

CHAPTER II

THE MYCERINUS PYRAMID TEMPLE

1. INTRODUCTION

ON the valley face of the Third Pyramid is a large temple, such as was built for every king's tomb, designed for the offering service of the king after his death. One of the best established facts of Egyptian religion is the belief in the existence after death of the soul or shade of the man, bearing his form and afflicted with the physical necessities of life on earth. In order to supply these necessities, among other provisions, periodical offerings were made at the tomb and magic formulas recited with or without offerings. For this purpose every tomb, private or royal, contained an offering place on the valley side, that is, toward the inhabited fields. In tombs on the east bank of the river, the offering place was on the west side of the tomb, while on the western bank, as at Giza, it was on the east side. In the little mud and rubble graves of poor men in the *wady* north of the plateau, the offering place was only a small niche in the eastern wall, with a low mud ridge enclosing a small space which, in one tomb, measured only 100 by 30 centimeters. At the Third Pyramid, the offering place was a great temple, the body of which covered an area of about 3,850 square meters. But functionally the mud-enclosed niche and the great temple were both offering places for the dead. Indeed, one may go a step further and say that functionally the temples of the gods served chiefly also for the receipt of offerings. One of the most usual prayers, or magic recitations for the dead, is that they may share in the offerings which come forth upon the tables of the gods. The king was a god, and the line between humanity and divinity was not sharply drawn. In the temple of the god, his statue was the abiding-place of the divinity; and in the funerary chapel, the statue of the king served the same purpose for the *ka* of the king. Even in the better graves of officials, one of the commonest features is a small closed room, called a *serdab*, connected with the offering room by a narrow slot and containing statues of the man and his family. Such in character was the pyramid temple of Mycerinus — an offering place in which provision was made for the shade of the dead king by periodical presentations of food and drink, and by magic recitations before the image of the king or in the symbolic entrance to the tomb.

For convenience of reference, the parts of the temple, as revealed by our excavations, are enumerated here.¹

	Construction Period
(1) <i>Causeway corridor</i> , western end of mud-brick corridor on causeway from valley	II
<i>Causeway</i> , massive limestone	I
(2) <i>Entrance doorway</i> , entrance from causeway corridor to entrance corridor, mud brick	II
(3) <i>Entrance corridor</i> , limestone core walls cased with mud brick inside and outside	I II
(4) <i>Courtyard doorway</i> , entrance from entrance corridor to courtyard, mud brick	II
(5) <i>Courtyard</i> , paved offering court, limestone core walls cased with niched wall of mud brick	I II
(6) <i>Mud-brick screen and screen doorway</i> , separating portico from courtyard	III
(7) <i>Portico</i> , with pillars ("breiter Raum")	I
(8) <i>Outer offering room</i> ("tiefer Raum")	I
(9) <i>Mud-brick room in unfinished passage</i> from portico to unfinished part (10)	IV
(10) <i>Unfinished part</i>	I
(11) <i>Rubble walls forming room</i> in SE corner of unfinished part (10)	I
(12) <i>Doorway to northern corridor</i> (13)	I II
(13) <i>Northern corridor</i>	I II
(14) <i>Doorway to magazine corridor</i> (15)	I II IV
(15) <i>Magazine corridor</i>	I II III
(16) <i>Magazine</i> , easternmost	I II III
(17) <i>Magazine</i> , second from east	I II III
(18) <i>Magazine</i> , third from east	I II III
(19) <i>Magazine</i> , fourth from east	I II III

¹ See Plan and sections on Pls. I, II, and III.

	Construction Period
(20) <i>Magazine, westernmost</i>	I II III
(21) <i>Doorway to stairway corridor (22)</i>	I II IV
(22) <i>Stairway corridor</i>	I II
(23) <i>Stairway to roof</i>	I II
(24) <i>Southern storeroom</i>	I II
(25) <i>Doorway to inner temple</i>	I II IV
(26) <i>Anteroom of inner temple</i>	IV
(27) <i>Hall of pillars</i>	IV
(28) <i>Sloping corridor of inner temple</i>	IV
(29) <i>Inner offering room</i>	
Granite pavement	I
(a) <i>Inner corridor</i>	II
(b) <i>Main offering room</i>	II
(30) <i>Unfinished corridor of inner temple</i>	IV
(31) <i>Unfinished magazine of inner temple, northernmost</i>	IV
(32) <i>Unfinished magazine of inner temple, second from north</i>	IV
(33) <i>Unfinished magazine of inner temple, third from north</i>	IV
(34) <i>Unfinished magazine of inner temple, southernmost on east</i>	IV
(35) <i>Space between (34) and pyramid</i>	IV
(36) <i>Room in pyramid enclosure (37)</i>	IV
(37) <i>Pyramid enclosure</i>	II
(38) <i>Room on massive wall between courtyard and magazines</i>	IV (?)
(39) <i>Room on massive wall between courtyard and magazines</i>	IV (?)

PERIODS

- I. *Mycerinus*. Foundation platform, core walls of outer temple, unfinished granite casing, granite floor in inner offering room (29).
- II. *Shepseskaf*. Crude-brick casing of whole temple, limestone pavement in court (5), crude-brick magazines, destroyed inner temple of crude brick, and the crude-brick enclosing wall of the pyramid; probably also the kernel of the inner temple of limestone (29).
- III. *Dynasty V*. The screen wall of crude brick in front of the portico, and some of the minor repairs in the magazines.
- IV. *Dynasty VI*. The inner temple of limestone, except the kernel (29); the door blocks in doorways (14) and (21), and the rubble rooms (36), (38), and (39).

2. PREVIOUS REPORTS ON THE MYCERINUS PYRAMID TEMPLE

Neither Herodotus nor any other classical writer mentions the temples of the pyramids. The reference of Herodotus to the ration list of the pyramid of Cheops, said to be written in Egyptian "on the pyramid," cannot refer to the walls of the temple, as these were not inscribed in the temples of either Chephren or Mycerinus, and apparently not in the temple of Cheops. The description, however, would fit exactly an offering stela such as appears to have been set up against the eastern face of the Third Pyramid, in the innermost room of the temple. Except for this ration list of Herodotus, the first recognition of the existence of a temple which I have found is by Professor Greaves, who visited the pyramids in 1637.¹ Incidentally, in attempting to account for the statement of Herodotus that the Third Pyramid was built of "Ethiopick marble," Greaves says:

Though it cannot be denied, but close by, on the east side of it, there are the ruins of a pile of building, with a sad and dusky colour, much like that we described in passing to the second Pyramid, which might be the ground and occasion of this error.

The buildings which Greaves saw "in passing to the second Pyramid" were the mastaba tombs of nummulitic limestone on the west of the First Pyramid. As for the question which Greaves is discussing, the Third Pyramid was cased with Assuan granite — "Ethiopick marble" — for about twenty-four courses from the bottom, and with white limestone for the remainder of the height. Greaves saw only the core, which is of local limestone, and did not notice the granite at the base. But although he saw the ruins of the temple, and probably those of the Second Pyramid temple as well, he did not recognize the character of these buildings. According to Vyse (*Pyramids of Gizeh*, II, 217), Thevenot in 1655

¹ Greaves, *Pyramidographia*, p. 647b.

noted the temples of all three pyramids, and in 1755 Fourmont mentioned those of the Second and Third Pyramids (*op. cit.*, p. 253). Vyse writes that Fourmont considered the temple of the Third Pyramid "the most perfect," and quotes him as saying that in it, "on trouve quatre piliers, qui, sans doute, soutenoient une voûte, dont l'idole étoit couverte, et on tournoit autour de ces piliers comme par une espèce de collatérale."

Fourmont also appears to have noted quite correctly the massive blocks of which the temple was built. It is unfortunate that he does not mention the material of which the pillars were made, as he thus leaves it in doubt whether he saw the pillars of the portico ([7] of our plan), or those of the hall of pillars (27). Denon in 1799 (*op. cit.*, p. 265), and Jomard in 1801 (*op. cit.*, p. 277), also mention in general terms the Mycerinus pyramid temple. The attention of ancient and of modern travellers was fixed by the pyramids themselves, and the meagre mentions of the temples were merely incidental.

Howard Vyse was the first to undertake excavations in the Mycerinus pyramid temple, and even he was looking for the entrance to the pyramid. In *The Pyramids of Gizeh*, I, 150, he mentions that two workmen engaged "at the excavations in the Third Pyramid" were paid off; and that excavations were being carried out on February 13 (1837), in the pyramid temple and between the temple and the pyramid, on which day,

the greater part of the people were sent with the two janissaries to clear the space between the eastern front of the Third Pyramid and the ruins of the temple; and likewise to excavate the *adytum* of the latter building, in the hope of finding an entrance into the pyramid (p. 154).

These excavations were continued on February 14 to 17. On the 14th, "Some bones, and a skeleton, probably of a common Arab, wrapped in coarse linen, were found amongst the stones near the Third Pyramid." On the 15th:

Litter and decayed forage were taken out from the place where the bones were discovered, at the Third Pyramid. The *Adytum*¹ of the temple was cleared to its rocky foundation; it was seventeen feet below the top of the present wall, and was stained in places with red cement in which a pavement had been laid: no pavement or lining, however, remained, nor were any inscriptions or sculpture visible upon the enormous blocks, with which it was built; but a shallow square had been cut in the centre of the western side, and slight indications of pedestals appeared on the floor.

On the 16th, the work between the temple and the pyramid is mentioned (p. 157), but no details are given. On the 17th, "I gave up the operation between this pyramid and the temple on account of the great difficulty and danger attending the removal of the granite blocks, and of the little probability that existed of finding an entrance, at all events from the temple" (p. 161).

Lepsius's plan of the temple was made from the tops of the stone walls as visible in his time (1842-43), apparently unchanged when we began work.² Thus the only excavations of which a record has been preserved are those of Vyse. But the accounts of the Arab writers contain many tales of the plundering and destruction of the pyramids, and some of these actions probably affected the inner part of the temple of the Third Pyramid. In particular, Abd-el-Lateef of Baghdad (born about 1162 A.D.) describes from personal observation the attempt of Melek-el-Azeez Othman ibn Yusef to destroy the "red pyramid," which I take to be the pyramid of Mycerinus.

3. THE MYCERINUS PYRAMID TEMPLE AT THE BEGINNING OF OUR EXCAVATIONS

When the excavation of the temple of the Third Pyramid began, the part adjoining the pyramid lay under irregular heaps of limestone débris in which only a few red granite blocks were visible, while the outer court and corridor contained a shallow deposit of hard débris.³ There was very little sand except on the western side of the court. In the middle of the court there was a pile of débris thrown out from Vyse's excavation of the large offering niche.⁴ The walls of the outer court stood up high and clear, but were broken away at the northeast and southeast corners.

The surface of the walls inside showed three irregular lines of sand erosion (Pl. 3 *a* and *e*). The lowest of these was on a level with the irregular surface then visible, and had been eroded by the sand blown

¹ Vyse's "*adytum*" is (8) on our plan.

³ See Pls. 1 *a*. and 2 *a*.

² See Pl. 1 *a*.

⁴ See Vyse, *The Pyramids of Gizeh*, I, 156.

along the surface. Sand erosion on vertical surfaces at the pyramids appears without exception to start in this manner. When, however, a hole has once been hollowed out, the erosion continues by the rotary wind-driven movement of the grains of sand in the hole, even when for some cause or other the surface of the sand is lowered. I have noted the complete perforation of many limestone blocks a meter thick by sand erosion in this manner. But the lowest line of erosion in the temple was not so serious as the two upper lines. The highest was about on a level with the third course in the wall, and the middle line was on a level with the second course. It was clear that the court had once been filled with sand nearly to the top of the wall, and the highest erosion had been caused by the sand drifting across the surface at this level. Then a block or two at each corner had been removed and the sand drifted out, forming a new surface about on a level with the top of the second course. Here the middle line of erosion was formed. Again blocks seem to have been removed at the corners, and the sand drifted out to the surface observed when our excavations began — the third and lowest line of erosion.


The only definite evidence of recent disturbance of the *débris* in the temple was the mound in the portico (7) made by Vyse in clearing the "adytum" (8). No distinct traces were observable of his excavations between the "adytum" and the pyramid. This excavation was probably a hole over the western part of room (27) and the eastern part of room (29), which had been filled in since Vyse's time by the fall of *débris* from about it and by the wash of rain water.

4. THE PROGRESS OF OUR EXCAVATIONS AT THE MYCERINUS PYRAMID TEMPLE, 1906-1907

(A) PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

Before beginning the work, it was necessary to find a place on which the *débris* might be deposited without fear of covering anything of importance. Manifestly the most convenient exit for the field railway was through either the northeastern or the southeastern corner of the court, where the wall was broken down. Turning to the southeastern corner, the quarry south of the temple appeared to offer a convenient site for the dump heap. The examination of the quarry was therefore the first undertaken.

On December 5, 1906, the examination of the quarry began. The sand sloped steeply from the eastern, northern, and western edges which were high, towards the lower southern edge. In the middle we sank two holes about twenty meters apart to a depth of about two meters, and began two trenches, one in the middle of the northern end of the quarry, and one in the middle of the western face. As soon as the trenches had revealed the character of the site, the two holes in the middle were abandoned without reaching rock, although, when the work was resumed in January 1913, the rock was found only about 60 cm. lower than the bottom of the holes made in 1906. The upper deposit in the quarry was clean drift sand; the only objects encountered were two badly mummified burials of the Roman Period, extended on the back, head west. These were just under the surface.

The western trench showed a series of three quarry terraces made in cutting stone, but these were all bare of any subsequent cutting or structure. The northern trench began just below a mastaba standing above the edge of the quarry and, descending through drift sand to a depth of seven or eight meters, revealed three quarry terraces occupied by mastabas. These mastabas were poor ones of the Fifth Dynasty types, and bore inscriptions with the titles of funerary priests of the pyramid 

In the sand were found fragments of a limestone statuette (incomplete), and potsherds of red polished bowls with recurved rim and of coarse red jars. It was thus clear that the quarry contained ancient monuments and was not a suitable place for the dump heap.¹

A casual examination of the ground southeast of the temple and south of the causeway showed that this part was also occupied by mastabas, which on excavation later proved likewise to be tombs of the priests of Mycerinus. So it was necessary to turn to the area northeast of the pyramid temple.

Trenches were laid out cutting the deposits along the line of the proposed embankment, and eastwards, and along the eastern face of the northeastern corner of the temple. The *débris* over the whole area right up to the temple foundations consisted of limestone chips, with a small amount of dust, dirt,

¹ The excavation of the quarry cemetery was resumed in January 1913, and the whole will be dealt with in another place.

and potsherds. In the easternmost trenches, a decayed mud-brick wall was found running east and west, not sufficiently preserved to determine whether it was a retaining wall, or one side of an inclined plane, or simply a house wall. Over this whole region the limestone chips lay in a nearly uniform layer and appeared undisturbed since their deposition. The layer probably consisted of the masons' débris from the temple and the pyramid, thrown out when the work was nearing completion. Here, then, it was resolved to run out the débris from the temple.

As, however, the trench along the eastern face of the northeastern corner of the temple had been begun, it was carried to completion. The foundations and the rock were laid bare around the whole corner. The foundations of the temple consisted of two courses of enormous undressed blocks extending about six meters beyond the temple wall. The lower course was about 150 cm. high; the upper course 130 cm. The largest block was 450 cm. long. The lower course rested on the native rock, which had been scraped and dressed to receive it. As the débris along the face was limestone chips, without trace of a construction trench, the rock must have been cleared, if it was not already bare, previous to the building of the temple. No trace of any foundation deposit was discovered, or could even be looked for without cutting at random through the massive foundations or pulling down the temple.

(B) RAILWAY SYSTEM IN THE GREAT COURT (5)

On December 25, 1906, the work of clearing the court of the temple was begun. The rails were laid in a double track connected by two turn-tables, joined by a cross rail, placed near the middle of the court, and by another pair of tables placed at the end of the dump. Thus a circuit was established, the loaded cars running out on the eastern line, tipping their contents at the dump, and returning empty on the western line. From the turn-tables in the center of the court, lines radiated to switches which reached the actual excavations. Thus each loading point had two rail-heads projecting from a switch connected with a turn-table. While a car on one rail-head was being loaded, an empty car was pushed into place on the other rail-head. The empty cars waited on the main western line north of the turn-tables and were shoved into every loading line as soon as it became vacant. Thus there was no delay or confusion in the car service. The difficulty was at the other end — the dump. Here rails were laid out from the turn-tables to the growing end of the dump, and every few hours the tables had to be shifted forwards by inserting two-meter lengths of rails. The men with practice were able to make this shift in less than five minutes, during which time the cars tipped the débris down the side of the dump and ran back on the same line. This system we have found most advantageous for all distances over fifty or sixty meters. For short distances, a single line with switches at both ends is sufficient to serve small gangs not exceeding twenty or thirty men. For each additional gang, an additional short line should be laid. The great desideratum is to bring the cars to the very point of excavation for loading, and to prevent any interruption in the loading.

(C) EXCAVATION OF ROOMS (1) TO (11)¹

Along the southern side of the court a strip was measured off ten meters in width and divided into sections five meters long. Each section was assigned to a single small gang with one responsible working foreman. The preliminary examination showed that the top débris consisted of sand and rubbish about 10 to 20 centimeters deep, resting on a hard irregular surface of mud débris. The work began by removing the top débris from the mud surface over the whole strip. At the same time, two small gangs were put to work, one on rooms (7) southern end, (9), (11), and the massive walls between; the other on room (8) (Vyse's "adytum"), and on Vyse's dump heap in room (7). These rooms contained mainly sand mixed with chips, stones, dirt, and other débris. After the mud surface in the court was cleared, the mud débris was cut out, revealing a pavement of small limestone slabs and a niched casing wall of mud brick around the inside of the temple walls. This procedure of clearing away the sand and loose débris before cutting out the hard débris was carried out strip by strip until the court and the entrance corridor and the rooms were cleared to the pavement, or to the underlying foundation platform. On

¹ The numbers in parentheses correspond to those on the Plan.

January 20, 1907, the excavation of the court (5), the entrance corridor (2), (3), the portico (7), the outer offering room (8), and the unfinished southern part (9), (10), (11), was completed.

(D) EXCAVATION OF THE NORTHERN MAGAZINES (12) TO (24)

In the meantime the excavation of the northern magazines, rooms (12) to (24), had begun on January 11. On account of the height of the walls, it was not possible to attack this part from the court. An examination was therefore made on January 10 and 11 of the ground directly north of the inner sanctuary. The trenches revealed a light layer of débris, mainly chips, on the foundation platform, which extended northwards in this direction beyond the pyramid. A turn-table was therefore placed above what afterwards proved to be the northern wall of room (21). From this table, the loading line ran east over the part to be excavated, and the dumping line ran north to form a new embankment parallel to the eastern face of the pyramid. In the magazines, rooms (12) to (24), no surface of mud débris was found, but only a soft sandy deposit mixed with organic matter (decayed wood), which went nearly to the bottom of the rooms. On the 26th of January this part was clear.

(E) EXCAVATION OF THE INNER TEMPLE, ROOMS (25) TO (37)

On January 26, the clearing of the upper débris over the inner temple was begun. Trenches cut south of the place showed sufficient area for a small dump on the south between the temple and the nearest building (the mud-brick temple of Pyramid III-*a*). Another short line was run out, therefore, to the south, while the northern line was continued as before, thus attacking the débris from two sides. It was soon apparent that the débris, consisting of limestone chips, covered a number of displaced and broken granite casing blocks, and by February 12, a tangled mass of these granite blocks was exposed, covering the whole inner part of the temple, except above room (27).

The removal of these casing stones presented great difficulties. After several days of painful experiments by Mr. Firth and myself, we made up two special gangs of about eighteen men each, selecting the strongest, for the purpose of removing the stones, while the rest were employed on clearing away the dirt and débris underneath and between the stones. The implements used in moving the stones were:

- 12 hard wood beams, 3 × 3 inches, and 4 meters long.
- 4 hard wood beams, 4 × 4 inches, and 4 meters long
- 4 heavy iron crowbars, 2 meters long.
- 10 iron rollers, 2 inches in diameter, and 1 meter long.
- 4 short hard wood boards.
- 3 ropes, 1 inch in diameter, and 20 meters long.
- 2 ordinary light railroad trucks (Arthur Koepfel, Giessen) from which we removed the upright support on one end. Two short wooden beams were laid lengthwise side by side on top to form a platform.

The railway was brought in to the nearest possible point (two to ten meters), and a truck rolled to the point on the line nearest the block to be moved. A double line of beams was laid with one end resting on the edge of the truck and the other terminating just under the block. The block was then loosened and levered on to the line of beams; rollers were inserted between the block and the beams by levering up the side of the block; and the block was then pulled over the rollers with ropes and pried along with levers, until it was on the platform of the truck. The truck was then shoved out along the railway to the end of the dump heap, and the block tipped over the edge. Only three of the stones, which weighed over seven tons apiece, were too heavy, not for the truck, but for the rails. The track spread, letting the truck down on the ground. These three stones were rolled out on rollers on a line of beams laid all the way to the dump.¹

On March 10, twenty-two men were given permission to return to Keft for work in the fields, and I continued with about sixty workmen. By March 17, the work of moving the blocks was practically done, and it was possible to begin clearing the sand and dirt from the chambers underneath.

¹ I cannot avoid recording the spirit in which the men performed this difficult and unaccustomed work. Although no serious accidents happened, hardly a man escaped abrasions and minor injuries. The surface of the granite was very hard on the hands; yet each gang was taking out a two- to five-ton block in half an hour, when the stone was once loosened from the mass.

On March 27, the inner temple was finished, and I began clearing the spaces north and south of it, as far out as the north and south walls of the outer temple. On the north side, the clearing was continued eastward along the mud-brick casing wall of the northern face of the outer temple.

On April 15, the force of workmen was reduced to thirty-five men and boys occupied in the final clearing up. On the 30th, the season of 1906-07 came to an end.

5. THE DEPOSITS OF DÉBRIS IN THE MYCERINUS PYRAMID TEMPLE AND THE OBJECTS FOUND IN THEM

(A) THE DÉBRIS IN THE GREAT COURT (5), AND IN THE ENTRANCE CORRIDOR (1) TO (4)

The débris overlying the floors varied greatly in the different parts of the temple. The upper deposits of sand in the great court and in the entrance corridor, having at one time reached as high as the top of the stone walls, had been considerably reduced by the action of the wind, as described above (Section 3). In general, there was a floor layer of weather-packed mud débris from 40 to 120 cm. deep, penetrated at certain places by excavations made after the deposit was formed. Over this floor débris, and filling the later penetrations, there was a deposit of sand varying in depth inversely in proportion to its exposure to the wind. The surface of the sand was covered with a light layer of surface débris, consisting of sand mixed with limestone chips.

The surface débris in the courtyard contained fragments of potsherds, stone vessels, stone statues, Roman amulets, Arab coins, and several modern objects including a bone knitting needle. The potsherds were of coarse red jars (type IV), red polished bowls (types XXXIII and XXXIX), and large mud pots (type XXV), of the Old Kingdom, and some fragments of the Roman Period. The whole deposit was manifestly an accumulation of all periods. The Old Kingdom objects were, no doubt, originally on the mud surface or dragged out of the mud débris by later excavations. The Roman objects had been with burials of the Roman Period or dropped on the surface of the sand of that period. The Arab objects had mostly been dropped on the sand surface of the Moslem Period. When the sand was blown out through the breaks in the corners, the heavier objects sifted down to form the mixed accumulation which I have called the modern surface débris. The modern objects had been, of course, dropped on the surface.

In the western part of the court, in front of the entrance to corridor (13), a hole filled with sand was found descending through the foundation platform to rock. The mud débris did not cover this hole. A similar hole was found just inside the doorway of the entrance corridor (2), also filled with sand. In the latter were found fragments of green-glazed pottery of unquestionable Arabic date. Both of these holes were penetrations made by Arab treasure-hunters, probably of the same period as the destructive work on the pyramid — 12th to 13th century A.D. There was another penetration through the place of the drainage basin in the middle of the court north of the causeway, but this was filled with harder packed débris, and the date was uncertain. Treasure-hunters through a long period of time regarded the offering or drainage basins as coverings over concealed treasure, both in the pyramid temples and in the mastaba cemeteries. The basin in the court must, therefore, have been visible when the penetration was made, and thus the penetration took place either before the court was entirely filled with sand, or after the sand had blown out. The Arab treasure-hunters seem very often to have selected the places for their pits at random.

In the northwestern corner of the court the old drift sand lay undisturbed, protected from the action of the wind by high walls on the west and north. In this deposit close to the wall was a badly decayed burial extended on the back, head south. With it were three pottery vessels, amulets, and beads, like those found later with burials of the Roman Period in the room of pillars.

The amulets were as follows:

- 06-12-1. Uraeus with arms, hands under chin; blue faience, h. 35 mm.
2. Sacred eye, open work, blue faience, length 35 mm.
3. Sacred eye, blue faience, length 15 mm.
4. Three plaques with sacred eye on both sides, blue faience, length 10 mm.
5. Nine small rough sacred eyes, greenish faience, length 8 to 10 mm.
6. Two rough Bes figures; greenish faience, h. 22 and 17 mm.

7. Two *menat*-amulets, greenish faience, h. 18 and 17 mm.
8. Two split cowrie shells.
9. Eleven imitation split cowrie shells, white faience, length 10 mm.
10. Two bronze rings with small high bezels.
11. Various blue-glazed beads: barrel-shaped, long thin cylindrical, short thin cylindrical, thick cylindrical, disc beads, triple disc beads, small ball beads, one large ball bead.
12. Tall jar, slender pendant form with wide mouth and roll-rim, with two loop-handles just under rim, hard red-brown ware, height, 64 cm., diam., mouth, 18 cm.; diam., lower part of body, 24 cm.
13. Deep bowl, contracted mouth with roll-rim, tapering base; height, 12.5 cm.; diam., mouth, 13 cm.; diam., body, 17 cm.; red ware.
14. Shallow pan, round bottom, diam., 28 cm.; height, 8 cm.; red ware; three holes bored in rim on one side close together.

This burial was without doubt of the Roman Period like the burials in (27), and while the walls of the grave could not be traced, it was clearly a pit-grave sunk in the sand. Thus this drift sand in the corner had not been disturbed since the Roman Period. Underneath, the mud-brick casing was broken,

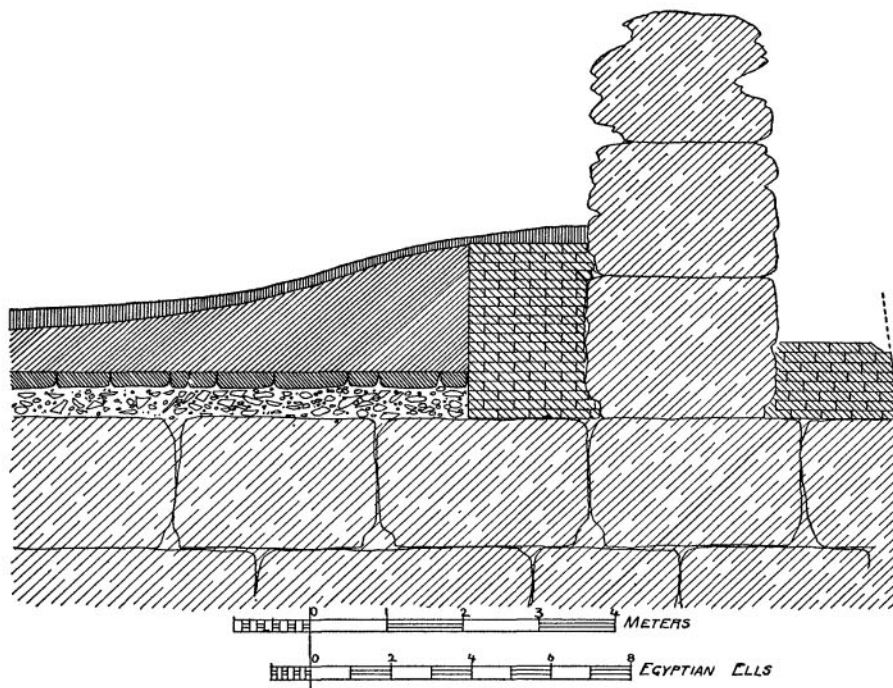


FIGURE 1

DÉBRIS IN GREAT COURT, MUD WALL WELL PRESERVED, SECTION

and blocks of the unfinished granite casing had been removed. The removal of the granite casing had, therefore, taken place, in part at least, previous to the Roman Period and probably previous to the filling up of the court with sand.

In the entrance corridor (3), the same layers of débris were met as in the court; but near the middle of the south wall in a sort of crevice, about 60 cm. below the present surface, a small red pot was found (07-1-1), January 9, which contained three silver Athenian coins (07-1-2, Pl. 21 e) of the period 500-400 B.C.¹ It would be idle to conjecture how these coins came to the place in which they were found.

Just outside the doorway to the entrance corridor on the north was the lower part of an inscribed stone, in a pile of débris of mixed sand and limestone chips (Pl. 3 b), with a substratum of decayed mud brick.

- 07-1-21. Lower part of a limestone stela, top broken off, upper part badly weathered. Bears the ends of eight vertical lines (Pl. 19 d).

This stela is of the style of 07-1-3 and 4, and is probably to be ascribed to Shepseskaf.

Beyond the entrance there was a doorway through each wall of the causeway corridor, and outside these doorways, especially at the north, there was a great deposit of little model offering vessels of

¹ Head, *Hist. num.*, pp. 270-274.

ordinary red pottery (Pl. 20*f*). Thousands of these models had been cast aside here, manifestly on the ground level of the Old Kingdom. They were about 120 cm. below the floor of the corridor, nearly on a level with the foot of the mud-brick casing and covered with almost a meter of débris of decay — limestone, gravel, sand, and dirt.

The layer of mud débris which covered the floor of the court and the corridor sloped in most places from the top of the mud casing walls, as now preserved, towards the middle of the court or corridor, where it was about 40 to 60 cm. deep (see Fig. 1). At the places, however, in which the mud-brick wall was broken or very low, the mud débris extended to the stone core wall (see Fig. 2). In these places the deposit was only a little deeper than in the middle of the court (Pl. 3*a*). The surface was washed by

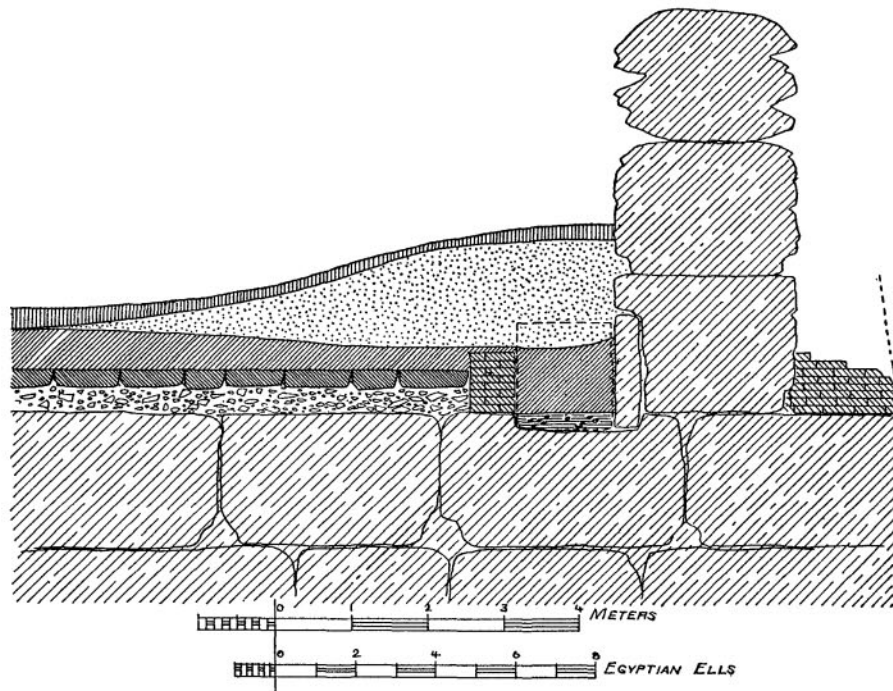


FIGURE 2

DÉBRIS IN GREAT COURT, LOW MUD WALL WHERE GRANITE BLOCK HAS BEEN REMOVED, SECTION

rain, and the deposit, mixed as it was with sand, was manifestly disintegrated débris from the mud-brick casing walls, packed by weathering.

On cutting out the mud débris, it was found comparatively free of objects, both in the court and in the entrance corridor. A very few fragments of pottery, stone vessels, and stone statues were encountered, all of the Old Kingdom. Fragments of black granite occurred also, especially near the walls; and, when the débris was entirely removed, it was seen that the heavy core walls had been partially cased with black granite blocks. This granite casing had never been finished, but a mud-brick casing had been put on, 15 to 20 cm. wider than the granite casing and completely covering up the granite blocks. The mud casing, where it concealed the unfinished casing, had been pulled down, and the granite blocks taken out, before the mud deposit on the floor was formed (Fig. 2 and Pl. 4*c*). Thus, this destruction took place not only before the court filled with sand (see page 33), but before the mud layer was deposited. On the floor where the granite casing blocks had been taken out, was hard-packed débris a few centimeters deep consisting of small limestone chips, fragments of granite, and dirt, showing a trodden surface.

(B) THE DÉBRIS IN THE PORTICO (7) AND THE OUTER OFFERING ROOM (8)

The débris in the portico and the outer offering room presented an entirely different condition from that in the great court and the entrance corridor. This part was divided from the court by the thick screen wall of mud brick. The offering room (8) had been completely cleared out by Vyse¹ and the floor was covered with a shallow layer of sand and stone chips accumulated since 1837. The débris

¹ See p. 8, *supra*.

removed by Vyse from the offering room lay over the deposits in the middle of the portico, as they had existed in his time. Thus over practically the whole of the portico the *débris*, consisting of sand and broken stones, remained as it was in 1837. Nevertheless it had been much disturbed, except in the southern end. The pavement had been torn up, and the pillars and casing stones removed. The greater part of the screen wall had also been removed in the course of this destruction, and the hole dug by treasure-hunters in the northwestern part of the court extended into the northern end of the portico. It was only behind the remaining southern end of the screen wall that the pavement and more ancient deposits of hard *débris* were found intact. Here was a deposit of decayed mud mixed with sand similar to that in the court and covered with a deep deposit of drift sand.

In the disturbed *débris*, in the middle of the portico (7), we found a number of inscribed fragments of limestone, as follows:

- 07-1-3. Seven adjoining fragments of a round-topped stela bearing a decree of Shepseskaf, dated in his second or third year; Pl. 19 *b*.
- 4. Fragment from the left side of a limestone stela, apparently part of the stela of Shepseskaf (07-1-3, above); Pl. 19 *e*.
- 5 to 20. Fragments of two limestone stelae, both decrees, one of which was probably by Mernera (see 07-1-20). The fragments 07-1-7, 13, 14, 16, and perhaps 19, appear to belong to the one decree, which has a narrow border at the bottom (Pl. 19 *e* and *i*); 07-1-5, 6, 8, 15, 17, and 18, to the other, which has a broad border below (Pl. 19 *g*). 07-1-20, which has the Horus-name, Ankh-khauw (Mernera), may belong to either (Pl. 19 *h*).

There were also found a number of fragments, usually small, of statues of alabaster and slate, of stone vessels, and of potsherds. These were of the same types as those found in the magazines and inner temple, but were too fragmentary to be drawn.

(C) THE UNFINISHED SOUTHERN MAGAZINES (9), (10), (11)

The floor *débris* in room (9), which was lined with mud-brick walls, and in (10) around the western doorway of (9), was a deposit of sand mixed with decayed mud brick, charcoal, and ashes, reaching about 50 cm. above the pavement in the southern end of the portico. The mud-brick walls in room (9) were not bonded with the casing walls of the court or portico and were apparently of later date like the screen wall. The doorways into the southern end of the portico, and westward into room (10), show that the room was used during the time that the temple service was still maintained. Room (10) was filled for the greater part with a rough construction platform, which was covered with *débris* of decay and sand. The eastern part of room (10), which contains the rough rubble room (11), was filled with sand, except for a light deposit of darker *débris* on the floor. The floor *débris* in room (9), and that heaped about the western doorway in (10), looked as if it consisted of sweepings and other rubbish thrown out from time to time by the temple servants. The dark floor *débris* in (10) and (11) seemed to have been scattered, partly by wind and weather, from the heap of sweepings. In this rubbish, mainly in room (9) and around its western doorway, fragments of the following objects were found:

On December 25, 1906:

- 06-12-15. Fragment of alabaster offering table, type XII*b*.
- 16. Fragment of alabaster offering table, type XII*b*.
- 17. Fragment of alabaster slab (very smooth).
- 18. Fragment of diorite, thick bowl, type X*c*.
- 19. Fragment of diorite, thin bowl, type X*c*.
- 20. Fragment of slate cup, type IX*a* (1).
- 21. Two blue faience beads, long tubular form.
- 22. Fragments of copper, including part of a tube.
- 27. Potsherds of Old Kingdom types:
 - coarse red jars, type IV;
 - ribbed two-handled red jars, type Mastaba I-1;
 - two-handled jars of red ware with white slip, type Mastaba I-2;
 - red-polished jars with spout, type XXXV;
 - red-polished bowl with spout, type XXXVI;
 - small model dishes of red ware, types XLIII and XLIV;