

エジプト学研究

第8号 (2000 - 1)

The Journal of Egyptian Studies

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調査報告

Preliminary Report of Excavations at Dahshur North, Egypt

— 4th-6th Field Seasons, 1998 - 2000 —

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Introduction

The Egyptian Culture Center of Waseda University carried out the research in an area some two kilometers north of the Red Pyramid of Snefru at Dahshur. A number of tombs were evident and excavating an area unexpectedly revealed that a New Kingdom necropolis had also been established at Dahshur¹⁾ (Fig.1).

On the southernmost hilltop, the brick foundation belonging to one Ipay 'The Royal Butler,' which was confirmed only by the mud-brick stamp²⁾, was uncovered (Figs.2-5). The entire superstructure had been leveled to the mud-brick foundations in antiquity, but the scale of the tomb is comparable to that of Horemheb at Saqqara. Therefore, archaeological clearance of the tomb of Ipay and its vicinity was commenced.

This is a preliminary report of the 4th-6th seasons' excavations conducted from December 1998 to March 2000. Previous excavations revealed the New Kingdom construction dated from the late 18th Dyn. to the early 19th Dyn., which is the so called 'Post-Amarna period' ³⁾. A faience ring with Tutankhamen's prenomen cartouche (Fig.6) and with the cartouche of Great Royal Wife Ankhesenamen (Fig.7) and other scarabs also bearing the name of Ramesses II on their bases (Fig.9) suggested a date for the construction of the tomb and a reuse of the tomb. More clearance work at the area of the tomb of Ipay and its vicinity was expected to establish the site chronology.

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We would like to express our thanks to Dr. Aly Gaballa (the secretary general of S.C.A.), Dr. Zahi Hawass (the general director of the Giza inspectorate), Mr. Muhammad Hagrass, Mr. Magdy al-Ghandur, Mr. Sabri Farag, Mr. Khalid Muhammad, Mahrus al-Sanadidy (Saqqara Inspectorate).

Research Methods

The research subject was to establish the site chronology concerning the 1) Tomb of Ipay, and 2) Shafts distributing Ipay's tomb. Therefore, the following brief report describes both points.

1) Tomb of Ipay (Fig.2)

The tomb of Ipay has been excavated, and architectural remains of the wall foundation and subterranean chambers were revealed. Removing the debris, the total plan of Ipay's tomb comprised a ramp, courts, a cult chapel, and side rooms. Observation on the floor construction unexpectedly revealed a tomb predated to the tomb of Ipay. Then we set a trench line in E-W axis, from the easternmost ramp to the westernmost cult chapel to check the construction of the whole plan.

As for the subterranean chambers (Fig.5), clearing from Room A to Room C leading from the eastern entrance and Room F and Room G from the northern entrance has been completed. Only Room D and Room E remained untouched, as the ceiling bedrock had cracks and it was dangerous for the work. Then this part was protected and clearance works of both rooms were conducted.

Last season, innermost Room H was found after the clearance of Room F. The Room H entrance appeared 1 m below of Room F floor, and a granite sarcophagus was observed inside the room⁴⁾ (Fig.10). Shaft A-1 seemed to have been once enlarged to lower the sarcophagus and a ramp (Shaft A-2) was formed. The sarcophagus was important as it suggested the date of its burial and the reuse of the subterranean chambers.

2) Shafts (Fig.2)

The tomb of Ipay was surrounded by shafts, and 5 shafts from Shaft 16 to Shaft 20 have been excavated so far (Shaft 20 was completed in this season). Among them, Shafts 16, 18, 19 were unfinished. Only Shaft 17 had 10 m in depth, and objects comparable to the assemblage of Tutankhamen's tomb such as a series of faience beads collar, long-necked 'Syrian' jar, and jar sealing bearing the name of Tutankhamen (Fig.8) suggested the dating of the tomb around his regnal years⁵⁾. Then the area was enlarged mostly in the northern and western direction

of the tomb of Ipay, and 11 shafts from Shaft 20 to 30 were excavated in these seasons (Pl.20).

Remains

1) Tomb of Ipay

1: Superstructure

The building order was observed by trenches in the E-W axis of the tomb.

Ramp: No floor construction remained. The gravel appeared 30 cm below the surface. Side walls of the ramp and a wall for probable pylon was piled on the sand debris, not from the gravel (Pl.19).

1st Court: Sandy gravel for a floor construction remained partially, sand debris accumulated in most parts. Here brick foundation belonging to a tomb with Shaft 22, predated to Ipay's tomb, was revealed.

2nd Court: Bedrock chips around the Shaft A may result from digging of subterranean chambers. Sandy gravel was also used as a floor construction.

Cult Chapel: Bedrock chips resulting from digging of Ipay's Shaft A, Shafts 24 and 25 remained at both E-W ends. Cult chapel wall piled on the sand debris covering the bedrock chips suggested the later construction of this wall.

Side Rooms: Ipay's outer wall was constructed on the bedrock chips of Shaft 23, which probably suggests a bit later construction of Ipay's superstructure at those points. Lower part of both side rooms seemed to be piled in an earlier stage.

Outside of the northern wall of the 2nd court: Here the collapsed wall and a line of bricks was found 3 m outside Ipay's tomb.

2: Subterranean chambers

Room D: The ceiling was protected by wooden poles. Sand debris accumulated in Room D. Few objects were found except many carbonate pieces.

Room E: Here the ceiling was also protected. Then the falling blocks were removed. Burial equipment seemed to have been burnt south and west of the room, as carbonate traces were found. A square pillar remained around the center, and N-W corner seemed to have been once enlarged, as sharp drop was formed in floor level. About 60 pieces of limestone slabs were found.

Room H (Fig.10): Room H is located at the innermost part of the tomb. Ramp (Shaft A-2) lead to Room H and granite sarcophagus was unearthed inside the room (Pl.2). The door blocking remained, its upper part was broken, and the room was disturbed from this space.

Fragmental pieces of wooden shabtis coated with bitumen at N-S corner and some large pieces of limestone Canopic jars at N-E corner seemed to suggest the original place.

The granite sarcophagus was composed of a lid and trough, and when the lid was lifted, it was found that the sarcophagus had been disturbed and much sand was inside, covering fragments of the wooden coffin including parts of a mummy-board. Pieces of human bones were inside and around the sarcophagus⁶⁾.

2) Shafts (Fig.2)

The tomb of Ipay was surrounded by tombs, in most of which the superstructure did not remain. These seasons, we expanded grids to 1: Eastern and Southern area, 2: Eastern and Northern area, and 3: Southern and Western area of the tomb of Ipay.

1: Eastern and Southern area (4D93-94, 4D81-84)

Removing the sand debris, bedrock chips layer appeared. The gravel was 1.0-1.5 m lower than the northern area, which was probably original.

Shaft 26: This shaft was unearthed under the collapsed wall of Ipay's tomb. The shaft (2.1 m × 1.1m, N-S axis) was unfinished (d: 2.1 m).

2: Eastern and Northern area (4E4, 4E12-14)

Shaft 21: The shaft is located at the north of Shaft 22 mentioned above. The shaft (1.9 m × 1.0 m, E-W axis) was lined with limestone blocks. Removing the debris, Room A (3.4 m × 2.8 m, h: 1.5 m) was found (d: 8.8 m). An unfinished work was indicated by the ledge on the floor at the south and parts of a wooden coffin were found.

Shaft 22: The foundation of the superstructure remained, having a tripartite plan at the rear. The shaft (2.1 m × 1.1 m) was lined with limestone blocks, but was unfinished (d: 5.9 m). The tomb was found under the foundation of the tomb of Ipay, therefore it might be predated to the Ipay' tomb.

3: Southern and Western area (3D89-90, 3D97-99, 3E7-8, 3E17-18) (Pl.20)

Removing the sand debris, the gravel appeared and this northern area had higher points in the area. Bedrock chips resulting from shaft digging were accumulated in the western area. Simple burials were distributed around 3E-8 and 3D-98⁷⁾.

Shaft 20: Shaft 20 is located at the north of Ipay's side room. The shaft (3.0 m × 1.5 m, N-S) was lined with bricks, and it was unfinished (d: 7.8 m).

Shaft 23 (Fig.11): The shaft is located south of Ipay's side room. The shaft (2.5 m \times 2.1 m, N-S axis) was lined with limestone blocks (*Talatat* size). Removing the debris, subterranean chambers, Rooms A-D, were found. Only Room A (4.2 m \times 3.1 m, h: 1.6 m) is located on the upper level. Shaft bottom lead to Room B (4.5 m \times 3.5 m, h: 1.5 m) on the south. Then it lead to the narrow Room C (4.5 m \times 2.2 m, h: 1.6 m) having an entrance leading to the westernmost Room D (4.8 m \times 3.4 m, h: 1.7 m). An unfinished shaft (Shaft 23-2) was dug in the center of Room D (d: 1.3m). Bedrock chips layer and lined blocks of Shaft 23 suggested that Shaft 23 seemed to had been enlarged though the innermost Shaft 23-2 was unfinished. Whether the brick ramp found at the east of Shaft 23 composed a part of the superstructure of Shaft 23 is still unclear.

Shaft 24: The shaft is located west of Ipay's cult chapel. The shaft (2.0 m \times 1.0 m, E-W axis) bottom (d: 9.5 m) lead to Rooms A and B. Room A (3.0 m \times 2.8 m, h: 1.0 m) lead down to Room B (2.7 m \times 3.4 m, h: 1.7 m).

Shaft 25 (Fig.12): Shaft 25 is also located at the west of Ipay's cult chapel and its axis was just on the line of Ipay's shaft. The shaft (2.0 m \times 1.0 m, N-S axis) is lined with thin limestone slabs. Removing the debris, Rooms A-G were found. The shaft bottom (d: 9.1 m) lead to Room A (3.0 m \times 4.1 m, h: 2.0 m). Parts of a wooden coffin were scattered in the debris. Room A lead to the western Rooms B and C. Room B (2.5 m \times 3.5 m, h: 1.5 m) had innermost Room D (2.5 m \times 2.0 m) at the south and Room E (2.3 m \times 1.6 m) at north. Thick sand debris accumulated in Room C (2.2 m \times 2.8 m). At the N-W corner of Room A, Shaft 25-2 was found, which lead to lower Room F (2.0 m \times 2.8 m) with a niche at the west (d: 2.0 m) and the westernmost Room G (2.6 m \times 1.8 m), of which ceiling had a vaulted form.

Shaft 27 (Fig.13): The shaft is located in the N-W corner of the research area. The shaft entrance (2.1 m \times 1.1 m, N-S axis) lead to the subterranean Rooms A and B (d: 9.1 m). Room A (4.1 m \times 3.9 m, h: 1.1 m) lead down Room B (4 m \times 3.0 m, 1.2 m, h: 1.2 m). A digging of S-E corner of Room B seemed accidentally to have made a hole at the Shaft 17's western wall of Room B. The plastered door blocking could have existed as its fragments of plaster remained. Parts of a wooden coffin were scattered in the debris of both rooms.

Shaft 28: The shaft is located beside Shaft 27. The shaft entrance (2.1 m \times 1.0 m, N-S axis) lead to the subterranean chambers (d: 4.0 m), which were unfinished.

Shaft 29: The shaft is also located beside Shaft 27. The shaft entrance (3.0 m \times 1.3 m, N-S axis) was unfinished (d: 0.9 m).

Shaft 30 (Fig.14): The shaft is also located in the N-W corner of the research area. The shaft entrance (2.1 m \times 1.1 m, N-S axis) lead to Rooms A and B (d: 9.8 m). The Room A (2.7

m × 2.9 m, h: 0.9 m) lead down to Room B (3.6 m × 3.5 m, h: 1.9 m).

Finds

Finds unearthed from the debris of the subterranean chambers have suggested a general date of the New Kingdom period. Then the subject was to establish the site chronology classifying the total assemblage of the finds.

Sarcophagus: The sarcophagus was found at Room H of the Ipay's subterranean chambers. It consists of a trough and lid measuring 2.8 m in length and 1.7 m in height which at first sight did not belong together, as the lid is much larger and heavier than the trough. It was considered that they originally came from two different burials and were reused, but both lid and trough seemed to be of the same type of granite and draughtsmen's ink-lines on the underside of the lid conform to the dimensions of the trough. Thus it seemed that the sarcophagus was unfinished owing to the unexpected death and burial of the owner. On the lid, the bearded face had been well carved, but there had been insufficient time to complete the work and the dressed hair and collar around the crossed arms were instead painted in black and red (Pl.3). Inscriptions on the sarcophagus, which were customarily carved, were also applied in ink. Though most of the painted decoration had faded, Isis still can be clearly seen, wearing a brilliant red dress, on the foot end, accompanied by texts of "*Wsir Ms*" (the Osiris Mes) (Pl.4).

Examination of the undersurface of the lid made it clear that the carving had only just started. However, the carving of the trough seems to have been mostly completed except for a fixing device between trough and lid, where the preliminary drill-holes can still be seen. The decoration on the exterior is in sunk relief. At the head Isis is shown, and Mes is represented in front of Osiris and Anubis and accompanied by other gods of the underworld. The deceased and the gods are painted yellow⁸⁾.

Coffins: An anthropoid pottery coffin (l: 1.4 m) was found in Shaft 23 (Pl.15). The lid was attached at the face part, and the face is depicted⁹⁾. On the foot part of the wooden coffin from Ipay's Room H, *Djed*, *Tyet* and the images of Isis and Nephthys were depicted. A numbers of fragmental pieces of wooden coffins were found in Shafts 24 and 25. Some face parts of wooden coffins were painted in red or black and inlaid for the eye by a glass plaque. In particular, the face part found in Shaft 24 was elaborately made of fine wood (Pl.6).

Reliefs: Fragmental pieces of relief blocks recovered from Ipay's Room H and Shaft 23 were revealed to compose a serial scene of the 'Opening Mouth ceremony' of Pashedw¹⁰⁾. A block from Shaft 30 had an inscription of "*imy-r pr-ḥd, Sbk-ms*" (Overseer of treasury, Sebekmes)¹¹⁾ (Pl.10).

Offering table: A limestone offering table with the stand 0.84 m in height was recovered from Shaft 23. There were another two offering tables in which cup bases and grooves were depicted.

Shabtis: One complete sandstone shabti of Mes who was the owner of the granite sarcophagus is 36 cm in height with its surface painted brown (Pl.1). It wears a Nubian wig and long kilt, on which the name and titles of Mes, 'royal scribe' and 'steward,' are engraved. One group of small shabtis is made of blue faience and some of them wear the dress of daily life, in one of which "*shd Wsir Ms, m³c-hrw*" is inscribed. Another wooden group is coated with resin.

Room E of Ipay's tomb was expected to be his burial place but is still unclear¹²⁾. Though a group of grey faience shabtis inscribed for a Pashedw, Amenemopet and Huy were recovered from Room E (Pls.7-9), suggesting multiple burials or a complicated serial use of the tomb. Numerous shabtis for Pipwy, Henwtmira, Khentykhetyhotep and others from several shafts distributed around Ipay's tomb would seem to confirm this (Pl.11).

Scarabs: The nephrite heart scarab bearing the name of Bakenamen on the base found in Ipay's Room H seemed to have been pressed down from the Shaft A. A corrupt version of spell 30B from 'The Book of the Dead' was inscribed on it. A small stone scarab bearing the name of Tuthmosis III is from Shaft 23. As for the larger sized scarab measuring 9 cm in length (Pl.13), Sokar and Osiris are represented on the back and Osiris, Isis, and Nephthys are engraved on the base, which could be dated to the Ramesside period¹³⁾ (Pl.12).

Amulets: Kinds of symbolic forms in glass and faience are from several shafts. Carnelian *Wedjat*-eye from Shaft 25 had the name of Amenophis III (Pl.14).

Rings: Earrings in carnelian and faience are from Shaft 25. Golden finger ring from Shaft 27 had a carnelian *Wedjat*-eye on its face (Pl.15).

Inlays: Hieroglyphic alphabets are depicted in various glass inlays. Glass and stone inlay eyes of wooden coffins were also from several shafts.

Ornaments: A number of faience beads of various shapes and sizes like examples of Shaft 17 were picked up in Shaft 27. Some of pectorals in stone and faience were found from Shaft 23, on which Isis, Nephthys, sun disk, and scarabs are represented (Pl.16).

Headrest: A wooden waisted headrest¹⁴⁾ from Shaft 27 was inscribed "*sš wdhw M³c^t Ty Imn-m-ipt*" (Scribe of the offering table of Maat, Amenemopet called Ay) (Pl.17).

Games: Parts of ivory game box called 'Senet'¹⁵⁾ were found with playing pieces and knucklebones in Shaft 27 (Pl.18).

Boomerang: Parts of blue faience boomerangs were found in Ipay's Room H, on which

Wedjat-eye is depicted.

Sealing: Parts of jar sealing bearing the name of Tutankhamen as an example from Shaft 17 were found in Shaft 27. The plastered door blocking could have existed as its fragments remained in Shaft 27, on which a motif of "Nine Captives" is depicted¹⁶⁾.

Jar docket: Two dockets bearing the name of Ramesses II was revealed in Ipay's Room H. One is "*pr n t3 hwt (Wsr-m3't-R' stp.n r') 'nh, wd3, snb pr*" (...the estate of the temple of Usermaat-re-setepenre (life, prosperity, health) in the estate of Amen...). Another is "...*mry Imn 'nh wd3 snb hr*" (... (Rameses)-mery-Amen (life, prosperity, health), upon...), which attaches to one fragmental piece in previous season with inscription of "*rnpt-sp 7 irp ... R'-ms-sw-mry-Imn...*" (Year 7, wine ...of... Ramesses -mery-Amen). Both suggested the date of the burial in Room H¹⁷⁾.

Pottery wares: Shafts 23, 24, 27 and 30 contained blue painted jars, which are typical for the New Kingdom period. Square shabti box with Anubis moulding on the lid from Shaft 23 is coated with bitumen.

Faience wares: The Canopic lid representing Imseti was recovered from Ipay's Room H. The fragmental piece of Canopic body bore the name of Karia.

Stone wares: Total 3 Canopic bodies and 3 lids made of alabaster and limestone were found from Ipay's Room H. Another group of Canopic bodies are from Shaft 24, among which the name of Amenemopet and his title "*imy-r hmwt nbt*" (overseer of all craftsmen) is inscribed. The lid with floral design painted in black is from Shaft 25.

Conclusion

The excavation of Ipay's subterranean Rooms D, E, and H was conducted in these seasons, and the clearing of this tomb is almost completed. Objects and the sarcophagus from the subterranean chambers suggested the dating of reuse of the tomb in the 'Post-Amarna Period'.

As for the earlier stage of formation, N-W area was noteworthy. Especially objects of Shafts 27 and 30 had similarities with those of Shaft 17. It is considered that Shaft 17 was probably dated to the earlier stage of shaft groups.

The tomb of Ipay was evidently constructed on the predated tomb with Shaft 22. In addition, its construction seems to not have been completed at one time. Shafts 23-25 distributed in the western area of Ipay's tomb contained a lot of shabtis, Ramesside scarabs, and pottery coffin of the 3rd Intermediate period.

Therefore, the period of use in case of the tomb of Ipay will suggest the area chronology, which resembles the use of necropolis at the south of Unas causeway in Saqqara¹⁸⁾. The results

have proved that the area expanding more than 5 km southwards from Saqqara to Dahshur must be the extent and disposition of the New Kingdom Memphite necropolis, particularly during the years when Memphis recovered its political status after the Amarna period¹⁹⁾.

- 1) The research of 6th season was financially supported by the Kajima foundation's Research Grant.
- 2) "*Wsir šš-nswt ṯpꜣy mꜣꜥ-hrw*" and "*šš-nswt mꜣꜥ mr.f wbꜣ-nswt wꜥb ꜥwy ṯpꜣy mꜣꜥ-hrw*".
- 3) "*Talatat*" sized blocks used for the shaft and building method of brick walls lined with limestone slabs imply this date (Yoshimura et al., 1998, p.6). Another assemblage, such as blue painted jar, Mycenaean red painted bottle, blue and yellow glass fragment, faience ring with a lotus design also suggested this dating (Ibid., pp.7-9, 吉村他, 1998, pp.115-119.).
- 4) See Yoshimura, S. and S. Hasegawa, 1999, pp.5-7.
- 5) See Yoshimura et al., 1998, p.23, 吉村他, 1998, p.115.
- 6) Fragmental pieces of total seven human bodies were found, including four females. Some of the parts were burnt (by Dr. Kazuaki Hirata).
- 7) As most of them were only wrapped by a reed mat and without funeral equipment, it was difficult to date them. Only one found around the Cult Chapel had a faience amulet with the cartouche bearing the name of Horemheb.
- 8) It is a symbolic color for the land of Osiris. See van Dijk, 1998.
- 9) Total feature of the coffin had the similarities in the period when the Mediterranean influences became prevalent after the 2nd Millenium B.C. See D'Auria et al., 1988, pp.160-161.
- 10) The name of Pashedw had been recognized by shabtis and fragmental pieces of jambs and his tomb with the superstructure was expected to be unearthed around Shaft A. This relief seems to have belonged to the wall of this tomb.
- 11) It is seemingly that *Sbk* of his name was erased during Akhenaten's region.
- 12) We have discovered no objects bearing his name and title till now.
- 13) Similar example, see Andrews, 1994, p.58, fig.57.
- 14) Romano, 1982, p.74, no.46.
- 15) Tait, 1982, pp.19-25.
- 16) For other examples of this seal, see Kaper, 1993, pp.150-151, 'Seal E' ; Martin, 1989, p.145, n.2.
- 17) Besides such jar-dockets, a fragmental piece of alabaster Canopic body bearing the name and title "*imy-r ssmwt Ms*" (Mes, The Overseer of Stable) had been recovered in shaft deposit. It is still unclear that the burial equipment for the same 'Mes' was prepared, while he was promoted from the former to the latter status.
- 18) Tombs with the superstructure are noteworthy at the south of Unas causeway. This area is dated from second half of 18th Dyn. to 19th Dyn.
- 19) See van Dijk, 1988.

We thank Mr. Takao Kikuchi (Heidelberg University), Mr. Nozomu Kawai (Johns Hopkins University), Mr. Koichiro Wada, Mr. Takaharu Endo, Miss Kazumi Ikeda, Mr. Masahiro Baba, and Miss Rika Sakakibara (Waseda University), providing information and helping with our work.

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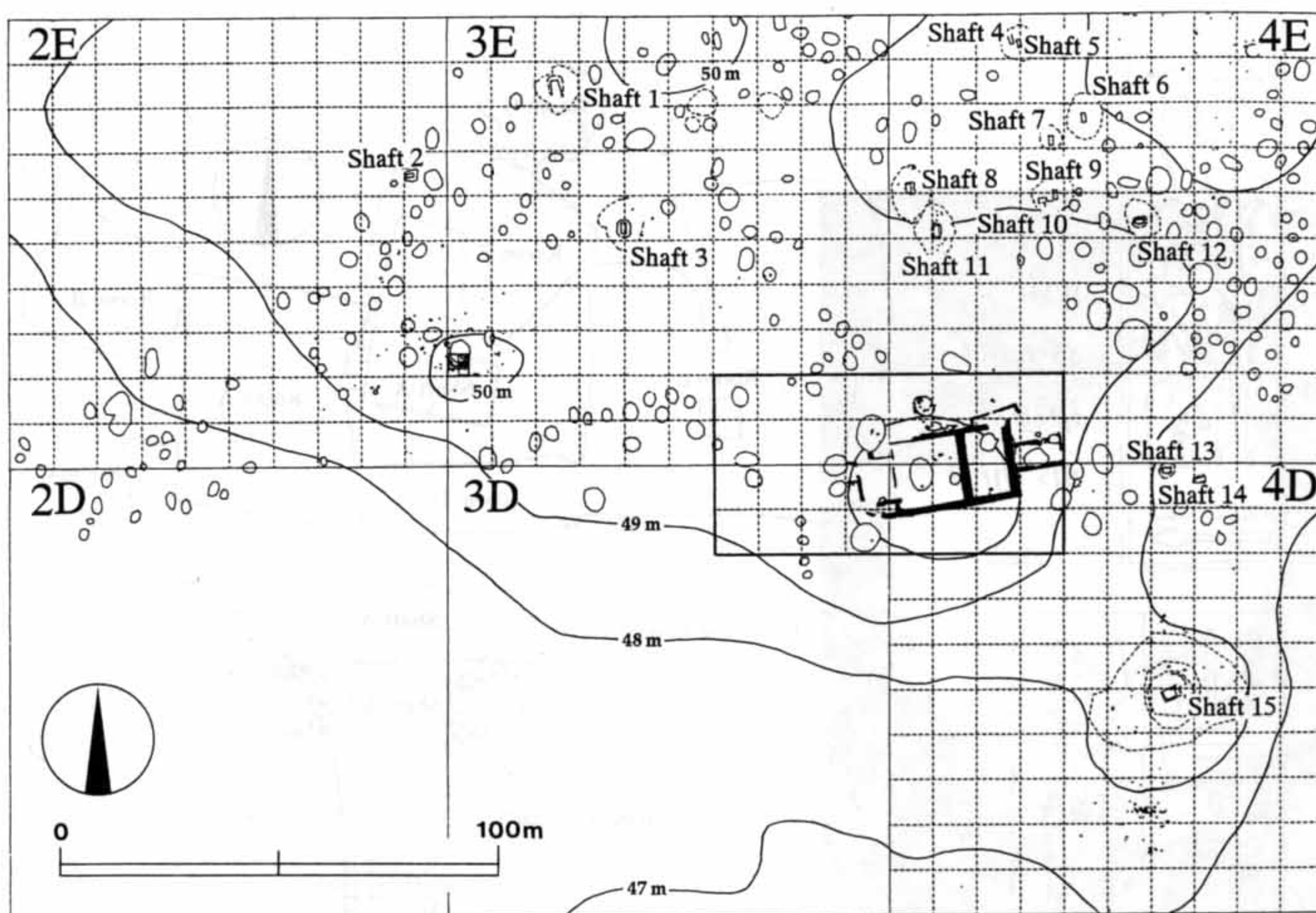


Fig.1

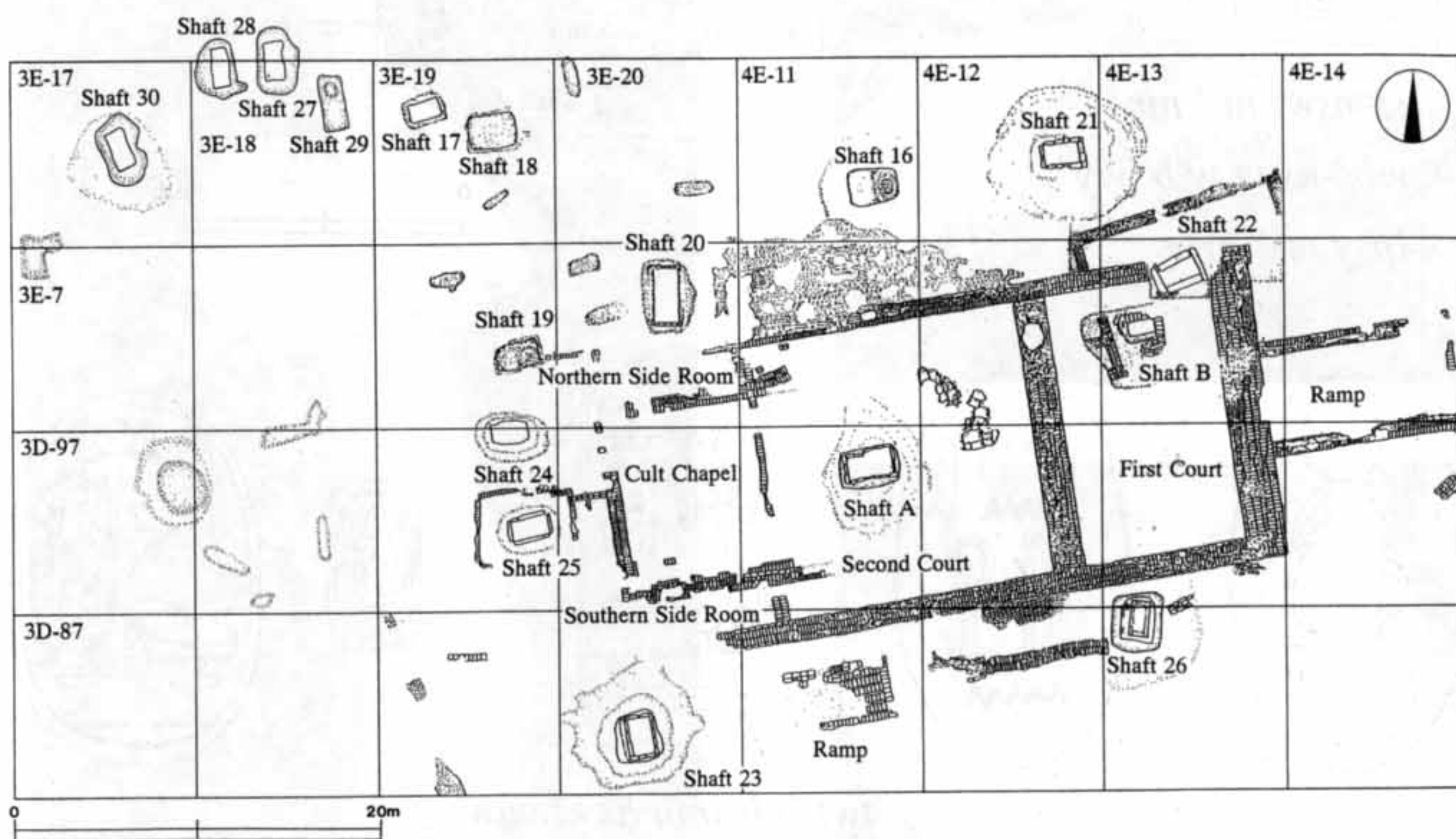


Fig.2

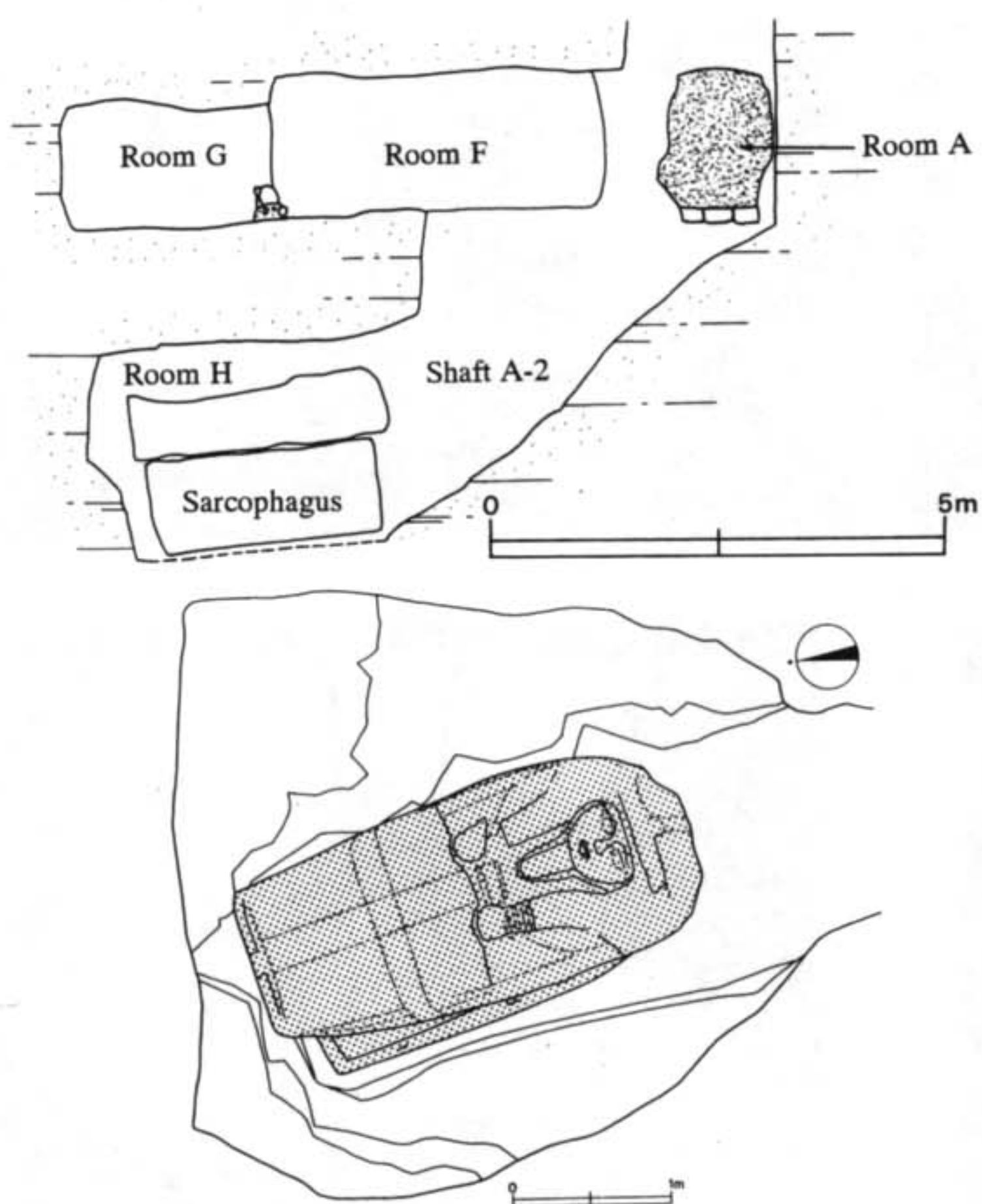
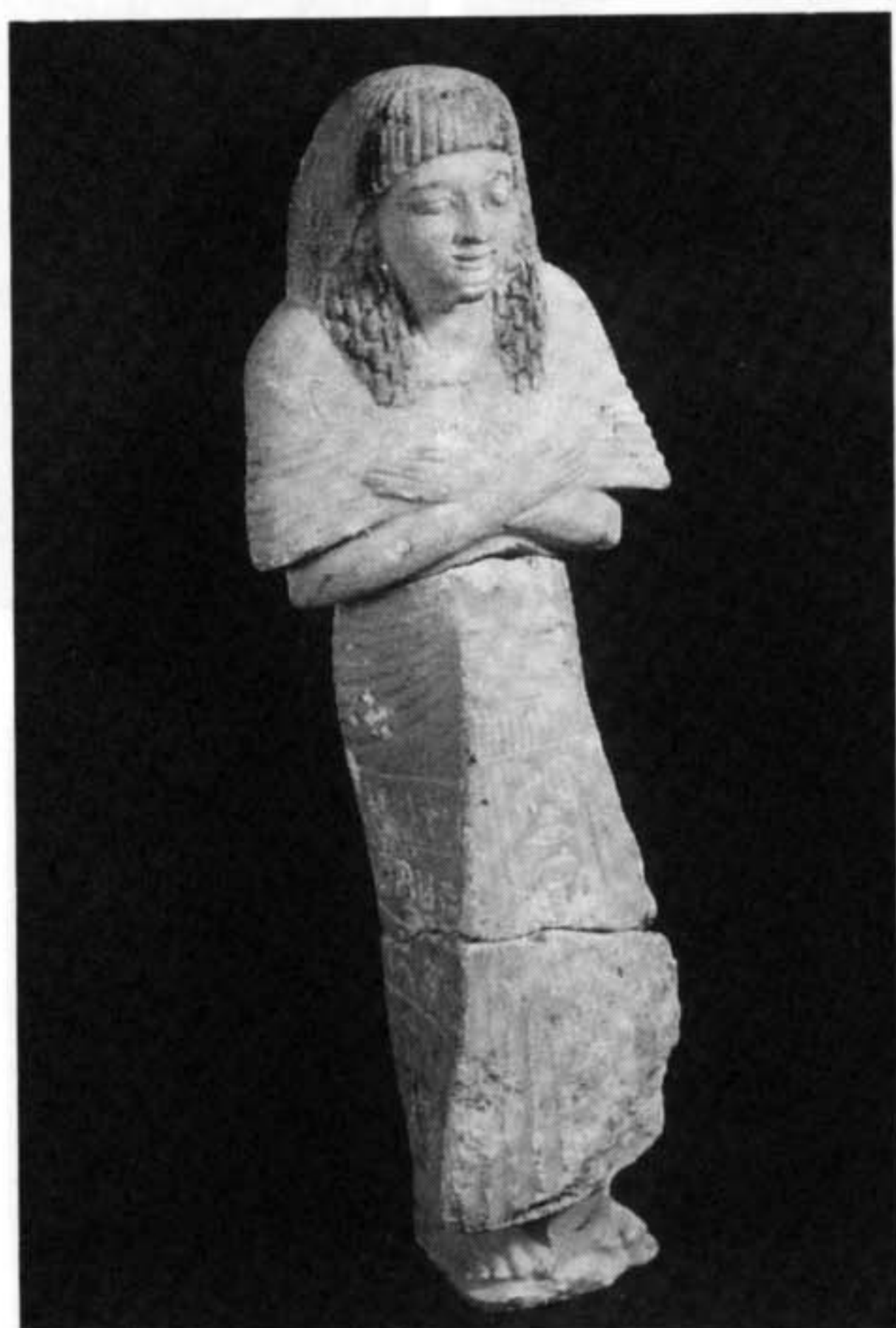


Fig.10



Pl.2



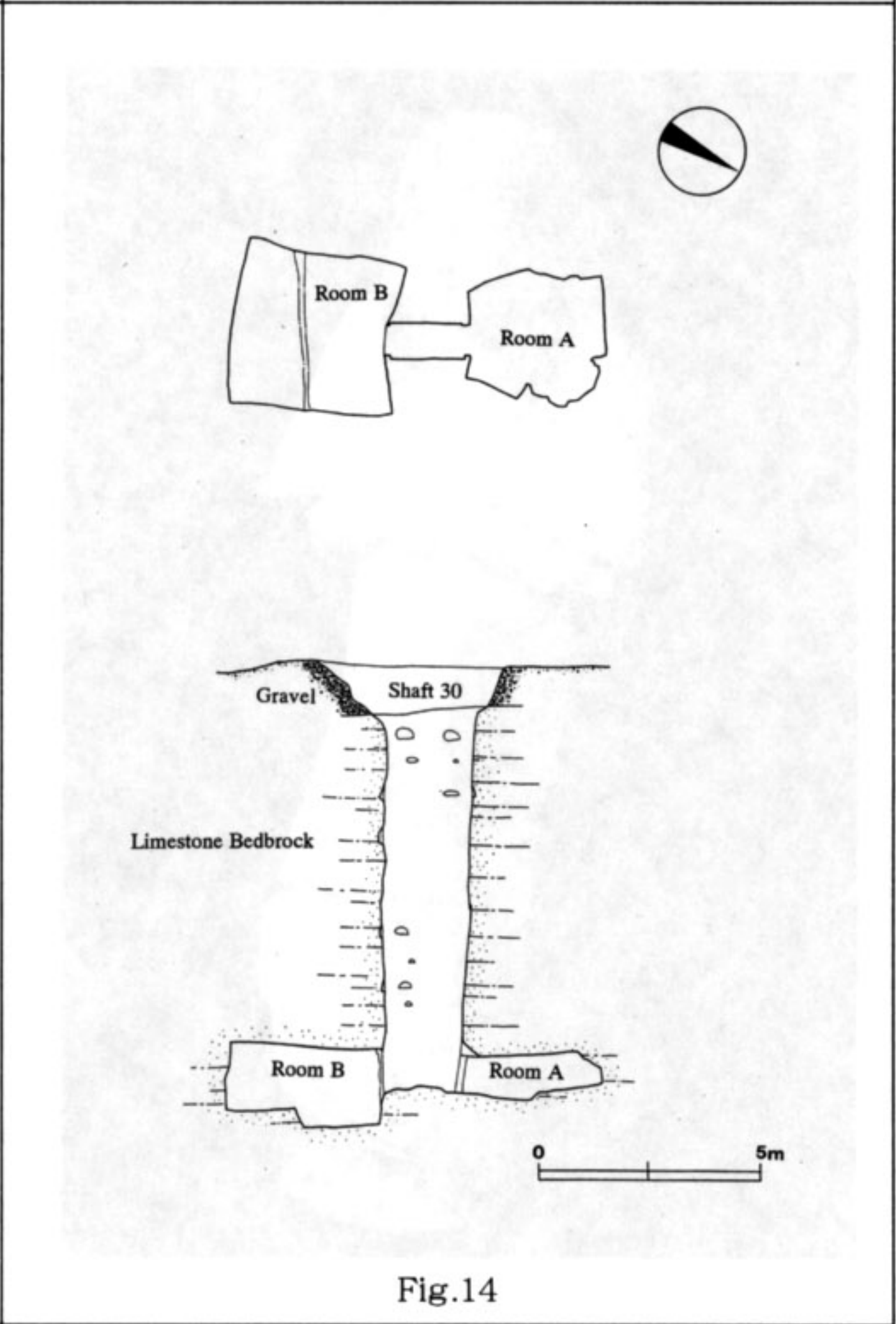
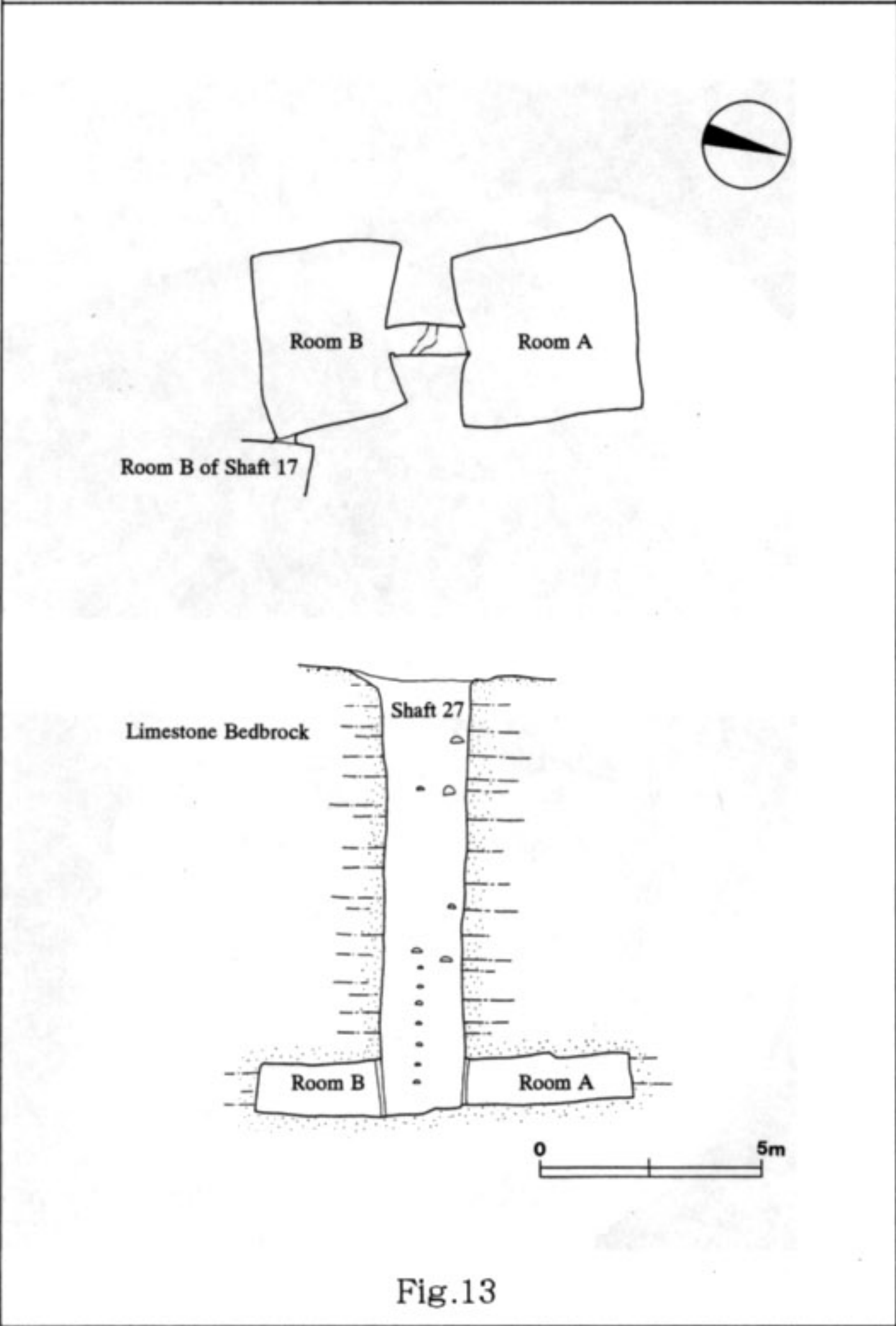
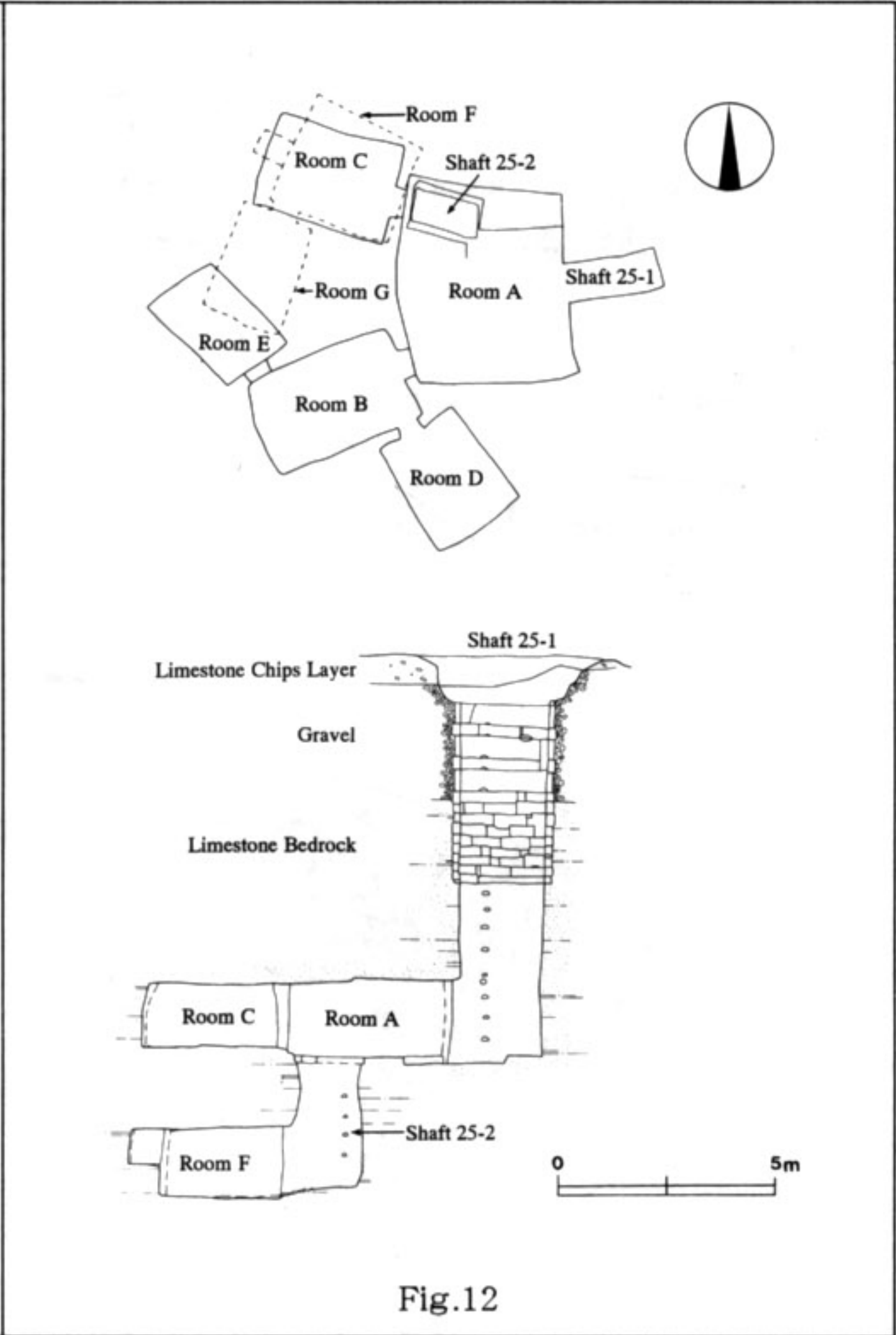
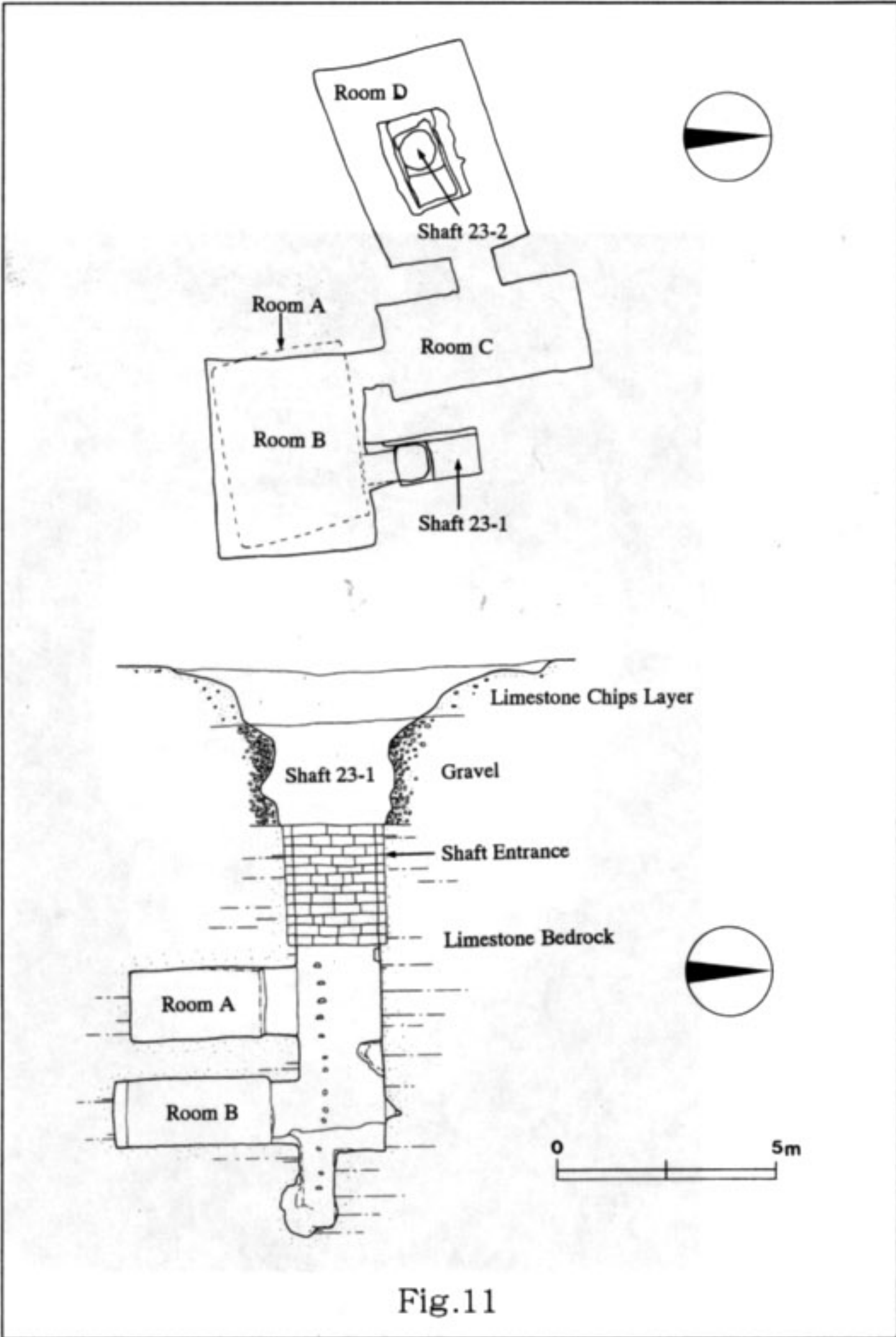
Pl.1



Pl.3



Pl.4





Pl.5



Pl.6



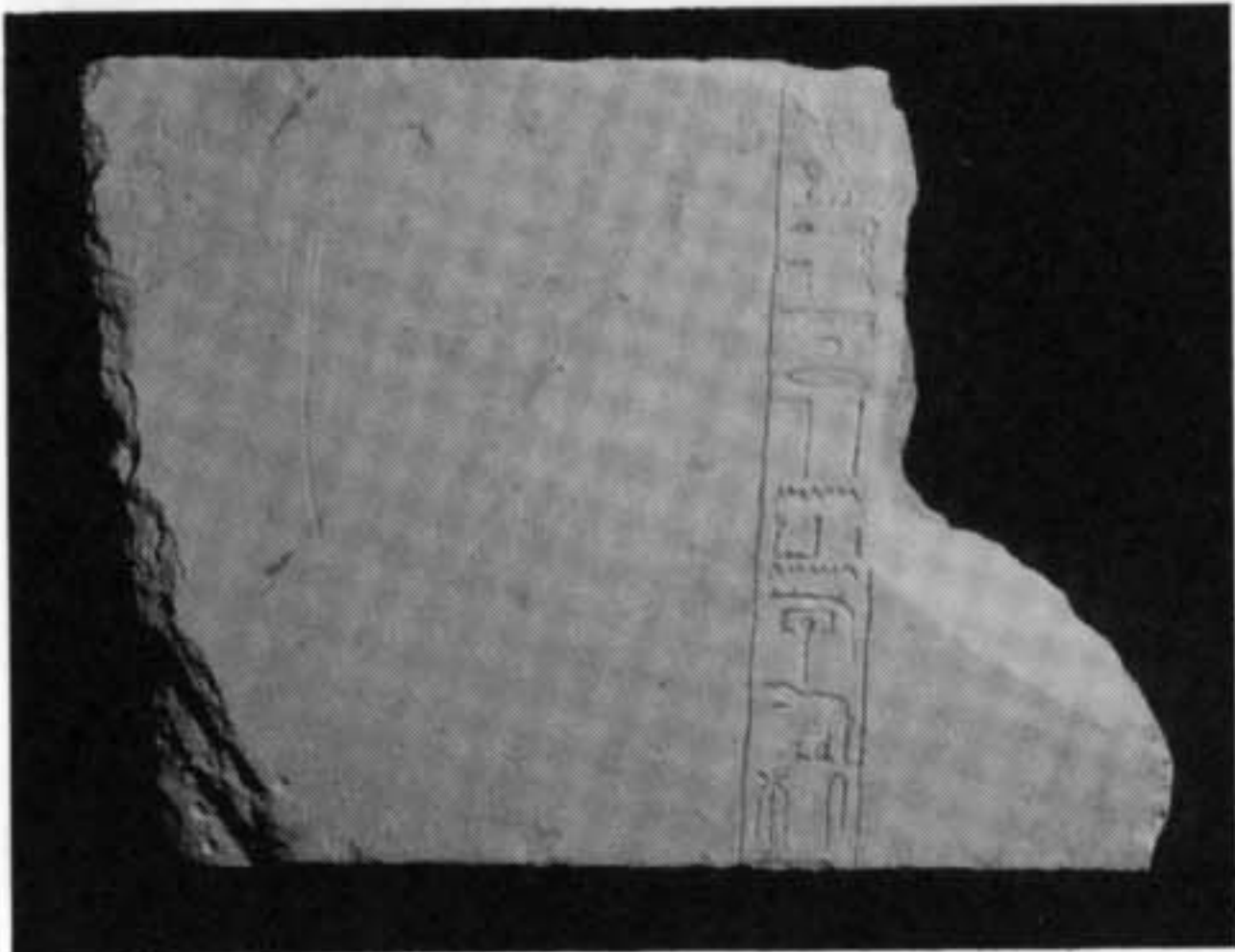
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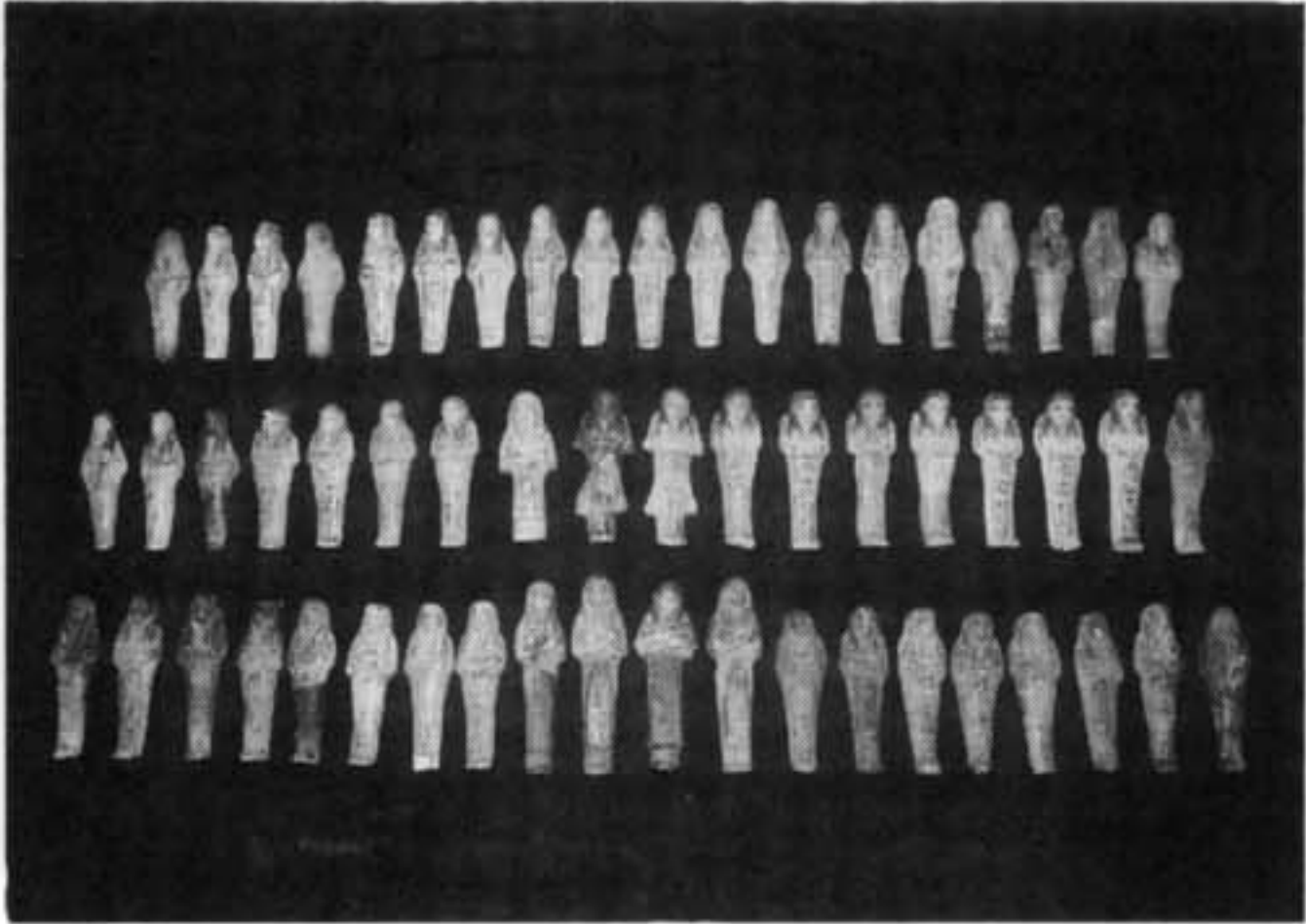
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Pl.9



Pl.10



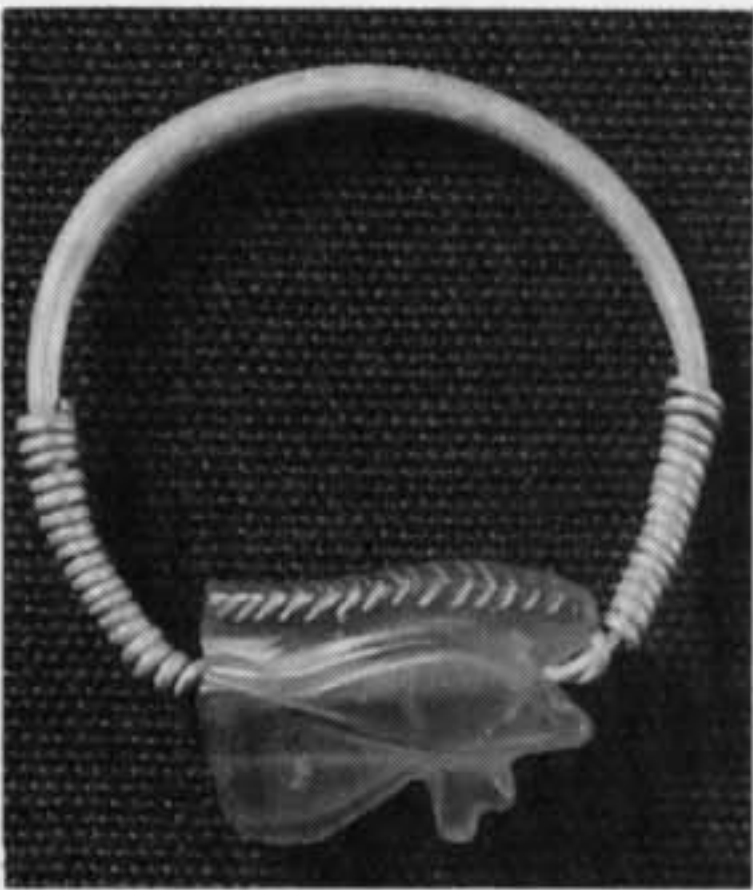
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Pl.12



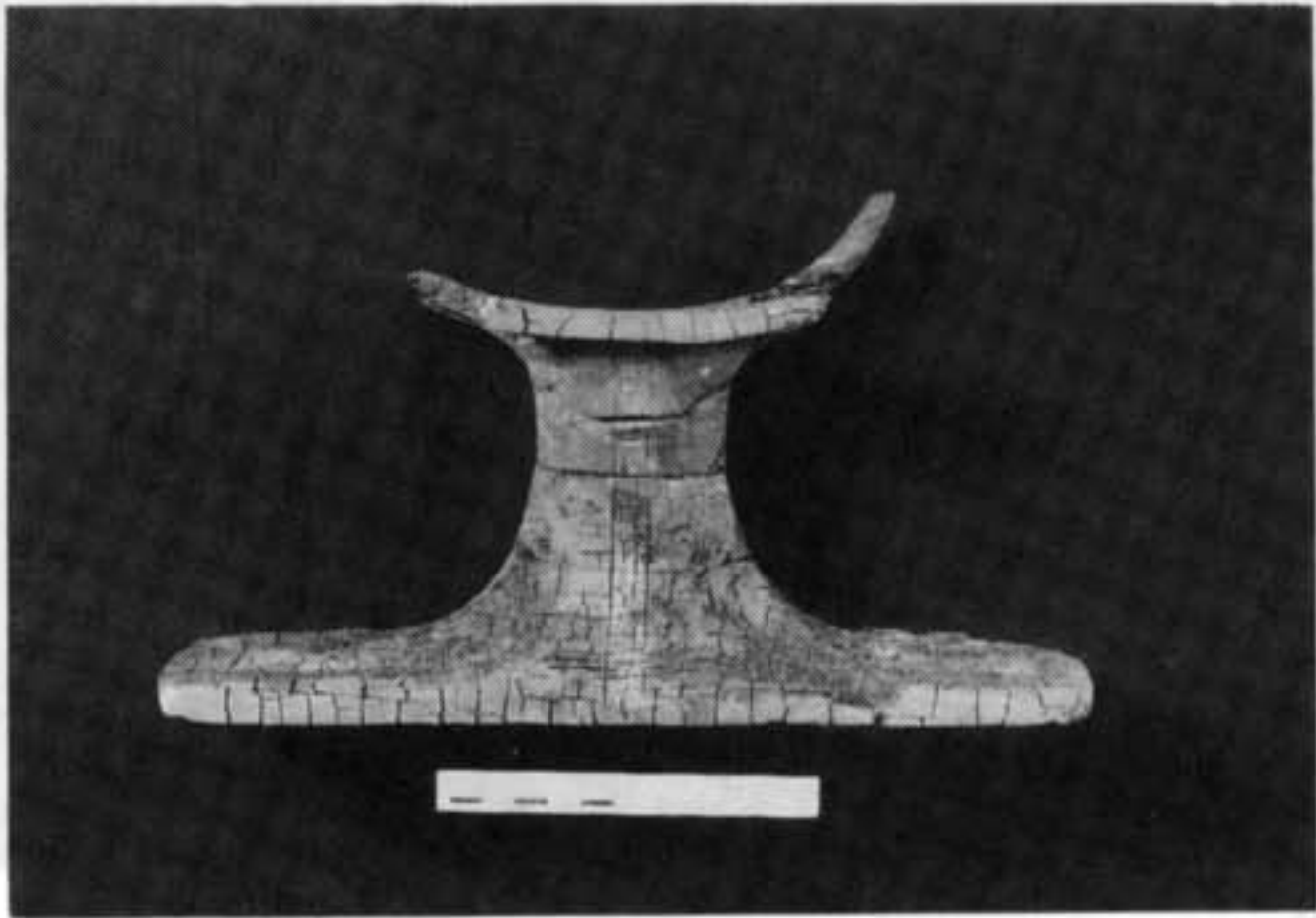
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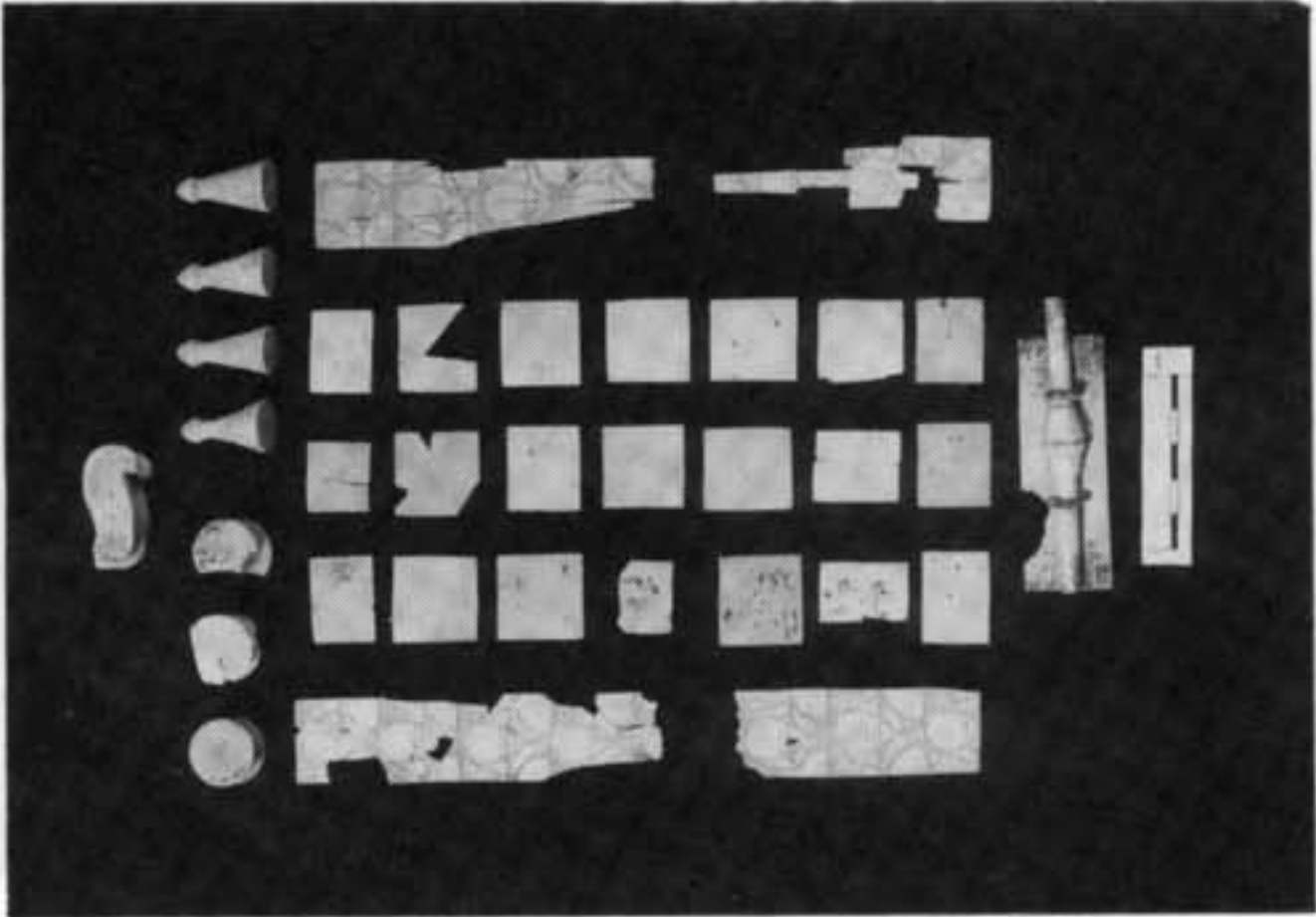
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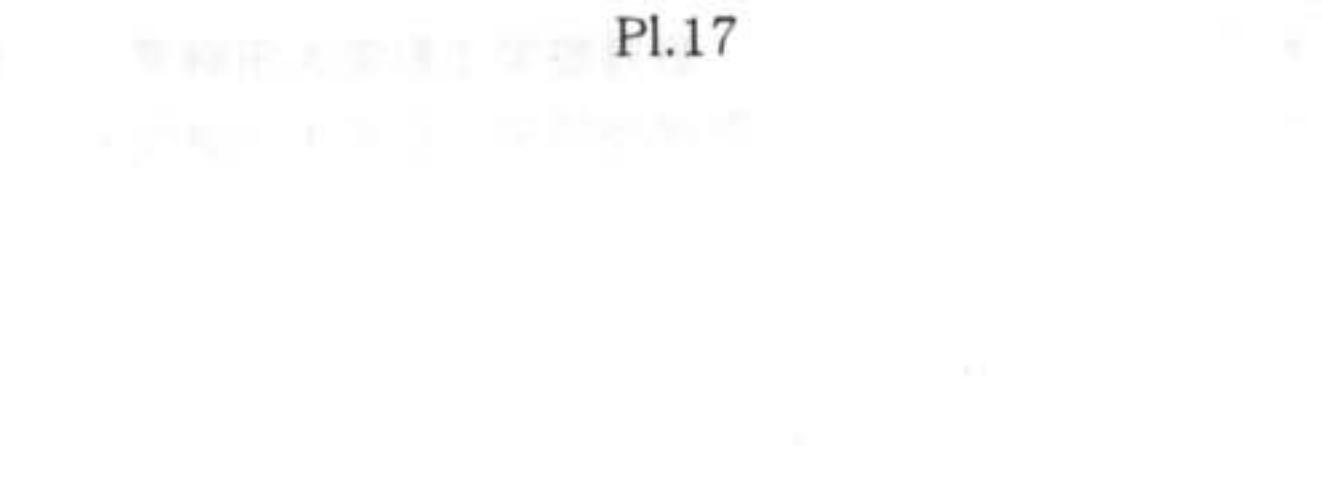
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Pl.16



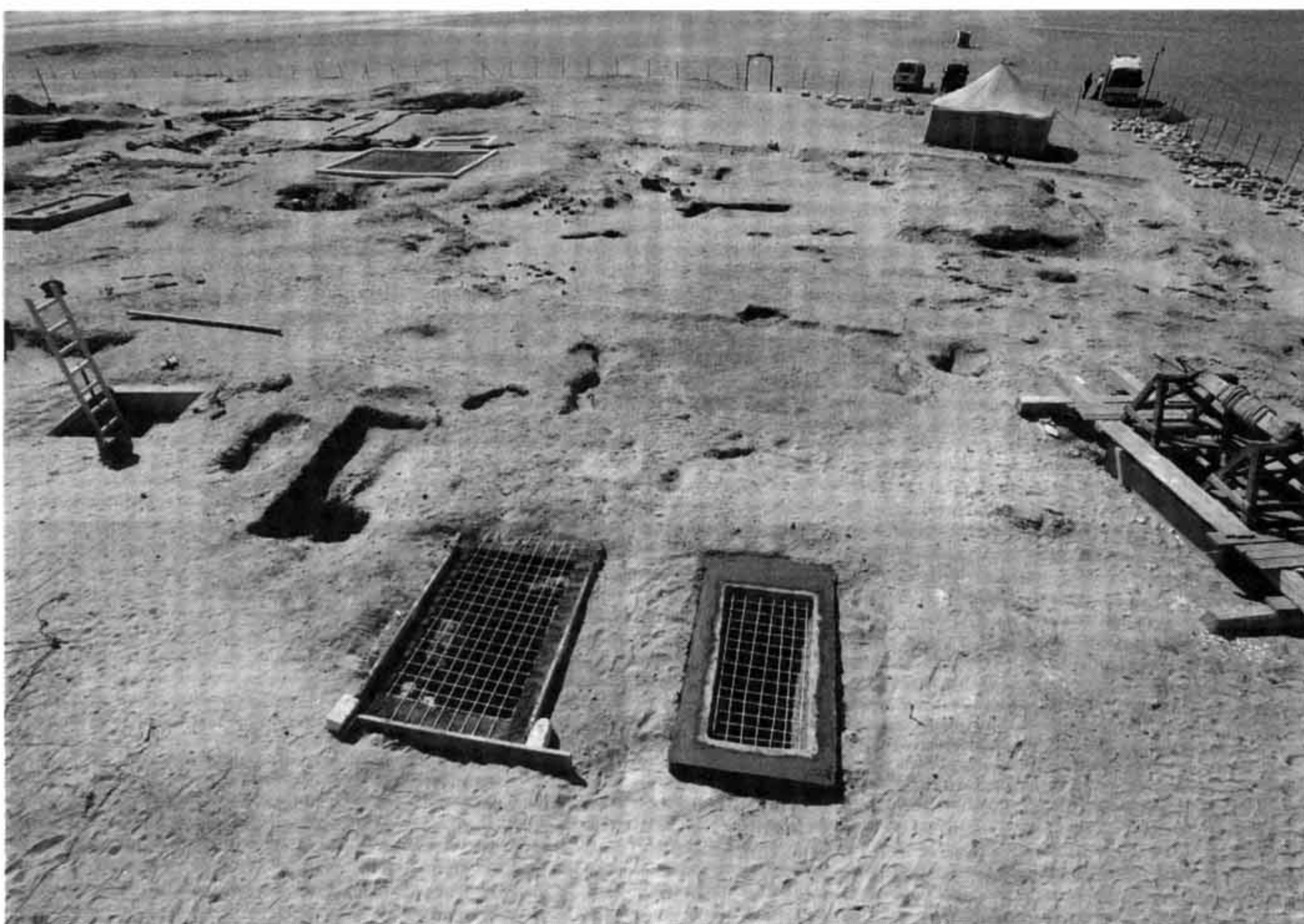
Pl.17



Pl.18



Pl.19



Pl.20