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INTRODUCTION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
Abusir and Saqqara in the Year 2010: Volume I
LATE PERIOD AND GRAECO-ROMAN PERIOD

Ladislav Bareš
The shaft tomb of Menekhibnekau at Abusir

Abstract: The tomb of Menekhibnekau is the third largest Late Period shaft
tomb excavated at the necropolis at Abusir so far. Although it seems to be
contemporary with the neighbouring structures of Udjahorresnet and Iufaa, it
shows some differences in its orientation, arrangement of its subterranean
layout and its decoration and texts. Judging from the tiny remnants of its
superstructure (for the most part destroyed by later stone-cutting), the tomb
of Menekhibnekau might have been the most magnificent structure of its kind
within the entire cemetery; that corresponds to the number and importance of
his titles and offices. In spite of the fact that its burial chamber had already
been robbed in antiquity, several items of the original burial equipment and
other artefacts have been found here.

Keywords: Abusir – Late Period – Shaft Tomb – Menekhibnekau.

Louis Chaix
Cattle skulls (bucrania): A universal symbol all around the world. The case of Kerma
(Sudan)

Abstract: Skulls of cattle or bucraiania are widely represented in various contexts all
around the world. In different modern populations, bucraiania are often linked to
the funeral world as a symbol of the power of death. In the past, bucraiania were
used since Neolithic times in funerary or religious/symbolic contexts. In Africa,
since the Early Neolithic period, bucraiania are attested in high numbers from
Kerma culture cemeteries, a fact which indicates the economic and religious
importance of the cattle. In some particular tombs more than 5,000 bucraiania were
found. Their importance is also known from Ancient Egypt and from some
Saqqara tombs. Some bucraiania are artificially deformed, with parallel horns,
similar to some pictures found in the Saharan rock-art. This artificial
modification of horns continues to be practiced by modern tribes from the
southern Sudan, testifying to a long and living tradition.

Keywords: Asia – Africa – Madagascar – Sudan – cattle – bucraiania – horns –
symbolism – deformation.
Mary Hartley, Alanah Buck, Susanne Binder

Canine Interments in the Teti Cemetery North at Saqqara during the Graeco-Roman period

Abstract: This contribution presents and discusses the large quantity of canine remains uncovered in four seasons of work in the Teti Cemetery North (2007–2010) by a team from Macquarie University, Sydney. Two different types of burials were observed, and while one of these can be classified as the known type of votive animal mummy, the second does not fit into any of the four categories commonly described in the relevant literature. Based on the archaeological findings at this site where some canines are buried in close association with humans, a hypothesis is formulated for a further type, an amuletic animal mummy.

Keywords: Amuletic animal mummies – Anubis – association of human and animal remains – canines – Graeco-Roman period – metric analysis of dog crania – re-use of New Kingdom structures – Teti Cemetery.

Jiří Janák – Renata Landgráfová

New Evidence on the Mummification Process in the Late Period. Hieratic Texts from the Embalmers’ Cache in the Shaft Tomb of Menekhibnekau at Abusir

Abstract: In one of the shafts (marked as S1) of the tomb of Menekhibnekau an embalmer’s cache with a large deposit was discovered. Among other excavated material, 33 vessels with hieratic or demotic texts were found. All inscriptions are written in black ink and in a bold, sure hand. It is, however, clear that they are the work of more than one scribe. Both hieratic and demotic inscriptions mention materials used during mummification but some of them even specify the day of the process of mummification. Nine different day numbers were attested so-far, thus, we can presume that once the exploration of the embalmer’s cache of Menekhibnekau is completed and all inscriptions on the jars evaluated, we will possess highly valuable evidence concerning the mummification process in Late Period Egypt.

Keywords: Late Period – shaft tombs – embalmers’ cache – mummification – burial rites – Menekhibnekau – Abusir.

Zdeňka Sůvová

Animal remains from Abusir-South: the shaft filling and adjacent structures of mastaba AS 51

Abstract: Recent information about Ancient Egyptian animal husbandry has been derived mainly from representations at cultic places such as temples and tombs. Despite the fact that these illustrations can be oddly interpreted, they can be misleading, for they reflect not real life, but an ideal conception. Osteological material excavated during the seasons 2005–09 in the site explored by the Czech Institute of Egyptology were analyzed. Thousands of animal
bones and other zoological material such as teeth, horns etc. came from different archaeological situations (burial chambers, shafts, secondary burials, and other funeral objects) and were dated back mainly to the Old Kingdom and to the Late Period. The results of these analyses contributed to our knowledge of animal husbandry, abuse of domestic animals, burial habits and other aspects of Ancient Egyptian life, as well as to e.g. palaeoenvironmental reconstruction. The main interest of the following paper is focused on the Late Period/Greek-Roman Period burial shaft filling.

Keywords: Abusir – animal remains – burial chambers and shafts – Old Kingdom – Late Period – Greek-Roman Period.

Christiane Ziegler

Abstract: Two more undisturbed Late Period tombs were discovered in 2006–2007 by the Mission archéologique du Louvre à Saqqara under the directorship of Ch. Ziegler. They are situated in the area of the Akhetetep mastaba, to the north of the Unas causeway, and can be reached by shafts cutting through mastaba cores. One of these shafts reused an unknown Old Kingdom tomb belonging to a ‘Director of the crew of tomb builders’ whose name is Sabef. The Late Period Tombs are collective burials. They contain few loculi and stone sarcophagi and many wooden coffins and mummies covered by beautiful cartonnages. Other funerary items consist of Ptah-Sokar-Osiris statuettes and wooden chests found intact.

Keywords: Saqqara – the Unas Causeway – Late Period burial – coffin – mummy – cartonnage – Ptah-Sokar-Osiris – funerary chest – mastaba – Akhethetep – Nectanebo II.

NEW KINGDOM

Harold M. Hays

Abstract: Originating from the discovery of an anepigraphic monumental tomb in the 2010 excavation season of the Leiden Excavations at Saqqara, the problem tackled by this paper is the dating of tombs according to architectural features. As previous studies of New Kingdom monumental architecture at Saqqara have been purely synchronic, ignoring developments over time, the present contribution seeks to initiate a discourse about change. The significance of the discussion can be found along two avenues: first, the inauguration of a genuine architectural history of the period; second, the articulation of a practical set of criteria that can serve as a starting point from which to date other anepigraphic Saqqara tombs of this period.
Keywords: Leiden Excavations at Saqqara – dating of tombs – New Kingdom – monumental architecture – diachrony – history.

Hana Navrátilová

*Additions to the Maidum visitors’ graffiti* 106

*Abstract:* The corpus of visitors’ graffiti in the pyramid temple of Maidum was first published by W. M. F. Petrie and F. L. Griffith in 1892. The graffiti in the entrance passage of the Maidum pyramid were studied by G. Maspero and P. E. Newberry among others. These published Maidum graffiti were analysed in the context of the history of pyramid complex destruction, as well as that of the chronology of the Eighteenth Dynasty. There are, however, several shorter graffiti, which remain unpublished. These graffiti were recorded by G. B. Gunn in cooperation with the expedition led by A. J. Rowe and the inscriptions were analysed later by J. Černý. This addition to the Maidum corpus is relatively small and consists of short texts, but it is a contribution to the corpus of the visitors’ graffiti in the pyramid fields. This paper aims at presenting the unpublished graffiti.


Boyo G. Ockinga

*In search of the New Kingdom tombs in the Teti Pyramid Cemetery North: Preliminary results of the 2009 and 2010 seasons conducted by Macquarie University* 119

*Abstract:* This paper provides an overview of the results of Macquarie University’s excavations conducted in 2009 and 2010 within the middle section of the Teti Cemetery North (TNM) at Saqqara. Evidence was recovered indicating that the area was used for tombs and individual burials from the Old Kingdom through to the Roman Period. Remains of seven tomb structures were found (two Old Kingdom, three New Kingdom, one Late Period and one Roman period) as well as numerous individual burials ranging from the First Intermediate Period to the Roman Period. Indications point to the New Kingdom tomb chapels already having been stripped of their stone architectural elements by the time of the Roman Period.

*Keywords:* Teti Cemetery – Saqqara – New Kingdom – tomb chapels.

Maarten J. Raven

‘Pragmatics’ of the New Kingdom Necropolis of Saqqara as illustrated by the tomb of Meryneith 139

*Abstract:* The tomb of the steward and later high-priest of the Aten, Meryneith, at Saqqara was found in 2001. This monument can be analysed as a message in a cultural language, constrained by social expectations, modified by individual agency, and contaminated by physical impediments or the interventions of later
generations. As such, it can be compared to the notion of pragmatics in linguistic theory. Such an analysis can be a useful tool to increase our awareness of the difference between the tomb-owner’s original ideal and present-day archaeological reality.

Keywords: Saqqara – Meryneith – Ancient Egypt – cemetery – archaeology – pragmatics.

Eugen Strouhal

Comparison of two burial groups located south of the Tomb of Horemheb at Saqqara and dated to the New Kingdom and Ptolemaic periods

Abstract: This study deals with anthropological remains found in the New Kingdom necropolis excavated by the Leiden University in Saqqara. Comparison of two different groups dating to the New Kingdom and to the Ptolemaic Period revealed valuable data on the low mean age at death, based on the socioeconomic status of the buried population groups. The difference between the ones from the poor New Kingdom cemetery, who were not mummified, and the mummies of the wealthier ones from the Ptolemaic vault, amounted to a low mean age difference of nearly five years. Cranial morphology revealed the stability of the local population type of the Memphite area. In both groups, morphological resemblance of pair individuals and increased frequency of some variations or anomalies revealed the blood relationship of the dead.

Keywords: Saqqara – New Kingdom – Ptolemaic period – anthropology – stability of the Memphite population.

MIDDLE KINGDOM

Masahiro Baba, Sakuji Yoshimura

Ritual Activities in Middle Kingdom Egypt: A View from Intact Tombs Discovered at Dahshur North

Abstract: Recent excavations by the Institute of Egyptology, Waseda University at Dahshur North cemetery have revealed many shaft-tombs of the Middle and New Kingdom periods. Some of these shaft tombs were completely undisturbed and contained intact rectangular coffins from the late Middle Kingdom. These discoveries provide us detailed information about the buried individuals and their burial customs, as well as presenting an unique opportunity to examine ritual and funerary activities performed at the time of death.

Keywords: Dahshur North – Middle Kingdom – shaft-tomb – coffin – burial customs – funerary ritual.
Adela Oppenheim
The Early Life of Pharaoh: Divine Birth and Adolescence Scenes in the Causeway of Senwosret III at Dahshur

Abstract: During fall 2008 and 2009 seasons, the Egyptian Expedition of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York excavated the western (upper) section of the causeway of Senwosret III’s pyramid complex at Dahshur (Twelfth Dynasty). Previous excavation work did not provide a definitive answer to the question as to whether or not the causeway was decorated. A number of blocks contain depictions of human activities, including stick-jousting and bee-keeping, and landscapes with wild and domesticated animals, fish, birds and a turtle. Inscriptions imply that at least some of the scenes probably belonged to representations of the seasons. Other fragments suggest scenes involving foreigners and perhaps military conflict. Portions of processions of deities, nomes, estates, fecundity figures and offering bearers were recovered. Another group of fragments preserves parts of ships, some laden with cargo. The vessels appear to be transporting materials for the pyramid complex, particularly as one includes part of the explicit inscription ‘bringing granite from Elephantine’. The depiction of Bedouins has been connected with the transport of the pyramidion, and a few recovered fragments hint at the possibility that Senwosret III’s causeway had such a scene. The newly discovered relief fragments from the Senwosret III causeway show that the continuity and tradition in the decorative programs of these structures stretched from the early Fifth Dynasty until at least the latter part of the Twelfth Dynasty.

Keywords: Dahshur – Middle Kingdom – Senwosret III – causeway – decoration – origin of the motifs – continuity and tradition.

Tarek El Awady
A Problematic Scene from Sahure’s Causeway

Abstract: This article deals with a new bas-relief scene from the causeway of Sahure at Abusir. The scene depicts high officials and groups of other officials with different titles in front of what has been suggested to be a large figure of Sahure. Depicted officials are known men who served King Sahure. Among them are named the king’s sons, khentiu-she officials and, last but not least, Seshemnefer I, who served Sahura as a vizier.

Keywords: Abusir – Old Kingdom – Sahure – pyramid complex – decoration – high officials – royal family – Seshemnefer I.
Abstract: In the pottery studies of the Old Kingdom period, the question of the chronological sensitivity and reliability of fine versus rough wares has been raised recently. With fine wares, the time span between their production and their deposition can reach up to several generations. Contrarily, rough wares were entirely practical and were disposed of after several episodes of usage. The most abundant and most easily recognizable rough wares are, without doubt, beer jars and bread forms. Their high numbers and considerable variations in form make a detailed typological study essential, albeit difficult, as often three or more forms appear in one context. On the other hand, their typological variability makes them significant for chronological studies. In this paper, the morphological development and chronological relevance of bread forms from the recent excavations in the cemeteries of Abusir South shall be compared with the known assemblages from the Memphite necropolis and the wider provincial production.

Keywords: Abusir – Old Kingdom – pottery – rough and fine ware – social and archaeological context – bread moulds.

Abstract: Careful analysis of the very eroded bas-reliefs from Ti’s mastaba portico has revealed unknown details and even three unpublished scenes, rare or first attested scenes. The presentation of these new elements will provide new ground for an analysis of the portico’s scene composition and its role as an introduction to the monument. Ti’s tomb stands out as an example of balance between tradition and innovation, a source of inspiration for later monuments.

Keywords: portico – innovation – serdab – scenes first attested / unpublished – Ti – Kagemni – decoration.

Abstract: If the Pyramid Texts had any influence at all upon Sixth Dynasty tomb decorations, then it should be feasible to identify a correlation between tomb decoration programmes and the sequences of the Pyramid Texts. It would be expected that the distribution of the decorations should be observably different before and after the appearance of the Pyramid Texts. Two ‘marker’ scenes were identified and a distribution analysis was applied to the position of these scenes in tombs with dates ranging from the mid Fifth
to the early Sixth Dynasty. The pattern that emerged suggests decorations changed in response to some influence other than the Pyramid Texts and suggests a new time frame for this inspiration.

**Keywords**: Old Kingdom – Pyramid Texts – distribution – tomb decoration.

**Vivienne Gae Callender**

*Queen Neit-ikrety/Nitokris*

*Abstract*: The presence of the name of Neit-ikrety in the Turin Canon has generated a number of important discussions in the past but, in a recent re-examination of the Turin Papyrus, K. Ryholt (Ryholt 2000, 87–100) has demonstrated that Fragment 43 – which contains the name of Neit-ikrety – must be raised to a higher position than it occupies at present in Gardiner’s publication of the Canon. Ryholt’s repositioning has meant that the number of names on the Abydos list for the Sixth Dynasty now coincides exactly with the number of names in the Turin Canon. As a result of this move, it was possible for Ryholt to add yet another isolated fragment of the papyrus next to Fragment 43; this piece contains the phrase, *St-Pth*, the ‘son of Ptah’ (Ryholt 2000, 88). This result has brought Ryholt to two significant conclusions: that the names of Neit-ikrety should now be seen as *Neit-ikrety-Netjerykara-Sa-Ptah*, and that Neit-ikrety was a male king. This article revisits the various arguments, old and new, relating to this controversial identity and offers an independent assessment of the evidence.

**Keywords**: 6th Dynasty – Neit-ikrety – Neby – Ibi’s pyramid – Abydos King List – Turin Canon – Herodotos – Old Kingdom history.

**Violaine Chauvet**

*Entrance-porticoes and Portico-chapels: The Creation of an Outside Ritual Stage in Private Tombs of the Old Kingdom*

*Abstract*: Porticoes – monumental entrances supported by columns or pillars – are among the structural innovations which mark the transformation of private tombs into elaborate multi-functional monuments from the mid-Fifth Dynasty onwards. Originating in the necropolis of Abusir, this architectural feature is selectively adopted and adapted in the Memphite area with at least eight examples at Saqqara and ten at Giza. The paper will focus on the analysis of the portico decoration, and consider the adaptation of the decorative programme within the structural setting, and the function of this architectural feature. The first theme to be discussed is public display: Which are the icons selected to be transferred to the outside of the tomb, and how are they adapted to external public display? Which new themes emerge in relation to porticoes, and how do they relate to the developing concept of the biographical self? The second focal point in this presentation is the analysis of the portico as a liminal space, a point of interaction between the deceased tomb owner and the living. In many
respects, the design of the portico is an embodiment of the inherent tension which existed in funerary context between restriction (the need for a protective pure environment) and accessibility (visitors). In conclusion we will see that porticoes had the potential to encapsulate all the essential conceptual aspects of the tomb superstructure as illustrated by the development of a ‘portico-chapel’ mastaba-type (Reisner Type 11), possibly as early as the reign of Izezi.

Keywords: Porticos – monumental tombs – Memphite necropoleis – social display – Izezi.

Václav Cílek, Lenka Lisá, Miroslav Bártá
The Holocene of the Abusir area

Abstract: The study presents results of a long-term project aimed at the reconstruction of the Lake of Abusir development during the Holocene. The archaeological and geological assessment of the lake deposits attests to its existence during the Old Kingdom when it was used as a major entryway to the entire Abusir and Saqqara necropolis areas.

Keywords: Abusir – Lake of Abusir – cemetery entrance – geology and sedimentology.

Veronika Dulíková
Some notes on the title of ‘Vizier’ during the Old Kingdom, especially on the hieroglyphic phallus-sign in the vizier’s title

Abstract: The Old Kingdom viziers bore the composite title tiyty tity (n) zib. Further hieroglyphic signs, such as the phallus-sign and the addition mhy, were appended in some cases to this title. The form of the vizier’s title with the phallus-sign occurred frequently within a limited time span. For the understanding of the usage of the phallus-sign in the vizier’s title, contextualization is crucial. Analysis and comparison of the title sequences of both those viziers using the phallus-sign and those who did not have brought evidence of a clear distinction between the structure of the titles of these two groups: this indicates that the occurrence of the phallus-sign within the highest administrative title coincides with social change regarding the state administration and the royal family.

Keywords: Old Kingdom – vizier – administration – administrative title – king’s son – phallus-sign – Giza.

Laurel Flentye
The Development of the Giza Necropolis in the Early Fourth Dynasty

Abstract: Study of the ‘Giza Style’ suggests that it was a complex period, in which diverse influences impacted the architecture and its decorative programs, including the incorporation of elements from the cemeteries at Meidum, Dahshur, and Saqqara under Snefru. In the royal sphere, the iconography of
Khufu’s reliefs and the fragments from the queens’ pyramids suggest some continuity with Snefru’s decorative programs at Dahshur. Stylistically, Khufu’s reliefs are characterized by the height of their low relief with rounded edges as opposed to the higher, bold style of Snefru’s reliefs with edges perpendicular to the background surface. In the non-royal sphere, the use of slab stelae in the early tombs of the Western Cemetery is given as an example of Khufu’s ‘reductionist’ policy, in which the stelae and possibly a reserve head were the only decoration. From a study of the iconographical features on the slab stelae, it is apparent that they evolved over time, with influences from Meidum, Dahshur, and Saqqara persisting as new elements in the ‘Giza Style’ were added.

A reassessment of royal and non-royal iconography and style during Khufu’s reign indicates that certain iconography from Meidum, Dahshur, and Saqqara was assimilated by the artisans at Giza, but, stylistically, there was a distinct change from Snefru’s high, bold relief to a lower relief style at Giza.

Keywords: Giza – Khufu – Iconography – Style – Slab Stelae – Reliefs – Statuary – Royal – Non-royal.

Hans Goedicke

Egyptological Cannibalism. Comments on Pyramid Spells 273–274

Abstract: The paper provides a lengthy and detailed discussion of the numerous philological particulars of Pyramid Spells 273–274, which include grammatical, syntactic and semantic aspects; the article reviews the text as an integrated entity.

Keywords: Cannibalism – Pyramid Texts – Old Kingdom.

Yannis Gourdon

The AGÉA database project: Persons and names of the Old Kingdom

Abstract: Since the 1930s, our understanding of ancient Egyptian personal names relies on Ranke’s PN. But, because its philological and sociological data and analysis are based on the knowledge of the first half of the 20th century, the PN requires a complete revision. Launched in 2008 at the IFAO, the online AGÉA database project aims, eventually, the creation of a systematic directory of personal names for every period of the Pharaonic history, completing and modernizing Ranke’s work. As a tool allowing an easier analysis and a better data interpretation, AGÉA will focus, in its first development, on the Old Kingdom, for which an example (Tepiemankh’s family) is discussed here.

Keywords: AGÉA database – Ranke’s PN – Egyptian personal names – Old Kingdom – Tepiemankh (Saqqara – D11) – family.
Jiří Janák, Hana Vymazalová, Filip Coppens
The Fifth Dynasty ‘sun temples’ in a broader context 430
Abstract: This article aims to provide new insights into the function and role of the sun temples and the religious landscape in which they were set by taking a closer look at the onomastic, topographical, architectural, economic and administrative connections between the sun temple and the pyramid complexes. At the same time the sun temple is placed in a much broader historical context.
Keywords: Old Kingdom – Fifth Dynasty – sun temples – rites of renewal – kingship.

Abusír and Saqqara in the Year 2010: Volume II
Lucie Jirásková
Stone vessels of AS54 at Abusir South. Preliminary report 447
Abstract: The 2010 spring expedition of the Czech Institute of Egyptology brought to light an assemblage of stone vessel fragments from Abusir South. All were found within or in the immediate vicinity of the northern shaft (shaft 1) of the mastaba AS 54 situated on a prominent place at Abusir South. After the fragments were glued together and examined, several classes and types of stone vessels appeared. The paper presents the collection in its archaeological context, describes its special features, deals with the classification and typology of particular shapes, and last but not least, attempts to reach a dating for the entire assemblage.
Keywords: Saqqara – Old Kingdom – Third Dynasty – Huni – AS 54 – stone vessels.

Andrea Kahlbacher – Lubica Zelenková
The MeKeTRE Project & An Example of a Theme Type in the Old and Middle Kingdom: Manufacture of Nets 465
Abstract: The MeKeTRE Project, funded by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) and conducted at the Institute of Egyptology (Vienna), seeks to systematically collect, research, and study the reliefs and paintings from the Middle Kingdom tombs of officials. One of the main aims is to map and elaborate the development of the scenes and their content in comparison to those from the Old Kingdom. By the time of the Middle Kingdom, many scene details based on Old Kingdom models and prototypes had changed considerably; a number of characteristic scenes disappear, while others occur which are completely new or carried on under modified versions. These changes will be demonstrated in this article, using a corpus of images that deal with the manufacture of fowling and fishing nets.
Keywords: Decoration – Middle Kingdom – net – net-maker – spinning – spindle – netting – netting needle – netting table.
Naguib Kanawati

Art and Gridlines: The copying of Old Kingdom scenes in later periods 483

Abstract: Works of top Old Kingdom artists were considered as examples to emulate by contemporaries and by later generations. The magnificently decorated tombs of Ptahhotep I, Akhethotep and Ptahhotep II probably remained accessible for a long time. Two observations may be made on their scenes: a) certain parts were left in different states of incompleteness. Did it aim at demonstrating their techniques?; b) square gridlines were added above sections of completed reliefs, and the same is found e.g. in the tombs of Iymery at Giza and Pepyank-henykem at Meir. The last case suggests that the gridlines were used by Middle Kingdom artists to copy some Old Kingdom masterpieces in Middle Kingdom tombs, or for teaching purposes in the newly established schools.

Keywords: Old Kingdom – Saqqara – Giza – Meir – tombs – reliefs – Middle Kingdom copies.

Nozomu Kawai

The Tomb of Isisnofret at Northwest Saqqara 497

Abstract: Waseda University Egyptian Expedition has excavated the previously unknown New Kingdom tomb chapel and burial chamber containing the sarcophagus of a certain ‘noble woman, Isisnofret’ on the summit of the rocky outcrop at Northwest Saqqara. Architectural features of the tomb chapel suggest that it dates to the Nineteenth Dynasty. The location of the tomb chapel, at right angles to the central axis line of the monument of Prince Khaemwaset (probably his ka-chapel) and the archaizing style of Isisnofret’s sarcophagus which reflects the same archaizing style of Khaemwaset’s own monuments, suggest that this Isisnofret is a daughter of Khaemwaset.


Mohamed Ismail Khaled

A Visitor at the Causeway of Sahura at Abusir 512

Abstract: This paper deal with an ancient visitor graffito carved on a scene representing a procession of funerary domains in the causeway of Sahura. The carved graffito indicates that the temple and the causeway of Sahura still functioned and were visible until the Late Period. Interestingly, the visitor’s name reflects one of Sahura’s domain names.

Keywords: Sahura – Sekhmet Sahura – funerary domains – causeway – graffito.
Jaromír Krejčí
Nyuserra Revisited

Abstract: The Archaeological Expedition of the Charles University made an archaeological sounding work in the close vicinity of Nyuserra’s valley temple during the autumn of the 2009 season. A small portion of an embankment wall was revealed which has made possible discussion on the appearance of the valley temple and its “port”. Another archaeological test pit was made in close vicinity of Nyuserra’s causeway.


Kamil O. Kuraszkiewicz
The Practicalities behind the Ritual: Observations on Sixth Dynasty funerary architecture

Abstract: The subject of the present paper involves certain aspects of the development of the necropolis situated west of the Step Pyramid. It is evident that tomb builders had to cope with various problems resulting from the topography of the area, in particular, its geological structure as well as climatic conditions. Some developments may be seen as evidence of tomb builders’ efforts to preserve tombs and their contents from being destroyed or desecrated by natural factors or by human activity.

Keywords: Saqqara – Old Kingdom – funerary architecture.

Claudia M. Lacher-Raschdorff
The tomb of king Ninetjer and its reuse in later periods

Abstract: The tomb of Ninetjer could best be described as a subterranean path or corridor tomb. It extends over an area of about 77 m by 50 m and is divided into 192 rooms, running through the rock in a maze of winding paths. The different architectural elements will be discussed and compared with contemporary tombs at Saqqara. The substructure could be interpreted as magazines, a model-palace, three model cult places and a model-residence. Over the course of time, from Old Kingdom even up to Late Antiquity, many intrusions have hit the Second Dynasty galleries. In addition, and in the light of the development direction of a burial place and of its cultic traditions, the reuse of this tomb is also discussed.

Keywords: Saqqara – Second Dynasty – royal tomb – Ninetjer.
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The Old Kingdom market-place scenes revisited: with special reference to Tepemankh II (tp-m-₅nh) 551
Abstract: In this contribution, the interpretations of the market-place scenes of the Old Kingdom period are reconsidered. A quantitative based approach is adopted in the analysis of the entire collection of scenes. Primary importance is placed on the artistic and inscriptional evidence to define the relationships between the market seller and the customer, and the commodities offered in exchange. The significance of attire is also analyzed with respect to defining functional roles. The results of this analysis are then incorporated into a case study concerning a relief fragment from the Tokyo Bridgestone Museum of Art, and its possible relationship with the market-place scene from the mastaba of Tep-em-ankh II. It is claimed that the market-place scenes are primarily concerned with the economic interests of the elite tomb owner, and not an illustration of the economic activities of the local peasantry.
Keywords: Economy – elites – market-place – Old Kingdom – peasantry – Tep-em-ankh.

Michele Marcolin, Andrés Diego Espinel
The Sixth Dynasty Biographic Inscriptions of Iny: More Pieces to the Puzzle 570
Abstract: The present paper addresses three newly identified and heretofore undocumented relief fragments belonging to biographic inscriptions of the sealbearer Iny, a recently rediscovered Egyptian officer, who lived and acted as commander of expeditionary activities toward the Levant, during the reign of Pepy I, Merenre and Pepy II. Two of these new limestone fragments join virtually break-to-break with each other and fit on top of the previously known ‘large’ fragment, completing it in its upper part. The third piece, an inscribed panel bearing also a representation of the owner, fits with the so-called ‘minor’ fragment as its lower part. The importance of the reliefs evidently lies in their inscriptional content, as they not only provide the missing parts of the previous inscriptions with new and relevant information concerning the objectives of Egyptian expeditionary activities to Byblos and the Levant during the Sixth Dynasty, but also introduce a series of new and valuable toponyms. However, by revealing further startling details on the vicissitudes of the owner, they also confirm the previously attempted interpretations of their significance.
Keywords: Old Kingdom – Sixth Dynasty – Levant – Byblos – expeditions abroad – commercial relations – Early Bronze Age.
Mohamed Megahed

The Pyramid Complex of ‘Djedkare’s Queen’ in South Saqqara. Preliminary Report
2010

Abstract: The paper provides an introduction and the preliminary results of a project that started in 2009. The project aims to gather and publish the material from the archaeological excavations of the pyramid complex of the Fifth Dynasty King Djedkare in South Saqqara. The site was explored by several Egyptian teams between the 1940s and 1980s (under the direction of Hussain, Fakhry, Razek), but the results of these excavations have never been fully published. The finds have now been recollected in several storerooms of the Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA) and are in the process of being documented. The material will be described, analyzed and published in detail and allow for a study of the architectural layout and decoration program of Djedkare’s funerary complex. In addition to that, the paper provides a preliminary report on the fieldwork, which was undertaken recently in the anonymous pyramid complex northeast of Djedkare’s pyramid complex. The archaeological results, together with several finds from the previous and current excavations are presented.

Keywords: Pyramid complex – Djedkare – Saqqara – Anonymous complex – Fifth Dynasty.

Radek Mikuláš, Václav Cílek

Insect burrows (dwelling/breeding chambers and tunnels) in the archaeological context of Abusir

Abstract: Several different forms of hymenopteran nesting chambers, probable beetle galleries and mammal burrows were found in masonry, plasters and surrounding (both natural and man-made) deposits in the ancient Abusir necropolis. Recognition of the makers of these structures has enabled a useful interpretation through dating (radiometric dating is possible if the tunnels are lined with organic matter) and specification of depth of burrowing/bioerosion (some insect structures show a highly specific depth below the substrate surface). Three basic colonization times were recognized: first, 2760 ± 35 BP = ca 750 B.C.; second, 645 ± 30 BP. i.e. ca 1350 A.D.; third, 225 ± 30 B.P., i.e. ca 1775 A.D.

Keywords: Insect burrows – Hymenoptera – ichnology – Abusir – bioerosion – bioturbation.

Karol Myśliwiec

Dating the tombs of Merefnebef and Nyankhnefretem in Saqqara

Abstract: Two Old Kingdom tombs recently discovered and published by the Polish-Egyptian mission in Saqqara became a subject of controversy concerning their date. A detailed analysis of their diagnostic features resulted
in a general review of dating criteria, leading to the conclusion that none of these criteria is self-sufficient.


**Massimiliano Nuzzolo, Rosanna Pirelli**

*New archaeological investigation in the sun temple of Niuserra in Abu Ghurab*  664

*Abstract:* The sed festival depiction in Niuserra’s sun temple represents the oldest known example of this kind of ritual celebration of kingship in Ancient Egypt. Although generally accepted by scholars, the reconstruction made by Kaiser in the seventies (the only one existing in this sense) is nonetheless not entirely sound and presents many doubts. Moreover, the German scholar assumed a narrative approach to the issue, emphasizing a descriptive level, where the development of the ritual was put in the focus. In this paper, on the contrary, I will not only draw attention to the depiction of the scenes and the placement in their architectural setting (trying to suggest a new ‘unrolling’ of the festival along the walls of the so-called chapel), but I will also stress the different readings and semantic values of the festival which, above all, seems to refer to the complex defining process of kingship during the Fifth Dynasty and, as a whole, during the Old Kingdom.

*Keywords:* Sun Temple – Fifth Dynasty – Kingship – Niuserra

**Joanna Popielska-Grzybowska**

*Religious Reality Creation through Language in the Old Kingdom Religious Texts*  680

*Abstract:* The Pyramid Texts are very often perceived by scholars as being incoherent. The present author has been attempting to show, with reference to the contextual arguments, cohesion of these texts. In this article, the phenomenon of the performative role of language in the Egyptian religious texts as exemplified by the Pyramid Texts is scrutinised. Emphasis is laid on causative power of religious utterances and reality creation through language, through words – acts of speaking and writing. Furthermore, literary, stylistic and linguistic means of expression used by the ancient Egyptians are analysed and what appears to be an effect of using such expressions in religious discourse. Consequently, the religious style is examined.

As far as religious language is concerned it is expressing the Inexpressible. The ancient Egyptian stylisation phenomenon was very often based on the Pyramid Texts as a model. Thus, it is not perceived by the senses but within the faith. The sensibility of any language being understood in such a way might be questioned. It is easy to prove the sensibility, the deep meaning, veracity and verity of the religious utterances – ancient ones in particular – and, in contrast, also the senseless character of the texts – especially as they appear to us today. Regarding religious truths, a deeper meaning is intrinsically hidden in
apparently senseless verses. Leszek Kołakowski stated that the sensibility of a language is conditioned by the cult context and the engagement of the believers (e.g. Kołakowski 1991, 53–64). According to L. Kołakowski, religious language, namely its real meaning, is untranslatable into any other language, although words, phrases and actions necessary to be undertaken or performed may be translated. It is profoundly embodied in the language itself.

The language of the Old Kingdom religious texts is scrutinised based on inferences drawn by Teresa Dobrzyńska (Dobrzyńska 1973; 1974) and methods created by the scholarly circle of Polish ethnolinguists: Jerzy Bartmiński, Anna Pajdzińska and Ryszard Tokarski (e.g. Bartmiński 2009). Hence, the author is presenting, via contextual arguments, stylistic and grammatical structures, a picture of the Egyptian Beyond for the Egyptian pharaoh as expressed through language in the Old Kingdom religious texts.

Keywords: Ancient Egypt – religion – creation – religious reality – ethno-linguistics.

Ilona Regulski
Reinvestigating the Second Dynasty at Saqqara

Abstract: During the excavations of the New Kingdom tombs of Maya and Meryneith to the south of the Unas causeway, the Dutch expedition at Saqqara discovered much older complexes underneath these tombs. An initial assessment of the material culture and the proximity of the royal necropolis of the early Second Dynasty just to the north, suggested an Early Dynastic date. More detailed investigations of these underground structures have recently been carried out by the Netherlands-Flemish Institute in Cairo. Two short field seasons (2007 and 2008) considerably increased our knowledge of the early phases of Saqqara’s long history. Architectural peculiarities and a thorough study of the material culture showed that these subterranean complexes can be identified as the burial places of high officials or even members of the royal family of the late Second Dynasty. The present article is a follow-up on these preliminary conclusions. After an introduction to the raison-d’être of such an early necropolis in this area, two ink inscriptions, discovered underneath the tomb of Maya, will be discussed. The latter are of paramount importance in gaining a better understanding of the social status of the people buried in this necropolis.

Keywords: Saqqara – New Kingdom necropolis – tomb of Maya and Meryneith – Second Dynasty – royal tombs.

Teodozja Rzeuska
Meidum revisited. Remarks on the late Old Kingdom Topography of the Site

Abstract: Meidum, the southernmost end of the Memphite necropolis, is generally identified as a burial ground of early Fourth Dynasty date. Almost
nothing is known about later periods at this important archaeological site. An analysis of archaeological material (mainly pottery from the cemetery), and the comparison of the latter with finds of pottery from other parts of the Memphite necropolis, notably West Saqqara, reveal an unknown page in the history of the late Old Kingdom.

Keywords: Meidum - late Old Kingdom necropolis – pyramid town – pottery.

Anthony Spalinger  
The Beginning of the Civil Calendar  
Abstract: The present article features a discussion of the ambiguous Esna date for the celebration of Wp rnpt on day nine of the first Civil Month. This is seen to be the primordial one, the one of „the ancestors,” as Esna designates the event. Hence, we can reconstruct the first use of the Civil Calendar to its inauguration on day one of the then first month, which had to be a lunar one. Esna also indicates that this Wp rnpt occurred in the month of hr-ıhj. Hence, it had to have taken place during the original first lunar month, which was called Wp rnpt. From this analysis, the reason for the décalage of the month names (from the early lunar calendar to the later civil one) is easily seen.

Keywords: Ancient Egyptian calendar – civil year – beginning of the year – Esna.

Rainer Stadelmann  
The heb-sed Temple of Senefru at Dahshur  
Abstract: This article examines the archaeological – iconographic and epigraphic remains from the so-called valley temple of Seneferu at Dahshur. The analysis indicates that the temple could well have been constructed in the year of Seneferu’s heb-sed and functioned as a heb-sed temple.

Keywords: Dahshur – Meidum – heb-sed – Senefru – 15th year of counting.

Julie Stauder Porchet  
Les autobiographies événementielles de la Ve dynastie: premier ensemble de textes continus en Egypte  
Abstract: As a part of a broader study of the emergence of continuous texts in ancient Egypt, the present paper discusses Fifth Dynasty non-royal funerary inscriptions, conventionally labelled ‘autobiographies’. I first review some features of the Western genre that have been sometimes associated with these texts. Following a brief description of the Fifth Dynasty texts, I examine innovations in the form and content of the texts. I consider the raison d’être of these texts – which, it is argued, lie in presenting the relationship of the owner of the inscription to the king – as well the various modes of such presentation.

Keywords: Autobiography – Private texts – Continuous texts – King – Fifth Dynasty.
Břetislav Vachala

‘Das Vorfeld der Literatur’ in den Privatgräbern des AR: ein Fall aus Abusir 767

Abstract: Only a limited number of literary texts have survived from private tombs of the Old Kingdom. Nevertheless, even these rare examples enable us to identify several literary genres, trace their development and above all gain insight into the world image of the time. Whereas biography (being ‘real’ or ‘idealised’) deals with the earthly doings of man (stressing the ethical principles of maat), other literary forms, namely the shepherd’s song, the song of the litter bearers and the harper’s song, refer to the deceased, whose spirit dwells in the netherworld. Very interesting is the beginning of a possible love song from Abusir (the tomb of Inti). A new reconstruction of the biography of the famous official, Kaaper, from Abusir, is also included.

Keywords: Old Kingdom – Abusir – private tombs – literary texts – biographies – maat – songs – Kaaper.

Miroslav Verner

The ‘Khentkaus-Problem’ Reconsidered 778

Abstract: The paper addresses a new, theoretically possible meaning of the unusual title “Mother of Two Kings of Upper and Lower Egypt” of Khentkaus I and Khentkaus II, and a new interpretation of historical events at the turn of the Fourth to the Fifth Dynasty.

Keywords: Khentkaus I – Khentkaus II – Giza – Abusir.

Hana Vymazalová, Filip Coppens

Statues and Rituals for Khentkaus II. A reconsideration of some papyrus fragments from the Queen’s funerary complex 785

Abstract: In the pyramid temple of Khentkaus II in Abusir an interesting inventory list came to light in the late 1970s, which was subsequently published by P. Posener-Kriéger. This fragmentary papyrus shows drawings of the cultic statues of the queen, which were kept in her pyramid temple, and the descriptions of their appearance and materials in hieratic script. The present paper wishes to take Posener-Kriéger’s research a step further and offer suggestions and clues for a new interpretation of the document – despite its fragmentary state – on the basis of information contained in the contemporary papyrus archives of Abusir and its confrontation with later evidence from both royal and divine temples, which provide useful analogies that might help us to better understand Old Kingdom practices.

Keywords: Old Kingdom – Abusir – Khentkaus II – temple rituals – papyrus archives – cultic statues.
Leslie Anne Warden
The Organization and Oversight of Potters in the Old Kingdom 800

Abstract: While the archaeological record abounds in pottery, we know very little about the actual potters themselves. It is unclear if the potters making utilitarian wares were specialists or non-specialists, controlled by the state or were operating independently. Craft production theory often distinguishes utilitarian wares as produced by independent, non-specialist potters. However, metric analysis of beer jars and bread moulds, as well as evidence from the artistic and archaeological record, suggests that utilitarian wares could be manufactured by skilled individuals, likely specialists, operating under a wide range of authorities. The industry was less monolithic than it was quite diverse.

Keywords: Ceramics – Old Kingdom Egypt – economy – specialization – standardization – beer jars – bread moulds – potters.

Mohammad Youssef
New scenes of hunting a hippopotamus from the burial chamber of Unas 820

Abstract: The paper present a new discovery which has been made during the restoration works in the burial chamber of Unas in Saqqara. The side walls of his burial chamber were built of reused alabaster blocks which originally featured unique decoration with the king as a central motif. In all probability, these reliefs originate from an earlier pyramid complex of a Fifth Dynasty king.

Keywords: Saqqara – Fifth Dynasty – Unas – pyramid – burial chamber – decoration – hippopotamus hunt.

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