# **ABUSIR XI** THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE MASTABA OF PTAHSHEPSES

Jaromír Krejčí

Czech Institute of Egyptology, Faculty of Arts, Charles University in Prague Academia, Publishing House of the Academy of Science of the Czech Republic Prague 2009

# Contents

Abbreviations, sources and bibliography vii List of illustrations xxi Acknowledgements xxix

#### Introduction 1

Note 1: Main building stages of the Mastaba of Ptahshepses 3 Note 2: Numbering of the rooms 3

# 1 History of the research 5

#### 2 Ptahshepses and his family 18

2.1 Ptahshepses 182.2 Ptahshepses' family 22

2.3 The role of Ptahshepses in Egyptian history 25

#### 3 The location of the mastaba 27

3.1 The Abusir Pyramid Necropolis 27

3.2 The Cemetery of Nobles and the Ptahshepses mastaba 30

#### 4 The building and architectural development of the mastaba 37

4.1 The first building stage (the Initial Mastaba) 37

- 4.1.1 Casing of the Initial Mastaba 37
  - 4.1.2 Dimensions of the Initial Mastaba 40
  - 4.1.3 The ground plan of the Initial Mastaba 41
  - 4.1.4 Core masonry in the western part of the Initial Mastaba 42
- 4.1.5 Room no. 21 the entrance to the Initial Mastaba 44
- 4.1.6 Room no. 22 44
- 4.1.7 Room no. 23 46
- 4.1.8 Room no. 24 staircase to the mastaba's roof terrace 48
- 4.1.9 Room no. 25 Major offering chapel 52
- 4.1.10 Room no. 26 55
- 4.1.11 Room no. 27 Serdab 57
- 4.1.12 Room no. 28 Minor offering chapel 59
- 4.1.13 Room nos. 29-31 funerary apartments 61
  - 4.1.13.1 Room no. 29 descending corridor 62
  - 4.1.13.2 Room no. 30 burial chamber 65
  - 4.1.13.3 Room no. 31 Niche for the Canopic Jars 75
- 4.1.14 Core masonry in the south-eastern part of the Initial Mastaba 77
- 4.1.15 Summary of chapter 4.1 78
- 4.2 The second building stage 78
  - 4.2.1 Casing of the second building stage 78
  - 4.2.2 Dimensions of the second building stage annex 80
  - 4.2.3 Ground plan of the annex built during the second building stage 81
    4.2.3.1 Annex with cultic and storage rooms 81
    4.2.3.2 Hypothetical open court 81
  - 4.2.4 Room no. 3 the Old Portico 83
    - 4.2.4.1 Casing and dimensions 83 4.2.4.2 Columns 83
  - 4.2.5 Room no. 4 Chapel with Three Niches 87
  - 4.2.6 Room nos. 5-9 Northern Storerooms 95

- 4.2.7 Room no. 10 Southern Portico 101
- 4.2.8 Expansion of the mastaba to the north 103
- 4.2.9 Summary of chapter 4.2 104
- 4.3 The third building stage 104
  - 4.3.1 Casing and dimensions of the third building stage 105
  - 4.3.2 Ground plan of the newly built parts of the mastaba 108
  - 4.3.3 Room no. 1 New Portico 109 4.3.3.1 Casing and dimensions 109
  - 4.3.3.2 Columns **110** 4.3.4 Room no. 3 – Old Portico **113**
  - 4.3.5 Room nos. 10 and 11 Southern Portico 115
  - 4.3.6 Room no. 12 118
  - 4.3.7 Room no. 13–15 pillared courtyard 119
    - 4.3.7.1 Dimensions and layout of the courtyard **120** 4.3.7.2 Pillars **122** 
      - 4.3.7.3 The system of channels in the mastaba 127
      - 4.3.7.4 Other (hypothetical) features of the courtyard 132
  - 4.3.8 Room no. 16 133
  - 4.3.9 Room nos. 17–20 **134**
  - 4.3.10 Room nos. 32-39 136
  - 4.3.11 Room no. 40 Boat-room 139
  - 4.3.12 Summary of chapter 4.3 144
- 4.4 Further construction work in the area of the mastaba 144
  - 4.4.1 The mud brick enclosure wall 144
  - 4.4.2 Other constructional changes 149

### 5 Architectural and functional analysis of the mastaba 150

- 5.1 The first building stage 150
  - 5.1.1 Vestibule 150
  - 5.1.2 Offering rooms 151
  - 5.1.3 Entrance to the burial apartment, the palace of deceased 152
  - 5.1.4 Serdab 154
- 5.1.5 Staircase **155**
- 5.2 The second building stage 162
  - 5.2.1 Vegetal columns 162
  - 5.2.2 Statue niches of the triple shrine 164
- 5.3 The third building stage 166
  - 5.3.1 Columned porticos 166
  - 5.3.2 Pillared courtyard 167
  - 5.3.3 Decoration in the pillared courtyard 170
  - 5.3.4 Basins 171
  - 5.3.5 Altar 174
  - 5.3.6 Statues in the courtyard 175
  - 5.3.7 Boat-room 176
  - 5.3.8 Storerooms 178
- 5.4 Conclusion of chapter 5 179

# 6 Conclusions 180

- 6.1 Dating of the mastaba 180
  - 6.1.1 Sources for the dating of the mastaba **180**
  - 6.1.2 The date of the construction of the mastaba 185
- 6.2 Mastaba's position within the framework of the Egyptian architecture 186

# Indexes 189