

The World of Middle Kingdom Egypt (2000-1550 BC)

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Volume I

Edited by

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Front cover: Detail of canopic stopper from Shaft 106, Dahshur (*cf.* Baba, Yazawa: “Burial Assemblages of the Late Middle Kingdom”, pp. 18-9 © Baba, Yazawa)

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To hybrid creatures

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Burial Assemblages of the Late Middle Kingdom Shaft-tombs in Dahshur North

Masahiro Baba, Ken Yazawa

Abstract

A number of late Middle Kingdom shaft-tombs were discovered in Dahshur North, some of which were found intact or well-preserved with burial items. In terms of the sizes and burial assemblages of these tombs it is assumed that the buried individuals belonged to the non-ruling class, but some of them seem to be affluent people as indicated by the presence of court type burials. Given the proximity of the pyramids at Dahshur and Saqqara South, it is probable that people buried in Dahshur North were related to the higher social class buried in the royal cemeteries. The possibility of a detailed investigation of a cemetery for such a particular segment of society is relatively scarce and valuable in the Memphite region. Therefore, we provide the archaeological information about their funerary items and burial practices.

Introduction

Since 1996 the Waseda University Egyptian Expedition has been working at the cemetery site of Dahshur North located in the lower desert approximately 1 km northwest of the pyramid of Senwosret III and 1 km southwest of the pyramid of Khendjer (Fig. 1). The initial excavations concentrated in the southeastern area, revealing the typical New Kingdom tomb-chapels of Ipay and Pashedu, and dozens of shaft-tombs and pit-burials. A new area approximately 100 m west of Ipay's tomb was investigated. The work started in 2004 and today still continues (Fig. 2). Excavation of the small mound revealed it to be a New Kingdom tomb-chapel belonging to an individual named Ta, although the superstructure is now completely destroyed. In subsequent seasons, the investigations around this tomb-chapel have revealed intact shaft-tombs containing complete coffins dating to the Middle Kingdom as well as the New Kingdom. This is the first substantial evidence for the existence of Middle Kingdom burials in this cemetery.

Our particular interest concerns the Middle Kingdom burials. Apart from the intact tombs there are many disturbed tombs in the area around Ta's tomb. Some of these disturbed tombs still contain enough burial items to indicate their chronological order and repertoire. The tomb size and burial equipment suggest that the individuals belonged to the non-ruling class. Their archaeological data is relatively scarce and therefore valuable for the Memphite region during the Middle Kingdom.

In this paper, using the intact and well-preserved tombs, the burial assemblages of the non-ruling class in the Mid-

dle Kingdom will be presented in the chronological order confirmed by comparative study of the burial objects.

Shaft 54 (Anonymous Tomb)

Probably late Twelfth Dynasty

The entrance (2.0 x 1.0 m) is oriented north-south, and the shaft was filled with fine sand (Fig. 3). A concentration of Nile silt potsherds, including some miniature dishes and an offering stand with soot on its interior, was found in front of the shaft's entrance (Fig. 3.1, 2).¹ Although the context was disturbed, the pottery appears to be the remains of a funerary ceremony performed in front of the tomb, similarly to the situation seen in the Shaft 65 (see below). A coffin was found at the bottom of the shaft.

The coffin is box-shaped (L:185, W:48.5, H:86 cm) and its exterior painted yellow, but bears no inscriptions or figures. Inside the coffin, a mummy was laid facing east (Fig. 3, lower left). This individual had a faience bead bracelet and a faience scarab ring on the left hand (Fig. 3.4, 5). The scarab ring was engraved with the hieroglyphs Nefer-Ra between two Kheperis. In addition, a small alabaster *kohl*-pot and a wooden stick were found in front of the face (Fig. 3.3). Based on the parallel of the scarab,² this tomb probably dates to the late Twelfth Dynasty.

¹ The miniature dishes were made of Nile B2, and the offering stand of Nile C. The offering stand was made in two parts, which were then attached to each other before firing. For a similar example, see ASTON, *Tell el-Dab'a XII: A Corpus*, 76-7.

² MATOUK, *Corpus du scarabée égyptien*, 34, 181.

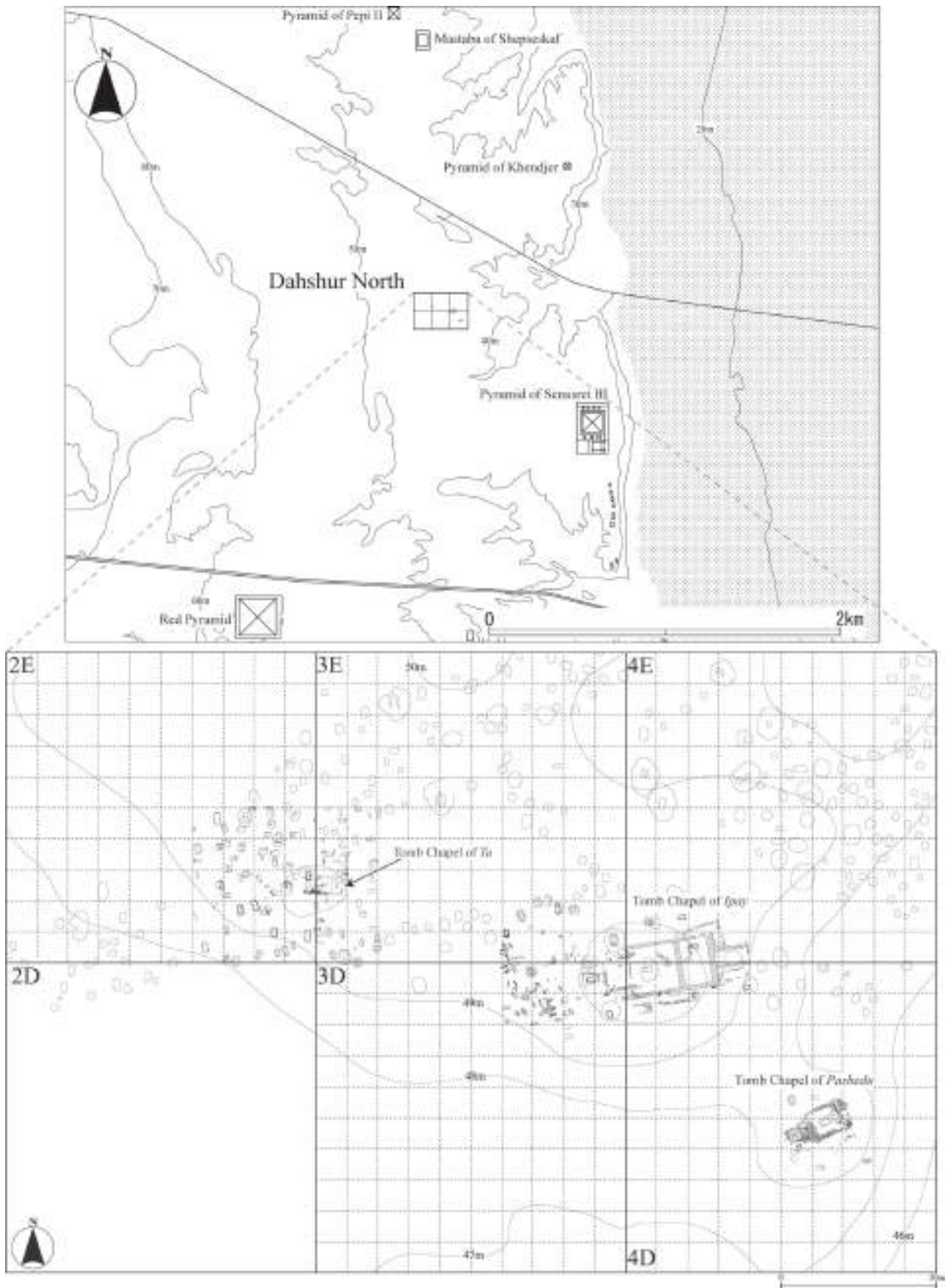


Fig. 1 - Location and map of the Dahshur North cemetery

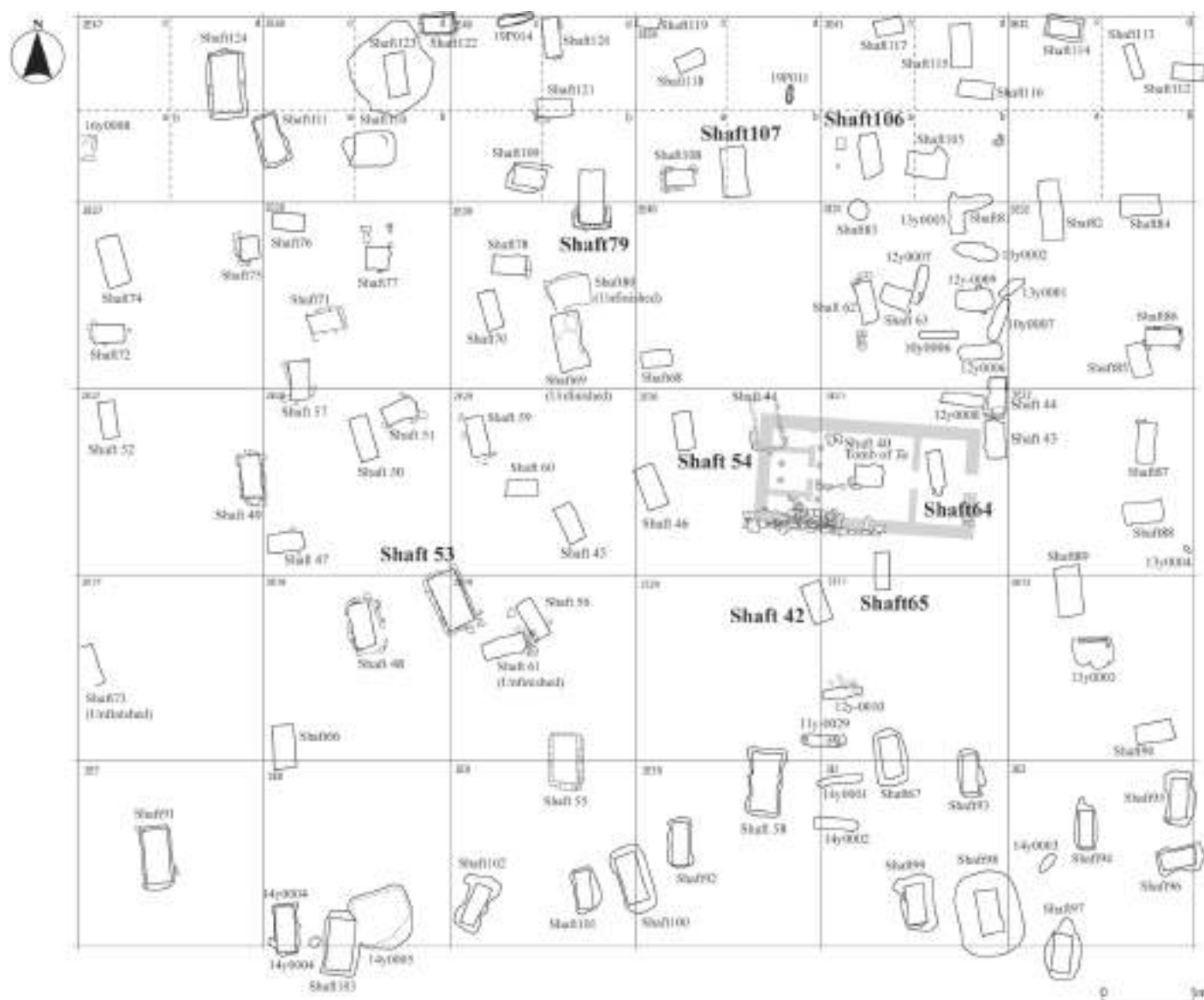


Fig. 2 - Excavation area around the tomb-chapel of Ta (shaft's number mentioned in this paper in bold)

Shaft 65 (Tomb of Sobekhat and Senetites) *Late Twelfth to the early Thirteenth Dynasty*

This tomb has a shaft entrance (2.0 x 0.8 m) oriented north-south, and artificially capped with a small *Taftl* mound on which many broken pottery sherds were distributed (Figs. 4-5). There are at least eleven pottery vessels, including hemispherical cups with a red stripe on the rim, a ring-based cup, a flat based beaker, a jar with spout, a globular jar and a so-called beer bottle (Fig. 4.1-11).³ The vessel indices of two complete hemispherical cups are 169 and 161, the range of which, according to Do. Arnold, places them in the late Twelfth to early Thirteenth Dynas-

ties.⁴ Other vessels are of the typical shape of this period. For example, the globular jar, although missing the upper part, is assumed to be a funnel necked jar, which is the hallmark of the late Twelfth to early Thirteenth Dynasties.⁵ It is remarkable that almost all of the vessels are related to liquid, suggesting the remains of a ritual act such as libation and/or drinking, performed after the burial of the deceased.

The shaft (c. 4 m deep) was also fully filled with *Taftl* chunks. At the bottom of the shaft, two chambers were found to the north and the south.⁶ Sobekhat, “Ka-priest”, was buried in the south chamber (Fig. 6), and Senetites,

³ The hemispherical cups were made of Nile B1, the ring-based cup, spouted jar and globular jar of Nile B2, and beaker and beer bottle of Nile C.

⁴ ARNOLD, in ARNOLD (ed.), *The Pyramid of Senwosret I*, vol. I, 140-1.

⁵ ASTON, *Tell el-Dab'a XII: A Corpus*, 70.

⁶ Both chambers had no sealing block at the entrances.

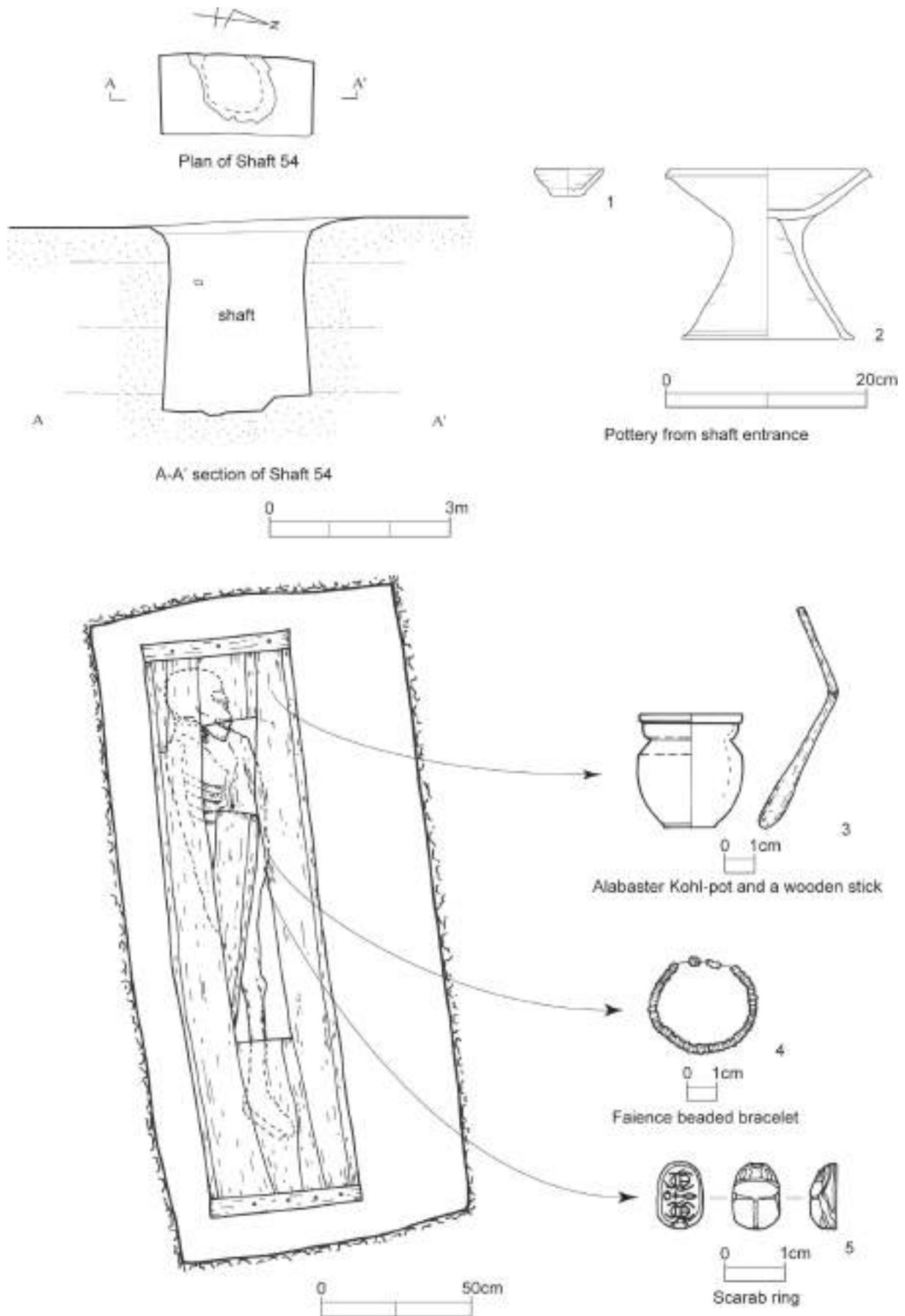


Fig. 3 - Plan, section and finds of Shaft 54

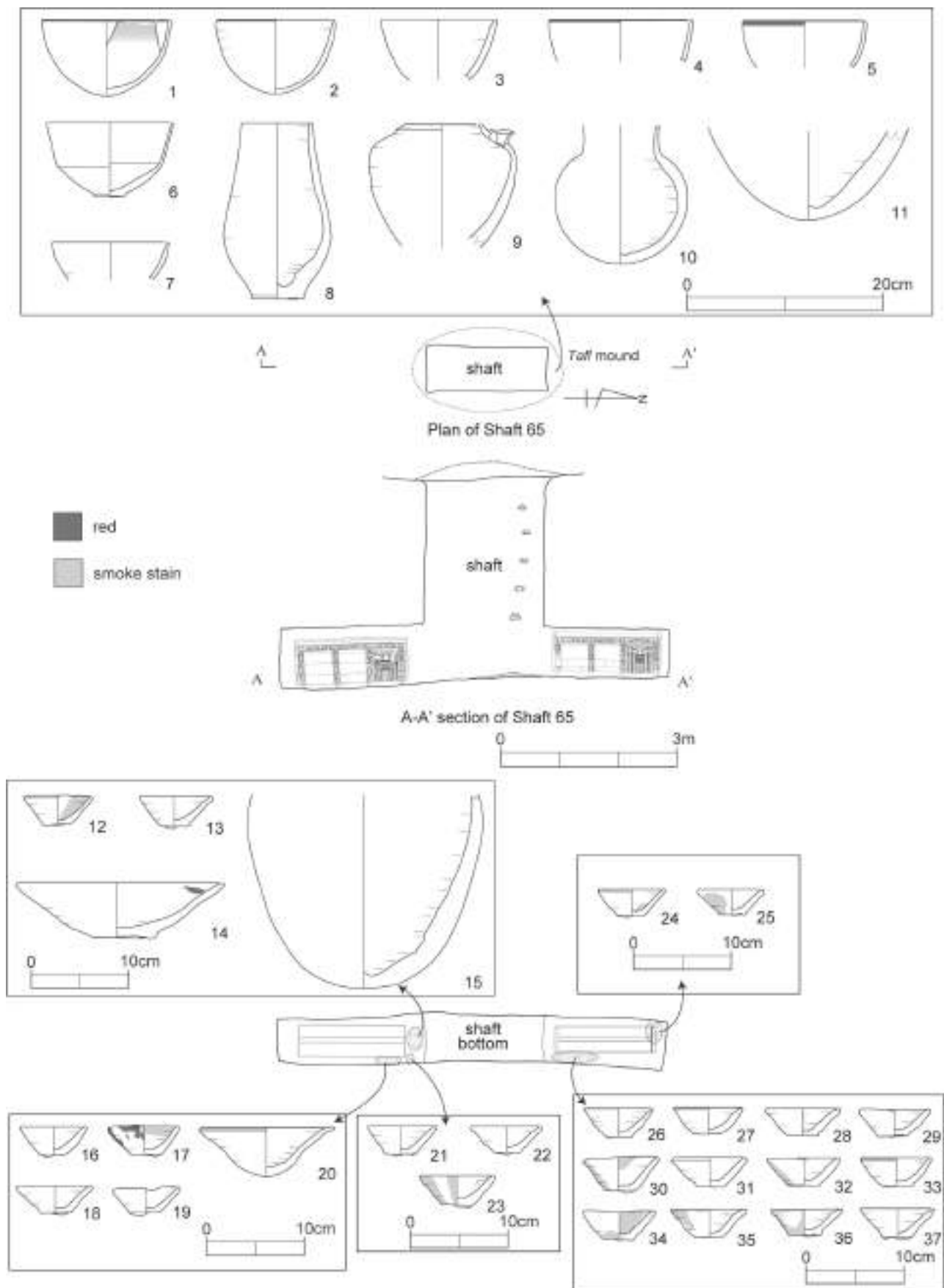


Fig. 4 - Plan, section and finds of Shaft 65



Fig. 5 - Small mound, partly removed, which covered Shaft 65



Fig. 6 - Coffin of Sobekhat *in situ*



Fig. 7 - Miniature plates distributed on the east side of coffin of Senetites

“Mistress of the House”, in the north. In the chambers were found nine miniature plates, a small round-bottomed bowl, a flat-based plate and a fragment of a beer bottle around Sobekhat’s coffin, and fourteen miniature plates around that of Senetites (Fig. 4.12-37).⁷ The miniature plates were distributed on the floor, mainly con-

centrated in front of the eye-panel on the east side of the coffins (Fig. 7). Some of them have stains and organic remains in the form of grains,⁸ which indicates their function as offering containers for incense and food.⁹

Sobekhat’s coffin is box-shaped with a vaulted lid

⁷ The miniature plates and small bowl were made of Nile B2 and the flat-based plate and a beer bottle of Nile C.

⁸ Dina Faltings mentions the remains of grain content from miniature vessels: FALTINGS, *MDAIK* 45, n. 43.

⁹ ALLEN, in BARTA (ed.), *The Old Kingdom Art and Archaeology*, 21.

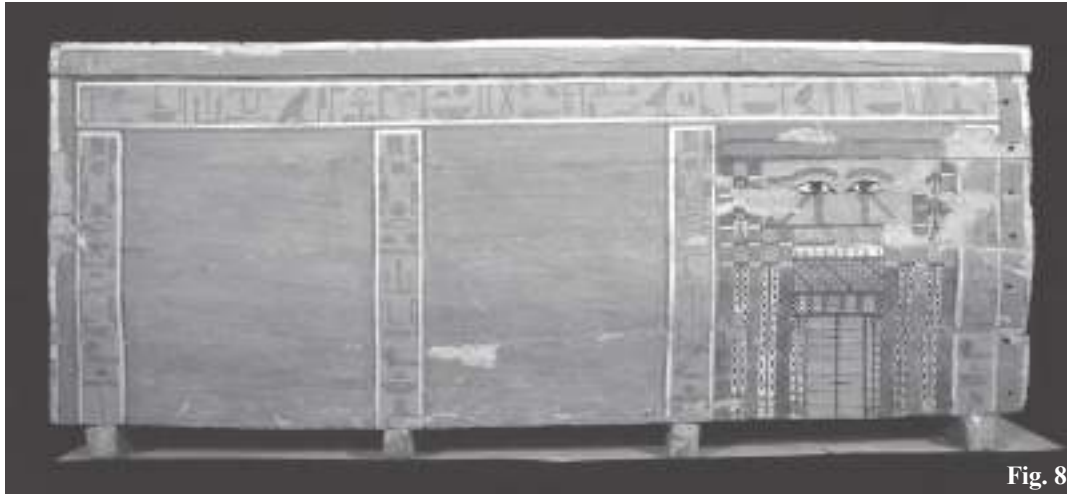


Fig. 8

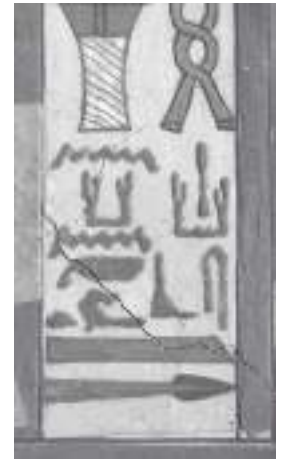


Fig. 10

Figs. 8 and 9 - Coffin of Sobekhat
Fig. 10 - Title and name of Sobekhat on his anthropoid coffin

(L:193, W:56, H:80 cm) and is entirely painted orange with yellow bands and blue text (Figs. 8-9). The eye-panel and false door on the east side are very finely decorated with polychrome painting.¹⁰ A trace of where a circular lug was cut off can be seen in a section bare of paint on the south side of the lid.¹¹ The interior of the coffin bears no decoration. Interestingly, the style is quite similar to the coffin of Geheset dated to the first half of the Thirteenth Dynasty which was recently found by the German mission at Dra Abu el-Naga, Luxor.¹² The date of this parallel is consistent with the pottery group found at the *Taftl* mound.

In the box-shaped coffin, an inner anthropoid coffin covered with a shroud was placed facing east (Pl. XIII). This inner coffin is made of a wooden frame and cartonnage. The body is painted in

¹⁰ The outer decoration program corresponds to the 'Type IVba' of Harco Willems's typology, and the textual content is also common in this type. See WILLEMS, *Chests of life*, 160.

¹¹ A similar removed lug was also observed on the lid of the coffin of Senu (see below).

¹² POLZ, *Die Särge des Imeni und der Geheset*.

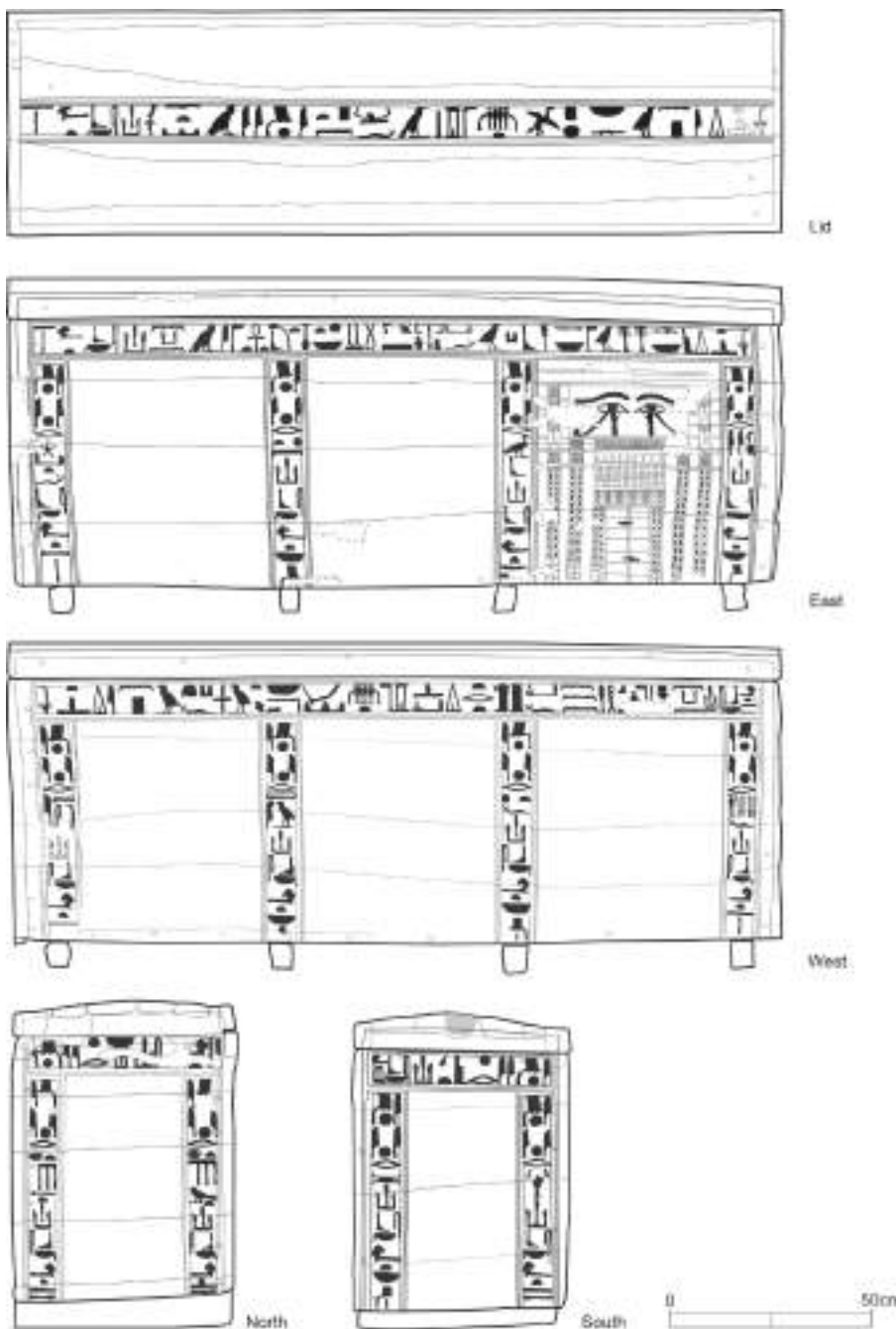


Fig. 9



Fig. 11

Figs. 11 and 12 -
Coffin of Senetites

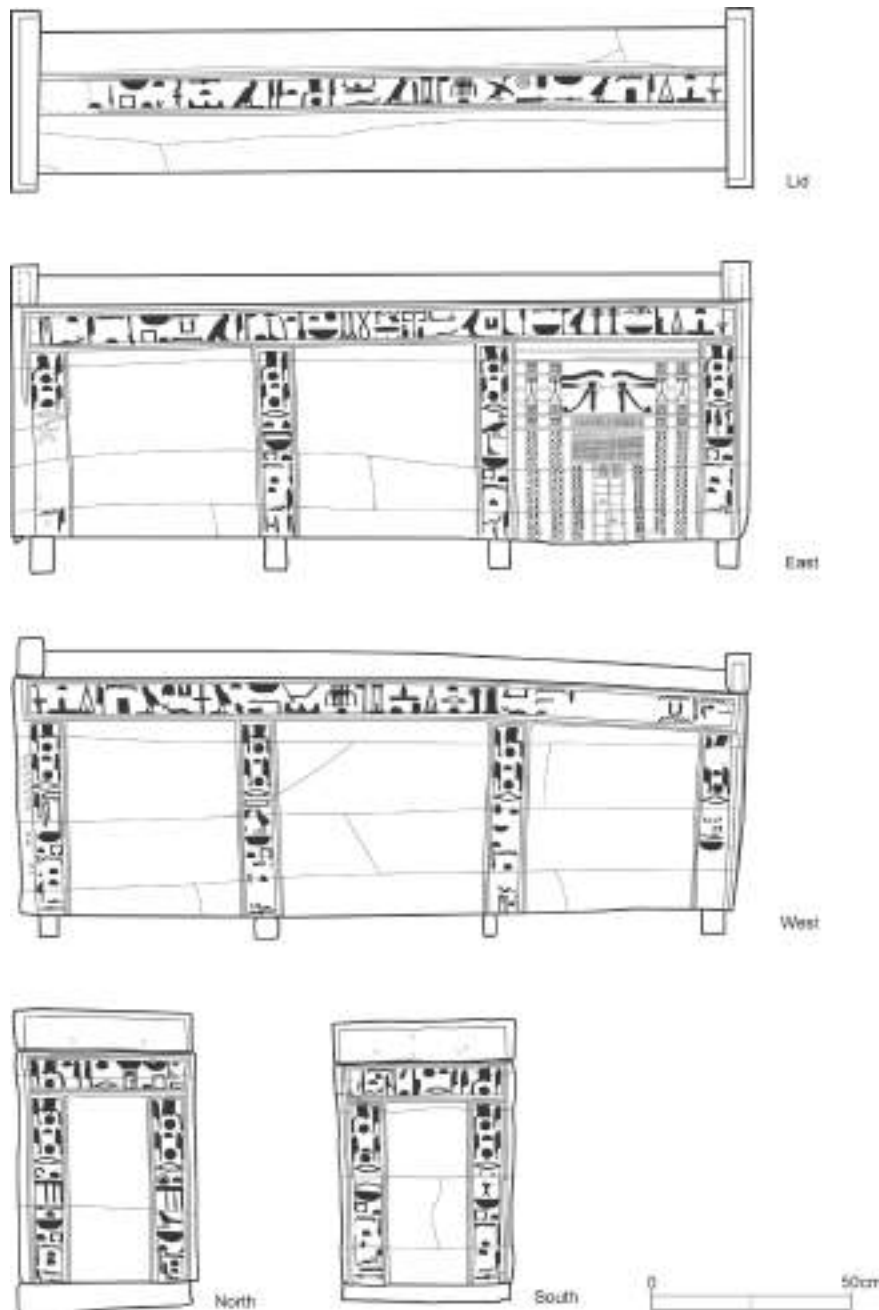


Fig. 12

red, and the broad collar is finely represented. It is noteworthy that the headdress white bands were overlaid with rows of small black ornaments made of faience. This type of decoration is similar to the black coffin of Hapi-Ankhtifi from Meir, which is now in the Metropolitan Museum of Art.¹³ Another distinctive feature is the papyrus and lotus, or lilies, painted symmetrically on the chest to represent Lower and Upper Egypt. A similar garment was painted on the coffin of Sep from Deir el-Bersheh,¹⁴ and that of Senebtisi from Lisht which is made of beads.¹⁵ The central column is inscribed with the *hetep-dinesut* formula, which in this case consists of an invocation for the Memphite God Ptah-Sokar-Osiris. At the end of the column are the name and title of Sobekhat. However, his name and title appear in a small space and are written with blue pigment in a fairly cursory manner different to the other characters (Fig. 10). This means that this coffin had already been prepared with the space intended to receive the name of the deceased left

¹³ HAYES, *The Scepter of Egypt*, vol. I, 312, fig. 203.

¹⁴ LACAU, *Sarcophages antérieurs au Nouvel Empire*, CG 28084.

¹⁵ HAYES, *The Scepter of Egypt*, vol. I, 308-9, fig. 200; PATCH, *JARCE* 32, 93-116.

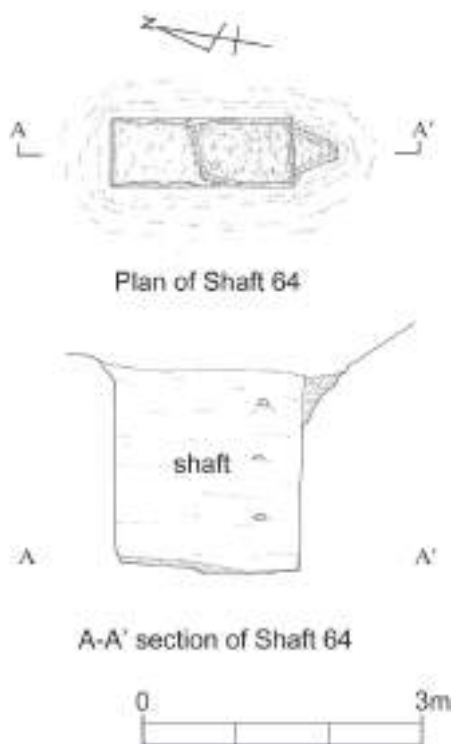


Fig. 13 - Plan and section of Shaft 64

blank. Therefore, it is probable that the coffin is a ready-made product and that Sobekhat's name and title were added after he or his relatives chose it. There had already been such production system regarding funerary items.¹⁶

The Senetites' coffin closely resembles that of Sobekhat both in colour and textual program, although this coffin has a *per-nu* shaped lid (L:184, W:46, H:81 cm) (Figs. 11-12). The Senetites' mummy had a cartonnage mask (Pl. 1). It is strange that although the coffin was found intact, the mask was completely broken when we opened the coffin. Even though in fragments, her mask follows a similar colour program to that of the face on Sobekhat's inner anthropoid coffin. A bundle of curly hair was placed beside the head of the mummy.

Shaft 64 (Tomb of Keki)

Late Twelfth to early Thirteenth Dynasty

Located immediately north of Shaft 65, Shaft 64 has an opening (2.0 x 0.7 m) oriented north-south (Fig. 13). The shaft itself was filled up with *Tafl* chunks. At the bottom of the shaft, a complete coffin belonging to a "Mistress

¹⁶ John Garstang commented on this kind of production system: GARSTANG, *Burial customs*, 48.

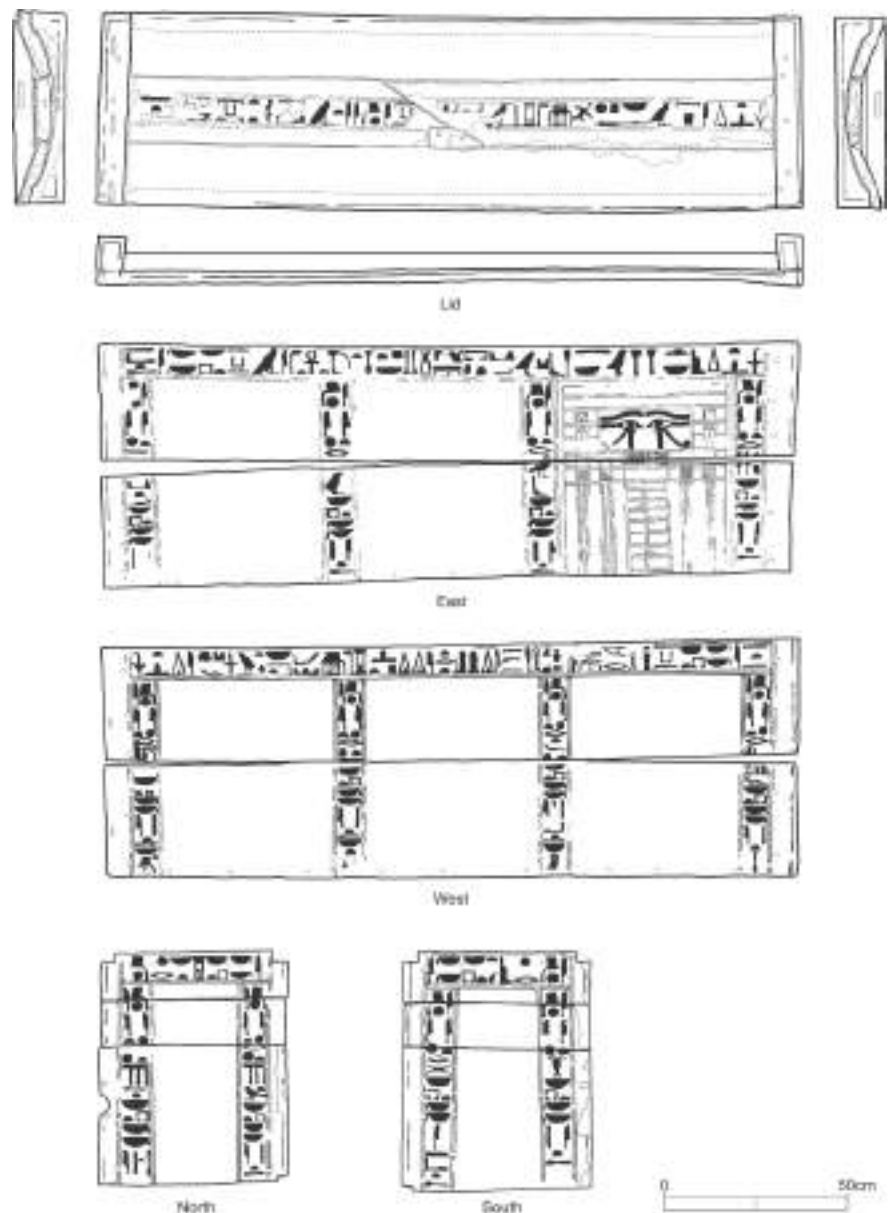


Fig. 14 - Coffin of Keki

of the House" named Keki was found. The lid was broken as a result of the pressure exerted by the *Tafl* rubble, and therefore the coffin was lifted up in each part. There were no funerary objects in and around the coffin.

Similar to the coffin of Senetites, Keki's coffin is a box type with a *per-nu* shaped lid (L: 205, W: 54, H: 82 cm) (Fig. 14). The exterior was entirely painted in yellow with text in blue. A false-door beneath the eye-panel on the east side is finely represented with polychrome painting. The interior was coated with white plaster with no further decoration. Inside the coffin was only her badly preserved mummy facing east. Although it is difficult to date her burial exactly as there was no associated pottery, according to the similar style of coffin to that of Senetites, Keki was likely buried in the late Twelfth or early Thirteenth Dynasty.

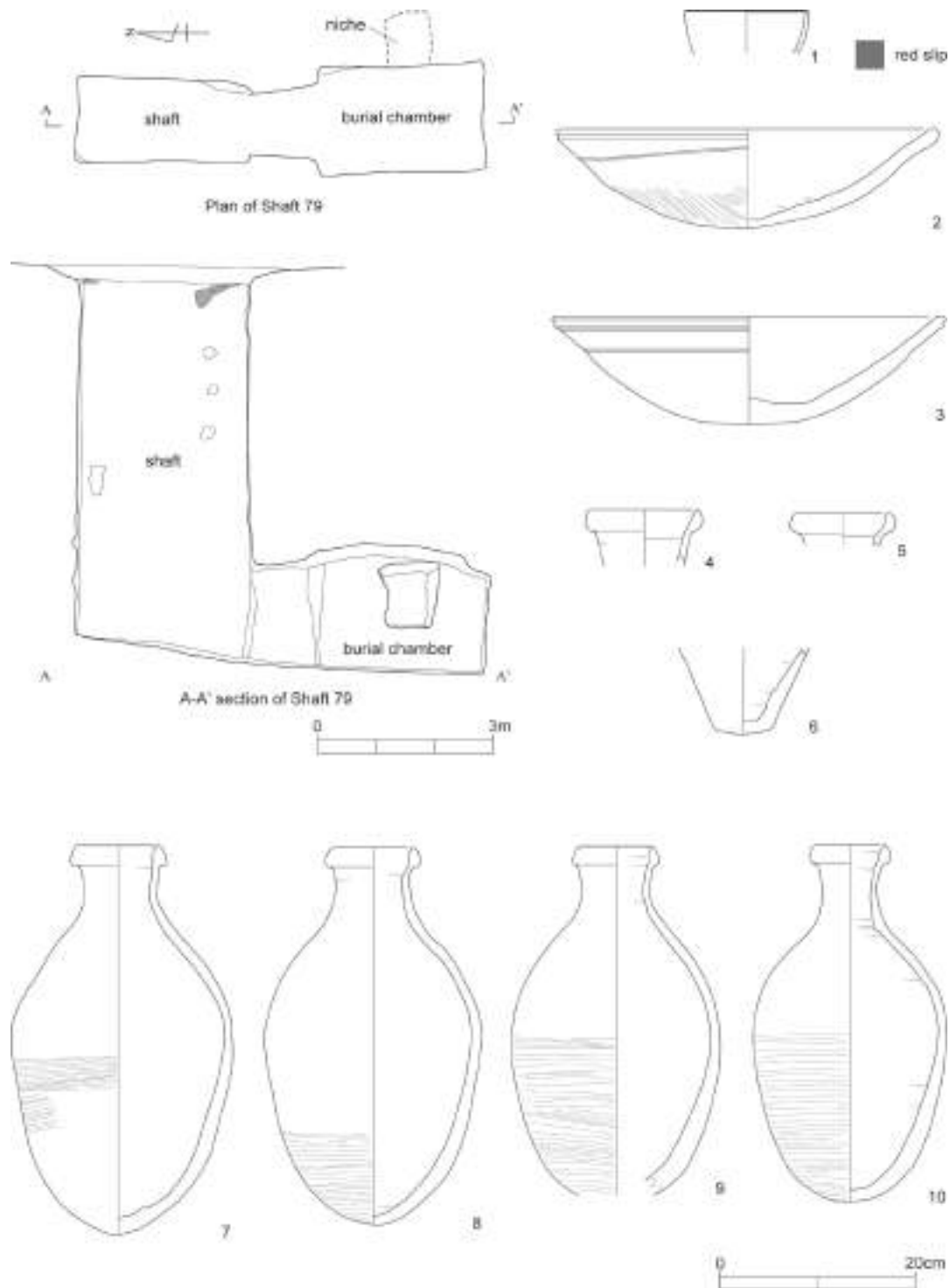


Fig. 15 - Plan, section and pottery vessels of Shaft 79

Shaft 79 (Anonymous Tomb)

Late Amenemhat III to early Thirteenth Dynasty

This shaft tomb is located at Grid 2E49, and the opening (3.0 x 1.4 m) is oriented north-south. A brick-lining remained only in the southern half of the entrance. At the depth of 6.7 m, a burial chamber was found on the south wall. The chamber plan is rectangular (4.0 x 1.8

m in maximum). The chamber is connected by a narrow corridor with the shaft (Fig. 15). There is a niche on the eastern wall of the chamber. Although this tomb has already been disturbed, some of the burial objects were retrieved.

The assemblage of pottery vessels from Shaft 79 is shown in Fig. 15.¹⁷ The most noteworthy finds are beer

¹⁷ The assemblage and fabric of pottery vessels are as follows: a

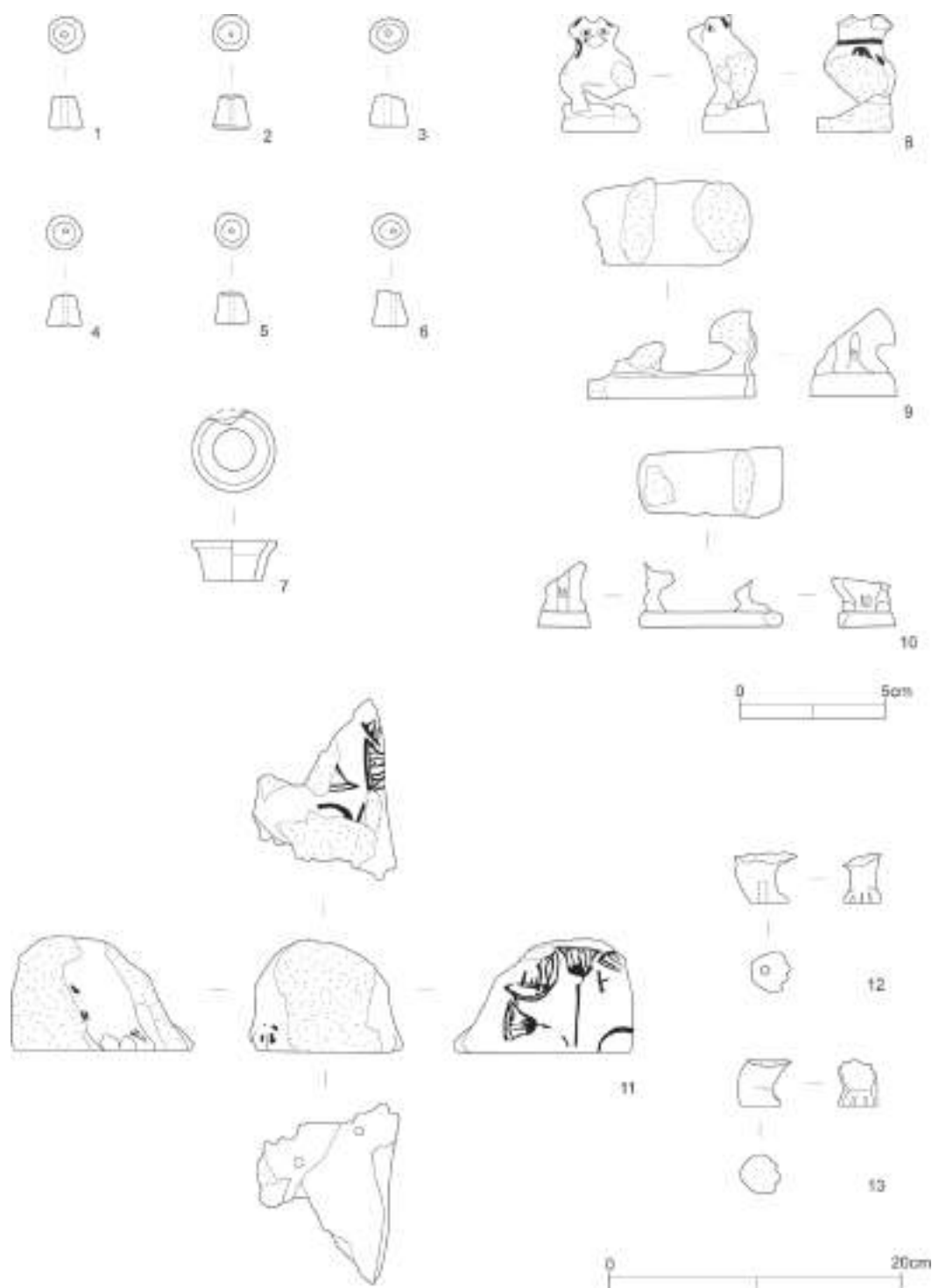


Fig. 16 - Faience objects from Shaft 79

bottles. Similar bottles, which have a relatively short hemispherical cup of Nile B1 (Fig. 15.1), a pair of large round-bottomed bowl of Nile C (Fig. 15.2, 3), two rim fragments of beer bottle (Nile C, Figs. 15.4, 5), a base fragment of an amphora (Nile D, Fig. 15.6) and four large round-bottomed bottles (Nile C, Figs. 15.7-10). The fragment of an amphora clearly dates to the New Kingdom, and it seems to be fallen into the shaft after the New Kingdom activity was started in this site.

neck with an outturned aperture and a slender body, are attested in Tell el-Dab'a.¹⁸ These examples were discovered from strata d/2, which dates from late in the reign of Amenemhat III to the early Thirteenth Dynasty.¹⁹ These

¹⁸ ASTON, *Tell el-Dab'a XII: A Corpus*, 82-4, fig. 12a, type 5.

¹⁹ The rim fragments of beer bottle could also be a material for dating, but it was excluded here. As mentioned above, the bottles appeared to be used in the ritual activity conducted

bottles can provide the date of Shaft 79.

The characteristic burial equipment is a group of faience objects. At least six examples of a trapezoidal bead made of blue faience were found from the chamber (Fig. 16.1-6). These appear to be parts of a flail, which is a typical equipment of the ‘court type’ burial.²⁰ Moreover, there was found a cylindrical faience object, which also seems to be a piece of the flail (Fig. 16.7). Faience animal figurines are also of significance (Fig. 16.8-10; Pls. III, VI). One of them seems to represent a dog (Fig. 16.8; Pl. III).²¹ Fragments of a blue faience hippopotamus were also found, although its head and rear body are missing (Figs. 16.11-13; Pl. VII). On the body, aquatic plants were depicted in black. Faience hippopotami were attested through the Middle Kingdom and Second Intermediate Period.²² While the exact date of these figurines has been the subject of much debate,²³ Shaft 79 provides an example of reliable date by virtue of its association with the complete beer bottles.

Shaft 42 (Tomb of Senu)

Early Thirteenth Dynasty

Located immediately west of Shaft 65, Shaft 42 is the first discovery of an intact Middle Kingdom burial in the Dahshur North cemetery. The shaft entrance (2.2 x 1.0 m) is oriented north-south (Fig. 17) and no remains of the superstructure or any associated objects could be identified around the entrance. The shaft itself is approximately 4 m deep, the upper section of which was completely filled with chunks of *tafl* and large brown rocks. At the depth of 2.6 m, the

aboveground as well. It is probable that the considerable amount of the fragments had been scattered from the time when the cemetery was still in use. Many fragments could fall into the shafts after they were plundered and left open. It is undeniable that the rim fragments in the shaft were derived from outside of the tomb, and the intruding rims may skew the dating of the burial. On the other hand, the entirely or almost complete bottles found at the chamber are far more likely to be indigenous burial equipment.

²⁰ GRAJETZKI, *Tomb Treasures of the Late Middle Kingdom*, 100.

²¹ A similar type of dog figurine was reported in the pyramid complex of Senusret I at Lisht. ARNOLD, *The Pyramid Complex of Senusret I*, vol. III, 61-2, 66-7, 79, pls. LXXV.52, LXXIX.105, LXXXVI.239.

²² LACOVARA, in D’AURIA, LACOVARA, ROEHRIG, *Mummies & Magic*, 127.

²³ KEMP, MERRILLEES, *Minoan Pottery*, 167-8.

south wall of the shaft opened into a chamber²⁴ where the wooden coffin of Senu, “Commander”, was placed with the long side with *Wedjet*-eyes facing west in the opposite direction from the normal burial custom (Pl. II). Burial items consisted only of a large dish found against the eastern side of the coffin (Fig. 17.1). The dish is very common in the late Middle Kingdom.²⁵

The coffin is box-shaped with a *per-nu* shaped lid (L:182, W:57, H:105 cm) and entirely painted yellow (Fig. 18-19). All four sides as well as the lid’s exterior are painted yellow and bear blue text bands framed in blue lines. An eye-panel is depicted on its long-side.²⁶ Traces of a circular cut area can be identified on the north side of the lid. A cylindrical piece of wood was found in the burial chamber, the surface of which is painted red. Thus, it is probable that the coffin was originally furnished with a lug protruding from the lid, and even-

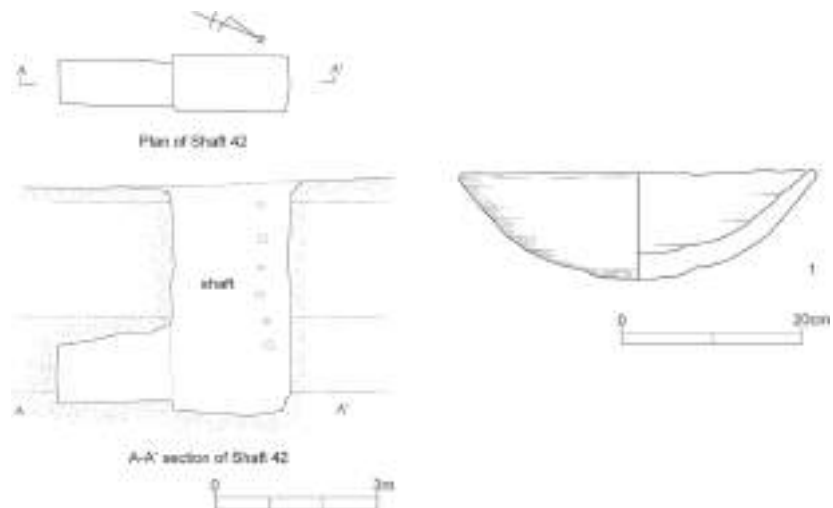


Fig. 17 - Plan, section and pottery vessel of Shaft 42

tually the lug was cut off when the coffin was placed in the subterranean chamber.²⁷

²⁴ No sealing block, such as piled stones or mudbrick, could be detected at the chamber’s entrance.

²⁵ This is a Nile C large dish (39.5 cm in diameter) with a rounded base and an uneven direct rim, the surface of which was uncoated and received a wet smooth finish. For parallels, see ASTON, *Tell el-Dab’a XII: A Corpus*, 73-4.

²⁶ The layout of text bands associated with the *wedjet*-eyes corresponds to the Type IVaa of Harco Willems’ typology: WILLEMS, *Chests of life*, 136-60. The textual content is also very common in this type, but there are some erroneous writings. On the lid, for the determinative of *sp3*, ripple of water, *n* is used instead of centipede, and on the register band of the west side with the *wedjet*-eyes, it is written ‘*nh ti*’, which seems to be an erroneous spelling of ‘*nh ntr*’ or just an omission of *ntr*.

²⁷ The purpose of the lug still remains unknown. Although it is generally considered to be for lifting, the act of cutting it

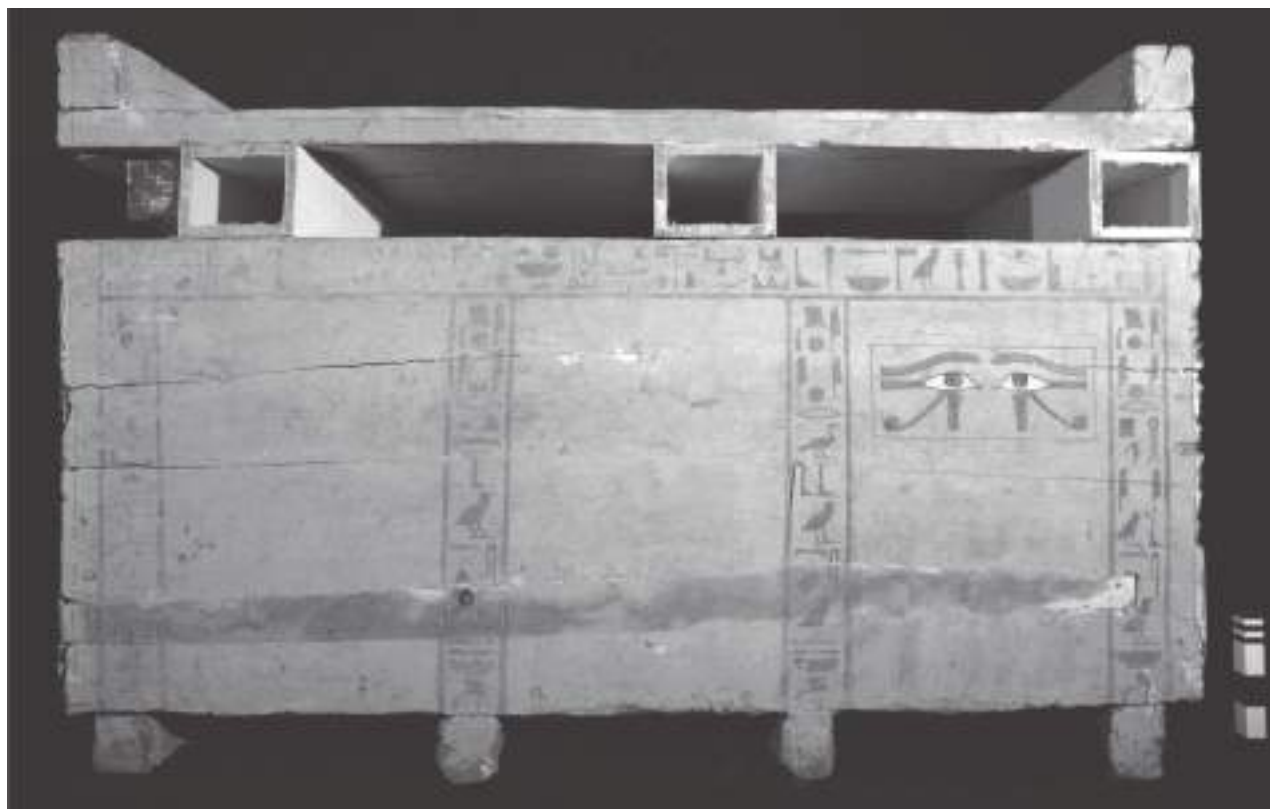


Fig. 18 - Coffin of Senu

The interior was completely coated with white plaster and devoid of any decoration. Inside the coffin, the intact mummy of Senu was placed in a supine position with the head pointing to the north and the face slightly to the east. The mummy was tightly wrapped in linen and covered with a very fine shroud.²⁸ Curiously, the coffin was placed in the opposite direction, but the head of the mummy properly pointed north and faced east.

The mummy had an exceptional cartonnage mask, with a face painted in black and a beard and wig in blue as well as a false beard and ears made of wood attached to the mask (Pl. XI). The chest was garnished with a broad polychrome collar and a necklace. The most distinctive feature was a feathered headdress extending down the sides of the face (Pl. XII). It appeared to represent Senu's *Ba*, as the bird has no face and the neck is connected to the face of the mask.²⁹ The mask seems to have been made on a mould, particularly the face and wig, the thickness of which is about 8 to 9 mm. This thicker painted portion extends just below the collar where it

thins out to about 4 to 5 mm and is no longer painted. At the torso, some resin and linen overlay this thinner area for about another 10 or 12 cm where the cartonnage thins again to less than 2 mm and continues to extend downward, though it was broken here by the pressure of the wrapped linen. Thus, the mask does not cover the mummy separately, but rather extends to the torso which is known as the 'extended mask'.³⁰ There was enough space inside the mask to ensure that the mummy's head was not in direct contact with the inner surface. No resin was used to cement the wrappings to the inside of the mask and the head was about 6-8 cm clear of the top of the mask on the inside. The head was placed so as to face left (east), around which long fringed linens were wrapped to fill the space between the neck and the inner surface of the mask.

The mask presents particular features such as the feathered decoration and the extended mask, which seem to be primitive elements leading to the innovation of the *rishi* decoration and anthropoid coffin which were fully developed in the Seventeenth Dynasty.³¹ Therefore, the

could have a magical significance, since there is only one lug in the case of Senu's coffin and it is mostly cut off. For the example, see SCHÄFER, *Priestergräber und andere Grabfunde*, 20-1. The red-colouring on the lug is also maybe relevant to this symbolic meaning. See TAYLOR, in DAVIES (ed.), *Colour and Painting*, 176.

²⁸ The shroud is rectangular and measures 270 x 113 cm.

²⁹ See IKRAM, DODSON, *The Mummy in Ancient Egypt*, 169.

³⁰ There is no parallel showing the bird's body on the mask in the corpuses. ROGGE, in D'AURIA, LACOVARA, ROEHRIG (eds.), *Mummies & Magic*, 132; VILA, in VERCOUTTER (ed.), *Mirgissa*, vol. III, 151-268.

³¹ For the development of *rishi* coffins and feathered decorations, see MINIACI, in GRALLERT, GRAJETZKI (eds.), *Life*

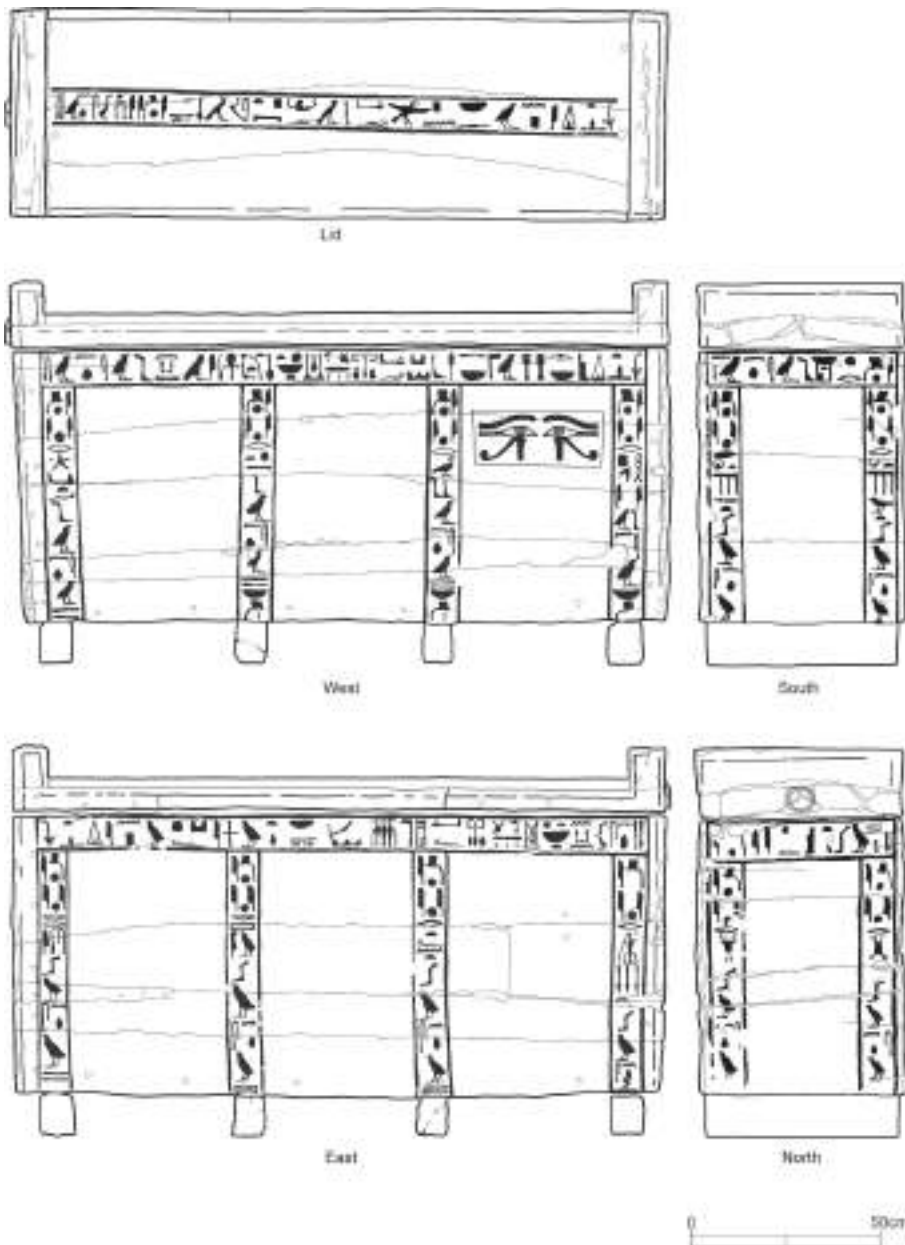


Fig. 19 - Coffin of Senu

burial of Senu probably dates to the Thirteenth rather than the Twelfth Dynasty.

Shaft 107 (Anonymous Tomb) Early Thirteenth Dynasty

Shaft 107 is located at Grid 2E50, and the size of the entrance is 2.6 m in length and 1.4 m in width. The depth of the shaft is 10.1 m. This shaft is one of the deepest Mid-

and Afterlife, 94-9 and MINIACI, *Rishi Coffins*. In the article, the mask of Senu is mentioned as one of the earliest Lower Egypt predecessors to the Seventeenth Dynasty *rishi* coffins.

dle Kingdom tombs within the area around the tomb-chapel of Ta. At the bottom, a burial chamber (2.6 x 1.4 m) was found to the south. There is a niche for canopic equipment on the eastern wall (Fig. 20).

The tomb had already been plundered, and there was almost no trace of the burial itself. However, nine complete beer bottles were found gathered in the eastern part of the chamber, and they appeared to be *in situ* (Pl. iv). In addition, another two bottles were restored from fragments (Fig. 21).³² Among them, eight bottles have a slightly flaring neck and a rounded triangular modelled rim (Fig. 21.1-8), five of which have a pot mark of vertical line (about 3 cm) incised before firing. In the Memphis-Fayum region, the close parallels can be seen in the cemetery of Hawara. The bottles of Hawara are dated from the late Amenemhat III to the early Thirteenth Dynasty.³³ The bottles in Fig. 21.10 and 11 have a shape different from the others. They have a rhomboidal or globular body, and the neck is short and straight, or tapering towards the rim. The modelled rim has an inner indentation, which is so-called 'kettle-mouth'. The most similar examples were found in strata d/1 at Tell el-Dab'a. The date of this type is suggested to the first quarter of the Thirteenth Dynasty.³⁴ The vessel indices of hemispherical cups are 165 (Fig. 20.12) and 144 (Fig. 20.13), the values of which place them in the later Twelfth to the early Thirteenth Dynas-

ty.³⁵ From these pottery analyses, Shaft 107 plausibly

³² Fig. 20 shows the pottery vessels other than the complete beer bottles: miniature bowls of Nile B1 (Fig. 20.1-8), small round-bottomed bowl with holes bored vertically into the bottom (Nile C, Fig. 20.9), small bowls (Nile C, Figs. 20.10, 11), small hemispherical cups (Nile B1, Figs. 20.12, 13) and large round-bottomed bowls (Nile C, Figs. 20.14, 15).

³³ SENOSSI, in SCHIESTL, SEILER, *Handbook of Pottery*, 202-3, figs. 9, 10.

³⁴ SZAFRANSKI, *Seriation and Aperture Index* 2, pl. 4.16; ASTON, *Tell el-Dab'a XII: A Corpus*, pl. XLII.149; SCHIESTL, SEILER, *Handbook of Pottery*, vol. I, 672-3.

³⁵ ARNOLD, in ARNOLD (ed.), *The Pyramid of Senwosret I*, vol. I, 140-1.

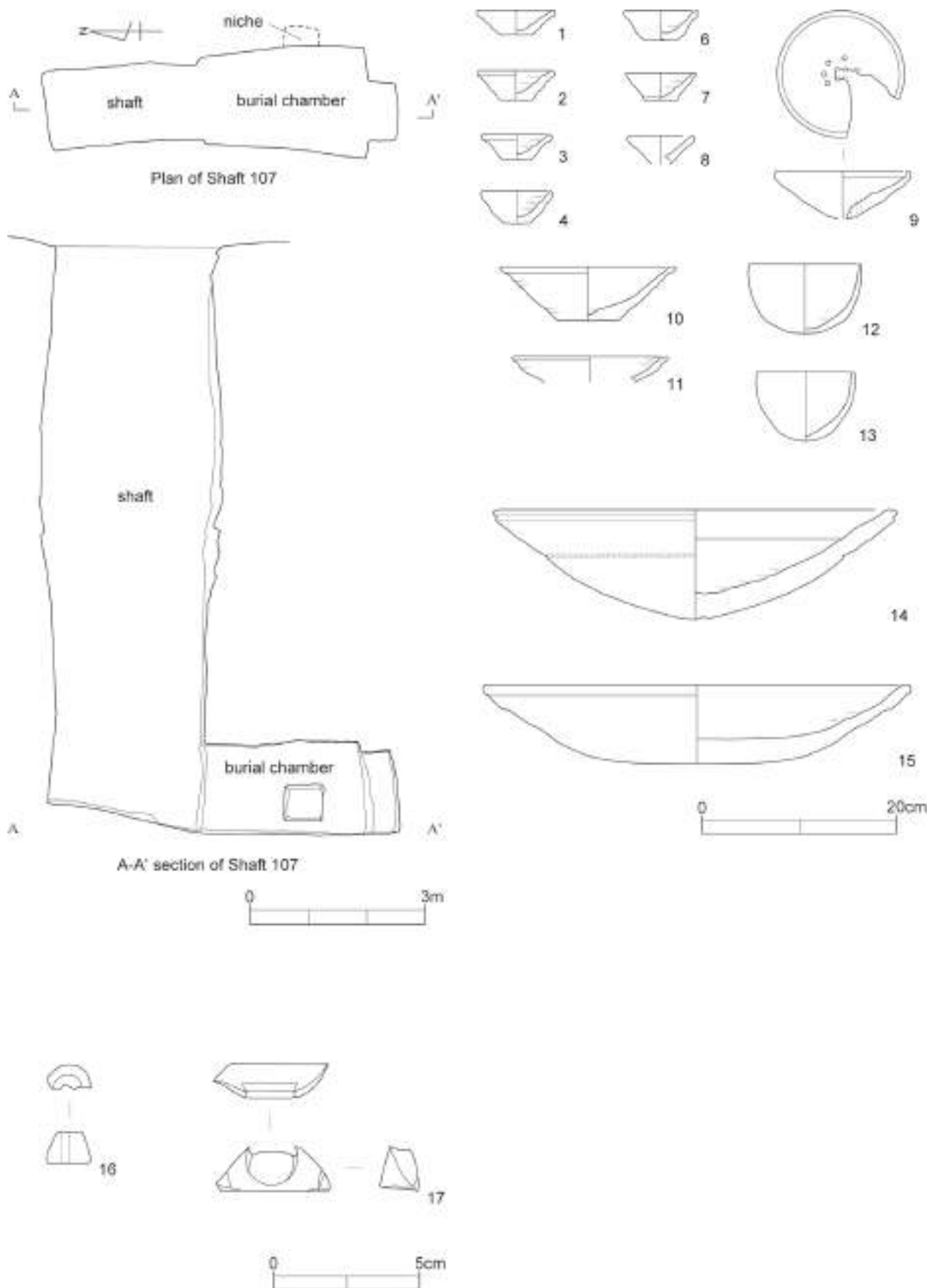


Fig. 20 - Plan, section and finds of Shaft 107

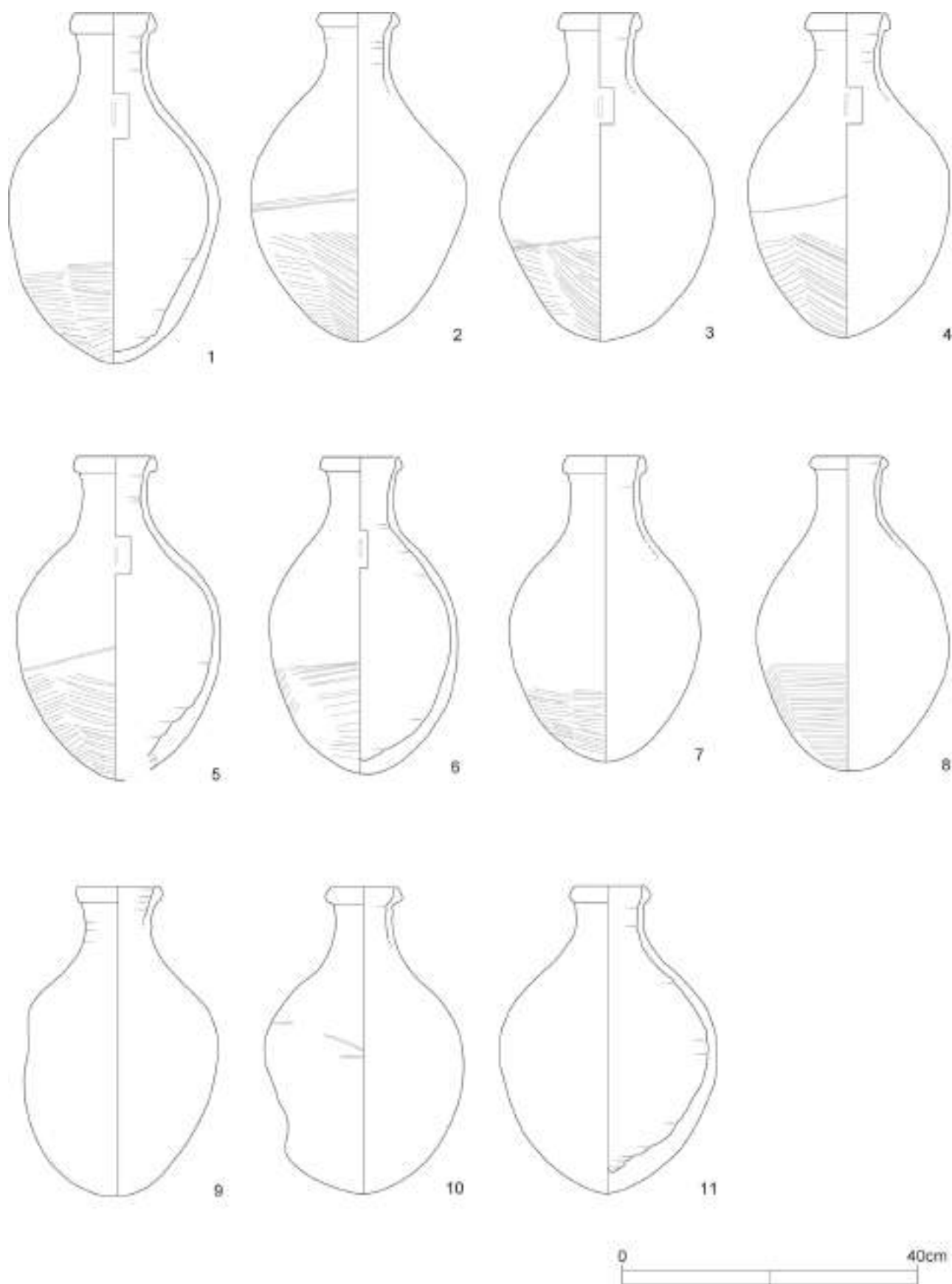


Fig. 21 - Beer bottles from Shaft 107

dates to the early Thirteenth Dynasty.

Burial equipment other than the pottery vessels is scanty. Although no wood from the coffin was found, there was part of the inlaid eyes, which appears to be from a mummy mask or an anthropoid coffin. A small trapezoidal faience bead, which seems to belong to a flail, was also found. As mentioned above, the flail is typical equipment of the 'court type' burial.³⁶

Shaft 106 (Tomb of Key)

Early Thirteenth Dynasty

Shaft 106 is located at Grid 3E41, and the entrance (2.3 x 1.0 m) is oriented north-south. The depth of the shaft is 5.8 m. At the bottom, a burial chamber was found to the south (Fig. 22).

Although disturbed, some of burial equipment still remained in the chamber. Fig. 22 shows the assemblage of pottery vessels.³⁷ Again, the beer bottle is chronologically important. The bottle in Fig. 22.8 has a rhomboidal body with a short neck tapering towards the rim. At the rim, the pronounced inner indentation was observed (kettle-mouth). It was found broken and the inner surface at the lower part of the body was covered by white plaster. It is assumed that a white plaster paste was poured into the bottle. The shape of this bottle is similar to that of the second type from Shaft 107, suggesting the date of the first quarter of the Thirteenth Dynasty. All hemispherical cups lack the lower parts, and the vessel indices cannot be measured. However, upper part of Fig. 22.4 is slightly incurved, and such a restricted contour was attested mostly in the first half of the Thirteenth Dynasty,³⁸ the period of which is consistent with

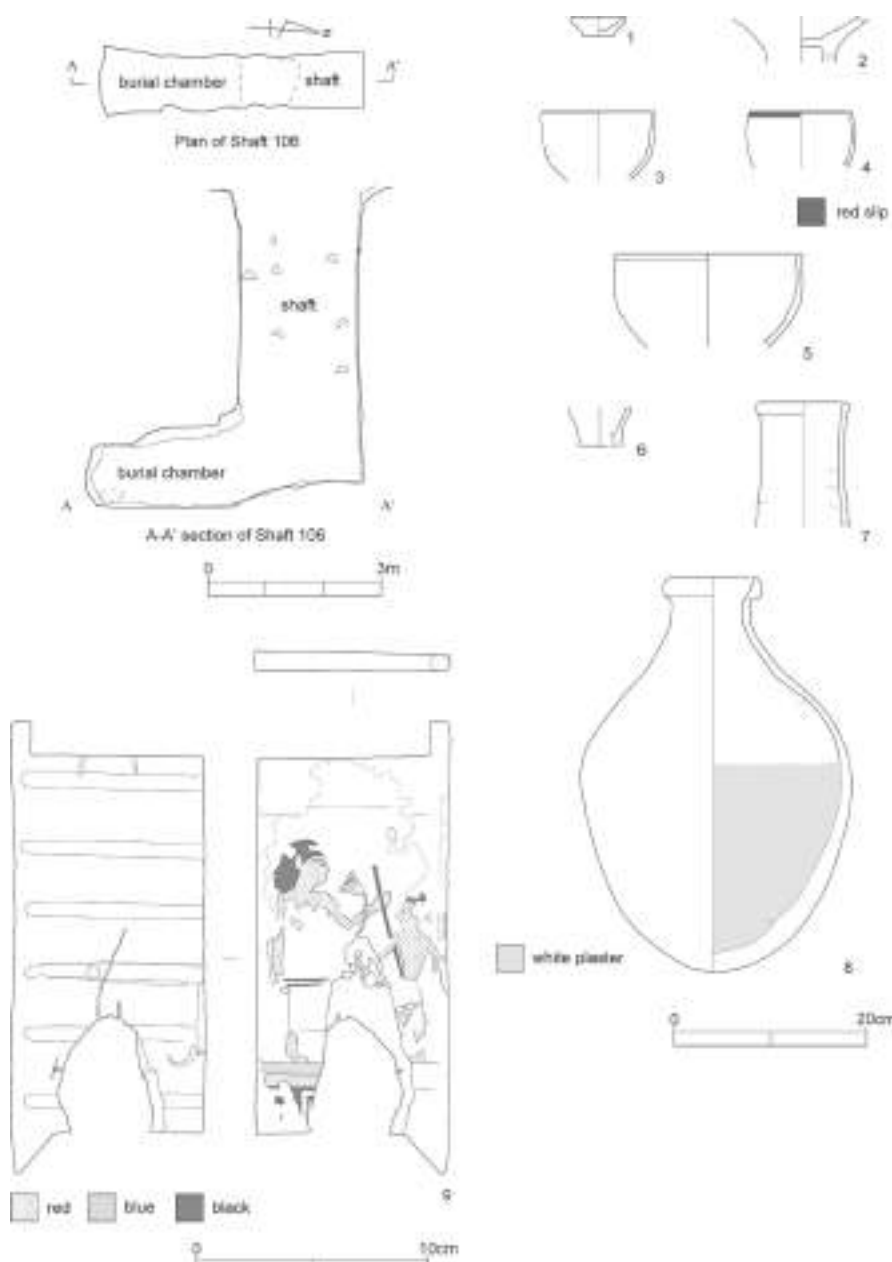


Fig. 22 - Plan, section and finds of Shaft 106

the date of the beer bottle.

A piece of a wooden model door was retrieved from the shaft filling (Fig. 22.9; Pl. v). Two standing persons are depicted on the outer surface, and the bigger is facing to the left with holding a stave and the smaller is facing to the right. A lotus flower is represented between them. In general, such wooden models were typical equipment in the early Middle Kingdom tombs, but disappeared from the later Twelfth Dynasty.³⁹ Even though

³⁶ GRAJETZKI, *Tomb Treasures of the Late Middle Kingdom*, 100.

³⁷ The shape and fabric of vessels are as follows: a miniature bowl (Nile C, Fig. 22.1), an offering stand (Nile C, Fig. 22.2), two small hemispherical cups (Nile B1, Fig. 22.3, 4), a medium deep bowl with rolled rim (Nile B1, Fig. 22.5), a miniature vessel with flat base and restricted contour (Nile B2, Fig. 22.6), a fragment of long necked bottle (Nile B2, Fig. 22.7) and a large round-bottomed bottle (Nile C, Fig. 22.8).

³⁸ For example, ASTON, *Tell el-Dab'a XII: A Corpus*, pl. 8.39; BOURRIAU, GALLORINI, in SCHIESTL, SEILER (eds.), *Handbook*

of Pottery, figs. 16.3a1.13, 16.3a1.14, 22.3a1.23; SCHIESTL, *Tell el-Dab'a XVIII. Die Palastnekropole*, figs. 290.2, 325.5, 7, 10, 12-3.

³⁹ The wooden tomb models ceased to appear in the Memphis-Fayum region after the reign of Senusret II, with the occasional

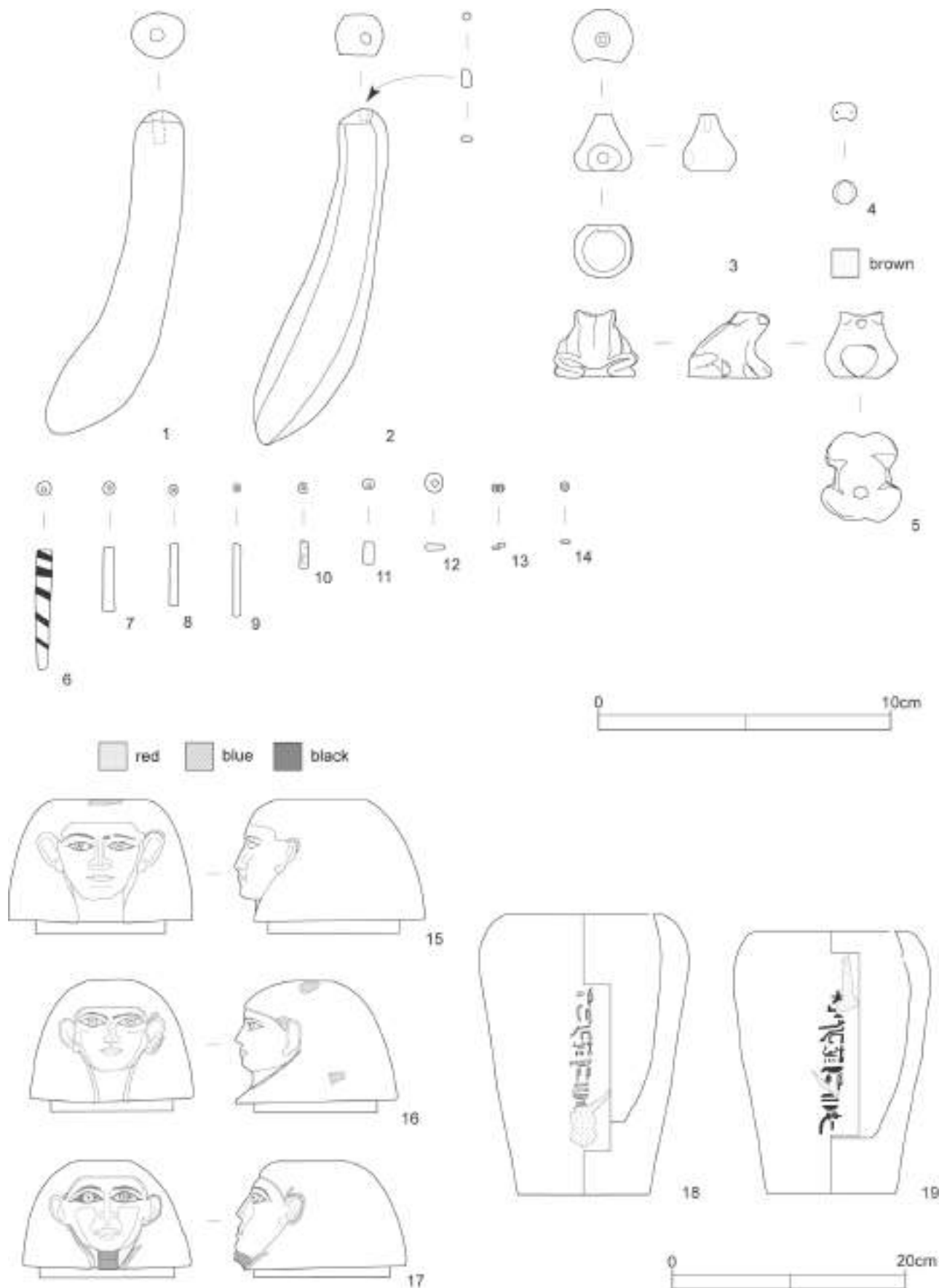


Fig. 23 - Faience object and limestone canopic jars from Shaft 106



Fig. 24

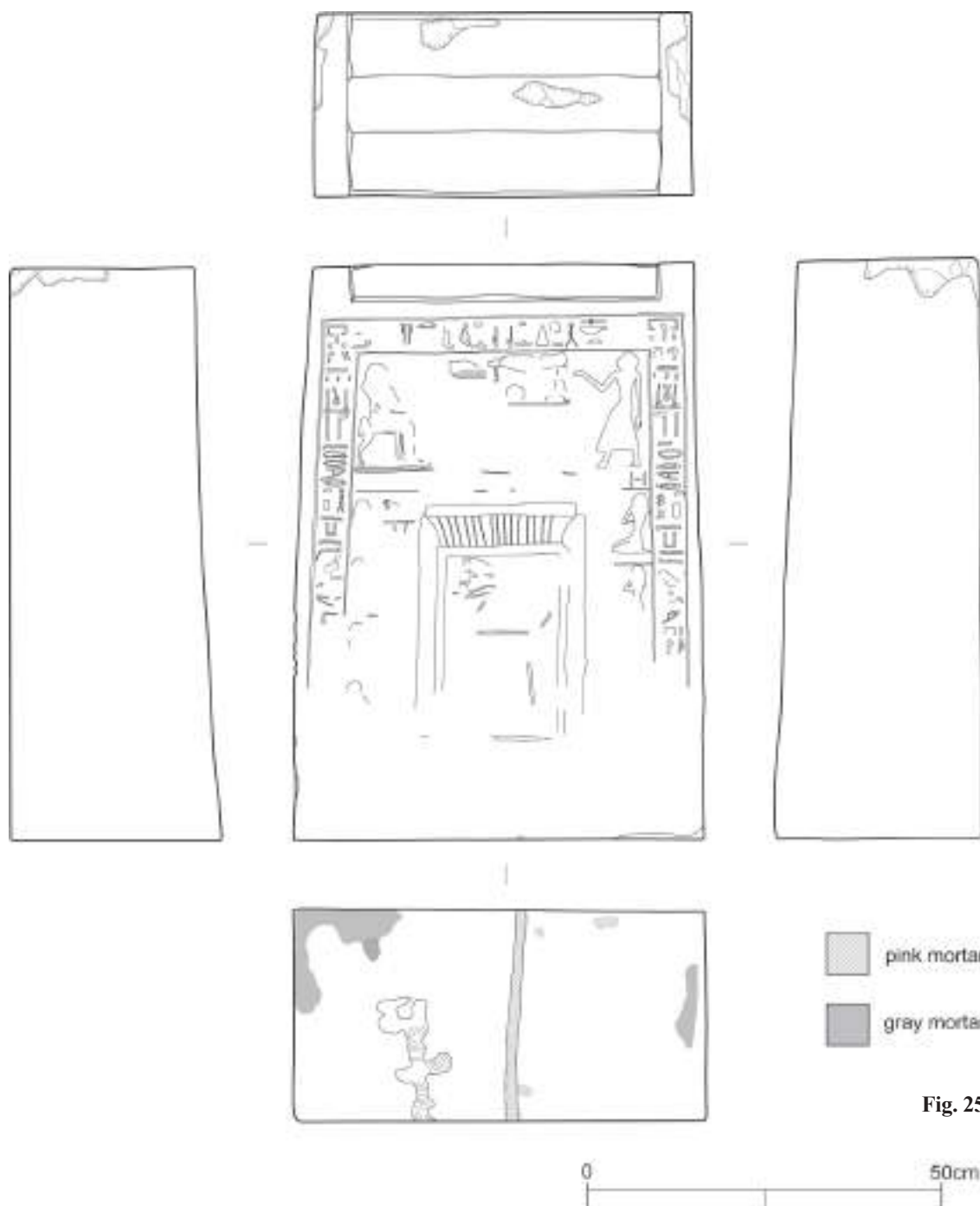


Fig. 25

Fig. 24 - Canopic stoppers from Shaft 106; Fig. 25 - Limestone stela from Shaft 106



Fig. 26 - Limestone stela from Shaft 106

the wooden model was included, the pottery assemblage obviously suggests that Shaft 106 belongs to the early Thirteenth Dynasty.

Fragments of limestone canopic jars (three lids and two bodies) were found in the shaft and chamber (Figs. 23.15-19, 24; Pl. x). The lids have the shape of a human head, and traces of pigment indicate that the contours of the eyes and eyebrows were drawn in black, and the wig was painted in blue and eyeball in red. One of the lids has a black beard. The bodies were inscribed with the names of the gods Imset (Fig. 23.18; Pl. x) and Duamutef (Fig. 23.19; Pl. x) as well as the title and name of the owner Key. Only the inscription with Duamutef was filled with black pigment. Black resin still remained in their interior.

This tomb also had a variety of faience objects. Fig. 23.1 and 23.2 are 'model fruits', and the former is light green and the latter is white (Pl. xii). They have a small hole at the top end, and in the hole of Fig. 23.2 a small piece of faience was inserted.⁴⁰ Fig. 23.3 appears to be

exception of boat models, which continued until the mid-Twelfth Dynasty. See BOURRIAU, in QUIRKE (ed.), *Middle Kingdom Studies*, 11.

⁴⁰ Faience model fruit in Lisht was also discovered in a pair

a fig which has holes in the side and top. Fig. 23.4 is probably a kind of grain.⁴¹ Fig. 23.5 is a small frog figurine made of greenish blue faience (Pl. xi).⁴² Also faience beads (Fig. 23.6-14) were found, among which is a cylindrical bead with a spiral of black glaze (Fig. 23.6) well attested in the cemeteries of Harageh and Lisht.⁴³

The most remarkable find is a limestone stela (82 x 59 x 29 cm) (Figs. 25-6).⁴⁴ Found at a slightly higher level than the entrance of the chamber, the stela had probably fallen from the surface. The stela has a tapered shape, and the top represents the *per-nu* form and consists of three lines of barrel-vaults. On the front side, an offering scene consisting of at least four registers is represented in sunken relief, and in the centre a false door is carved in raised relief. The text inscribed on the frame is symmetrically reversed *hetep-di-nesut* formulae with the invocation for Ptah-Sokar on the right and Osiris on the left. Unfortunately, the title and name of the owner are unknown as the lower part is damaged by weathering.

There is no direct evidence that this stela belongs to Shaft 106. However, the worn surface of the stela indicates that it had been exposed for a considerable period of time, and a rectangular limestone block (60 x 40 x 20 cm) placed on the bedrock to the west of the shaft entrance suggests that along with the limestone block, the stela had formed a superstructure of Shaft 106.

Shaft 53 (Anonymous Tomb)

Mid-Thirteenth Dynasty

Located at Grid 2E18-19, Shaft 53 has an entrance (3.0 x 1.5 m) with a brick lining on the edge. The depth of the shaft is 5.1 m. At the bottom, a burial chamber was opened to the south. A niche was on the southern end of the east wall of the chamber (Fig. 27). A number of

of blue and white. See ARNOLD, *The Pyramid Complex of Senwosret I*, vol. III, 79, pl. LXXXVII.241.

⁴¹ Exactly the same examples of the fig and grain were attested in the faience figurine group from Lisht, which included the model fruits mentioned the note above. ARNOLD, *The Pyramid Complex of Senwosret I*, vol. III, 79, pl. 88.243, 245.

⁴² Such figurines are attested in Harageh and Lisht. See ENGELBACH, *Harageh*, pl. XIV.353; ARNOLD, *The Pyramid Complex of Senwosret I*, vol. III, 62, pl. LXXV.54.

⁴³ ENGELBACH, *Harageh*, pl. LII.65b, d; ARNOLD, *The Pyramid Complex of Senwosret I*, vol. III, 62, pl. LXXV.61.

⁴⁴ The 'Stela-chapel' (Stelenkapelle) investigated by Günther Lapp bears close resemblance to this stela. LAPP, *MDAIK* 50, 231-52; WHELAN, in GRALLERT, GRAJETZKI (eds.), *Life and Afterlife*, 153-4.

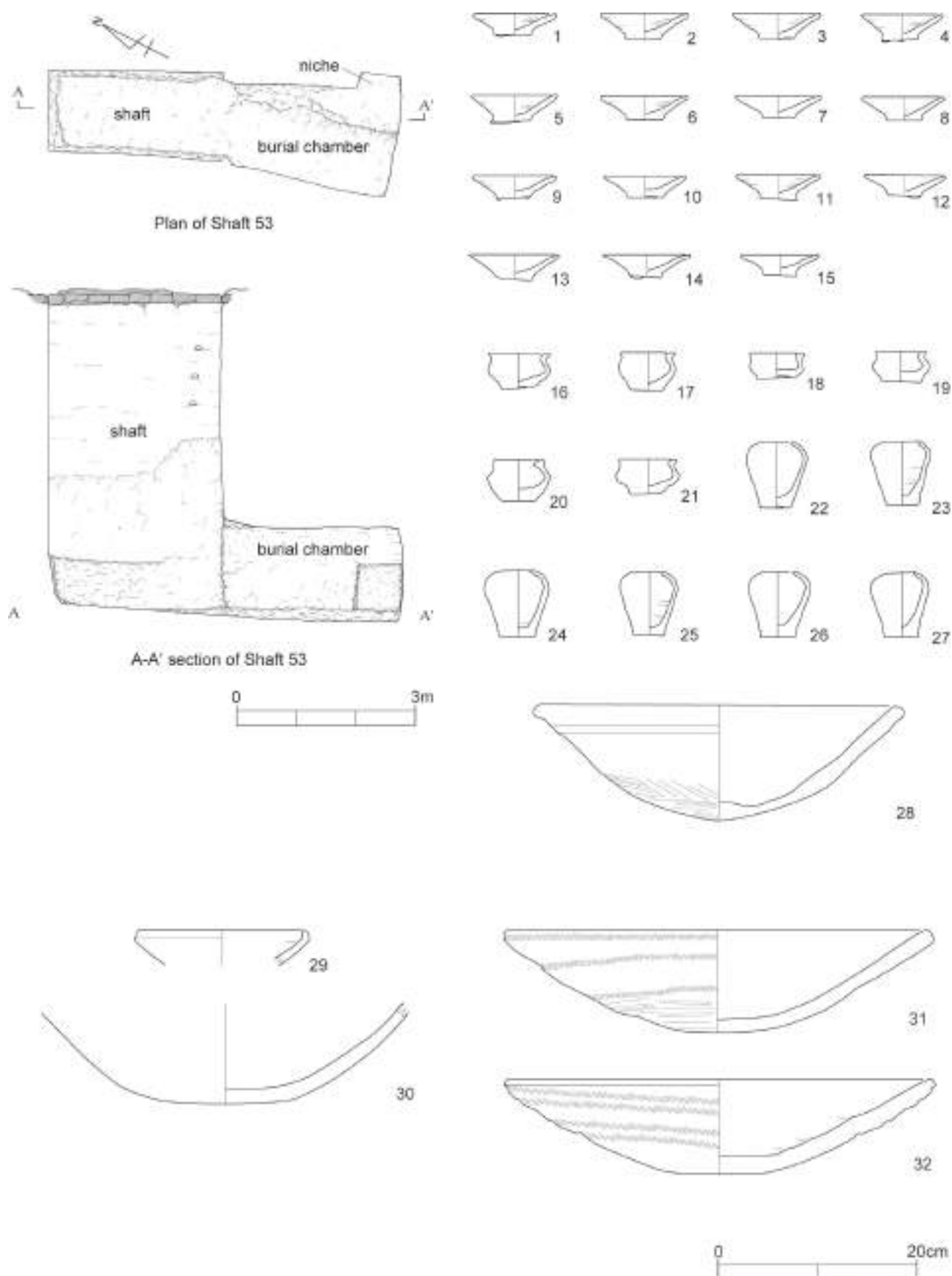


Fig. 27 - Plan, section and pottery vessels of Shaft 53

limestone blocks scattered in front of the chamber indicated that it was originally sealed with the blocks.

Although the chamber was badly plundered, pottery vessels and fragments of human bones and wooden objects were found. Our anthropological study shows that a young adult female and a child were buried. The pottery vessels were relatively well-preserved, and among them two almost complete beer bottles are important for the chronology (Fig. 28.1, 2). This type of beer bottle is widely spread all over Egypt, and dates particularly to the second quarter or middle of the Thirteenth Dynasty.⁴⁵

As for the date of these bottles, the works of B. Bader, J. Bourriau and C. Gallorini for the material from Kom Rabi'a should be mentioned.⁴⁶ Their Type 4a⁴⁷ of the beer bottle neck bears close resemblance to those of the bottles from Shaft 53. From the stratigraphy of Memphis, Type 4a was from Level VII east, VIe and VIId. B. Bader demonstrated that these layers belong to the second quarter or middle of the Thirteenth Dynasty.⁴⁸ Therefore it is probable that the date of the bottles from Shaft 53 belong to the middle of Thirteenth Dynasty.⁴⁹

As for the other vessels, we found a set of miniature vessels, which consists of fifteen plates (Nile B1, Fig. 27.1-15), six wide mouthed jars with outturned rim (Nile B1, Fig. 27.16-21) and six flat-bottomed jars with restricted contour (Nile B1, Fig. 27.22-27).⁵⁰ Most of the miniature vessels were found in and around a large round-bottomed bowl (Nile C, Fig. 27.28) placed at the northeastern part of the chamber. It is highly possible that the miniature vessels were stacked in the bowl and placed in front of the

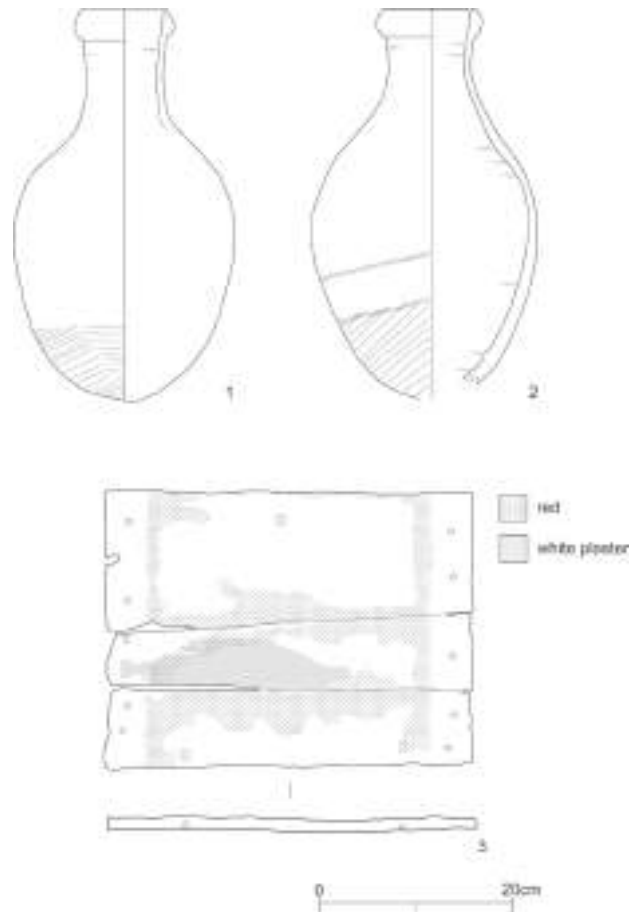


Fig. 28 - Beer bottles and a piece of wooden chest from Shaft 53

⁴⁵ SCHIESTL, SEILER (eds.), *Handbook of Pottery*, vol. I, 674-8.

⁴⁶ BADER, in BIETAK, CZERNY (eds.), *The Synchronisation of Civilisations*, 249-67; BADER, *Tell el-Dab'a XIX. Auaris und Memphis*, 160-86; BOURRIAU, GALLORINI, in SCHIESTL, SEILER (eds.), *Handbook of Pottery*, 107-30.

⁴⁷ BADER, in BIETAK, CZERNY (eds.), *The Synchronisation of Civilisations*, fig. 12; BADER, *Tell el-Dab'a XIX. Auaris und Memphis*, fig. 140.

⁴⁸ Level VII is best paralleled by Phase G/3-1 of Tell el-Daba, Level VIe by Phase F to E/3 and Level VIId by Phase E/2. These phases roughly correspond to the second quarter or the middle of the Thirteenth Dynasty. See BADER, in BIETAK, CZERNY (eds.), *The Synchronisation of Civilisations*, 265, tables 4, 5; BADER, *Tell el-Dab'a XIX. Auaris und Memphis*, 707, fig. 397.

⁴⁹ A similar neck was attested in elite cemetery in Saqqara South, the information of which was provided by the survey carried out by Robert Schiestl. In his report it is mentioned that the tombs of Saqqara South were possibly connected with Dahshur North cemetery. See SCHIESTL, *MDAIK* 64, 254, fig. 7.2.

⁵⁰ The other vessels are a small carinated bowl (Nile C, Fig. 27.29), two large flat-bottomed bowls (Nile C, Fig. 27.31, 32) and a base fragment of large flat-bottomed jar (Marl C2, Fig. 27.30).

eye panel of coffin.⁵¹ Such a set of miniature vessels was also observed in the foundation deposits of the mortuary temple of Mentuhotep II.⁵² This fact indicates that the ritual act of placing them might have continued throughout the Middle Kingdom, from the time of Mentuhotep II to the mid Thirteenth Dynasty. Apart from the pottery vessels, a wooden board painted in red (Fig. 28.3) was found just in front of the niche. Judging from its size and where it was found, the board could be a part of canopic chest.

Concluding Remarks

The date of the shaft-tombs presented above can be placed in the late Middle Kingdom, especially from the late Twelfth

⁵¹ Some intact burials of the Middle Kingdom had a set of miniature vessels in a large bowl placed adjacent to the sarcophagus or coffin. Examples from intact burials are as follows: SCHÄFER, *Priestergräber und andere Grabfunde*, 82-8, fig. 136; DE MORGAN, *Fouilles à Dahchour*, 40-55, fig. 105; MACE, WINLOCK, *The tomb of Senebtisi*, 112, fig. 1, pls. XXXIV, 25.c.

⁵² ARNOLD, *The Temple of Mentuhotep*, 49-58, pls. 28.a, b, 29.b.

to the mid Thirteenth Dynasties. According to the recent book by W. Grajetzki, the late Middle Kingdom burials in Harageh can be divided into three groups.⁵³ The first group is the 'court type' burials, some of which had typical beads of a flail, attested only in this type. The second group is the burials with equipment belonging to products of a funerary industry such as decorated coffins, mummy masks and canopic jars, and also containing the items used in daily life, like papyrus, faience figurine and magical wand. The third group does not contain any object of funerary industry. The Dahshur North cemetery seems to contain all these groups, and the shaft-tombs shown in this article share many features with these groups in terms of burial assemblage.

Harageh is located close to the pyramid town of Hetep-Senwosret (Lahun), and is considered to be a cemetery serving especially the wealthy community of the town.⁵⁴ The situation is almost the same in Dahshur North, as it is located at the area between the royal cemeteries of Senwosret III and the Thirteenth Dynasty kings at Saqqara South. The date of burials also roughly corresponds to the period when these royal cemeteries had been used. For the people buried in Dahshur North, although the highest class was not contained, the presence of court type burials indicates that affluent people were included, and they seem to be related to the higher social community. In this regard, the cemetery of Dahshur North, like Harageh, provides archaeological information about the burial activities performed by a wider range of social classes in Memphite region. In this cemetery still remain many shaft-tombs to be excavated. Continued investigations will make further contributions to the study of burial practices in the late Middle Kingdom.

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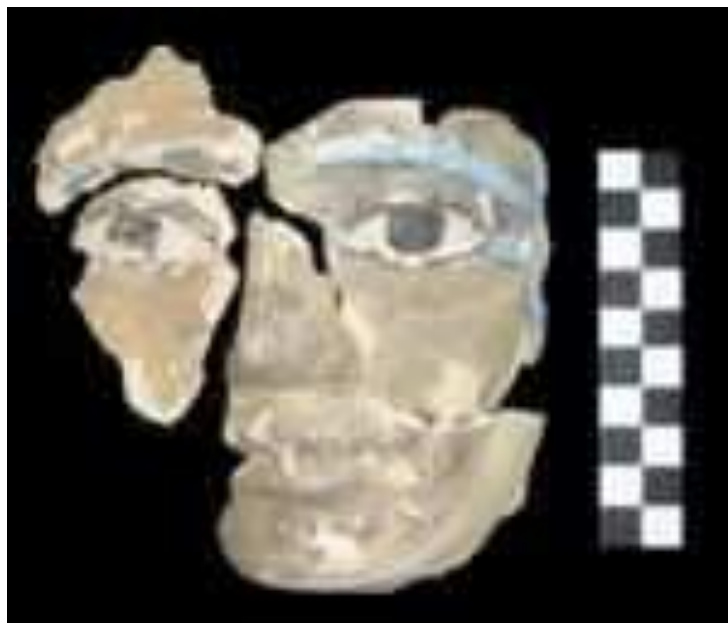
⁵³ GRAJETZKI, *Tomb Treasures of the Late Middle Kingdom*, 100-2.

⁵⁴ *Op. cit.*, 100.

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Colour Plate Captions

- Pl. I: Cartonnage mask of Senetites, Dahshur, shaft 65
- Pl. II: Coffin of Senu in situ, Dahshur, shaft 42
- Pl. III: Faience figure of dog, Dahshur, shaft 79
- Pl. IV: Beer bottles in situ at the burial chamber of Shaft 107, Dahshur
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- Pl. XVIII: *Rishi*-coffin of Neb, found inside the burial chamber. The outer side of the box is entirely painted black
- Pl. XIX: Detail of the upper half of the lid. Note the headdress' lappets with a peculiar geometrical pattern imitating a mat
- Pl. XX: End of the offering formula identifying the coffin's owner
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- Pl. XXII: Statue, Boston, MFA 2012.567. Front view
- Pl. XXIII: Statue, Boston, MFA 2012.567. Back view
- Pls. XXIV-XXVII: Canopic chest of Khakheperreseneb, side a, b, c, d © Georges Poncet/Musée du Louvre
- Pl. XXVIII: Faience lion figurine. Forepaws missing. The glaze is pitted and cracked. The details of the lion's fur, including the striped tail are indistinct. Abydos (El Arabah, tomb E.1); Manchester 1229
- Pl. XXIX: Painted limestone statuette. The encrustation of the head adds to the top-heavy impression. Abydos (El Arabah, tomb E.1); Manchester 1231
- Pl. XXX: Right profile detail of the statuette. The right hand has four instead of three incisions marking out the fingers
- Pl. XXXI: Faience lion figurine. Forepaws missing. The glaze is pitted and cracked. The details of the lion's fur, including the striped tail are indistinct. Abydos (El Arabah, tomb E.1); Manchester 1229
- Pl. XXXII: Beads and scarab, Abydos (El Arabah, tomb E.1); Manchester 1292
- Pl. XXXIII: Beads and scarab, Abydos (El Arabah, tomb E.1); Manchester 1292
- Pl. XXXIV: Silver torque, Abydos (El Arabah, tomb E.1); Manchester 1228



Pl. I



Pl. II



Pl. III



Pl. IV



Pl. V



Pl. VI



Pl. VII



Pl. VIII



Pl. X



Pl. XI



Pl. IX



Pl. XII



Pl. XIII