

On December 29, 1906:

- 96-12-28. Fragment of alabaster statue.
- 29. Fragment of slate statue.
- 30. Fragment of copper statue.

There were numerous other fragments of stone vessels of the same materials and forms as those noted above.

The rest of room (10) showed no trace of any activity later than the building of the temple. In the southeastern corner there was a small rubble enclosure or room, (11; Pl. 9 *b*), mud plastered. Diagonally across from the southwestern corner of the massive core wall of the portico to the middle of the southern wall of room (10) ran a rubble retaining wall about 80 cm. high; and the space within this retaining

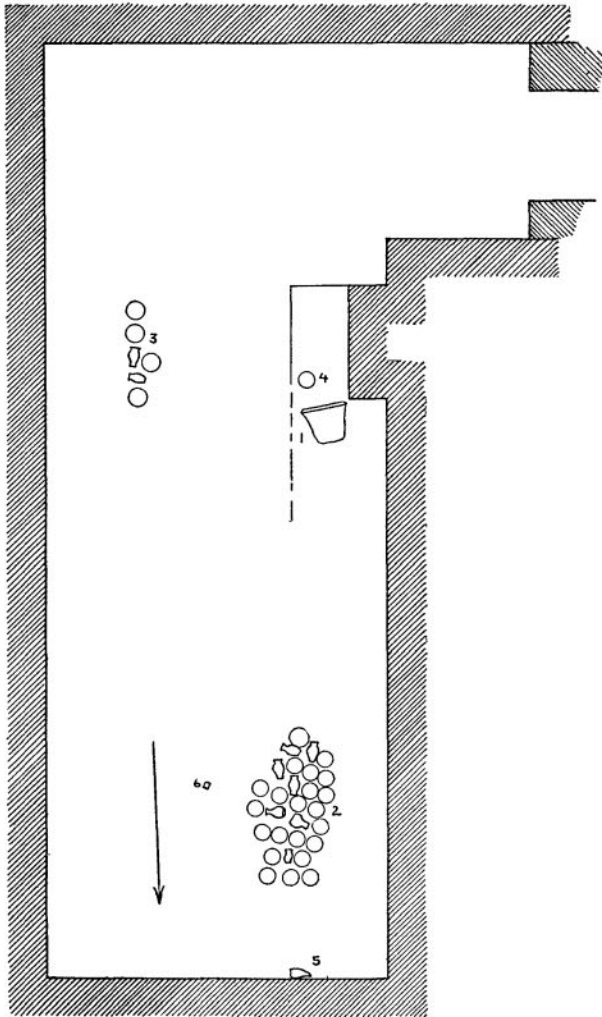


FIGURE 3
ROOM 16, PLAN. SCALE $\frac{1}{40}$

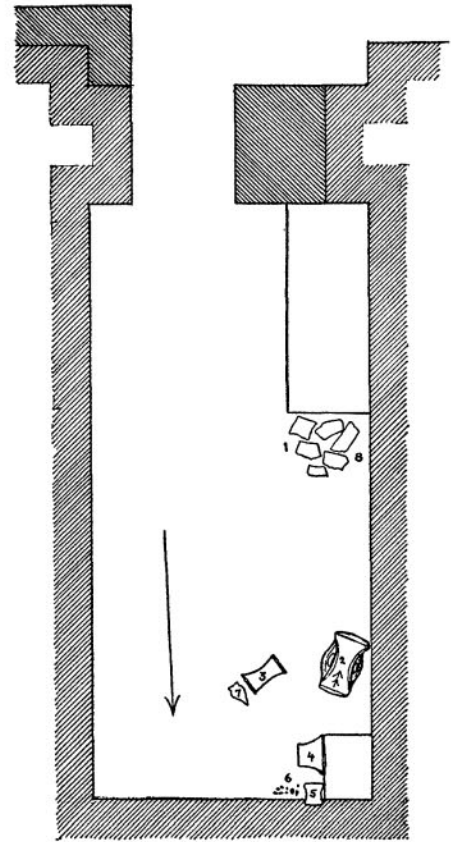


FIGURE 4
ROOM 17, PLAN. SCALE $\frac{1}{40}$

wall was filled with two layers of packed material forming foundation platforms for the construction of the northern wall of the room. The lower layer consisted of hard packed limestone rubbish, gravel, and a number of disused granite hammer-stones. It reached to the top of the first course of the core wall. The upper layer consisted of worn limestone boulders with a packed surface of rubbish and reached to the top of the second course of the core wall. This apartment was situated on the knoll of rock so that the surface of the bed-rock was 90 cm. higher than the bottom of the first course of the northern core wall, and the northern core wall was built in a trench sunk in the rock. The rock had never been cut away and formed the basis of the lower construction platform. After the second course had been set and before the second construction platform of worn boulders was built, the inner surface of the second course of the core walls was marked on all sides by red leveling lines used as guiding lines in the construction (Pl. XI, Nos. xviii, xix). There were three of these lines, 51-52 cm. apart, evidently

intended to be one Egyptian ell (52.5 cm.), and on the southern wall they were marked in two places with red pendent triangles and the words, "five ells," "six ells," and "seven ells."

Room (11), in the southeastern corner, was a temporary structure erected probably by the workmen of Shepseskaf as a shelter. It was built over a layer of granite powder resulting from the dressing of granite in the time of Mycerinus.

(D) THE DÉBRIS IN THE NORTHERN MAGAZINES (12) TO (25)

The northern magazines and their corridors (12) to (25), being protected by high walls, contained débris different from that hitherto described. The surface was covered with weathered stone chips and pebbles overlying a deposit of drift sand about 60 cm. deep, which reached to the top of the mud-brick walls. High up in this sand, over the middle of room (15), a large fragment was found of the thigh of a seated alabaster statue (07-1-22); but otherwise it contained only a few scattered bits of pottery. In rooms (16) to (18), and the eastern end of (15), under the upper layer of sand, there were three strata of débris:

Above, a stratum of mud (decayed mud brick) and limestone chips, about 150 cm. deep;

Second, a stratum of limestone chips and sand with a few patches of ashes and mud;

Below, a floor deposit of ashes, charcoal, mud, and decayed organic matter.

The floor deposit contained the objects enumerated below, which represented the original contents of the room, and was produced by the early plundering, the destruction of the wooden loft, and the roof, and the first period of decay of the mud-brick walls. The middle stratum of chips and sand was produced by decay after the fall of the roof; and the top stratum was produced by the gradual decay of the mud-brick walls above its top, accompanied by falls of chips from the stone walls.

The objects found in the floor débris, and manifestly part of the original contents of the room, were:

In Room 16 (see Fig. 3)

- | | | |
|----------|------------|---|
| 07-1-23. | 16: 1. | Flaring pot of mud ware, type XXV. |
| 24. | 16: 2, 3. | Forty or more model jars and saucers of ordinary red ware, types XLIII and XLIV. |
| 25. | 16: 4. | Blunt cone of plaster, Pl. 20 <i>i</i> , 1. |
| 26. | 16: 5. | Half of a rough knife of black flint (Photo. B 196, 1/2), like Pl. 18 <i>d</i> , 6. |
| 27. | 16: 6. | Small lump of copper ore, about 2 cu. cm. in size. |
| 28. | 16: 7-10. | Fragments of four rough flint knives (Photo. B 196 and B 197). |
| 29. | 16: 11. | Flint scraper (Photo. B 196 and B 197, 2/5). |
| 30. | 16: 12-14. | Three flint flakes, two broken (Photo. B 196 and B 197). |

In Room 17 (see Fig. 4)

- | | | |
|----------|---------|---|
| 07-1-31. | 17: 1. | Broken flaring pot of mud ware, type XXV. |
| 32. | 17: 2. | Large stone hammer of black granite, with two handles, worn by use; the ends bruised as if by pounding; Pl. 20 <i>a</i> , <i>b</i> , <i>c</i> . |
| 33. | 17: 3. | Tall stand of red pottery, red wash, type XXII-I. |
| 34. | 17: 4. | Flower-pot, type XXV. |
| 35. | 17: 5. | Bowl-stand of red ware, red wash, type XXIII. |
| 36. | 17: 6. | Charcoal, two handfuls. |
| 37. | 17: 7. | Small jar with pointed base, red ware, type XVI-3. |
| 38. | 17: 8. | Fragments of two large trays of red ware, type XLII. |
| 39. | 17: 9. | About fifty small models of jars and dishes of red ware, types XLIII and XLIV, like Pl. 20 <i>f</i> . |
| 40. | 17: 10. | Flint knife, Pl. 18 <i>a-b</i> , 3. |
| 41. | 17: 11. | Fragments of five other flint knives, Pl. 18 <i>a-b</i> , 2, 7, 9, 11, 12. |
| 42. | 17: 12. | Flint scraper, Pl. 18 <i>a-b</i> , 10. |
| 43. | 17: 13. | Fragments of five flint flakes, Pl. 18 <i>a-b</i> , 1, 4, 5, 6, 8. |

In Room 18 (see Fig. 5)

- | | | |
|----------|--------|---|
| 07-1-44. | 18: 1. | Limestone disc with knob handle (muller?). |
| 45. | 18: 2. | Blunt cone of plaster, Pl. 20 <i>i</i> , 3. |
| 46. | 18: 3. | Fragment of flint knife, Pl. 18 <i>d</i> , 6. |
| 47. | 18: 4. | Fragment of flint knife (Photo. B 200, 4). |

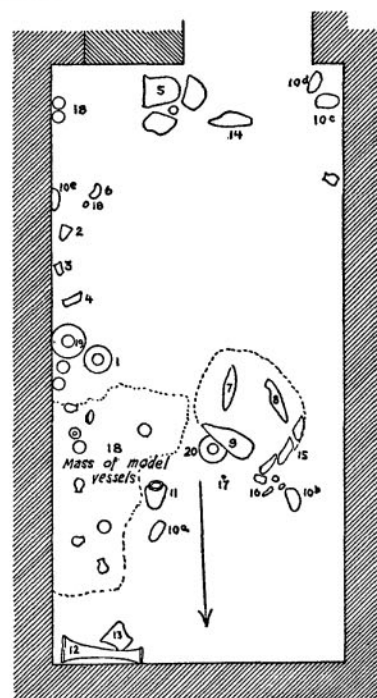


FIGURE 5

ROOM 18, PLAN. SCALE $\frac{1}{40}$

- 07-1-48. 18: 5. Seven long tubular beads of faience, three black and four blue.
 49. 18: 6. Fragment of rough flint knife (Photo. B 200, 1).
 50. 18: 7. Broad rough flint knife, Pl. 18 *d*, 3.
 51. 18: 8. Rough flint knife, handled type, Pl. 18 *d*, 4.
 52. 18: 9. Jar with pointed base, red ware, type IV-1.
 53. 18: 10. Fifteen bivalve shells (disjointed halves). Pl. 20 *h*. In one, a mass of powdered blue crystalline coloring matter.
 54. 18: 10. A mass of oxidized fragments of copper chisels and drills, mixed with shells in SW corner.
 55. 18: 11. Small jar of red ware, red wash, type XVIII-3.
 56. 18: 12. Tall bowl-stand of red ware, red wash, type XXII-1.
 57. 18: 13. Low bowl-stand of red ware, red wash, type XXII-2.
 58. 18: 14. Rough flint knife, handled type, tip and handle damaged, Pl. 18 *d*, 5.
 59. 18: 15. Fragment of decayed wooden board, about 30 cm. long.
 60. 18: 16. Fragments of jars of coarse red ware, type IV.
 61. 18: 17. Jar-stopper of mud, no seal impression.
 62. 18: 18. About fifty small models of jars and dishes of red-brown ware, red wash, Pl. 20 *f*.
 63. 18: 19. Bowl of red-brown ware, red wash, type XXXIX-I.
 64. 18: 20. Stack of eight pottery models, type XLIV.
 65. 18: 21. Broad rough flint knife, handled type, Pl. 18 *d*, 2.
 66. 18: 22. Similar broad flint knife, handled type (Photo. B 200, 2).
 67. 18: 23. Broken flint knife, handled type, (Photo. B 200, 3).
 68. 18: 24. Narrow rough flint knife, handled type Pl. 18 *d*, 1.
 69. 18: 25. Fragment of flint knife (Photo. B 200, 1.)

In rooms (19) and (20) the original deposits, as in (16) to (18), had been cleared out, the wall between (19) and (20) entirely destroyed, and a hole broken through the foundation platform, like those dug by Arab treasure-seekers elsewhere. The rooms were filled with drift sand, and the only trace of older débris was along the eastern wall of (19), where a few fragments of broken flint knives were found. In the lowest course of the northern wall of room (20), a well-cut hole, probably a drain, led through to the outside. In this hole, embedded in sand, we found fragments of the shoulder and body of the large alabaster statue of Mycerinus (07-1-70, 71, 72), and one fragment from the body of the smaller alabaster statue (07-1-73). Outside this hole, in the wall, other fragments of these statues were found. (See page 22.)

In the magazine corridor (15), the débris was different from that of any of the rooms (16) to (20) — a mixture of sand, limestone chips, fragments of alabaster statues, with a shallow layer of mud débris. Apparently the mass had been thrown into the corridor. Perhaps the Arabs who dug out rooms (19) and (20) first dug along this corridor and threw back the dirt from the later excavations into (15). The fragments found in (15) were as follows: (see Fig. 7).

- 07-1-74. 15: 1. Fragment, hips of smaller alabaster statue.
 75. 15: 2. Piece of feet of smaller alabaster statue, Pl. 16 *b*.
 76. 15: 3. Fragment of basis of smaller alabaster statue, Pl. 16 *b*.
 77. 15: 4. Fragment of large alabaster statue, the knees, Pl. 16 *a*.
 78. 15: 5. Fragments of handled jar, not previous in date to the Christian era, red ware. Found under 15: 1.
 79. 15: 6. Fragments of apron, etc., of smaller alabaster statue.

In the western end, in a hole through the floor:

- 07-1-80. 15: 7. Fragment of a flint wand, inscribed, "Mother of the king, Nebty-kha-merer" (probably the mother of Mycerinus), Pl. 19 *a*.

In the outer corridor (13), the débris was sand, limestone chips, and mud, and appeared also to have been disturbed nearly to the floor. The quarrymen who took out the black granite blocks of the unfinished casing of the court had also discovered the four blocks in the north wall of the corridor and had stripped the mud-brick casing from them as a preliminary to taking these also. But for some reason they desisted. Behind the crude-brick casing of the southern wall of this corridor, we found in 1924 two courses of unfinished granite casing, which we exposed by removing the crude-brick covering. All of these granite blocks bore inscriptions in red or black paint.

In rooms (21), (22), (23), and (24), the débris was sand, with large patches of mud, and presented a somewhat similar appearance to the undisturbed rooms (16) to (18). In (22), before the stairway (23), there were several mud fragments with seal impressions:

- 07-1-81. 22: 1. Lump of mud, round-topped, flat-bottomed, with marks of double strings crossing bottom at right angles; marks of two knots. Was attached to wooden surface, door or box. Covered with seal impressions in which the lower part of frame of Horus-name is visible, but hieroglyphics are illegible — perhaps Iset-ib-tauwy (Neweserra), Pl. 17 *a*, 6.
82. 22: 2. Lump of mud, with string mark; from a lock (?). Two impressions of cylinder-seal of Isesy, end of Dynasty V. Pl. 17 *a*, 7.
83. 22: 3. Lump of mud with string mark (jar seal?). Part of an impression of an official seal of Mycerinus, but the name (in a cartouche) is obscured by overlapping of impressions, Pl. 17 *b*, 6.
84. 22: 4. Fragment of mud, with the impression of an official seal of Sehetep-tauwy (Teti, of Dynasty VI), Pl. 17 *b*, 5.
85. 22: 5. Apparently part of 07-1-84 (Teti, of Dynasty VI), Pl. 17 *b*, 4.
86. 22: 6. Lump of mud with string mark, seal impression with illegible Horus-name, Pl. 17 *a*, 5. probably Isesy.
87. 22: 7. Lump of mud with string mark, with seal impression of official of Mery-tauwy (Pepy I), Pl. 17 *a*, 1.
88. 22: 8. Eight illegible fragment, Pl. 17 *a*, 2, 3, 4 and *b* 1, 2, 3, 7, 8.

These lumps of mud, relics of sealings by officials of Mycerinus, Neweserra, Isesy, Teti, and Pepy I were in the original floor débris and can hardly have been far from the place where they were used. Some of them may have been seals placed on the door which formerly swung in doorway (21), before it was blocked up.

(E) THE DÉBRIS IN THE INNER TEMPLE, ROOMS (26) TO (35)

The part of the temple which lies between the rooms already discussed and the pyramid itself rested under a tangled mass of granite casing blocks. These were covered with heaps of limestone rubbish, and the interstices between the blocks were filled with the same material. When the blocks and the limestone rubbish had been cleared away, the débris underneath, mostly drift sand, was found not to be in uniform layers. All over the region of the room paved with granite, (29), the older layers of sand had been cleared away to the floor, and on the south of this room the old layer of hard débris had been exposed. The southern wall of (29) had been pulled down, and many of the blocks were found piled up on the old hard débris to the south. The granite floor had been partly taken up, and many of the blocks showed chisel marks made for splitting the granite. This disturbed area had been again filled with drift sand. In the sand were found a number of iron or steel chisels (Pl. 21 *f*), a few iron bands, and one stick (07-2-1). The stick had served as a handle for a rectangular iron frame, which had been used to hold the chisel while it was struck with a hammer. These objects were, of course, all Arabic.

The rooms (26), (27), and (28) were found filled with sand. Where the roof was broken in (27), the upper layers had been disturbed, but under that part of the roof which was still intact the surface was practically undisturbed. There was a space of between 80 and 90 centimeters between the roof and the sand. On the surface of sand in room (27 *t*) we found nine Arabic bronze coins (07-2-2 to 10, Pl. 21 *f*, upper two rows). These had apparently been dropped by one of the quarrymen, or treasure-hunters, who may have been exploring the place, or had crawled in to sleep there. In room (28), on the same surface, a fire had been built, blackening the wall. The coins were pronounced by Professor Moritz, then director of the Khedivial Library, to be of the period of the Eiyubides, the latter part of the twelfth and early part of the thirteenth century A.D.; that is, they correspond in date with the destructive works described by Abd-el-Lateef. (See p. 8.) Thus it is clear that the rooms in this part of the temple stood nearly full of sand in the twelfth century A.D. When the rooms were opened by us, the sand lay still undisturbed in all three rooms, except for the top layer under the break in the roof of (28). Clearing this sand away, we found room (27) stacked with eighty-seven poorly preserved mummified burials. The bodies had all been wrapped in many layers of cloth, and some of them showed traces of gilded and painted plaster on the outer covering. A number of bodies had been further protected with a layer of heavy reeds made

into a sort of mat tied with strings at intervals of about 10 cm. These reeds were sometimes between two layers of the wrappings, as in burial 56. Other bodies were fastened to a board, or had a pole inside the wrappings behind. A number of bodies, 56, 80 to 86, were in wooden coffins of anthropoid form, with mortised joints at the shoulders, head, and feet. Five wooden masks were found in the débris, besides boards from coffins. But all the wood was badly rotted. It was clear that the room had been stacked full of mummies, in coffins, in reed cases, and often, no doubt, merely in their wrappings. The mass decayed and settled down on itself, causing a certain amount of disturbance; sand partly filled the room, and then came the plunderers who pulled the upper bodies about. Finally, the room filled again with sand long before the Arab quarrymen dropped the thirteenth-century coins on the surface in (27 X).

The date of these burials was fixed by three coins, one of which was found in the hand of the body numbered 23. The others were in the lower débris, along with the usual beads and amulets. These

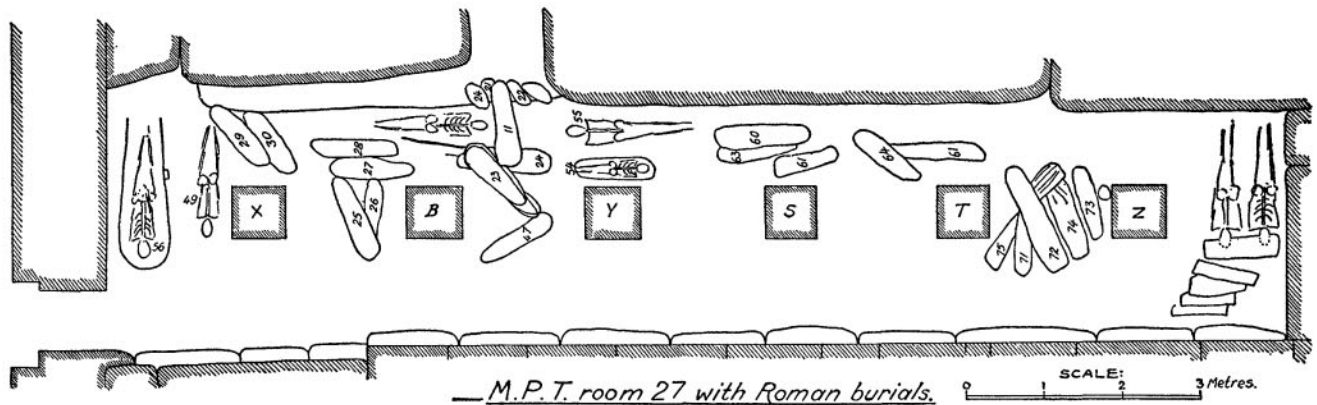


FIGURE 6

coins (Pl. 22 e) were examined by Dr. Grenfell and Dr. Hunt, and, while badly worn, were said by them to be quite certainly Roman, of the period between 50 and 150 A.D. The color of the glaze and the forms of many of the amulets, as also of the pottery, confirm this date. We can, therefore, only assume that the beautifully glazed, bright blue amulets, which one might easily mistake for New Kingdom in date, and the scarabs, are all of the Roman Period, at any rate so far as their use is concerned. Of course, it is possible that some of the scarabs were of earlier manufacture, found in excavations during the Roman Period and re-used as amulets.¹

Below the mass of mummies was a floor débris from 40 to 80 cm. deep. The upper part was sandy, stained black from the decay of the mummies above it; the lower part below the old floor was hard packed limestone débris. In the lower hard débris were found a number of objects of Old Kingdom date, as follows:

Beside the west wall, opposite the first pillar:

07-2-121. Fragment of a diorite bowl, type Xc, diam. ca. 24 cm., Pl. 21 b.

About 100 cm. northeast of 07-2-120:

07-2-122. Greater part of a diorite bowl, discolored by mummy decay, diam. ca. 22 cm., type Xc, Pl. 21 c.

123. Nearly complete diorite cup, diam. 15 cm. type Xa (4). Pl. 21 a. One piece of this was with 07-2-125 to 129, near the north wall.

124. Two pieces of a diorite bowl, diam. 19 cm., type Xc, Photo. C 475 below.

Near the north wall, in the middle:

07-2-125. Fragment of a squat jar of fine white alabaster, type Vc(2). Photo. C 474 middle.

126. Greater part of a bowl of fine white marble, type Xa. Photo. C 474 right.

127. Small bowl (saucer) of fine dark-veined white marble, in two pieces, one found in room (28), type IXa (1). Pl. 21 d, 1/3, 2/4.

128. Fragment of a small model cup of crystal, type Xa(3). Photo. C 474 left.

129. Fragment of a cylindrical jar of alabaster, type Id(2). Photo. C 474 left.

Against north wall, in northeast corner of room:

07-2-130. Three pots of soft-baked mud ware, type XXV, Fig. 71.

¹ The detailed descriptions of the burials 1 to 87 and of the objects Reg. nos. 07-2-11 to 07-2-120, having no specific bearing on the history of the temple, are given in Appendix B.

Room (26), a sort of vestibule, north of (27), was filled with drift sand to the roof. On clearing out the sand, a stair was found descending from the surface level of the drift sand outside on the north, through the northern door of (26) to the floor. The stair had evidently given access to (27) at the time the Roman burials were made. On the western side of the room, on sand, lay two skulls and some scattered human bones. With these were found the following:

- 07-2-131. Figure of a god with double crown, right foot and lower left leg gone, green faience. H. 91 mm. Photo. C 411.
 132. Bottle amulet of blue faience. H. 25 mm. Photo. C 411.
 133. Amulet, obscure form, rudely cut, blue faience. H. 22 mm. Photo. C 411.
 134. Eleven cylindrical beads of blue-green faience. L. 17 mm.-21 mm. Photo. C 411.

Under the bones was an irregular hole (360 × 136 cm.) broken in the stone pavement of the room to a depth of about 50 cm. In the doorway to room (28) was a third skull. The western end of the doorway was blocked with rubble.

Room (28) was filled with débris to within 12 cm. of the roof. Over the clean drift sand filling the room, there were in the southern end five upper layers, as follows:

- (1) Rubbish, dirt, granite, and limestone chips, 8 cm.
- (2) Ashes, charcoal, black dirt, 2 cm.
- (3) Straw, sand, and bits of limestone, 4 cm.
- (4) Nearly clean drift sand, 3 cm.
- (5) Sand, organic matter, dark straw, 6 cm.
- (6) Clean drift sand to floor.

The layers 5 and 6 sloped from the southern end away to the north. From the break in the roof on the north a slope of drift sand had sifted in, filling the northern end over layers 5 and 6, and forming, in fact, the continuation of 4. The upper layers extended northwards only about three to four meters from the southern end of the room. Layer 6 had drifted in from the southern entrance. On this, in layer 5, was a mummy, as in room (27), and in the débris above it were beads and amulets (Pl. 23 *h*):

- 07-2-135. Figure of Haroeris, pale blue faience. H. 41 mm.
 136. Upper part of a figure of a cat-headed goddess, blackened green faience. H. 35 mm.
 137. Three figures of Bes, blue-green faience. H. 24 mm., 24 mm., and 23 mm.
 138. Squatting cat, blue faience. H. 17 mm.
 139. A sort of basket amulet, blue faience. H. 17 mm.
 140. Four small rudely made *uzat*-eyes of blue faience. L. 11 mm., 9 mm., 9 mm., 9 mm.
 141. Plaque with *uzat*-eye in relief on one side, and incised on the other, green faience. L. 9 mm.
 142. *Menat*-amulet, blue faience. H. 17 mm.
 143. Double lion (?) amulet, blue faience. L. 19 mm.
 144. Carnelian pendant, pomegranate. H. 16 mm.
 145. Five imitation split cowries of whitish faience. L. ca. 13 mm.
 146. Three imitation split cowries of shell. L. ca. 12 mm.
 147. Lot of blue-glazed beads — cylindrical, spherical, annular. Also one ridged ball-bead, and several small spiral shells.

In the unfinished rooms (30) to (35), the condition was entirely different. When the drift sand was removed, a heap of hard packed limestone — masons' rubbish — was found in each room. This rubbish, which was deepest in room (30), where in the middle it nearly reached the roof, had obviously formed a construction plane used in building the walls and setting the roof slabs, although part of it came from the dressing work already carried out in the rooms themselves. In the débris were only a few potsherds of the ordinary coarse red jars, (type IV), except in room (32), where some fragments of a diorite vessel (type *Xa*) and of oxidized copper, or bronze, were found in the débris. These rooms, left unfinished, had been undisturbed since the period of their construction.

(F) ROOM (36) AND THE TEMPLE ENCLOSURE (37)

North of the inner temple, in rooms (36) and (37), the modern surface presented a continuation of the weathered limestone chips and sand in which were embedded the granite blocks. Below this was a very irregular deposit of sand, filling the depressions. The surface of the sand corresponded with the

lowest erosion line, a heavy one, on the adjacent limestone walls. This surface was broken by a hole opposite rooms (26) west, (28), and (30); and in this hole lay the roofing stones from the northern ends of those rooms, where they had been cast down by treasure-hunters. Through the sand in room (36) descended the stairway to room (26), and the surface of the Roman Period was the surface of sand at the top of the stairway. With the exception of the hole referred to above, the sand was clean and rested on a surface of decay composed of hard mud, sand, and rubble. This mud bank was continuous all over the area north of the temple, even close up to the pyramid (Pl. 8 *a*), and differed clearly in consistency from the mud banks in which were embedded the great mud-brick enclosing wall of the pyramid and the casing wall north of the outer part of the temple. It seemed as if the remains of a mud-brick structure had been dumped here.

In the mud débris in room (37) north, were found fragments of stone vessels and statues, as well as some pottery. In the limestone rubbish and sand just under the granite layer were:

- 07-4-1. Fragments of a New Kingdom pot decorated with horizontal black and red bands and black spots.
2. Large pot (flower-pot form) of mud ware. Type XXV, H. 36 cm. Fig. 71. Photo. C 497, 498.
3. Squat jar of alabaster, with rim a separate piece. Type Vc (2). Pl. 21 *d*, on left.
4. Small saucer, with collar rim, of alabaster. Type XIc (2). Pl. 21 *d*, middle.
5. Lid of a kohl pot of Dynasty VI form (i.e., cylindrical). Pl. 21 *d*, middle below.
6. Small model cup of alabaster (in seven pieces, but complete). Photo. C 473.
7. Two fragments of model dish of alabaster. Photo. C 473.
8. Two fragments of rough model dish of alabaster. Photo. C 473.

South of the inner part of the temple in room (37) south, the top layer was granite blocks, a limestone casing block from the pyramid, limestone rubbish, and sand, as all along the eastern face of the pyramid. Under this was sand, covering a mass of limestone blocks which had apparently been taken from the walls of room (29). These blocks lay on a hard bank of mud, sand, and rubbish, in the eastern side of which was embedded a construction plane of worn lumps of limestone. This plane rested against the west wall of the outer temple and led up to the roof of room (27).

(G) FRAGMENTS OF STATUES FOUND NORTH OF ROOM (20)

All around the outer temple the crude-brick wall of Shepseskaf had been weathered away to within 30-100 cm. of its foundations. The decayed mud had been spread by rain and wind to form a bank, the surface of which sloped from the top of the casing wall, as preserved, outward to the old desert surface. On this mud surface of decay lay a stratum of drift sand, with a few centimeters of surface débris composed largely of fragments of limestone fallen from the decaying walls of the first temple. Some fragments of statues were found in mud débris (Pl. 8 *a*, *c*, *d*) in a hole in the casing wall opposite the magazines (19) and (20). Here the modern surface touched the northern face of the limestone core wall on a level with the bottom of the second course, and was marked by an erosion line as elsewhere. A second and a third line of erosion, one near the top of the second course and the other in the bottom of the first course, were much deeper than the lowest line. The surface débris was shallow near the wall, about 15-20 cm. of sand covered with small limestone chips and pebbles, but grew deeper toward the north, reaching a depth of 60-80 cm. on the edge of our excavations, four meters from the wall. Under the sand was the usual bank of mud débris sloping down to the north, in which was embedded the old casing wall, preserved here to a height of about 50 cm.

Beginning with the drain-hole cut through the bottom of the northern wall of room (20), a wide irregular trench had been cut through the crude-brick casing wall to a point about four meters north. This trench was filled with loose mud débris and sand mixed together. Evidently the persons (Arabs) who had caused the damage in room (20), looking for treasure, had discovered the drain and had worked their way through the hole and into the débris outside for four meters before they abandoned the search. In the disturbed débris in this trench was found a group of fragments of alabaster statues (Fig. 7):

- 07-4-9. Head of the larger alabaster statue of Mycerinus (Pls. 14, 15).
10. Left shoulder of the larger alabaster statue.
11. Fragment of body of smaller alabaster statue (Pl. 16 *b-d*).
12. Fragment of body of smaller alabaster statue.

These were about three meters from the drain-hole, just inside the face of the casing wall. Nearer the drain were:

- 07-4-13. Fragment from the body of the larger alabaster statue.
- 14. A large potsherd (type III?).

Under the débris in which these fragments were embedded, we found traces of a drain-trench cut in the foundation platform and leading out to the north. This drain-trench had probably been roofed with stone, and had suggested to the ignorant treasure-seekers the possibilities which had drawn them in this direction. It seems to me evident that the fragments found outside room (20) had been dragged out by these same men through the drain-hole. I conclude that the presence of the statues in room (20)

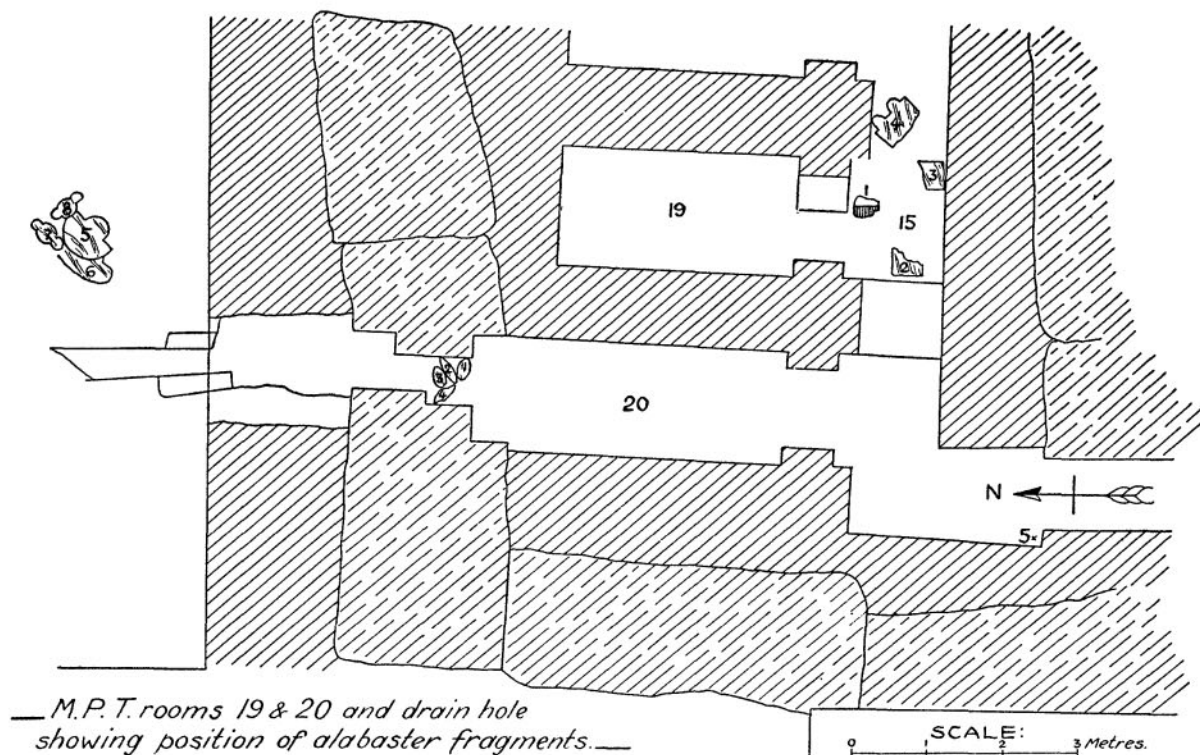


FIGURE 7

suggested to them the existence of a hidden treasure, in accordance with the usual Arabic stories of finding a "guardian" over a great treasure. They first tried the drain-hole in front of which the statues stood; they then broke through into room (19); they smashed the two statues, throwing the fragments over into corridor (15), or dragging them out through the drain; and finally, they cut down through the foundation platform, before abandoning the search.

All the fragments of statues found in and near the northern magazines fitted on these two alabaster statues, and there can be no doubt that the centre of their distribution was the disturbed area in magazines (19) and (20). From the character of the remains on the floor of (19), near the east wall, that room appears to have been a magazine, like (16) to (18). The two statues seem therefore to have stood, prior to their destruction, in room (20). The room was wide enough to have contained the two statues, even if they stood side by side facing the door. Room (20) was of slightly different form from the other magazines (16) to (19). There was no mud-brick wall across the northern end, and a vertical niche of rectangular cross-section, the width of the room, had been cut in the limestone core wall to form the northern end of the room. Thus room (20) was 128 cm. longer than the parallel rooms (16) to (19). The eastern and western interior faces of room (20) were built flush with the sides of the niche in the rock, and the faces of the niche were plastered white, like the mud-brick surfaces of the room. At a level about 95 cm. above the floor of the room, a horizontal ledge was cut in the northern and western sides of the niche (Pl. 8*b*), and on this ledge and partly on the slope of the eastern wall a stone slab had once rested, whose thickness was shown by the interruption of the plaster to have been 15 cm. In the west wall of the niche the ledge turns down at right angles, and the plaster indicates that a second slab, 15 to 30 cm. in height,

was set upright in front of the horizontal slab, thus forming a slab-altar like that in the hall of niches, room (9), of the Queen's temple, Pyramid III-*a*. Below the horizontal slab, by analogy, a rectangular libation basin for blood, water, or milk, should have stood as in the temple of III-*a*. Directly behind this place below the horizontal slab, a rectangular hole was cut through the northern core wall to the small covered drain which runs away below the mud-brick casing wall to a point outside that wall. Thus it is possible that the hole in the wall, in spite of its large size, was intended merely to take the spill from the libation basin in room (20). The niche, as I have explained, was part of room (20), as shown by the plastering and the adjustment of the mud-brick walls; and the supposition that the vertical niche was a channel for draining off rain water from the roof of this part of the temple is excluded by the relation of the niche to the room and by the slab-altar in the niche.

Room (20), like all these magazines, was open and accessible from the corridor (12), until the doorway, (14), was blocked with crude brick, that is, certainly until after the beginning of Dynasty VI. The walls of room (20) were of the brickwork of the original temple and the relations of the walls to the niche prove that the niche was in the wall when the temple of Shepseskaf was built. The use of the room as a libation chamber must therefore date from the time of that temple. But some explanation is required for this special use of one room in a row of magazines. I therefore conclude that the statues, or at any rate one of them, were already placed in this room by Shepseskaf, probably against the western wall facing east, close to the libation basin. Whether both statues were placed in the room by Shepseskaf, or whether one of them was originally outside, perhaps in the portico, and placed here later, must remain unanswered.

(H) HISTORY OF THE DEPOSIT OF THE DÉBRIS

The series of events by which the débris in the inner temple was deposited, may be summed up as follows:

1. Before the first century A.D., the floor had been broken up in rooms (26), (27), and (28) by earlier treasure-hunters, and in the débris left by these people were fragments of pottery, stone vessels, and statues of the Old Kingdom.

2. In the first and second centuries A.D., the roof was still intact over (26), (27), and (28), and the rooms contained only so much sand as would run in through the outer doors. The corridor (13) was sanded up, as well as (36) and (37), nearly to the top of the roof. The roof was no doubt exposed, and so rendered the discovery of the rooms easy. The sand was dug away from the northern door of (26), and a rough stair built to give access to the rooms, which were then utilized as a communal burial place.

3. The great damage was done by the Arabs who broke stone and sought treasure. The southern wall of room (34), its limestone walls, and part of the roof of (27), were broken down and removed. Incidentally, the upper layers of mummies in the room were overhauled. The granite floor of room (29) was partly taken up. When this disturbance had been covered with sand and débris, the attempted destruction of the pyramid appears to have taken place. The upper courses of the granite casing were pulled down, and the blocks split up during the process. The whole inner part of the temple and the base of the pyramid were encumbered with this débris. Some pieces of granite had rotted so that they fell to pieces under the blows of an iron hammer. Underneath there were patches of fine gray powder, which at first were mistaken for ashes, but were soon seen to be decayed granite. Over all this tangled mass of granite was a deposit of limestone débris like that on all four faces of all the pyramids. But this had been disturbed, perhaps recently.¹

6. DESCRIPTION OF THE TEMPLE AS AT PRESENT EXCAVATED

(PLAN PL. I, SECTIONS PL. II.)

The site of the temple and the pyramid is a ridge of limestone thrown out from the southern side of the mass of rock which forms the great plateau of the Pyramids (see Pl. 1, *a* and *b*). Between the Second and Third Pyramids there is a basin, hollowed apparently by the drainage of the higher part of the plateau which lies west of the Second Pyramid. South of the ridge of the Third Pyramid, a deep *wady* descends

¹ See Vyse, *Pyramids of Gizeh*, I, pp. 150 ff.