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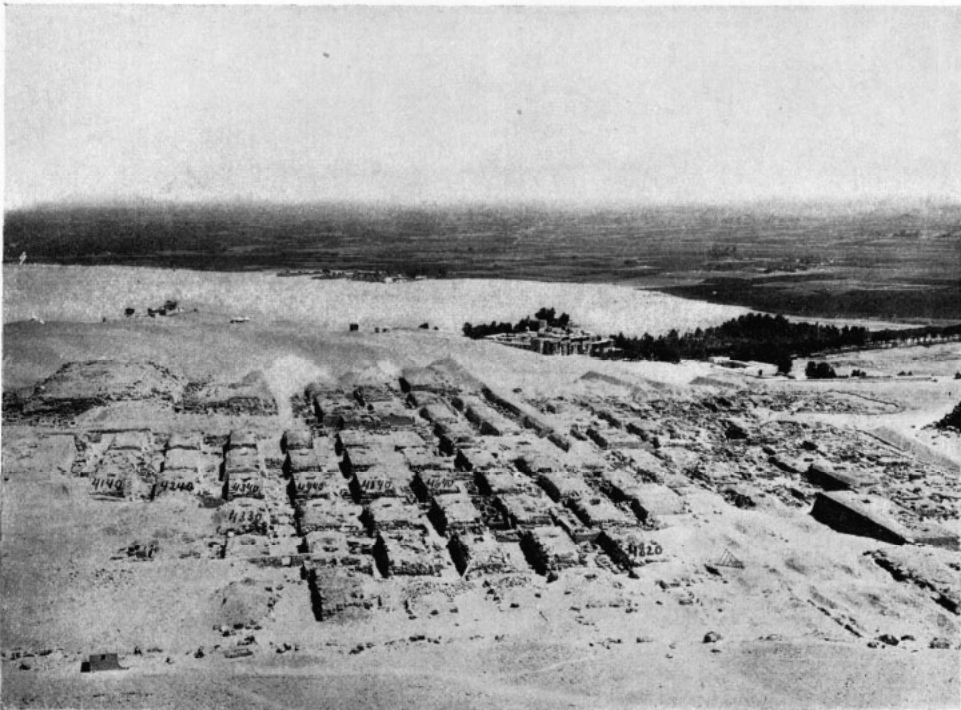


Fig. 1. The Chephren Cemetery seen from the Second Pyramid, looking north

Accessions to the Egyptian Department during 1914

The Museum has received from Dr. George A. Reisner, Curator of its Egyptian Collections, Professor of Egyptology at Harvard University, and Director of the Harvard University-Museum of Fine Arts Egyptian Expedition, the first instalment of an account of recent work of the Expedition. Dr. Reisner writes as follows:

Excavations at Giza and Kerma

THE work of the expedition during the season of 1913-1914 has been successful both in historical results and in the recovery of objects of value for our Museum. The plan formed during the summer of 1913 took for the chief objective of the expedition the site at Kerma. It was clear, from the report published in the Museum Bulletin of last April, that Kerma was a site of great possibilities, not merely contradicting long accepted historical conclusions, but offering a racial problem which was all the more enticing for its obscurity. The Giza site, which seemed exhausted, was, according to this plan, reserved for subsidiary work. But during August and September, Mr. Fisher and

myself, working on the dates of the different cemeteries at the Pyramids for an article in the *Annales du Musée* (Vol. XIV., p. 227), realized that we had no inscriptional proof of the date of the great mastabas which I had assigned on archaeological grounds to the time of King Chephren, the builder of the Second Pyramid. Early in the autumn, therefore, I resumed the excavation of the mastabas in this so-called Chephren cemetery in order to get written proof of its date. Ultimately this proof was found, but along with it other things so remarkable that it became necessary to divide the expedition and to work both at the Pyramids and at Kerma during the year.

A. The Royal Cemetery of Chephren at Giza. Portraits of the Family of Chephren

In 1912 we had cleared the streets around five of the massive mastabas which lie in the field north of the Pyramid of Chephren (Figs. 1, 2, 3, 4). We had found most of these stripped of their casing. The only inscription which had been recovered was a slab stela in No. 4140 (now in Boston), with the titles of a princess, but with the



Fig. 2. The Chephren Cemetery, looking east toward First Pyramid

name destroyed. Besides the stela of the princess there was in the Cairo Museum an inscribed stone known to be from No. 4240; and this bore the name Sneferuw-seneb, a name which might be even previous to Cheops in date. Although the mastabas appeared to be completely plundered, it was nevertheless possible that we might find in the streets a dated inscription, or in the burial pits a dated jar-sealing of mud.

As a preliminary I ordered the men to clear the pits in the mastabas already excavated and to keep close watch for bits of mud. To encourage them in what seemed from their standpoint a hopeless job, I reminded them that we had twice found a portrait head in limestone in similar pits. The first pit attacked was No. 4340. The bits of mud were found in abundance, but never one with a seal impression. There were also many baskets of potsherds and of broken alabaster vessels, warning us that the chamber had been plundered. We worked out the filling of the shaft down to the top of the entrance to the burial chamber. The great stone which had closed the entrance was found displaced, and we knew certainly that the chamber had been plundered. But we went on as usual, and in the debris in the vertical shaft, a foot or two below the top of the stone, we came on a life-size portrait head of a man in white limestone (Fig. 13), — one of the magic extra heads which it is supposed were put in the grave to supply the place of the real head in case it decayed or was lost among the perils of the other world. The shaft and chamber were duly cleared and recorded, but no scrap of dated writing was found.

Then we began clearing the shaft of the tomb of the princess (No. 4140), leaving the intervening tomb of Sneferuw-seneb (No. 4240), because it had been cleared by another European archaeologist. The shaft of the tomb of the princess was cleared to the top of the entrance, and the same conditions were found as in No. 4340. Again, a metre below the top of the stone we came on a white portrait head, also of a man (Fig. 5). I had been expecting a female head, as the tomb was that of a princess, and now I ventured to tell the workmen that there must be a second head, — that of the princess herself. Clearing to the bottom of the shaft, nothing further was found except potsherds. But on entering the chamber a second head — that of the princess (Fig. 6) — was seen lying in the sand in the southeast quarter of the room (Fig. 7). On the opposite side of the room was a skull, manifestly female, and doubtless that of the princess. Again mud seals and fragments thereof turned up in the debris, but no single scrap with a seal impression.

In spite of the fact that a European archaeologist had cleared No. 4240 (that of Sneferuw-seneb), I now ordered the men to empty the pit. In the first place we wanted the plan of the tomb chamber as a record; and in the second, I considered it altogether probable that his workmen had not cleared the bottom of the shaft. Knowing their character, I reconstructed for myself their proceeding, as follows: they descended to the top of the entrance to the chamber, found it open, sent a small boy into the chamber, received from him the report that the contents of the chamber were turned



Fig. 3. Chephren Mastaba No. 4430 during excavation

upside down with no objects visible, reported to the director that the place was completely plundered, and received the order to leave it. When we approached the shaft it was more than half filled with sand. Taking this out, we found pieces of Arabic and English newspapers, Arabic letters, and other modern scraps. When the top of the door was visible, we saw that the bottom of the shaft still contained the old filling left by the *ancient* plunderers; and I knew that my hypothesis was correct, that the workmen of the other expedition had not cleared the bottom of the shaft. About one metre below the top of the stone door-block, we came on a large alabaster bowl and a small cylindrical jar of the same material, and just under

these a white head, the portrait of Sneferuw-seneb, the owner of the tomb (Fig. 12).

In all these four shafts we had found a great abundance of potsherds, some fragments of stone vessels, and a number of mud jar stoppers, but not a single seal impression or other dated object. There remained only mastaba G. 4330 of those excavated in 1912.

It was now clear that the rest of these great mastabas must be excavated at once, both on account of the necessity of dating them exactly, the original motive, and on account of the possibility of finding further portrait heads.

To shorten the story, in 4440 we found a pair of portrait heads (Fig. 10), apparently an Egyptian prince (Fig. 8) and his wife, a negress (Fig. 9); in 4540, a female head (Fig. 11); in 4640, a male head (Fig. 14); in 4430, a broken portrait head (or a model) in mud and there also finally a mud jar-stopper with impressions of the seal of an official of King Chephren. In 4220 a seal of archaic form, but undated, came to light. In 4520, which had in a later time been assigned to the use of an official named Khufu-ankh ("Cheops liveth"), whose son was named Menkawra-ankh ("Mycerinus liveth"), a seal impression of an official of User-kaf, the first king of the Fifth Dynasty, was found. The subsidiary mastabas, in the streets between the massive mastabas, contained



Fig. 4. Front of Chephren Mastaba No. 4430 after excavation

three mud seal-impressions,—one of User-kaf, and two of Neferef-Ra, the fifth king of the same dynasty.

Since our first year's work at Giza, it has been quite clear that the mastabas laid out in regular lines formed the royal cemetery of the Fourth Dynasty. The excavation of this royal cemetery has now shown that it consisted of three main groups of mastabas, each built on a unified plan,—the western cemetery, the southern cemetery, and the eastern cemetery (*en écbelon*). A review of the dated objects found showed that the mastabas of the western unified plan were of the Cheops period, while those of the eastern cemetery were of the Mycerinus period. Inasmuch as a seal of an official of Chephren was found in the southern cemetery, that of the massive mastabas, it is difficult to escape the conclusion that the massive mastabas in which the white heads were found are to be dated to the reign of Chephren.

Unfortunately the chapels of the mastabas in the Chephren cemetery had all been destroyed, and the two inscriptions mentioned above are still the only ones recorded from the royal cemetery itself. One of these, it will be remembered, gave the name of a royal prince (Sneferuw-seneb), and the other a royal princess (name lost). The other mastabas in which heads were found were of equal size and built on sites occupying similar positions in the same unified plan. They must have belonged to people of equal importance at the Court of Chephren. We may be certain, therefore, that these eight life-size portrait heads represent courtiers of Chephren, and, indeed, for the most part, members of the royal family. The importance of these portraits from the artistic, the historical and the merely human point of view, makes the groups a find almost equal to the group of statues found in the Mycerinus temples. The men and women whose faces they show us had spoken with Cheops and Chephren and had seen the first and the second pyramids in building. Without doubt they had made their offerings in the funerary temple of Cheops and had witnessed the carving of the Great Sphinx.

Four of these heads have been assigned to the Museum of Fine Arts, and four are to remain in the Museum at Cairo.

In considering the heads individually a certain family resemblance is traceable in 4240 and 4440 (Figs. 8 and 12). These are certainly princes of the blood royal. The princess from 4140 must belong to the same family, but shows a broader, fuller type of face (Fig. 6). Her husband was evidently a handsome man (Fig. 5), selected for his physical attractions. He was probably of high rank, but perhaps not of the blood royal. The wife of the prince from 4440 is, curiously enough, of a distinctly negroid type (Fig. 9). The head is, I believe, the earliest known portrait of a negro. The woman seems, however, not of pure negro blood, and may possibly be the offspring of an Egyptian and a negro slave girl. The woman,

represented by the head from 4540 (Fig. 11), is distinctly an Egyptian of the aristocratic type, with finely moulded skull and slender, graceful face, and may well have been a member of the royal family. The two remaining men, represented by the heads from 4340 and 4640 (Figs. 13 and 14), are distinctly un-Egyptian in type. Professor Elliot Smith writes me that they are of the same type as the "foreign skulls" found in the priestly cemetery of the late Fourth and Fifth Dynasties at Giza. Thus, the conclusion reached by him and Dr. Derry, that there was an infusion of a foreign element in the ruling Egyptian race of the Fourth Dynasty is curiously confirmed. Professor Elliot Smith is inclined to look to Western Asia for the origin of this foreign element. At present we do not know how they came to be in Egypt—perhaps as adventurers seeking service in the Egyptian army; perhaps as royal refugees; but they are more likely to have been the offspring of Asiatic women who were taken into the royal harem. These Asiatic women may have been brought either as captives of war or as tribute, or they may have been royal women sent in marriage to the King of Egypt. Any of these suppositions may be supported by events recorded in more fully known periods.

We know from the inscriptions in the malachite quarries in the Sinaitic Peninsula that the kings of Egypt sent expeditions thither as early as the First Dynasty and there was fighting of sorts with Asiatics. But whether these expeditions penetrated into Palestine, or what sort of race and government they might have met there, we do not know. The presumption is that they would have found tribal confederacies or tribal kingdoms similar to the Egyptian kingdom, but poorer, and less well-organized. Certainly the people in this part of Asia, contemporaneous with the Fourth Dynasty, have not left us the usual monuments of a great race, or of a great civilization; for Palestine has been searched in vain for these things. There was, apparently, nothing of great value that might have attracted a plundering army into the region; and yet there was malachite and hard stones (diorite) in Sinai, olive oil in Palestine, cedar wood and other cedar products in the Lebanons, and cattle and slaves in all three regions. All these foreign products were common enough in Egypt of the Old Empire, got no doubt partly by military expeditions and partly by trade. A trading post, called "Assuan," is mentioned as being in Southern Palestine as early as the Middle Empire, and it was no doubt in existence much earlier. Thus the road was open for the importation of slaves from Asia,—slaves which may have been passed on from races lying far north in Asia Minor or the head waters of the Euphrates. This is the most we can say. The road was open, but there is no definite clue at present to the actual origin of the "foreign" race at Giza, only a vague indication of an Asiatic origin.



Fig. 5. Portrait of the husband of the Princess,
from Mastaba No. 4140

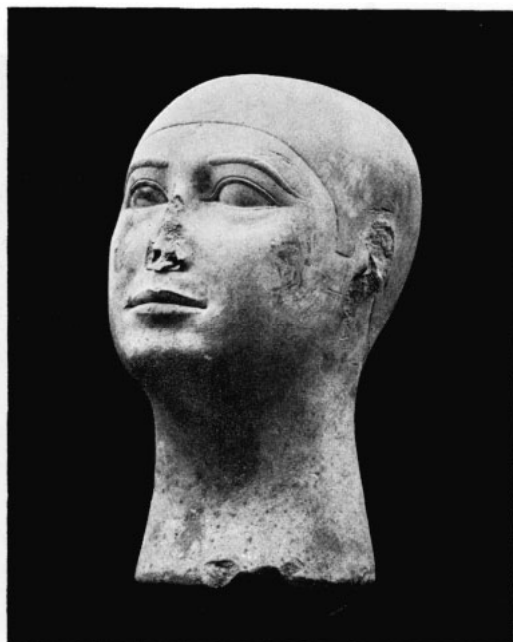


Fig. 6. Portrait of the Princess,
from Mastaba No. 4140

Curiously enough the foreign racial type is not the only un-Egyptian thing found at Giza. Among the potsherds taken out of the burial pits of the massive mastabas two types of pottery occur which appear to me un-Egyptian in form and technique and are not made of Nile mud (according to a chemical analysis prepared by Mr. Pollard of the Egyptian Survey Department). One of these is a narrow-necked jug with handle, of a hard, reddish ware covered with burnished drab or cream slip; the other is a large jar with two handles on the sides, of hard gray ware with a ribbed or scratched surface. Both are reminiscent of Palestinian ves-

sels, but of a later period. We have no material from Palestine of this early date. Jars of the same form were found by Prof. Petrie in a chamber in the Tomb of Zer (a king of the First Dynasty) at Abydos (*Abydos* II, pl. viii, Nos. 1 to 8), and although the description of the material is not very full, I have no doubt that the two sets of pottery, one of the First and the other of the Fourth Dynasty, are of the same origin. Prof. Petrie is quite sure that this pottery is from the Ægean Islands, although he is unable to produce examples of the identical wares from any of the island sites; and there can be little doubt that the

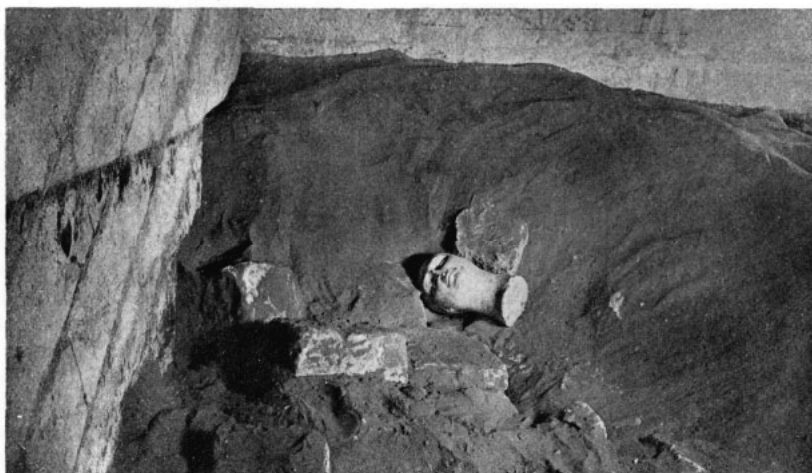


Fig. 7. Portrait head of the Princess, as found in the chamber of Mastaba No. 4140



Fig. 8. *Portrait of a Prince,*
from Mastaba No. 4440

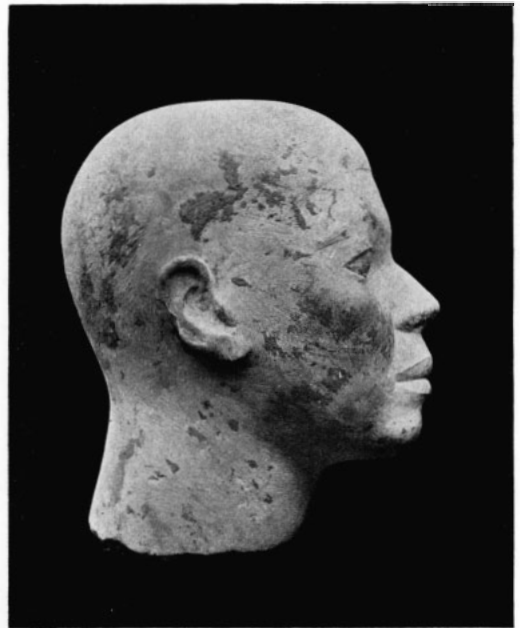


Fig. 9. *Portrait of the wife of the Prince,*
buried in Mastaba No. 4440

Ægean is a possible field of origin, but I can see nothing to justify the selection of that field to the exclusion of all others.

It is very remarkable to find jars like these, which, after all, are only common jars for storing oil or wine, imported from a distance to a country where there was already an abundance of good jars for the same purpose. In the First Dynasty there were the well-known tall wine jars, and in the Fourth other equally good forms. There is no incentive to the import of such wares. Take, for



Fig. 10. *The portrait heads of a Prince and his wife,*
as found in the shaft of Mastaba No. 4440

example, the Egyptian water vessels now made at Keneh — far and away the most practical and useful of all native water vessels to be found in the near Orient. Except for individual pieces carried by travelers and soon broken, the traffic in these vessels does not penetrate even to Southern Palestine — a night trip by steamer from Port Said — nor even to Sudan provinces bordering on Egypt. It does not pay. On the other hand, the modern European petroleum tin may be found in the remotest villages of both Palestine and the Sudan. The sale of these tins would never have paid the transport. Their presence is a mere incident in the distribution of petroleum. So also the ancient Rhodian amphoræ were distributed throughout the Mediterranean world incidentally as carriers of wine. In the same way, I take it, the distribution of the common pots under consideration must in ancient times have taken place as containers of oil or other material. Now while such materials may have been imported into Egypt from the Ægean, we know that cedar oil, and probably olive oil, were imported from Syria. The most obvious field of origin for our jars is, therefore, Syria.

Turning towards Syria, the earliest pottery vessels at our disposal are those found by Professor McAlister in the lowest deposits at Gezer, and assigned by him to the pre-Semitic Period (estimated as being before 2000 B. C.) Among these there are three kinds curiously like the Giza (and Abydos) foreign jars, at any rate in form; but as I have not handled specimens of this early Palestinian ware, I am unable to assert that it is identical with the Giza ware. In fact, I do not think



Fig. 11. Portrait head, probably of a woman, found in Mastaba No. 4540



Fig. 12. Portrait of Prince Sneferuw-Seneb, from Mastaba No. 4240



Fig. 13. Portrait of a man, foreign type, found in Mastaba No. 4340

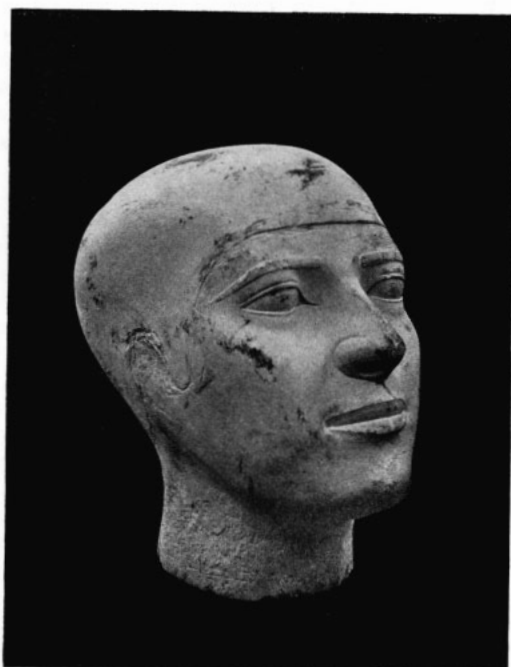


Fig. 14. Portrait of a man, foreign type, found in Mastaba No. 4640



Fig. 15. Pottery Jar of un-Egyptian type, found in Mastaba No. 4630

Notes

MR. TADANORI NAKAGAWA, of the Imperial Archæological Commission of Japan, Lecturer on Far Eastern Art at Tokyo University, has been invited by the Museum to study its collection of Chinese and Japanese Paintings, and has begun the inquiry. The Museum is under great obligation to the Ministry of Fine Arts of the Imperial Government for granting Mr. Nakagawa leave of absence for this purpose.

THE MUSEUM'S COLLECTION of Mr. Joseph Lindon Smith's paintings after Egyptian Antiquities has been placed on exhibition in the First Egyptian Room. The paintings represent details from reliefs and frescoes of the Old and New Empires, two views of the entrance to a royal tomb at Thebes, a wooden portrait head of Ra-Shepses, a wooden chair, and a late painted relief. Three reliefs—a recent gift from Mrs. W. Scott Fitz—and a fresco from the tomb of Ramose at Gourneh are especially interesting. The reliefs, which are of the finest workmanship, were left unpainted except for the eyes, so that we get all the mellow warmth of the delicately-tinted limestone. The fresco from the same tomb, which hangs on the upper wall, is a portion of the funeral procession of Ramose, showing attendants with tomb furniture passing before a group of wailing women. The large relief of Ramses II with two queens (framed separately) is from the walls of the great Temple

of Karnak, and shows a somewhat different and more pretentious form of wall decoration.

it is identical. Nevertheless, inasmuch as the Gezer ware is probably later in date than our ware, and may well be a local representative of a widespread fabrik which in other centres more closely approached our Giza ware, I regard the resemblance as worthy of serious consideration. My own impression, from handling a large amount of Palestinian pottery of the period from 900 B. C. to 100 A. D. and Egyptian pottery of all periods, is that the Giza pottery is a Palestinian or Syrian ware. I would suggest, then, that Syria is a more probable field of origin for this pottery than the more distant Ægean Islands.

Thus the work at Giza this year has had the following results:—

(1) The clearing of the greater part of the rows of massive mastabas in the southern cemetery.

(2) The dating of the royal mastabas of the southern cemetery to the time of Chephren.

(3) The dating of the intermediate later mastabas to the Fifth Dynasty.

(4) The exposition of a series of facts throwing light on Egypt's relations with Syria in the Fourth Dynasty.

(5) *The recovery of life-size portraits in limestone of eight members of the royal family of Chephren.*

GEORGE A. REISNER.

of Karnak, and shows a somewhat different and more pretentious form of wall decoration.

THE THIRTY-NINTH ANNUAL REPORT of the Museum for 1914 was issued on March 25, and will be sent free on application to the Secretary of the Museum.

THE ELEVENTH EDITION of the Handbook of the Museum (first published August, 1906) was placed on sale on March 11. Separate plans of the departments of the Museum are a new feature of the book. They are placed at the head of the sections referring to each department and name all the galleries. The book contains 420 pages, with 339 illustrations and 15 plans. The price of the edition in paper binding has been maintained at fifty cents; but in view of the increased cost of the volume the cloth-bound copies are sold at seventy-five cents, instead of sixty cents as heretofore.

Errata

Number 72: The date of the meeting of Trustees mentioned on the first page should be October 15 instead of October 7.

Number 75: The Tapestry Gallery is walled with Italian travertine from Tivoli, near Rome, and not with French travertine. The name of Mr. Recchia, the artist of the reliefs representing Sculpture, on the exterior, is not Robert, but Richard H.