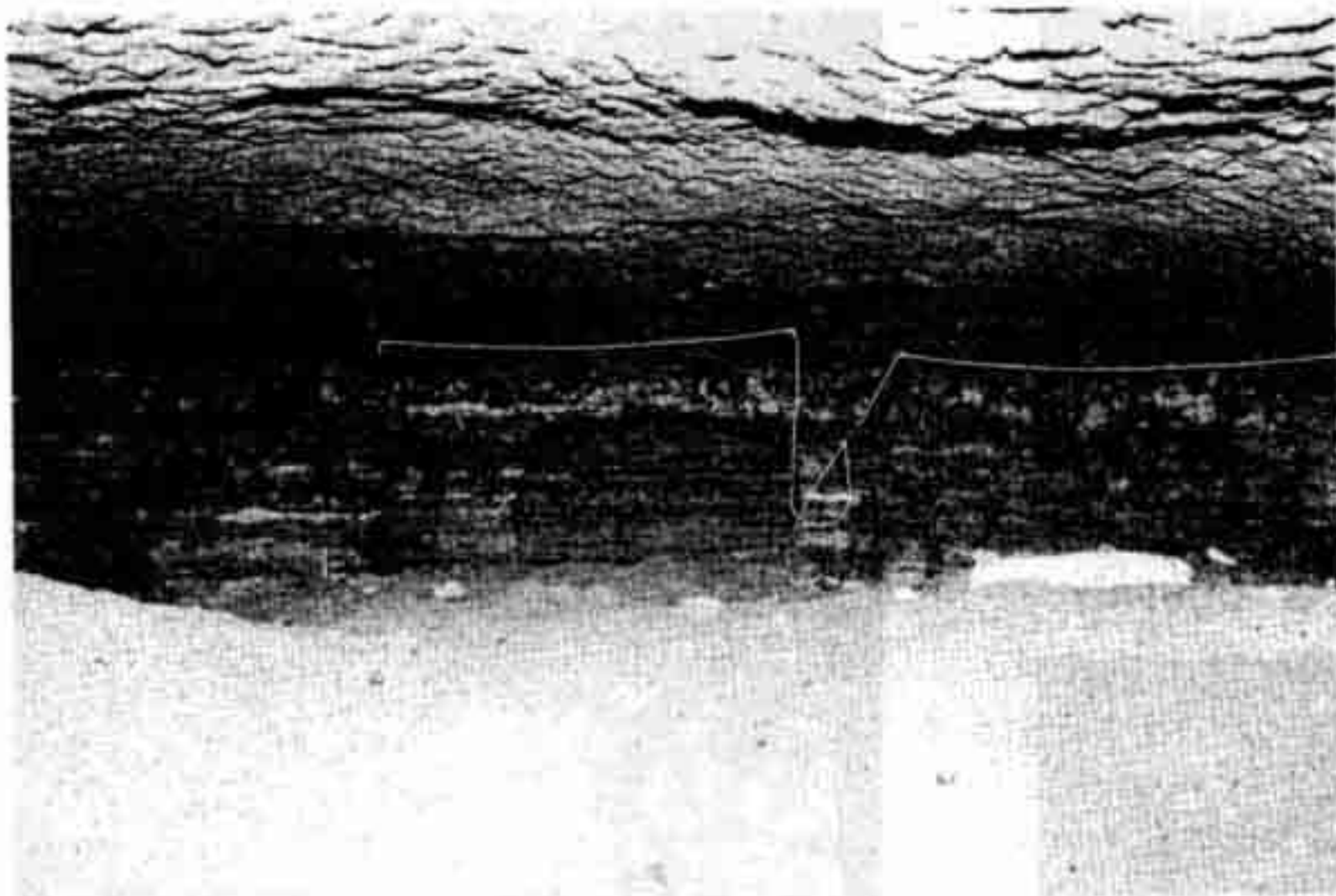


Fig. 4-2

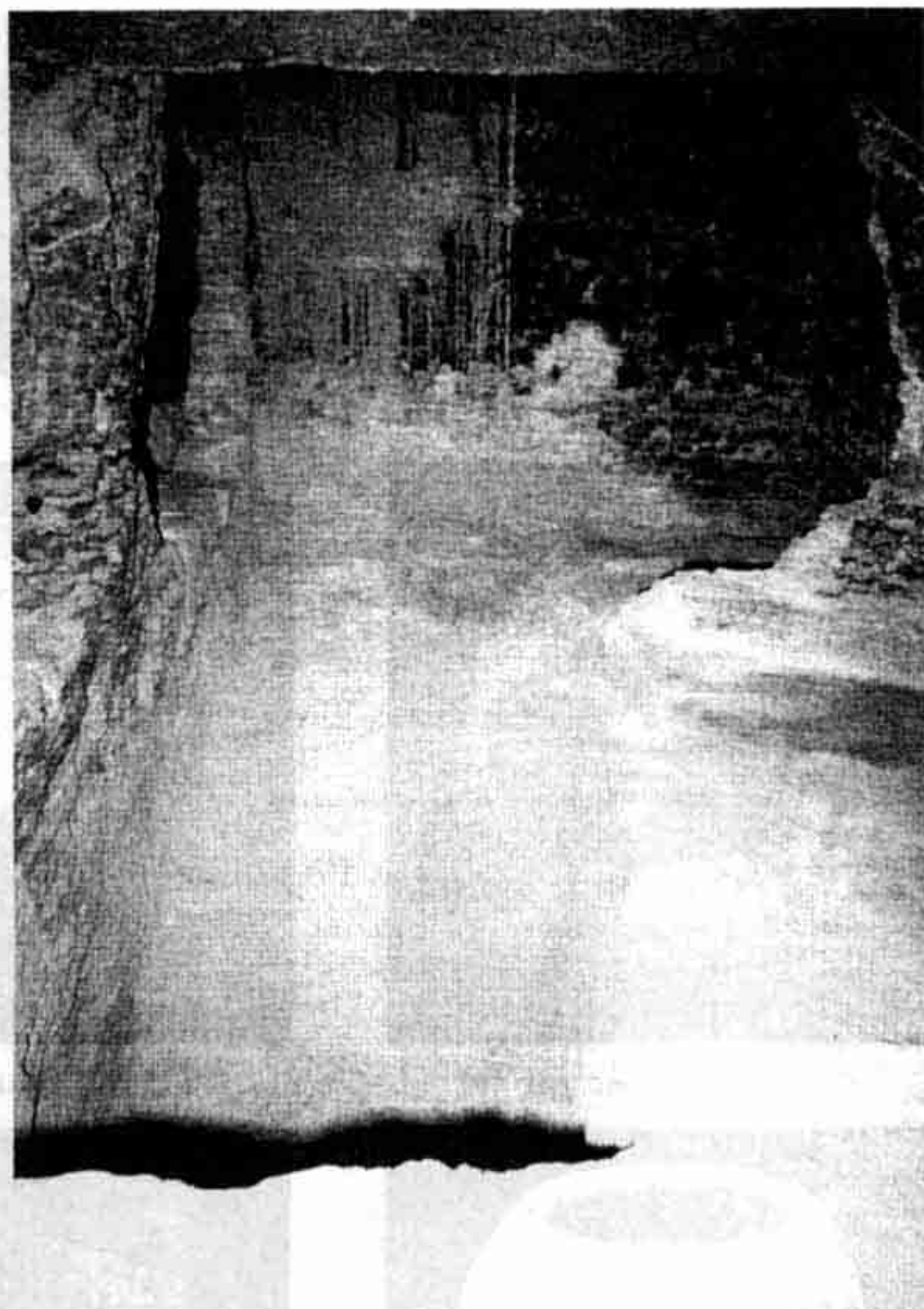
Fig. 4 Plan and section of Shaft A



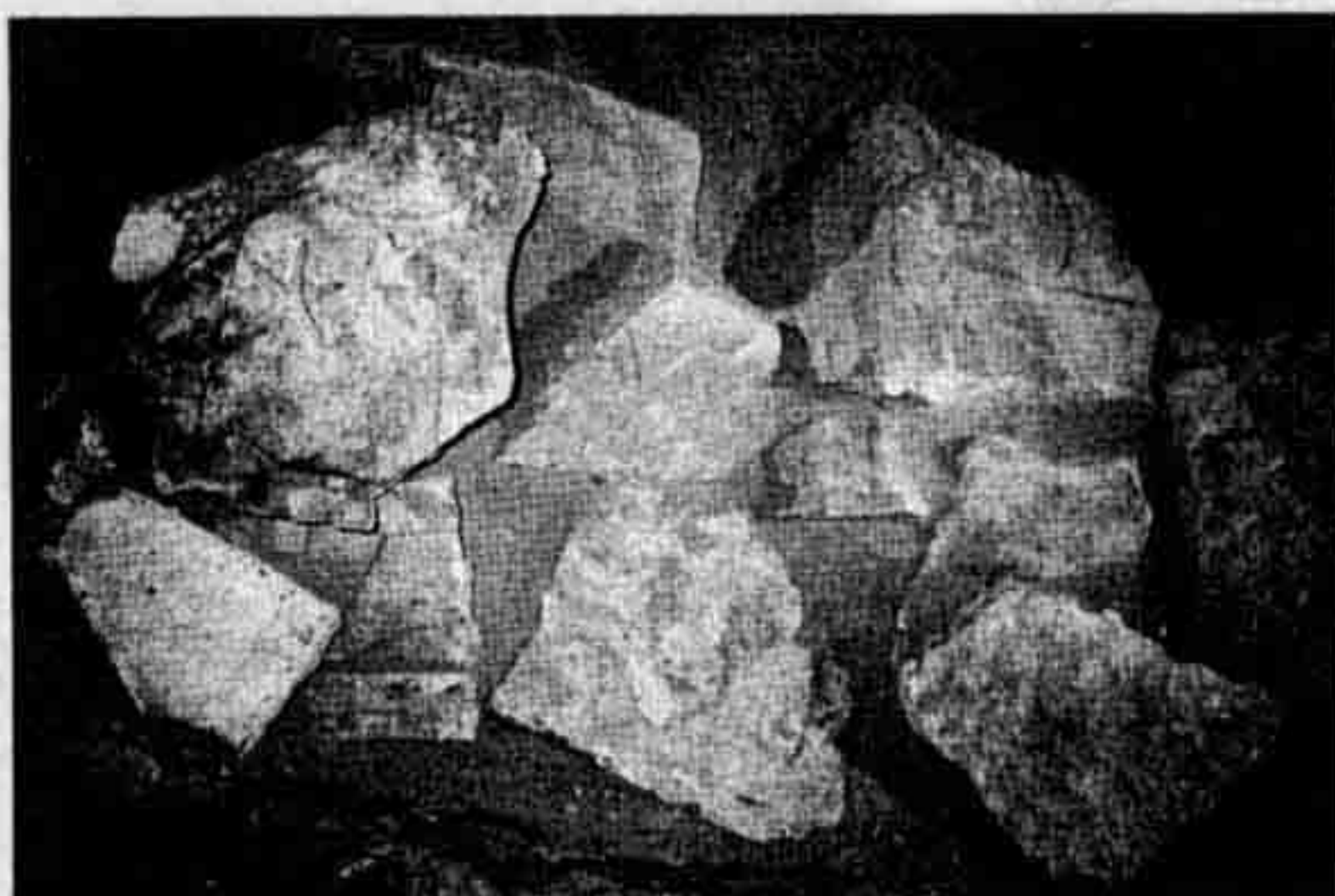
Pl. 2-1 Room F-G before excavation



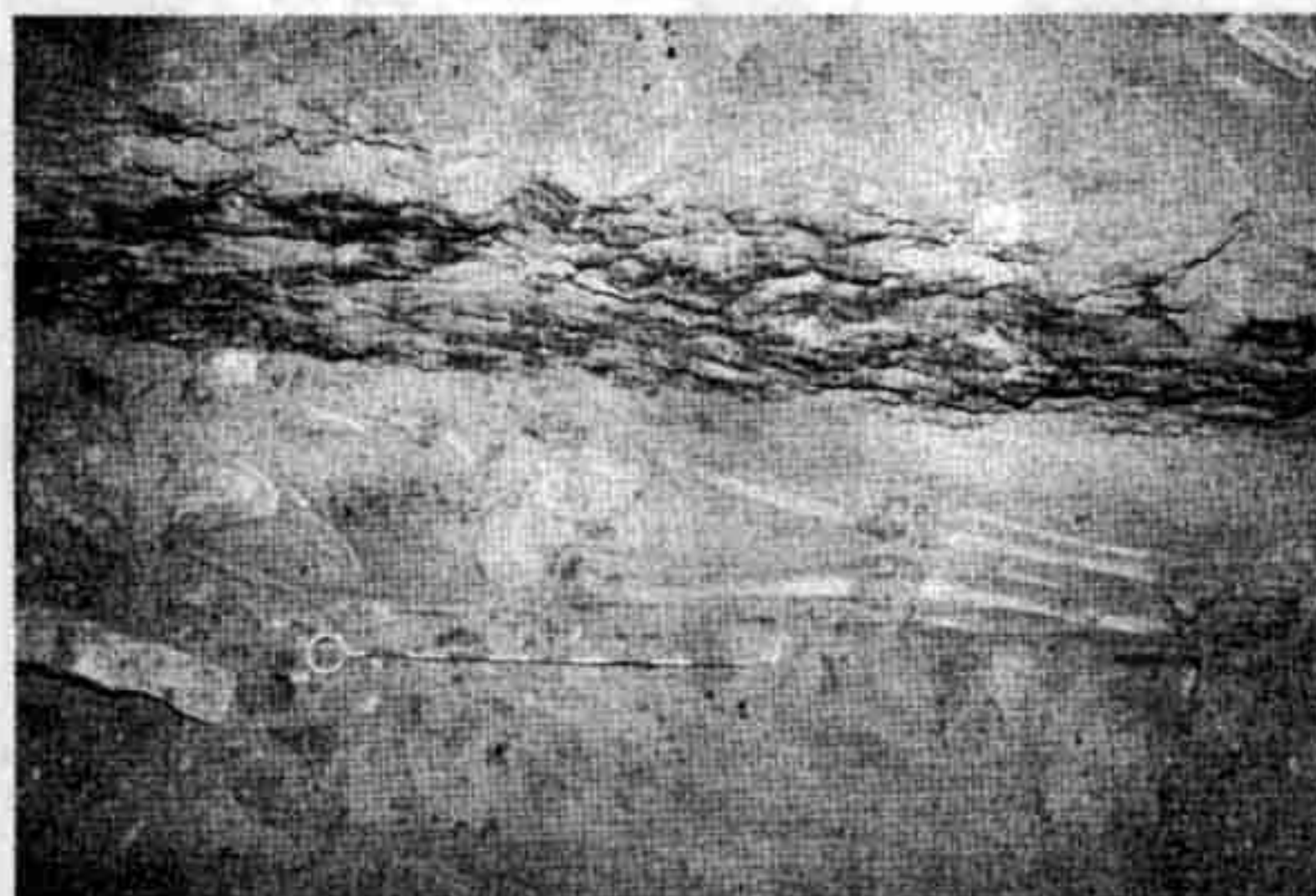
Pl. 2-2 Opening of Shaft A2



Pl. 2-5 View of Shaft A2



Pl. 2-3 Blocks (Shaft A2)



Pl. 2-4 Simple burial (Shaft A2)



Pl. 2-6 Fiberscope search



Pl. 3-1 Ring



Pl. 3-2 Ring



Pl. 3-3 Scarab



Pl. 3-4 Canopic jar lid



Pl. 3-5 Canopic jar lid



Pl. 3-10 Relief



Pl. 3-6 Canopic jar



Pl. 3-7 Palette



Pl. 3-11 Relief



Pl. 3-8 Shabti



Pl. 3-9 Statuette



Pl. 3-12 Pilaster

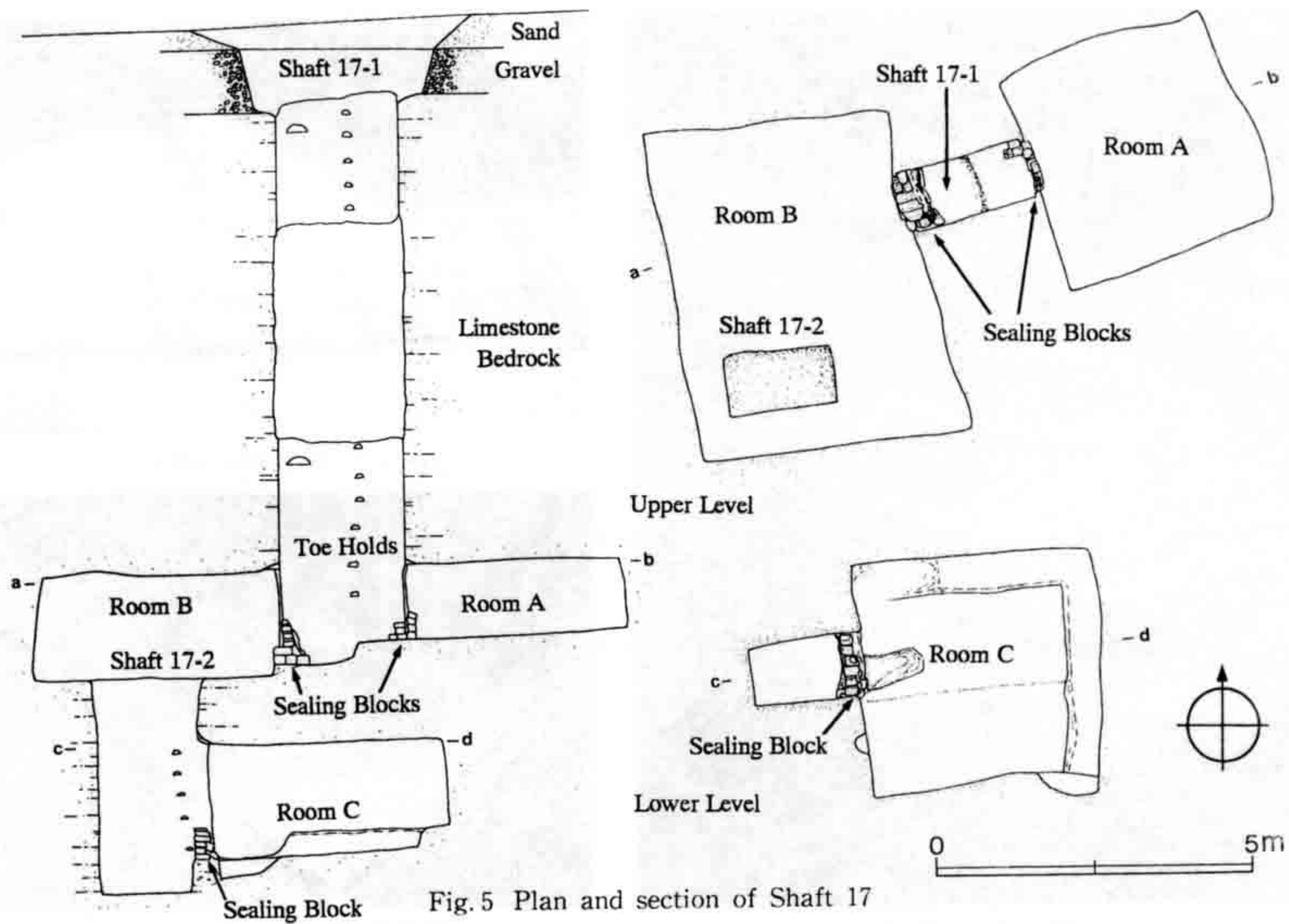


Fig. 5 Plan and section of Shaft 17



Pl. 4-1 Door blocking (Shaft 17)



Pl. 4-2 Jar-label



Pl. 4-3 Painted pottery



Pl. 4-4 Stela of Ptahemwia



Pl. 5-1 Shaft 21



Pl. 5-2 Tripartite plan



Pl. 5-3 Shaft at the court



Pl. 5-4 View of the predated tomb-chapel