

APPENDIX B

THE GREAT MASTABA G 2000

THE great mastaba G 2000 is the largest mastaba in the Western Field, equalled in size only by the mastaba of Prince Ankh-haf in the Eastern Field. G 2000 stands on cracked ground with uneven surface sloping to the north, north of the initial cores of Cem. G 4000 and between the other two early nucleus cemeteries G 1200 and G 2100. The space on the east between it and Cem. G 2100 is about 50 m. wide E-W, and that on the west between it and Cem. G 1200 is about 75 m. wide E-W. The ground over and around the site occupied by G 2000 was obviously unoccupied when G 2000 was built, but certainly the initial core-mastabas of the three early nucleus cemeteries were already in place. The vacant spaces were filled with complexes of mastabas beginning in Dyn. IV and extending to the end of Dyn. VI.

G 2000 is associated in size with G 7510 (Prince Ankh-haf). In material and construction it resembles G 7410+20 (Queen Meresankh II and her husband). The core is of massive nummulitic masonry faced with stepped courses of drab limestone (core type III-ii). It was in process of casing with white limestone with interior chapel of white limestone of type (4 a), but the casing was left unfinished. The massive nummulitic masonry is related to similar core-work used in Cem. G 4000 after the initial five mastabas, to the core-work of the eight twin-mastaba in the Eastern Field, and to the core-work used in the enlargements of G 1201, G 1223, and G 1225. The facing with stepped courses of drab limestone is related to the facing of the massive cores G 4140 and G 4350 which, however, had no chapel recess (type III-i). The stepped appearance of the facing is that presented by core-types II a and II b used for the fifteen initial cores of the Western Field. Type II a continued in use to the reign of Mycerinus.

The interior chapel of type (4 a) marks the mastaba in its finished form as not earlier than the eight twin-mastabas. The position of the one used burial-shaft is that of the man's shaft in a two-shaft mastaba and therefore probably later in date than the eight twin-mastabas. The type of the burial-chamber is also significant of a date later in the reign of Cheops or early in the reign of Chephren. The type is 2 alx (ramp), with red construction-lines marking the designed lining of white limestone (never built). This type of chamber occurs in nine mastabas of the second addition to Cem. G 4000 (G 4140 to G 4740, G 4750, G 4760), of which four were lined with white limestone and five were left unlined. In the Eastern Field, G. 7510 (Ankh-haf) had a lined chamber of type 2 amx (ramp), and the burial apartment of the queen's pyramid G I-a had a ramp in the anteroom (turning room) at the foot of the sloping passage.

Thus G 2000, isolated as to position in a field containing three nucleus cemeteries begun by Cheops, is closely connected by the types of its core, its chapel, and its burial-chamber with mastabas of the second addition to Cem. G 4000, with the fourth or the easternmost of the twin-mastabas of the Eastern Field, and with the great mastaba of Prince Ankh-haf (G 7510). The date thus indicated is not earlier than the last two years of Cheops and not later than the first five years of Chephren.

G 2000: isolated mastaba on independent site: on rock sloping gently to N:

See Map 2 and Figs. 4 (mastaba), 237 a, (shaft), 237 b (pottery jar).

See Pls. 25 a-d, 26 a, b.

Name: not recovered, but a person of great means, probably a prince of the blood royal.

Excavated: the west side of the mastaba in 1903-4 with Cem. 1000; the east side in 1905-6; shaft excavated Jan.-March 1912; re-examined in 1935; NE corner cleared in 1936-7.

Mastaba: core of type III-ii; consisting of massive nummulitic core work of type IV-iii faced with stepped courses of drab nummulitic limestone (z-masonry); with two recesses for interior chapels in the massive core-work and in the stepped facing; the northern recess was walled off later by stepped masonry and filled with large blocks. The larger southern recess contained an interior chapel of type (4 a) of white limestone: a casing of white limestone was begun but only a few blocks of the lowest course were set in place; faced core, 105.0 × 53.2 m.; area, 5586.0 sq. m.; prop. 1/1.97; max. height of mastaba, 9.6 m.; max. height of stepped facing, on west, 5.2 m.; max. height of stepped facing, on east, 6.3 m.; average height of stepped courses, 0.39 m.; average width of steps, 0.11 m.

Southern chapel recess in faced core: 10.6×7.6 m.; area, 80.56 sq. m.

Northern chapel recess in faced core: 9.0×9.0 m.; area, 81.0 sq. m.; floor of recess at top of sixth course from bottom 0.32 m. below floor of southern chapel.

Chapel: interior chapel at south end of east face: type (4 a) of white limestone with exterior c.b. chapel and subsidiary N niche:

- (a) interior N-S offering-room of white limestone with two niches in west wall; 4.5×1.75 m.; area, 7.87 sq. m.; prop. $1/2.57$; entered by doorway in north end of east wall; the white masonry of the east wall projects eastwards of the faced façade, and was intended to be bonded with the unfinished white casing.

Exterior c.b. chapel, type (1 g), with four rooms (b, c, d, e); outside, 8.8×9.97 m. with total area of

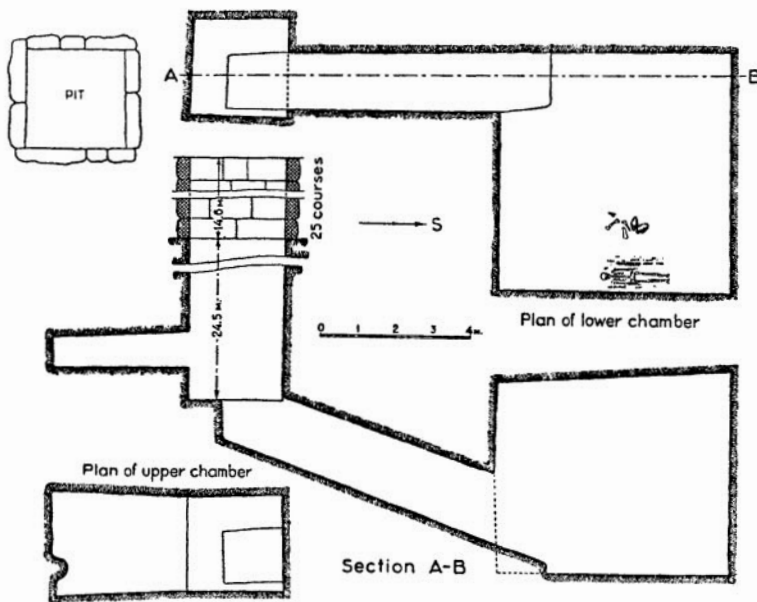


Fig. 237 a. G 2000 B

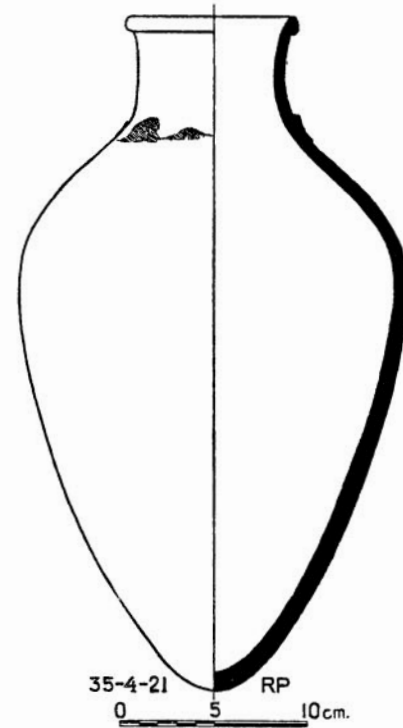


Fig. 237 b. G 2000 B II ch.

86.24 sq. m.; the outer rectangle was formed by three walls, 0.8 m. thick; inside this rectangle four rooms were made by building dividing walls, 0.55–0.65 m. thick.

- (b) N-S hall around entrance to room (a): 7.25×2.1 m.; area, 15.22 sq. m.; with doorway to offering-room in middle of west side; entered from east, from room (c), by doorway in south end of east wall; possibly a doorway to room now destroyed.
- (c) N-S room east of south half of (b): 4.0×2.32 m.; area, 9.28 sq. m.; entered from east from room (b) by doorway in south end of east wall, now blocked with c.b.; doorway to room (b), in south end of west wall also blocked with c.b.; the room was occupied later by two intrusive shafts X and U.
- (d) room north of (c): 4.0×3.5 m.; area, 14.0 sq. m.; entered from east from outside by doorway just north of middle of east wall, main entrance to chapel; no embrasure on outside but door embrasure on inside reinforced on south side; doorway to room (c), in south end of west wall now blocked with c.b.; doorway to room (e) near east end of north wall, partly broken down.
- (e) large E-W hall north of (c) and (d): 2.6×6.6 m.; area, 17.16 sq. m.; entered from south from (d), by doorway in east end of south wall; doorway to room (b), possible in south end of west wall where wall is broken; intrusive shaft Z in the NE corner of room.

Total floor area, b–e, 55.66 sq. m.

Total floor area, a–e, 63.53 sq. m.

Alteration by intrusive shafts, an intruded c.b. wall in room (b) and by decay.

Subsidiary North Niche: in the stepped wall closing the northern chapel recess, north of the middle, is constructed

a recess, 1.45 × 1.3 m., with a *ka*-door constructed in the west wall; inner niche measures 0.5 × 0.5 m.; the floor of the niche is 3 courses above the rock, 1.88 m. below floor of southern chapel; the height as preserved is 2.89 m.

Shafts in G 2000: the mastaba was searched thoroughly but only one shaft was found which certainly belonged to the mastaba; this was near the medial axis south of the middle in the position of the chief shaft in a two-shaft mastaba; as the northern chapel was never constructed, I conclude that the mastaba was designed as a two-shaft mastaba but the northern shaft was never built (cf. the great mastaba G 7510 in the Eastern Field); SW. of the chief shaft B, was an unfinished intrusive shaft lettered A.

Shaft G 2000 A: intrusive unfinished shaft SW. of B: 2.85 × 2.7 m. at top; the mouth of the shaft appears probably formed but below the first course of masonry we found a thieves' shaft of smaller size, filled with drift sand, cut through the filling of the mastaba to a depth of 7.5 m.

Shaft G 2000 B: chief and only original shaft, in position of chief shaft in two-shaft mastaba; 2.6 × 2.6 m. at top; 2.5 × 2.55 m. at bottom; -24.5 m. in rock; lined above with massive masonry (grey nummulitic stone), 14.6 m., twenty-five courses, total depth 39.1 m., as preserved; originally at least 40.5 m.; two chambers, (1) on north, unfinished and (2) on south, used for burial.

Chamber (1): at 0.85 m. above bottom of shaft; unfinished chamber, 3.6 × 2.6 m. and 0.9 m. high; area, 9.36 sq. m.; capacity, 8.42 cu. m.

Chamber (2): actual burial-chamber; at bottom of shaft; type 2 alx (ramp); on south; 6.15 × 6.4 m. and 5.2 m. high; area, 39.36 sq. m.; capacity, 204.67 cu. m.

Passage: opens in pit in bottom of shaft, 1.6 × 1.45 m. with drop of 1.0 m. on north to floor of sloping passage; horizontal length of sloping passage from north end of pit to chamber, 7.25 m.; sloping length of floor, 7.8 m.; roof, 6.0 m.; width, 1.5 m., 1.65 m. high at right angles to slope; opens in chamber, 0.75 m. above floor and 2.4 m. below roof of chamber; ramp, with horizontal length of 1.3 m. with width of 1.5-1.3 m.; step down at end of ramp, 0.25 m.

Blocking: blocks found in chamber indicate that the whole passage was filled with interior blocking of masonry laid in plaster; no trace of a portcullis slab was found; blocking, apparently type II b (1).

Coffin: along the west wall of the chamber lay decayed fragments of a wooden coffin: partly covering a skeleton; on east two sealed jars and ox-bones.

Burial: extended on back but possibly originally half contracted head north: a large male skeleton. Dr. D. E. Derry, Professor of Anatomy at the Egyptian University, states in a letter concerning this skeleton, that in his opinion the skull is that of a very old man and its dimensions indicate a person of unusual mental capacity.

Lining: red construction lines on walls and ceiling for the construction of white lining but the lining was never begun.

Objects: found in chamber east of coffin:

35-4-21: RP: large jar of type A-II b; h. 35.6 cm.; d. rim, 9.0 cm.; d. max. body, 20.6 cm.; remains of mud stopper covered with plaster. See Fig. 237 b.

35-4-22: RP: large jar of type A-II b; h. 37.0 cm.; d. rim, 10.4 cm.; d. max body, 21.6 cm.; partly filled with dried mud with remains of plaster stopper on shoulder.

In the filling of the shaft in 1912 were found a frag. of a granite statuette and a frag. of alabaster.

35-4-23: frags. decayed wood from coffin.

35-4-24: ox-bones, leg bones.