

CHAPTER III

THE MYCERINUS VALLEY TEMPLE

1. DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION OF THE MYCERINUS VALLEY TEMPLE

(A) VALLEY TEMPLES OF THE OLD KINGDOM

THE valley temple of Mycerinus, unlike the pyramid temple, lay completely buried under sand (Pl. 24 *a*), and had, no doubt, never been seen after Dynasty VI. There is, therefore, no mention of it by any of the early travellers. The excavations at Abu Sîr of the German expedition led by Professor Borchardt and Professor Schaefer, proved that the royal tombs of Dynasty V had portal temples on the edge of the valley, connected by a causeway with the pyramid temple. A comparison of Dynasty V pyramids with the pyramid of Chephren at Giza, led at once to the conclusion that the granite temple by the Sphinx was the valley temple of Chephren. It became a practical certainty, therefore, that the Third Pyramid must also have possessed a valley temple, to be looked for at the end of the causeway, still visible, which led from the entrance of the pyramid temple down to the valley.

(B) SEARCH FOR THE MYCERINUS VALLEY TEMPLE

The search for the Mycerinus valley temple began on June 1, 1908. Mr. Oric Bates was in immediate charge of the work. The causeway, constructed of huge limestone blocks, was similar in appearance to the foundation platform of the pyramid temple, and in fact was structurally a continuation of that platform. At the western end, adjacent to the entrance of the upper temple, remains of a mud-brick corridor had been found on the causeway. The causeway itself could be followed for about half the distance down (*circa* 250 meters) to the Arab cemetery in the valley. Here it had been cut across by the course of a water channel, which still carries off the rain water from the plateau behind the Second Pyramid; and the water had washed out all further traces of the causeway down to rock. Just beyond this washout, the edge of a low rock cliff was visible, and beyond that all the valley was filled with sand (Pl. 2 *a*). The surface of the sand appeared flat, but it really sloped gently toward the cultivation.

In order to determine the probable course of the causeway, a rod was set up in the middle of the entrance of the pyramid temple, and another in the axis of the causeway near where it had been washed away; sighting along these rods, others were planted in a line with them in the sand further east, and at a point nearly 100 meters from the washout, a trench about one meter wide, lettered A, was laid out across the apparent axis of the causeway, and three other parallel trenches (B to D) at intervals of 20 meters.

On June 2, the men began work on these trenches, and very soon reached hard *débris* in A, B, and C, in which the depth of sand varied from 10 to 50 cm. On the next day, it appeared that this hard *débris* was the floor-packing which lay on the causeway under the mud-brick corridor which had now disappeared. Traces of mud-brick walls were also found, which seemed to be remains of the corridor. In C, we came on a hole dug by Arab treasure-hunters. It was lined on one side with rubble to keep back the sand and descended along the southern edge of the causeway. This hole, on being cleared, showed the massive blocks of the causeway, and it was obvious that the causeway followed the line presupposed for it.

In the meantime, the men in trench D had gone down about 200 cm. through sand, and had come upon the tops of two parallel mud-brick walls, which were evidently the walls of the causeway corridor. It seemed from this that the temple could not be far distant. On June 4, a fifth trench (E) was laid out, about 40 m. beyond D, also crossing the axis of the causeway. On June 6, in trench E, a mud surface was uncovered at a depth of 350 cm., manifestly a weathered surface resulting from the decay of a mud-brick building (Pl. 25 *a*). It was clear that we were either in the temple, or beyond it.

Thus, by June 7, we had traced the causeway down to a well preserved mud-brick corridor leading toward a mass showing a weathered mud surface. The space between trenches D and E was divided into five working sections (including D and E), and all the men were set to work removing the sand. On account of the level surface of the valley, the disposal of the débris caused great difficulty. However, we put in two lines of railway, laid on a low embankment about 100 cm. high, and ran the débris out well beyond the possible limit of the temple (Pl. 24 b). Here the débris was piled in a wide fan-shaped dump rising slightly toward the south.

As the work proceeded, the causeway corridor of mud-brick was followed eastward until it was interrupted by a north-to-south wall of rubble with a heavy batter on the west face, which was 608 m. from the entrance to the pyramid temple. This was built against the main mass of mud (Pls. 28 a; 29 a), which was level with the top of this wall, but fell away to the west with an irregular water-worn surface. Traces of thick walls could be picked up, but not followed out. Along the rubble wall, where the surface of the mud was within a meter of the modern surface, a number of holes had been dug, such as the *sebbakhin* are wont to make in getting out *sebakh* (nitrogenous fertilizer). On the south of the excavation as made at that date, a large hole was found descending through the mud. It was filled with sand, and one side was lined with a rubble retaining wall after the manner of the Arab treasure-hunters. The hole went down over 5 meters, passing through a heavy platform of large limestone blocks like that at the pyramid temple; and the men there came upon water.

The causeway corridor, unlike the main body of the temple, was immediately cleared to the layer of floor débris. The space between the walls was filled with sand, but near the rubble cross wall referred to above, a mound of hard débris — mud, limestone chips, and gravel — lay over the tops of the walls. We naturally expected to find an entrance to the temple at the end of the corridor, but having dug under the rubble wall, we came upon a blank mud-brick wall (Pl. 29 a). Here it was seen that the corridor turned to the right southward along the back wall of the temple, but the path was blocked by a mud-brick wall, half a brick thick.

On July 7, a strip about 28 × 24 m. had been cleared of sand, including that in the penetrations; and as the carry to the end of the railway was becoming every day more difficult, we decided to clear the walls underlying the surface of decay before proceeding further.

(C) EXCAVATION OF THE INNER PART OF THE TEMPLE, JULY 7 TO 25, 1908

(PLAN ON PLS. VIII, IX AND SECTIONS ON PL. X.)

Up to this time, a number of small objects had been found on the surface or in the sand — small fragments of slate, diorite, and alabaster vessels, and fragments of slate and alabaster statues, a small model basin of copper, a few cylindrical blue-glazed beads, potsherds, some small model pots, a broken bowl of red polished red-brown ware. All these appeared to be of the Old Kingdom. The sand lay in hard fine layers with rainwashed surfaces. There was an occasional line of mud.

July 7. The work of cutting out the mud débris from the rooms was begun, and immediately a complex of walls was revealed. These walls include the rooms afterwards numbered (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), etc. (see Pl. IX). In room (3), in the débris, nearly on the floor, we found on July 9, an unfinished diorite statuette, No. 25 (08-7-1). In the SE corner of room (1), we found many fragments of a slate statuette, one fragment bearing part of the name of Mycerinus.

July 10. On the floor of room (3), a small unfinished statuette of a king (Mycerinus), No. 34, in fine reddish stone (08-7-2). In the débris, a crystal eye set in a copper socket (08-7-3), apparently from a decayed wooden statue.

About 3.30 P.M., in room (4) along the eastern side, the heads were uncovered of a slate triad, No. 10 (Pl. 36 c), that of the nome of Diospolis parva (08-7-4). While clearing the mud from around this triad, half an hour later, a second, No. 9, that of the nome of Hermopolis, the Hare-nome (08-7-5), was discovered about 50 cm. south of the first. About half an hour later, two more, Nos. 11 and 12 (that of the nome of Cynopolis — the Jackal nome; and that of the Theban nome (08-7-6 and 08-7-7), were found in rapid succession on the other side of the narrow corridor just to the north. (Pls. 36 a; 37 a, b). All these were on the floor, but two were tilted slightly from the perpendicular, and all were askew. They were embedded in decayed mud brick mixed with sand. The next day, the triads were completely cleared, photographed in place, and removed to camp. See p. 109.

- July 13. In room (3), in mud débris, practically on floor, an unfinished diorite statuette, No. 26, of Mycerinus (08-7-8). Against the west wall of room (1), the bases of two alabaster statues of Mycerinus, facing east, Nos. 21 and 22 (08-7-9 and 08-7-10). In the southeastern corner of room (1), but practically on the floor, two pieces (feet missing) of a fine red stone statuette of the king, No. 33 (08-7-11). The southern part of this room was piled with fragments, broken from alabaster statues.
- July 14. In room (4), north end (Pl. 61 *c*), practically on floor, three unfinished royal statuettes, Nos. 31 and 37, and a private statuette, No. 43. Two of the royal statuettes were of diorite (08-7-12, 08-7-13) and one of fine hard red stone with thin white streaks (08-7-14). The feet of a small limestone statuette of a woman (08-7-15) and a small bit of gold foil were also found in the débris of this room. In rooms (III-7) and (III-16) the floor was covered with a mass of broken stone vessels. (See p. 178.)
- July 15. In room (III-1), two more bases of alabaster statues of Mycerinus, Nos. 18 and 19 (Pl. 47 *a*), against the west wall north of the door to (III-2), (08-7-16 and 08-7-17). Beside the southern base, an alabaster head with a triple pleated headdress, No. 22 (08-7-18). At the southeastern corner of the northern basis, another alabaster head (08-7-19), the head of No. 18 (08-7-17).
- July 16. In room (III-1), in the middle, an alabaster torso (08-7-20) fits on No. 18. On the north, inside the door, an alabaster head of a prince, No. 23 (08-7-21).
- July 17. In room (III-2), in débris, two parts of a nearly finished diorite statue, No. 38, feet missing (08-7-22) and two pieces of a slate jackal, No. 45 (Pl. 64 *a*). In the western end of the room, the pieces of a built-up offering table covered with a water-worn alabaster slab, and a crude limestone trough, which were not far from their original position (Pl. 61 *a, b*). Beside them on the floor, two unfinished diorite statuettes of Mycerinus, Nos. 29 and 27 (08-7-23 and 08-7-24); a third in two pieces, No. 32 (08-7-25); and the basis of a fourth, No. 39 (08-7-26). In the débris above, a rough flint wand (08-7-27).
- July 18. In room (16), in the southwestern corner, a sort of copper sheath containing the decayed end of a beam (08-7-28).
- July 19. In room (8), a large deposit of broken stone vessels was uncovered on the floor. (See p. 178.) Also five flint flakes (08-7-29). On the southern side of this room, about the middle, in débris resting on the dividing wall, about 40 cm. above the floor, was a decayed shallow pan of copper upside down (Pl. 61 *e, f*). On removing this, a deposit (08-7-30) was found of copper and stone vessels, together with a fine flint wand inscribed with the names of Cheops, and a mass of yellow coloring matter. Underneath were traces of decayed wood, and an oxidized red mineral not unlike iron rust; probably red oxide of copper (it was not attracted by a magnet). These had evidently been in the pan which, with its contents, had been thrown out of room (8) by plunderers and had fallen upside down. The objects included the wand, two model basins of slate, one of haematite, and one of crystal, a model vase of alabaster and one of slate, a model *hes*-vase of copper, two model shouldered jars of copper, and a stack of six model basins of copper (08-7-31 to 08-7-44).
- July 20-25. Clearing sand away in north part of temple. On July 25, 1908, the work was stopped, and owing to my engagements in Nubia and in Palestine, was not resumed for sixteen months.

(D) EXCAVATION OF THE REST OF THE TEMPLE, DECEMBER 3, 1909 TO APRIL 12, 1910

1909

- December 3. The removal of the sand from strip 1, the part south of the previous excavation, was begun. During this and the following seasons, I was assisted by Mr. C. S. Fisher. Under the sand we followed the weathered mud surface as before.
- December 15. Clearing southward, we reached the southern face of a wall running east and west, which appeared to be the southern side of the temple; but the clearing was continued to a line four meters further south, over a mud surface about a meter lower down and sloping away to the south.
- December 17. Working westward, we began clearing the sand from above the western corridor (strip 2). On December 20, the sand having been removed, the clearing of the corridor in continuation of the work of 1908, was begun.
- December 24. The removal of sand from strip 3, immediately east of strip 1, was begun, and continued until finished on December 29.
- December 25-28. The surface of decay of strip 1, the southern part of the sanctuary, had been swept and photographed. The only thing recorded was a deposit containing several basketfuls of fragments from slate and alabaster statues and one small model saucer rudely made of alabaster. This deposit was in the surface of mud over room (III-19).
- December 29. We began cutting out the débris from the western corridor, strip 2, and alongside the southern face of the southern wall (strip 1).
- December 30. At a point about 120 cm. north of the southwestern corner of the temple, and 105 cm. below the top of the wall, in mud débris over the western corridor, we found the head and torso of a red granite statuette, No. 44, of a private man (09-12-1). This was above the foot of the rubble wall (water wall), in the top layer of mud formed by the decay of the mud-brick wall (Dynasty IV). In the same débris was a small copper nail, and a few Old Kingdom potsherds.

December 31. It was seen that the western corridor turned to the east inside the southern wall, and under the rubble wall with its backing of mud brick, but the entrance to the southern corridor was blocked with mud brick (Pl. 29 *b*). Along the southern face of the temple, our trench had reached the foot of the wall, which was founded on hard limestone débris.

1910

- January 1-7. Clearing the sand from the northern wall (strip 4), *sebakh* holes were found, as in 1908, and in two places the men, following the sand into penetrations, came on holes made by the Arab treasure-hunters. In the easternmost of these, a fragment of an alabaster slab was found with the name *Min-nakht* (Pl. 46 *g*).
- January 7. It was now clear from the excavations in strips 3 and 4 that a large open court lay in front of the block of rooms called the sanctuary, and the removal of sand from the northwestern quarter of this court was begun (strip 5; finished January 15).
- January 8. The removal of the mud débris from the southern part of the sanctuary, strip 1, was begun. A number of light mud-brick walls appeared, forming a series of rooms, which rested partly on the temple walls and partly on the débris which filled the rooms of the temple (Pl. 28). There was a small space (*circa* 20 cm.) between the inner face of the southern wall of the temple (Dynasty VI) and the back wall of these rooms. At two places in this space there were mounds of alabaster fragments (on surface of decay of First Temple) (Pl. 29 *c*).
- January 11. In strip 1, many fragments of alabaster statues in mud on south. In room (I-11) (house), a crystal eye set in bronze, a small red pot (type XXXII-3), and a flint flake. In room (I-4), the upper half of an unfinished diorite statuette, No. 30, (10-1-4) of Mycerinus.
- January 12. In room (I-4), level of foot of house walls, head and torso of diorite statuette of Mycerinus, No. 36 (10-1-5). Also lower part of female statuette of grey granite, No. 41 (10-1-6) and fragments of alabaster statuettes, stone vessels, and pottery of types XIX, XXV-4, XXXIII-1, XXXVI, and XXXVII. These were above the decayed temple walls (of Dynasty IV). The houses on the south were cleared to foot of walls.
- January 13-14. Cleared away the house walls in strip 4, above room (III-12). Found fragments of alabaster, including lower part of face of statue, No. 24 *a* (Pl. 64 *b*).
- January 14. Began taking out mud débris below houses in strip 1, southern part of inner temple, rooms (III-19), (III-18), and south exterior corridor (III-21).
- January 15. Finished taking sand from mud surface in NW quarter of court (strip 5). In strip 1 revealed the exterior corridor on south.
- January 16. Under the house walls, in strip 1 on the wide temple walls of Dynasty IV, on south, fragments of bases of alabaster statues with name of Mycerinus, one fragment with name of Chephren, one with name of Shepseskaf (?), and fragment of the lion's paw from a seated statue, No. 46 (10-1-9) (Pl. 64 *c*).
- January 18. Began moving mud débris from houses in NW quarter of court, strip 5. Fragments of statues (including another lion's paw in (I-19), No. 47 (10-1-14) (Pl. 64 *f*), stone vessels, potsherds, and flint chips. In room (III-4), in hole dug by Arab treasure-hunters, at a depth of about 100 cm. below the floor of the room, exposed heads of a slate statue, king and queen, No. 17 (10-1-16) (Pl. 54).
- January 19. In (III-4), cleared rest of thieves' hole and exposed the whole of the slate pair (10-1-16). The clearing of the mud débris from the NW quarter of the court continued. In this mud débris, about four meters north of middle of court, another slate triad (Pl. 32 *f*) with the heads, feet, and left side shattered, No. 13 (10-1-17).
- January 20. Work continued in NW quarter; the bent left arm of a decayed wooden statue, No. 49 (10-1-18), was found in the filling of (I-23) (Pl. 32 *a*). Began cutting through floors in rooms (II-1) and (II-2) and in magazine, to trace foundation walls of first mud-brick temple (Pl. 30 *c-e*). Removed slate pair to camp.
- January 21. Gang tracing foundations in (III-3), found small unfinished diorite statuette, No. 28 (10-1-20), under the bulge of the west wall (Pl. 61 *d*). The wall had bulged owing to weight and moisture. This was true of all the walls of the first mud-brick temple. Hence came the necessity of tracing the foundations.
- January 22-23. Work on NW quarter and tracing foundations of magazine walls; cutting away house walls resting on temple walls in strip 1. Removing mud débris from (III-10), found twelve fragments of stone vessels and mass of pottery on floor, west end.
- January 25. Work on south corridor, rooms (III-12) and (III-18), and following the Dynasty IV foundations in (III-2). On removing mud débris from (III-12), found a mass of broken stone vessels on the floor (Pl. 66 *b, c*). In (III-2), on breaking mud floor of (II-2), the second crude-brick temple (Dynasty VI), found on floor of (III-2), two rough red pots (type R W III-1), fragments of a faience vase (No. 7), and a copper point (drill?), No. 16.
- January 27. Above the bottom course of the mud-brick wall (Pl. 30 *f*), blocking the doorway from (II-2) to (III-4), body and legs of an ivory statuette of Mycerinus (name on belt), No. 48 (10-1-25) (Pl. 63 *g-j*).
- January 28-31. Clearing walls in NW quarter, and sand from southern half of court; removed stone vessels from (III-12).

- February 1. Continued clearing walls in NW quarter of court (strip 5), removing sand from southern half of court, and clearing southern exterior corridor.
- In NW quarter of court in rooms (I-26) and (I-28) under floors, fragments of W. S. R. painted jar with name of Mycerinus, associated with fragments of statues, stone vessels, flint knives, and faience inlays.
- On floor of southern exterior corridor (III-21), two big basins (type XXX-1), traditional offering jar (type IV-4), coarse "flower-pot" (type XXV-3), red-polished shoulder jar (type XVII-1).
- Feb. 2-4. Continued as on February 1, and also working out the foundations of the first crude-brick temple, for which purpose the northern wall of (II-2) was partly removed, and several fragments of alabaster statues were found under the wall, showing that the damage to the statues had been partly done before the construction of the second crude-brick temple. The later walls in (II-1) were also being removed as far as necessary, and the floor of (III-1) exposed.
- February 5-16. Clearing sand from southern part of court, an operation which proceeded continuously until February 16, when it was finished. At the same time, the trench along the southern face of the temple was carried eastward, and the excavation of the southern exterior corridor proceeded at about the same rate.
- The examination of the foundation lines of the first temple was completed on February 5 (Pl. 26 b, 27).
- The excavation of the upper series of houses was also completed on February 5 and the lower series on February 16 (Pl. 31, 32). In the floor débris of the court were found many fragments of statues, stone vessels, etc., from the temple magazines.
- From February 8 onward the sand from the southern half of the court was thrown into the rooms in the southern part of the inner temple. I decided that the crude-brick walls could be saved from rapid decay only by covering again with sand.
- February 17. The excavation along the south wall and in the exterior corridor reached the southeastern corner of the temple 60 m. from the southwestern corner.
- Began removing the débris of decay, mud, and sand, from the rooms of the southern half of the court.
- February 18-23. Removed débris of decay from the rooms in southern half of court; walls better preserved than on north (Pl. 33); floors of room about 75 cm. above floor level of court. In middle of court a copper *hes*-vase, 34 cm. high; in room (I-320), a mass of fragments of an alabaster statue (No. 24b); in room (I-323), fragment of fine alabaster stela ("the *sm*-priest, Ra-wer"), and many fragments of statues, stone vessels, and pottery, including the arm of statue No. 18, found in the portico.
- February 24-26. The removal of the floors of the rooms in the southern part of the court was begun and finished to the floor level of the court. The pottery found under these floors was especially fine; other objects as northwest quarter. In this part of the court there were only two series of rooms. While this work, which required only a small number of skilled men, was proceeding, the removal of the sand from the area east of the southern half of the court was begun.
- February 26-March 11. While the final examination of the southern half of the court was carried out, and the plans and photographs were made, all but half a dozen men were set to excavate the temple of Pyramid III-a, which was finished on March 9. On March 9 began the excavation of the temple of Pyramid III-b, and on the days March 10 and 11, the work shifted back and forth from this temple to the valley temple because of the high wind which repeatedly stopped the work at the temple of III-b.
- March 12-18. Resumed work at the valley temple, pushing the removal of the sand eastward from the southern half of the court, in which the sand was dumped. The excavation of the exterior southern corridor proceeded behind the gang which was removing sand from the two parallel southern walls, as this gang, having a much shallower deposit of sand to remove, worked faster than the gangs further north.
- March 18. We had now cleared a space half the width of the temple, reaching to 20 m. east of the eastern face of the great court. The excavation had come so close to the Moslem cemetery that the people of the village begged us to stop, and we were unable to refuse their request. The mud surface of decay was high over the part between the court and the eastern face of the temple, and fell away toward the east as far as the edge of our excavation. On March 18, we began cutting out the débris of decay.
- March 19-25. Revealed the walls of the houses in front of the temple and the rooms of the southern part of the vestibule and the hall of columns in the vestibule (Pl. 35).
- On March 24, in the doorway leading from the vestibule hall of columns to the great court, on about one meter of débris (Pl. 34 d), found a decree stela of Pepy II, badly weatherworn, which mentions Mycerinus (Pl. 64 d, e).
- March 26-28. Continued clearing hall of columns, and removed the sand from above northern vestibule magazines, and from NE quarter of court.
- March 28-April 1. Cleared the northern magazines of débris of decay. Continued removing sand from NE quarter of court (Pl. 34 e, f).
- April 2-5. Cleared out débris of decay from NE quarter of court. Fragments of statues, stone vessels, and pottery as in other parts of court, including diorite basis No. 42 and part of porphyry statuette No. 40.
- April 5-7. Set workmen to finish clearing temple of Pyramid III-c.
- April 8-12. Final clearing and examination of walls in NE quarter of great court.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE MYCERINUS VALLEY TEMPLE

The Mycerinus valley temple presented three main building periods:

- (a) The massive stone temple of Mycerinus.
- (b) The first crude-brick temple, presumably of Shepseskaf.
- (c) The second crude-brick temple, of Dynasty VI.

(A) THE MASSIVE STONE TEMPLE OF MYCERINUS

The plan of the massive stone temple cannot be determined because of the incomplete state of the building. Probably the plan was approximately that of the first crude-brick temple (Pl. IX). The massive foundation platform and the walls as far as laid were exactly like those of the pyramid temple built of enormous blocks of local limestone and from the same quarry (Pl. X). Indeed, the masonry, as far as carried out, was in direct or indirect contact with the end of the causeway, as if the stones had been brought down the causeway from the quarry above. The foundation platform, resting on gravel alluvium, had been laid under most of the inner temple and under the northern part of the open court. Although the platform was not complete, the walls had been begun. In the western wall, two courses had been laid north of the causeway and one south of it, leaving a space in the middle through which obviously the stones coming down the causeway were dragged. In the northern wall, two courses were in place, as in the adjoining part of the west wall. The tops of the foundation stones under the sanctuary were higher than those under the court, so that the difference in floor level between these two parts, as found in the crude-brick temple, was part of the original plan.

The abandonment of this construction was certainly coincident with the cessation of work on the massive pyramid temple, and was due to the same cause — the death of Mycerinus. The valley temple, however, was not so advanced as the pyramid temple, and had probably been begun at a later point of time.

(B) THE FIRST CRUDE-BRICK TEMPLE, BUILT BY SHEPSEKAF

When Mycerinus died, the unfinished pyramid temple, planned as a stone temple of grandiose proportions, was finished in crude brick. But the unfinished stone temple in the valley was still in an early stage of its construction, so that it was not a question here of casing the walls and adding a few partitions. Practically the whole temple had to be built, and, just as at the pyramid temple, the material chosen was the cheap and practical crude brick, the favorite building material for all but the most expensive buildings. The incomplete walls of the stone temple hardly give a hint of the intended plan of that building. Nevertheless a difference in level existed between the foundation platform in the western part and that in the middle, and the higher western part of the platform was utilized for the sanctuary of the crude-brick temple, while the lower part was taken by the great open court. Thus the extent of the sanctuary with its magazines was already fixed by the foundation platform of the stone temple and, in all probability, the plan of the first crude-brick temple was somewhat like that of the intended stone temple. The plan of the first crude-brick temple differed little in its functional provisions from the plan of the outer temple at the pyramid, but the absence of an inner temple, such as existed at the pyramid temple, is to be especially noted. The first crude-brick valley temple is to be ascribed to Shepseskaf, as was the first completed temple at the pyramid.

The foundation for the temple was prepared by filling in the space around the unfinished stone platform with hard-packed gravel and covering the stone platform to a height of 15–50 cm. Thus a gravel platform was produced, of about the same firmness as the desert strata on which the Egyptians were wont to found their crude-brick walls.

The first crude-brick temple consisted of (Plan on Pl. IX):

1. A vestibule with magazines (354–384).
2. An open court ("Court").
3. A sanctuary (1, 2) with magazines (3–20).
4. An exterior corridor leading to the causeway corridor (21).

These were all parts of one continuous structure, built of the same kind of bricks with the same bonding and plastering. The rooms within the walls had been filled with hard-packed débris to a height of 24–80 cm. above the foot of the walls, and this filling was covered with a floor of mud plaster. Or, alternatively, the walls had been built in trenches cut in the gravel platform.

(1) *The Vestibule of the Mycerinus Valley Temple*, Pl. IX, 354–384, and Pl. 35.

The wide doorway in the eastern wall of the vestibule had been originally the main entrance to the temple. On each side was a stone door-socket, showing that the doorways had been closed with a two-leaved wooden door. Later, however, the main entrance had been blocked up with a wall of crude brick and ceased to be used.

The vestibule structure contained a small anteroom, flanked on each side by four magazines opening from a corridor. The anteroom (III-377) was nearly square, being 14.50 m. long (east-west) and 16.10 m. wide (north-south). The roof had been supported by four wooden columns resting on four alabaster bases sunk in the mud floor; but only the bases with prints of the columns remained. The walls were plastered with mud and whitened.

In the north wall, next to the west wall, a doorway opened to the northern magazine corridor (380), and opposite, in the south wall, another doorway gave access to the southern magazine corridor, (354). From each of these corridors, four doorways led eastward into four long east-to-west magazines. In the northern magazine corridor, a stairway (Pl. VIII and Pl. 34 *e*) led upward, probably to the roof. In the southern end of the southern magazine corridor (354), a doorway led into the exterior southern corridor (21).

In the middle of the west wall of the anteroom, opposite the entrance, another doorway led into the open court. The stone-paved pathway which crossed the middle of the open court to the portico, began in the middle of this doorway.

The doorway into the northern magazine corridor and the doorways of the northern magazines had been blocked with crude brick. But the end doorways of the southern magazine-corridor and the doorways of the southern magazines had not been blocked. Thus a passage was left open from the exterior corridor into the southern magazine corridor, from there into the anteroom, and thence into the open court. This passage appears to have formed the only entrance to the temple after the entrance doorway was closed with brickwork.

All the rooms and corridors of the vestibule and all the doorways had been roofed with wood. Remains of logs were found on top of the walls of the northern magazines and of beams (?) over the doorway into the exterior corridor. Over this doorway, the brickwork had been built upward to the top of the wall. When the wood decayed, the mass of brickwork resting on it dropped down into the doorway and was found by us lying on about 50 cm. of drift sand (cf. Pl. 29 *b*).

(2) *The Great Open Court*

The great open court was much like that at the pyramid temple, except that it was not paved with stone. It measured 19.40 m. long (east-west) and 41 m. wide (north-south), and was crossed by a stone-paved pathway 110 cm. wide, which began in the middle of the western doorway of the antechamber and ended in a stone ramp leading up to the sanctuary. The faces of the walls on all sides of the court were built in a series of offering niches, as at the pyramid temple — one compound niche and three simple niches in alternation (Pls. 26, 31, and 33).

South of the middle of the pathway, a tank, hollowed out of a single rectangular block of limestone, was sunk in the gravel filling of the court. From its northeastern corner, an inflowing drain, slanting to the east-northeast, reached to the western door of the vestibule anteroom. This drain was a trench hollowed in blocks of stone laid end to end and covered with slabs of stone. The joints between the stones were caulked only with the plaster which lined the trench.

The middle part of the western side of the court was open and occupied by the front of a portico. This feature was exactly the same as at the pyramid temple, but in each case I have not counted the portico as part of the court.

(3) *The Sanctuary*, Pl. IX, 1-2

The sanctuary of the Mycerinus valley temple consisted of a portico (1) and an offering room (2) similar in plan to those of the outer part of the pyramid temple. The sanctuary and the magazines together correspond to that part of the pyramid outer temple which lies west of the open court. But note must be taken that these apartments terminate the valley temple. There was no inner temple.

The portico was of the same form as that of the Mycerinus pyramid temple, with the same rectangular antae, but all built of crude brick plastered and whitened. The roof and the columns must have been of wood. The eastern side of the portico was formed by a crude-brick wall rising to the level of the floor, and perhaps originally forming a low parapet. The floor of the portico had been packed hard with gravel and plastered with mud. The original approach, no doubt a ramp like that found in place, had been destroyed when the earliest alteration to the temple was made. Probably early in Dynasty V, the portico was closed by a high screen-wall of crude brick, built in the court along its western side. The entrance to the portico as found by us and its approach belonged to this screen-wall. The threshold was a large slab of limestone, with grooves for the casing slabs of the door-jamb and with two door-sockets for a double-leaved door, exactly like the threshold in the screen-wall at the pyramid temple. The rise from the court to the threshold, about 50 cm., was made by means of a stone ramp with a low parapet on each side. The sloping floor consisted of five slabs of limestone contained between side slabs set with a slight batter and resting on the floor of the court. The edges of these side slabs rose about 5 cm. above the sloping floor, to form the low, round-topped parapets. The space between the side slabs appeared to be filled with hard-packed débris on which the floor-slabs rested. This ramp, which joined the end of the pathway through the court, was of different limestone (yellow), 195 cm. wide between the parapets (85 cm. wider than the pathway), and 320 cm. long.

In Dynasty VI this portico had been entirely rebuilt on a different plan, but the late walls had been founded on the earlier, or on débris. It was thus easy to follow the lines of the old walls under the later ones, although it was necessary in places to cut away the later wall to make sure of the details (Pls. 26 *b*; 30 *c-e*). It is certain that the four alabaster statues of Mycerinus found in the later room, resting on the later floor a few centimeters above the old floor, had been originally in the old portico.

In the middle of the west wall of the portico, a doorway led into the offering room. The foundation wall was interrupted by a space which was bridged by two limestone slabs (Pl. 30 *d*), forming the threshold of the doorway. The upper surfaces of these slabs were grooved on each side to receive casings of stone or wood, and showed two door-sockets and a bolt hole, which indicated a double leaved wooden door. It is to be noted that this threshold was not in the later doorway, leading to the later offering room.

The offering room was of the long east-to-west form usual in these rooms and already seen in the outer offering room at the pyramid temple. The western end of the room had been washed out previous to the building of the second crude-brick temple, and overbuilt by the later wall. Its examination was, therefore, a matter of considerable difficulty, but we managed to expose the greater part of the foundation wall, which crossed the end of the room in a straight line with no indication of niche or stela. It is to be noted that we found in the later offering room, which nearly coincided with the earlier, parts of an offering bench consisting of water-worn alabaster slabs, and beside this, four small unfinished statuettes (Pl. 61 *a, b*). The offering bench, at any rate, was probably in a similar place in the old offering room. On the floor of the old room, under the later floor, there were two offering pots of coarse red pottery, potsherds, a few fragments of statuettes and stone vessels, some flint flakes, and fragments of faience vessels.

North and south of the entrance, doorways in the north and south walls led to the magazine corridors, (20) (Pl. 27 *c*) on the north, and (4) on the south. Each of these doorways had had a bridge threshold of which a single limestone slab was preserved in each case, resting on the ends of the interrupted foundation walls, similar to the doorway from the portico to this room. These slabs had no door-sockets. In the other doorways, the sockets were in the second slab, which is the one missing in the two doorways under discussion. Probably the second slab in both these doorways contained a socket for a single-leaved door.

(4) *The Northern Magazines*

The northern magazine corridor (20) ran straight through the building to the north wall of the temple (Pl. 27). Six doorways in its western wall led to six long, east-to-west magazines (6) to (11), of which the northern three (9) to (11), were slightly shorter owing to a thickening of the west wall of the temple. Five doorways in the eastern wall led to four similar magazines (12) to (15), and a shorter magazine or room (16). The shortness of (16) was caused by the form of the portico; and for the same reason no room could be constructed opposite magazine (6). Magazines (10), (13), and (14), certainly, and possibly all the magazines, had been provided with a wooden loft like the magazines of the pyramid temple and other temples. In these magazines we found pottery, stone vessels, flint implements, sets of model vessels of stone and copper, flint wands, and other objects (Pl. 61 *e, f*; 66 *b, c*; 71 *f, g*). But all these objects had been disturbed, most of them broken, and many others were undoubtedly missing. These northern magazines had been grievously plundered and were probably in a state of decay when the second crude-brick temple was built; for the lines of the doorway of the later temple, leading from room (2) to the northern magazine corridor (20), do not coincide with the lines of the first doorway, and its floor is about 50 cm. higher up.

(5) *The Southern Magazines — Statue Rooms*

The southern magazine corridor (4) (Pl. 27) also ran straight across the structure; but, instead of ending at the southern wall of the temple, it passed through a doorway in that wall into the exterior corridor. This doorway had been roofed with wooden beams (?), traces of which were found on top of the walls. At some later period, the southern end of the doorway where it entered the exterior corridor had been blocked with a crude-brick wall one brick thick. When, therefore, the wooden logs decayed, the brick-work above the blocking wall remained in place, but north of this it sank into the doorway, as in the exit from the vestibule to the exterior corridor. The débris between the floor and the fallen brick-work in the southern doorway of (4) was, however, largely of decayed mud and only about 15 cm. deep. In the western wall of the corridor there was originally only one doorway, near the southern exit, and it led into a single narrow room (18), (17), (5), of the same length, east-to-west, as the corridor. (For later alterations, see below.) In the east wall, two doorways led each to a single rather wide room (19) and (3). In the masonry of the portico there was no room corresponding to the small room (16) on the north. In room (3) there were three rectangular depressions in the floor, which I take to have been sockets for three statuettes. In this room were found four unfinished statuettes (one on Pl. 61 *d*), but they did not fit the sockets in the floor. In the northern end of corridor (4) (Pl. 61 *c*) there were found three nearly finished royal statuettes and one private statuette. In the same corridor, farther south, the four slate triads of Mycerinus were standing, two against the east wall facing south, and two against the west wall facing north (Pl. 36). The slate pair was found in a thieves' hole below the floor of (4) (Pl. 30 *a* and 54) but came, I thought, from (17), (18), (5). Thus the greater part of all the statuary which was not in the portico was in these southern storerooms, and this part includes the five practically unbroken figures. The conclusion is suggested that, while the utensils were in the northern magazines, the statues were stored in the southern rooms.

It is to be noted that in the original structure the doorways of this part of the temple were all closed by wooden doors and could therefore be opened for passage from the offering room (III-2) into the northern and southern magazine corridors, and from the southern magazine corridor into the exterior southern corridor, which led to the causeway corridor and ultimately to the pyramid temple. Later the doorway into the exterior corridor had been blocked, apparently to prevent access from the exterior corridor to the magazines, that is, while the exterior corridor was still in use.

In the second crude-brick structure, the northern and southern doorways of room (III-2) had been filled up with brickwork, and it is possible that the corresponding doorways of the first temple may also have been closed with brickwork late in the occupation of that temple; but on the stone thresholds as we found them, there were 10–20 cm. of débris with no trace of brickwork.

The long western statue-room (III- 18, 17, and 5) had been twice repaired or altered. In the first place, the small room (5) had been formed by opening a doorway in the west wall of corridor (4), near the northern end, and by constructing a thick wall of crude brick across the end of the long western statue room (Pl. 28 *b*; 29 *f*). The white plastering of the older room was preserved behind the ends of this cross-wall, the southern wall of room (5). On the eastern side of room (5), the wall beside the doorway into corridor (4) had been cut back by one course, and room (5) had been replastered all round. The opposite side of the inserted southern wall in room (17) was also plastered, so that clearly at this time both rooms (5) and (17) were in use. At the same time, or later, another much thinner cross-wall was inserted in the long room, dividing it into rooms (17) and (18), and this wall contained a wide doorway giving access to (17) from (18). Within this wide doorway, a second very narrow one, with a crude-brick threshold, had been built of poorer brickwork. These alterations, made on the old floor level and involving room (5), (17), and (18), all provide entrances to the new rooms and are inexplicable except by the assumption that they were carried out while the rooms were still in use for some of the original purposes of the building. The division between rooms (17) and (18) might have been made at the same time as the construction of room (5), but the masonry is different. The second doorway in the thin wall between (17) and (18) is certainly later than the other alterations.

(6) *The Exterior Corridor*

The exterior corridor is thus named because it passed along the southern face of the temple to the southwestern corner, where it turned north along the western face, until it debouched into the causeway corridor. The exterior wall of the temple was 300–335 cm. thick. To form the corridor, a thinner wall, 165 cm. thick, was built at a distance of 155–160 cm. from the face of the temple, and running parallel to it. There were two doorways into the temple, one giving entrance into the southern vestibule corridor (354), which became the only entrance after the blocking of the main entrance in front, and the other giving exit from the sanctuary corridor (4). Thus a clear passage was provided from the corridor through the vestibule, the open court, and the portico, to the offering room, the magazines, and statue rooms, and finally out through corridor (4) into the exterior corridor again and on to the pyramid temple. But it was also possible to proceed directly to the pyramid temple, or to come down directly from it through the causeway corridor and the exterior corridor without visiting the valley temple. The section of the exterior corridor along the southern wall of the valley temple was marked off as a part of the valley temple, however, by two doorways both of which had been closed by wooden doors. One of these was at the southwestern corner of the temple (Pl. 29 *b*) and had a stone threshold and wooden roof, while the other, without a threshold, was at the southeastern corner. By the brickwork over the roofs of these doorways, the southern wall of the corridor appeared to be joined with the brickwork of the temple wall. East of the eastern face of the vestibule, the corridor appeared to be continued eastward, but we found a joint in line with the face of the vestibule in both the northern and the southern walls of the corridor, making it clear that the extension of the corridor eastward was a later addition to the temple and to the old exterior corridor. We followed the extension about nine meters to the east of the face of the vestibule, but could go no further without encroaching on the modern Moslem cemetery. At 420 cm. from the face of the vestibule, a doorway, 155 cm. wide, led into the area in front of the temple, occupied by house walls of crude brick. This doorway had been closed by a thin blocking wall, also of crude brick, at some later period, but before the abandonment of the exterior corridor.

As before stated, the causeway corridor was structurally and functionally a continuation of the exterior corridor, and ended at the front entrance of the pyramid temple, near which there was an exit on each side, north and south. At a point 540 cm. west of the western face of the valley temple, a stone drain crossed the causeway corridor at a slight slant, draining from north to south. This was a stone slab about 35 × 35 cm. in section, with a channel, 15 cm. wide and 20 cm. deep, sunk in the mud floor of the corridor. At each end a hole led through the bottom of the side wall of the corridor to the outside. The drain had probably been covered with a stone slab. Its purpose was undoubtedly to take water collected in the angle between the corridor and the temple on the north and discharge it out to the sloping ground on the south. It will be remembered that the causeway crossed a waterchannel