

# **ABUSIR XII**

## **MINOR TOMBS IN THE ROYAL NECROPOLIS I**

(THE MASTABAS OF NEBTYEMNEFERES AND NAKHTSARE,  
PYRAMID COMPLEX LEPSIUS no. 24  
AND TOMB COMPLEX LEPSIUS no. 25)

**Jaromír Krejčí, Vivienne G. Callender, Miroslav Verner**

with contributions by Viktor Černý, Martina Kujanová, Eugen Strouhal  
and Hana Vymazalová

# Contents

## Bibliography 9

### 1. Introduction 17

### 2. The Mastaba of Nebtyemneferes 21

- 2.1. The Superstructure (*Miroslav Verner*) 22
  - 2.1.1. Entrance 23
  - 2.1.2. Vestibule 23
  - 2.1.3. Offering room 23
  - 2.1.4. Storerooms 24
  - 2.1.5. Serdab 25
- 2.2. Substructure (*Miroslav Verner*) 25
  - 2.2.1. Antechamber 26
  - 2.2.2. Burial chamber 27
  - 2.2.3. Subsidiary shaft 28
- 2.3. Open courtyard (*Miroslav Verner*) 28
- 2.4. Finds (*Jaromír Krejčí*) 28
- 2.5. Conclusions (*Jaromír Krejčí*) 34

### 3. The Mastaba of Nakhtsare (*Jaromír Krejčí*) 37

- 3.1. History of exploration of the Mastaba of Nakhtsare 37
- 3.2. Description of the mastaba 38
  - 3.2.1. Situation prior to the excavation 38
  - 3.2.2. Unearthing the mastaba 38
  - 3.2.3. Superstructure 40
    - 3.2.3.1. The masonry 40
    - 3.2.3.2. Offering chapel and its entrance 41
    - 3.2.3.3. Substructure 42
    - 3.2.3.4. Open courtyard 45
    - 3.2.3.5. Enclosure wall 46
- 3.3. Secondary burials in the area of Nakhtsare's mastaba 48
- 3.4. Finds 51
  - 3.4.1. Stone vessels 51
  - 3.4.2. Models of offerings 55
  - 3.4.3. Varia 60
- 3.5. Masons' marks 65
- 3.6. Conclusions 67

### 4. Pyramid Complex Lepsius no. 24 69

- 4.1. History of exploration of the complex (*Miroslav Verner*) 69
- 4.2. The location of the Pyramid Complex Lepsius no. 24 (*Jaromír Krejčí*) 77
- 4.3. Description of the monument (*Jaromír Krejčí*) 78
  - 4.3.1. Pyramid 78
  - 4.3.2. Mortuary temple 82
  - 4.3.3. Satellite (cult) pyramid 88
  - 4.3.4. Other parts of the pyramid complex 89

- 4.4. Pyramid Complex Lepsius no. 24 – Remarks on techniques used during its construction (*Jaromír Krejčí*) 89
  - 4.4.1. Construction of the pyramid 89
  - 4.4.2. Construction of the mortuary temple 95
- 4.5. Finds (*Vivienne Gae Callender*) 97
  - 4.5.1. Limestone 97
    - 4.5.1.1. Inscribed and decorated stone 97
    - 4.5.1.2. Vessels made of limestone 100
    - 4.5.1.3. Miscellaneous limestone objects 101
  - 4.5.2. Diorite 101
  - 4.5.3. Travertine 102
    - 4.5.3.1. Canopic jars fragments 102
    - 4.5.3.2. Containers for food 104
    - 4.5.3.3. Trays and table tops 108
    - 4.5.3.4. Vessels 109
  - 4.5.4. Pottery 111
    - 4.5.4.1. Old Kingdom pottery 111
    - 4.5.4.2. Middle Kingdom Pottery 114
    - 4.5.4.3. New Kingdom pottery 116
    - 4.5.4.4. Medieval (Islamic) pottery 119
  - 4.5.5. Metal objects 121
  - 4.5.6. Wood 128
  - 4.5.7. Stone tools 130
  - 4.5.8. Seals and clay sealings 131
  - 4.5.9. Varia 133
- 4.6. Builders' marks and inscriptions (*Miroslav Verner*) 134
  - 4.6.1. Eastern wall of the pit for burial chamber 134
  - 4.6.2. Western wall of the pit for burial chamber 135
  - 4.6.3. Northern wall of the pit for the burial chamber (west of the descending corridor) 137
  - 4.6.4. Southern wall of the pit for the burial chamber 138
  - 4.6.5. Eastern wall of the descending corridor 140
  - 4.6.6. Western wall of the descending corridor 141
  - 4.6.7. Loose stones found in and around the pyramid 142
  - 4.6.8. The pyramid name 144
  - 4.6.9. Dates 144
  - 4.6.10. Personal names 145
  - 4.6.11. Builders' instructions 145
  - 4.6.12. Phyles and phyle division 146
- 4.7. Conclusions (*Jaromír Krejčí*) 146
  - 4.7.1. Archaeological situation 146
  - 4.7.2. Mummy and her royal ancestry 146
  - 4.7.3. When did the unknown lady live? 147
  - 4.7.4. The owner's name 148
  - 4.7.5. Location again 148
  - 4.7.6. Decline 150
  - 4.7.7. Last remarks 150

## 5. The Tomb Complex Lepsius no. 25. 151

- 5.1. Location of the monument (*Jaromír Krejčí*) 151
- 5.2. History of exploration of Lepsius no. 25 (*Jaromír Krejčí*) 151
- 5.3. Description of Lepsius no. 25 and its architecture (*Jaromír Krejčí*) 161
  - 5.3.1. Lepsius no. 25/1 161
    - 5.3.1.1. The doorway into the superstructure of L25/1 and the vestibule 162
    - 5.3.1.2. Cultic room 164

5.3.1.3.	The burial apartment of L25/1	170
5.3.2.	Lepsius no. 25/2	175
5.3.2.1.	The superstructure of L25/2	175
5.3.2.2.	Burial apartment of L25/2	176
5.3.3.	Structures excavated outside the Tomb Complex Lepsius no. 25.	179
5.3.4.	Technology of the tombs' construction	181
5.3.5.	The reconstruction of the original appearance of the tomb complex	184
5.4.	Finds from Lepsius no. 25/1 ( <i>Jaromír Krejčí</i> )	185
5.4.1.	Stone vessels	185
5.4.2.	Stone implements	187
5.4.3.	Metallic objects	187
5.4.4.	Fragments of statues	189
5.4.5.	Wood	190
5.4.6.	Pottery	193
5.4.7.	Varia	195
5.5.	Finds from Lepsius no. 25/2 ( <i>Jaromír Krejčí</i> )	200
5.5.1.	Stone instruments	200
5.5.2.	Stone vessels	201
5.5.3.	Metallic objects	203
5.5.4.	Sealings	205
5.5.5.	Pottery	207
5.5.6.	Varia	208
5.6.	Fragments of papyrus from Lepsius no. 25/1 ( <i>Hana Vymazalová</i> )	209
5.6.1.	Introduction	209
5.6.2.	Catalogue of fragments	210
5.6.3.	Concluding remarks on the papyrus fragments	214
5.7.	Builders' marks ( <i>Miroslav Verner</i> )	216
5.7.1.	Builders' marks <i>in situ</i>	216
5.7.2.	Loose stones	217
5.7.3.	Personal names	227
5.7.4.	Builder's instructions	227
5.7.5.	Builder's marks	227
5.7.6.	Phyle / division	227
5.7.7.	Dates	227
5.7.8.	Pyramid name	227
5.7.9.	Titles	228
5.8.	Conclusions ( <i>Jaromír Krejčí</i> )	228
5.8.1.	Location and appearance of the monument	228
5.8.2.	Masons' marks	229
5.8.3.	Owners and dating	229
5.8.4.	Later activities	232

## 6. Anthropological material 235

6.1.	Human skeletal remains from the Pyramid Complex Lepsius no. 24 and the Mastaba of Nakhtsare ( <i>Martina Kujanová</i> )	235
6.1.1.	Methodology within this current work	235
6.1.2.	Osteological description of the skeletons	236
6.1.3.	Summary	239
6.2.	Human remains found in Pyramid Lepsius no. 24 and the Mastaba of Nebtyemneferes ( <i>Eugen Strouhal, Viktor Černý</i> )	240
6.2.1.	Introduction	240
6.2.2.	The mummy from the Pyramid Lepsius no. 24	240
6.2.2.1.	Stratigraphy of finds of the dismembered mummy	240
6.2.2.2.	Methods of examination	240
6.2.2.3.	The state of preservation of the mummy	241

- 6.2.2.4. Embalming techniques 241
- 6.2.2.5. Demographic data 241
- 6.2.2.6. The skull 242
- 6.2.2.7. The neck and loose parts of the upper thorax 242
- 6.2.2.8. The lower thorax 243
- 6.2.2.9. The upper extremity girdles 243
- 6.2.2.10. The right hand 244
- 6.2.2.11. The lower extremity girdles 244
- 6.2.2.12. The anthropometric examination 246
- 6.2.2.13. Discussion 246
- 6.2.3. Skeletal remains from the Mastaba of Nebtyemneferes 248
  - 6.2.3.1. Finding circumstances 248
  - 6.2.3.2. The postcranial skeleton of Nebtyemneferes 249
  - 6.2.3.3. The child's skeleton in the dummy shaft 250
  - 6.2.3.4. The swept adult skeleton in the serdab 251
- 6.2.4. Conclusions on the anthropological material from the Mastaba of Nebtyemneferes and Pyramid Complex Lepsius no. 24 253
- 6.3. Human remains from the Tomb Complex Lepsius no. 25 (*Viktor Černý*) 254
  - 6.3.1. Skeletons with anatomical connections 254
  - 6.3.2. Bones without anatomical connections 255
    - 6.3.2.1. Bones from the funeral chamber of Tomb Complex Lepsius no. 25 255
    - 6.3.2.2. Dispersed bones from Late Period 255
  - 6.3.3. Conclusion 256

## **Appendix**

### **Stone Vessels from the Cemetery of Members of the Royal Families of Abusir (*Vivienne Gae Callender*) 257**

- A. 1. Introduction and terminology 257
  - A.1.1. Terminology and forms (or shapes) of vessels 258
- A. 2. Materials 260
- A. 3. The archaeological description of the assemblage 262
  - A.3.1. The situation in the Pyramid Complex of Lepsius no. 24 262
  - A.3.2. The situation in the Tomb Complex of Lepsius no. 25 264
  - A.3.3. The situation in the Mastaba of Nakhtsare 267
  - A.3.4. The situation in the Mastaba of Nebtyemneferes 268
- A. 4. Summary 269
  - A.4.1. Classes present in each assemblage 269
  - A.4.2. Analysis of classes 269
- A. 5. Conclusion 281

## **Index 283**

### **Schematic plan of the Abusir Royal Necropolis 286–287**