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Brief Report of the Excavations at Dahshur North: Twenty-Fifth Season, 2018

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Abstract

The joint expedition of Higashi Nippon International University and Waseda University, under the direction of Prof. Dr. Sakuji Yoshimura and Ken Yazawa as the field chief, carried out an excavation at the cemetery of Dahshur North on February 2018. In this season, the area located at the northern part of the cemetery was investigated (Fig.1). The area measures 10 m (north-south) by 20 m (east-west), and eight shaft tombs were identified. Five of them (Shaft 150-153, 155) were cleared, which are dated to the late Middle Kingdom mostly by accompanying pottery vessels, except Shaft 150 which appeared to be made in the early New Kingdom. The most remarkable discovery is Shaft 151 which has three subterranean chambers, two to the south (the uppermost and lowermost chambers) and one to the north (mid-level chamber). Although it was already plundered, a considerable amount of pot-sherds and painted plaster as well as a fragment of an eye inlay once adorned with a mummy mask or an anthropoid coffin, were retrieved. In addition to a discovery of a painted ear fragment made of plaster, some of plaster fragments have depictions of an eye and a part of collar decoration, and fragments with cursive hieroglyphs were also found at the lowermost chamber, all of which appeared to comprise of mummy mask(s). Pottery vessels found at the lowermost chamber appear to be earlier than vessels derived from the uppermost chamber, which leads to the assumption that the lowermost chamber was made at first, and then the middle and uppermost chambers were made successively. While shaft tombs with multiple chambers were often attested in the Middle Kingdom cemetery, the case that the sequence of making and using chambers can be archaeologically determined is quite rare, which makes our result noteworthy.

Introduction

Dahshur North is located at the northernmost part of Dahshur region, about 1 km northwest of the Pyramid cemetery of Senwosret III and about 1 km southwest of the Pyramid of Khendjer. The Japanese expedition, directed by Prof. Dr. Sakuji Yoshimura discovered it through the analysis of satellite images in 1995 (Fig.1). Since 1996 the excavation works had been concentrating on the eastern area of the site where New Kingdom tomb-chapels of Ipay and Pashedw as well as surrounding shaft-tombs and pit-burials were discovered (Yoshimura and Hasegawa 2000; Hasegawa 2003). In 2004, an investigation of an area approximately 100 m west of Ipay's

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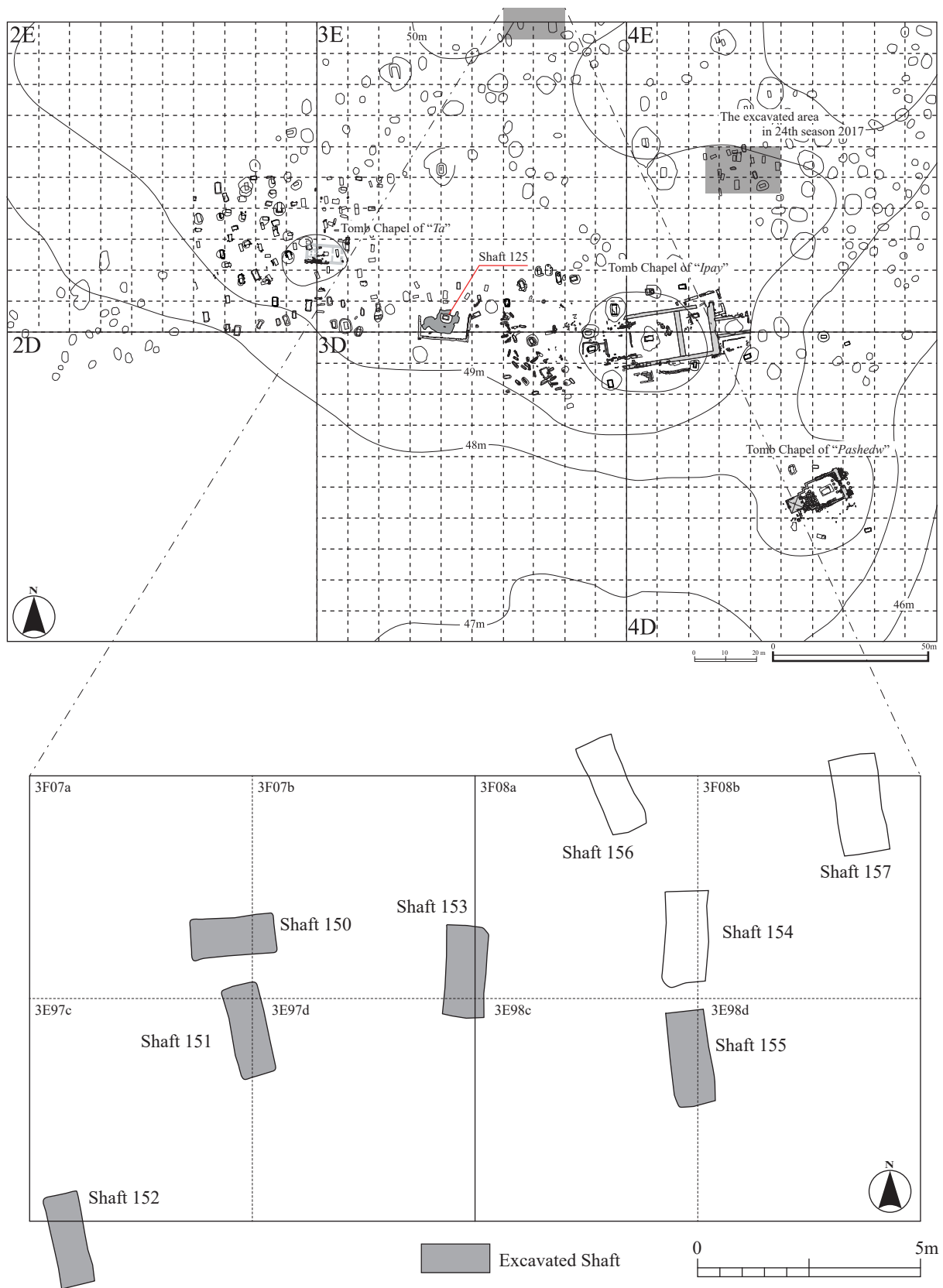


Fig.1 Map of Dahshur North and the excavated area in 25th season 2018

tomb started. In this area, another New Kingdom tomb-chapel belonging to an individual named Ta was found. Subsequent investigations around the chapel revealed that there were at least forty Middle Kingdom shaft tombs including several intact burials (Baba 2014; Baba and Yoshimura 2010, 2011; Baba and Yazawa 2015; Yoshimura and Baba 2015; Yazawa 2017; Yoshimura et al. 2018a), as well as New Kingdom shaft tombs and simple pit burials. In two seasons in 2015 the area between the tomb-chapels of Ipay and Ta was investigated. At the center of the area a Ramesside shaft tomb surrounded by mud brick enclosure wall was found (Shaft 125), and vast amount of wooden shabtis were discovered in its subterranean chambers. To the north of Shaft 125 shaft tombs of the Middle and New Kingdoms were also found (Yoshimura et al. 2016a, 2016b). In a season in 2017, the area located to the northeast of tomb-chapels of Ipay was investigated, resulting that tombs assigned to a relatively earlier date than the other parts, both in the Middle and New Kingdoms, were uncovered (Yoshimura et al. 2018b).

In this season, the northernmost area was investigated in order to make clear the nature of the northern edge of this cemetery (Fig.1)¹.

Surface excavation

Dahshur North cemetery is entangled in a barbed-wire fence, and in this season a small area beside the northern wall of the fence was investigated. It measures 10 m north-south by 20 m east-west, which corresponds to Grid 3E97c, d, 3E98c, d, 3F07a, b and 3F08a, b (Fig.1). A thin surface sand layer was removed, and openings of eight shaft tombs were identified (Shaft 150-157). Five of them (Shaft 150-153, 155) were cleared in this season.

Excavation of shaft tombs

Descriptions of shaft tombs excavated in this season are as follows.

Shaft 150 (Fig.2)

Size of Entrance: 0.9 x 1.9 m

Depth: 3.9 m

Dimension of the Room A: 2.2 x 2.5 x 1.1 m

Dimension of the Room B: 2.0 x 2.7 x 1.0 m

Location: 3F07a

The long axis of the shaft opening is oriented east-west. The floor of the shaft has been collapsed and it leads to a northern subterranean chamber of neighboring Shaft 151. Shaft 150 has two subterranean chambers, one to the east (Room A) and the other to the west (Room B).

¹ We would like to express our deepest appreciation to the members of the Ministry of State of Antiquities (MSA), in particular to Dr. Khalid el-Enany (Minister of the State for Antiquities) and Dr. Mohamed Ismail (General Director of the Foreign Mission's affairs of the Permanent Committee) for granting us permission. Thanks are also due to Mr. Sabri Farag, Dr. Hany El Tayeb, Dr. Mohamed Yousef and Mr. Mohamed Hendawy of the Saqqara Inspectorate. Special thanks are due to Mr. Marwan Abu Bakr, Inspector of our mission and Mr. Ragab Turkey, director of the Selim Hassan Storage Museum at Saqqara, for their kindness in every possible way. This work was supported by Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (A) of Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (Grant Number: 80201052).

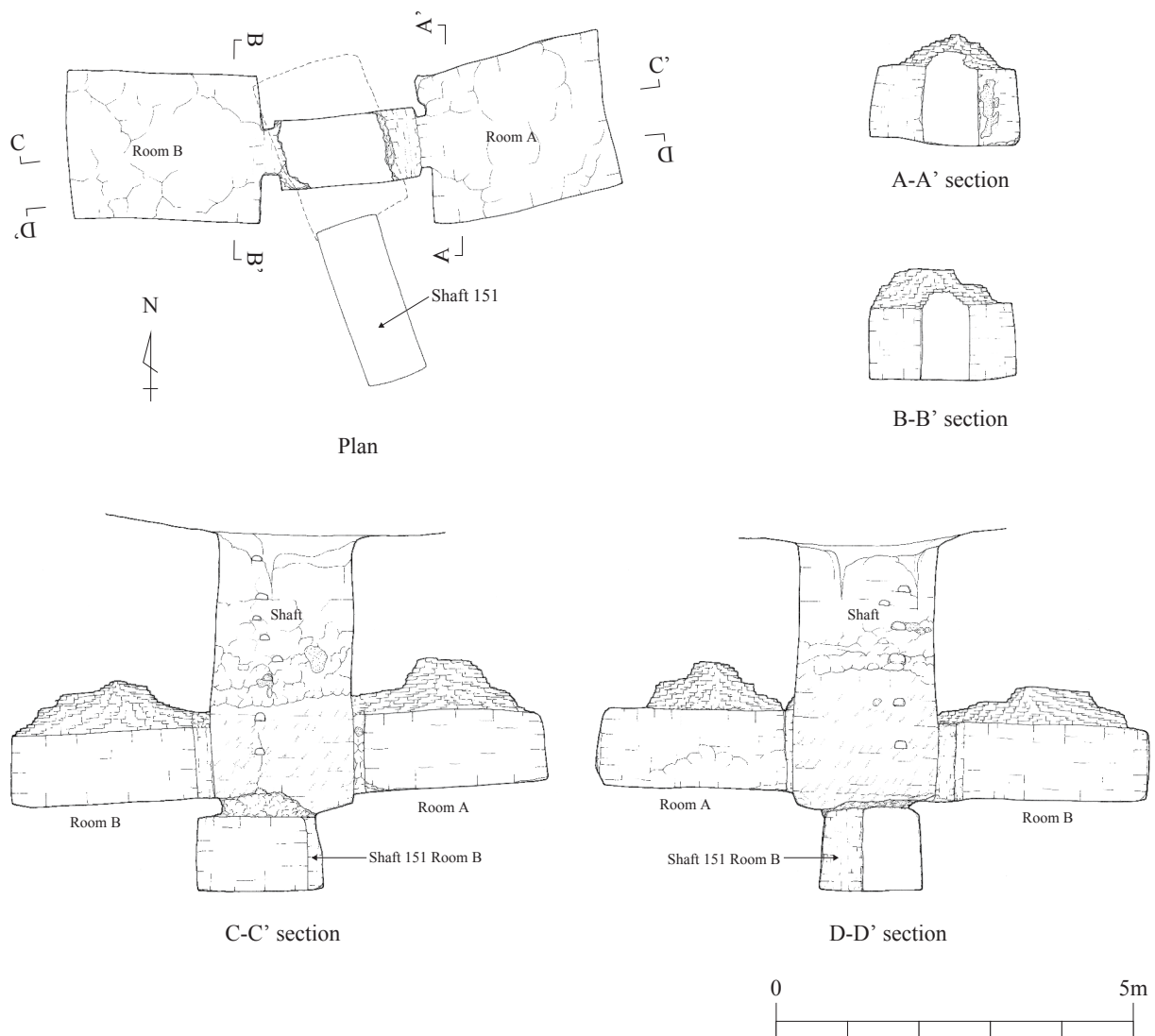


Fig.2 Plan and sections of Shaft 150

The shaft was filled with wind-blown sand which extended into both Room A and B, and *tafl* rubble was accumulated on the sand layer in both chambers, which appeared to have fallen from ceilings. Even the chambers were carefully finished, no human remain was retrieved and the other objects were only a few pottery vessels, suggesting the possibility that this tomb was never used. Fig.3 shows pottery vessels found in Shaft 150. Figs.3.1 and 3.2 are deep conical bowls with flat base, made of Nile B2 fabric, with a perforation at the center of the bottom, and bowls with these characteristics are often called 'Flowerpot' (Holthoer 1977: 83-84; Rose 2016: 214). Fig.3.1 was reconstructed from pot-sherds mostly from Room A, and Fig.3.2 from Room B. Fig.3.3 is a Nile B2 long-necked jar with horizontal black stripes on its outer surface, which is retrieved from Room B. 'Flowerpots' have a restricted chronological distribution², and at Kom Rabia in Memphis this shape occurred in Level IV, which is dated from the early Eighteenth Dynasty to the reigns of Hatshepsut/Thutmose III (Bourriau 2010: 5, 81, Fig.24.4.10.4-9). Simple lines in black is the characteristic datable to the first half of the Eighteenth Dynasty (Hope

² By the time of Hatshepsut 'Flowerpot' was in common and by the time of Amenhotep III it was no longer common. See Williams 1992: 34-35.

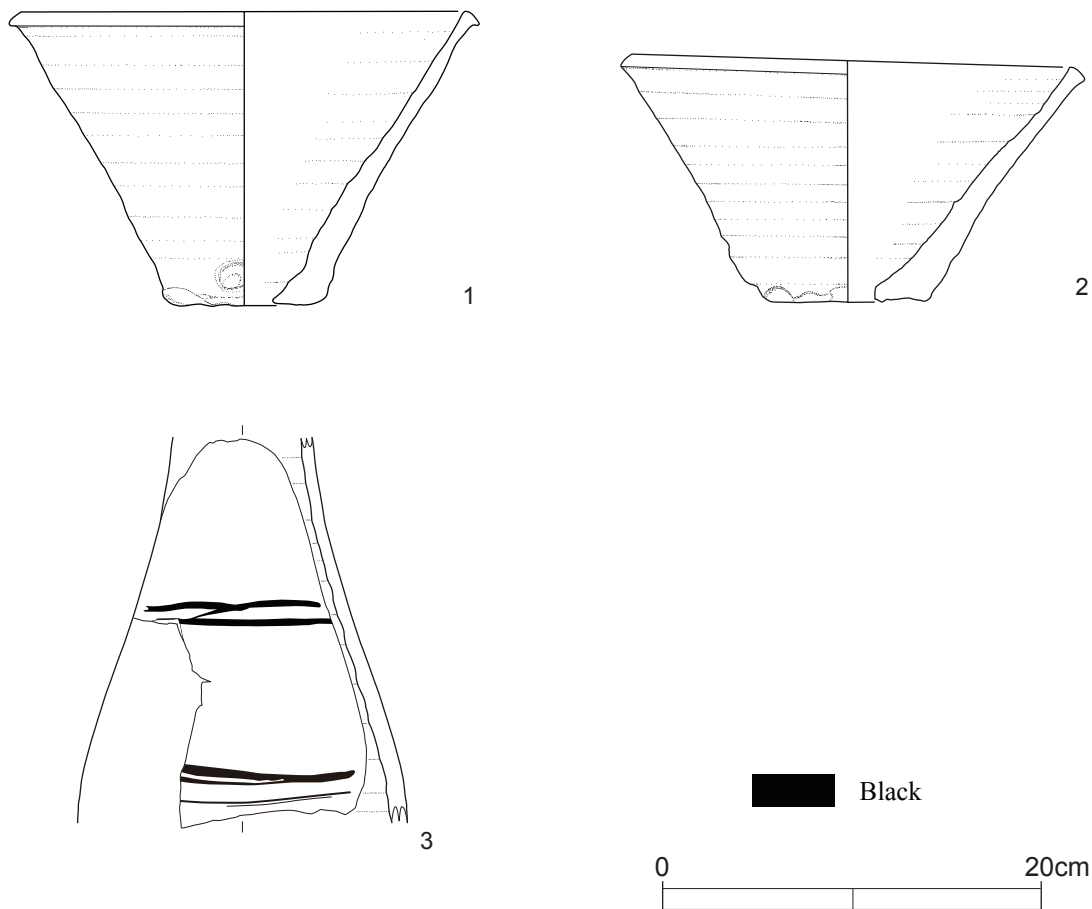


Fig.3 Pottery vessels from Shaft 150

1989: 7). These vessels are some of the earliest types ever found among the New Kingdom tombs in this site.

Shaft 151 (Fig.4)

Size of Entrance: 2.1 x 0.8 m

Depth: 6.1 m

Dimension of the Room A: 1.9 x 0.9 x 1.0 m

Dimension of the Room B: 2.3 x 1.6 x 1.1 m

Dimension of the Room C: 2.1 x 0.8 x 1.1 m

Location: 3E97c-d

The long axis of the shaft opening is oriented north-south. There are three subterranean chambers in this shaft, two chambers (the uppermost and lowermost) to the south and one chamber (mid-level) to the north. All the chambers have already been plundered. The reconstructed north-south cross-section showing the stratigraphy of deposit in Shaft 151 is provided in Fig.5.

The upper, south chamber (Room A) is relatively small among three chambers, and is slightly bent as shown in the chamber plan (Fig.4). Thick wind-blown sand accumulation was observed at the forepart of the chamber

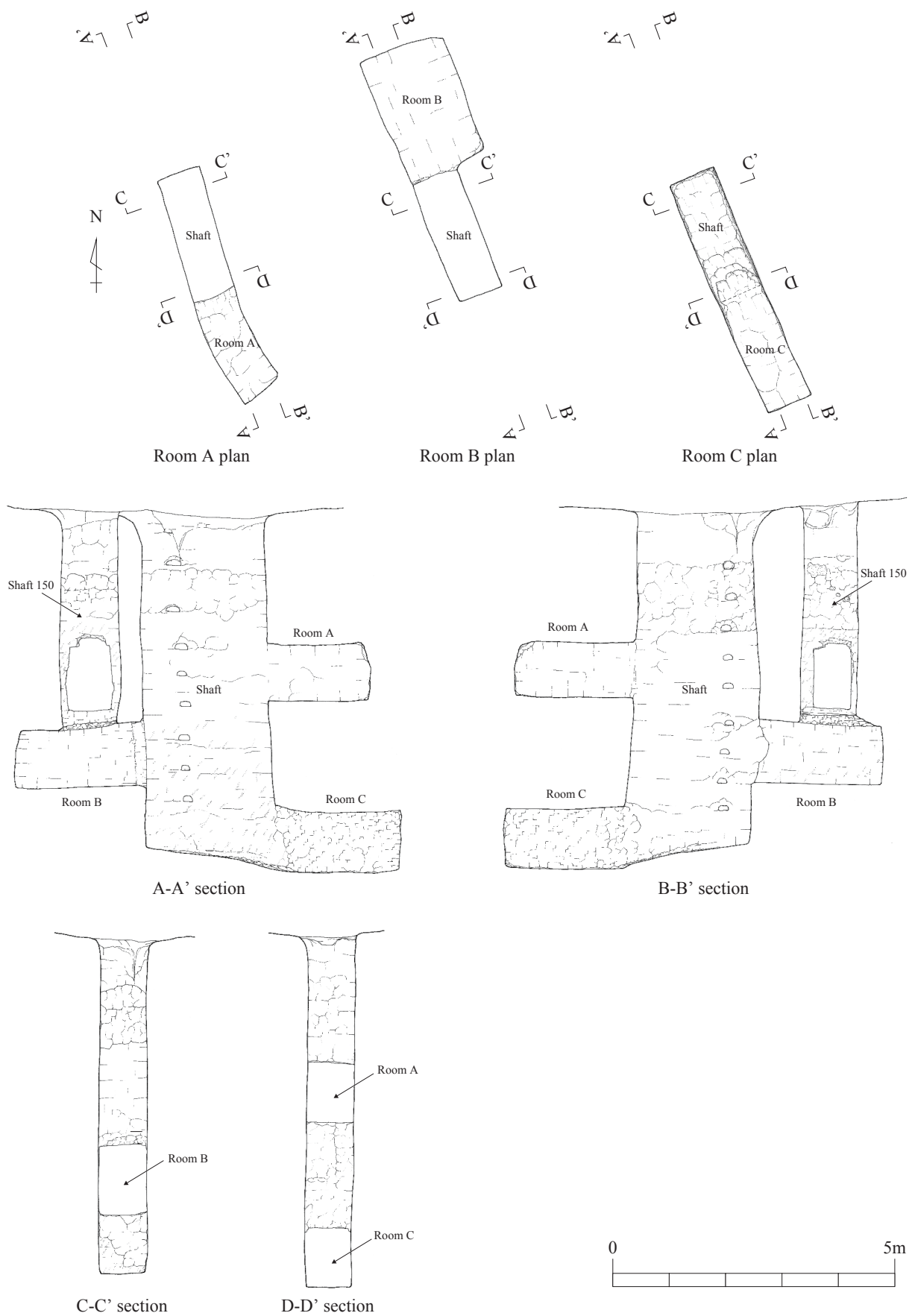


Fig.4 Plans and sections of Shaft 151

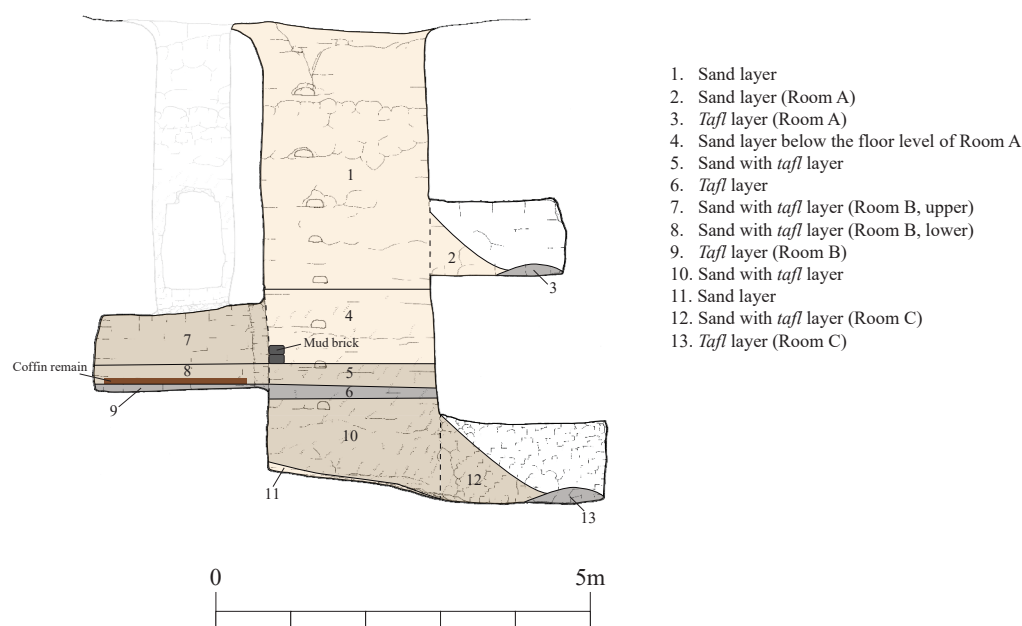


Fig.5 North-south cross-section and schematic stratigraphy of Shaft 151

(Layer 2), and below it a layer of *tafl* rubble (Layer 3), presumably derived from original filler of the shaft, was extended to the innermost part of Room A. Room A contained pot-sherds, a human head skull, wood fragments, possibly of coffin, and fragments of painted plaster.

While the upper part of the shaft was filled with wind-blown sand (Layer 1, 2 and 4), apparently different layer, comprised of sand and *tafl* rubble (Layer 5), was observed at the depth from 4.55 m to 4.8 m. The layer contained an eye inlay of a mummy mask or an anthropoid coffin (Fig.6.1) as well as relatively many of pot-sherds. Below it, there was a thin *tafl*-rich layer (Layer 6), about 10cm thick, immediately above the level of Room C ceiling.

The ceiling of mid-level north chamber (Room B) is approximately 0.4 m below the level of the floor of Room A. A half of the ceiling was already gone due to the later intrusion by Shaft 150 as mentioned above. Room B was enlarged to the east. The deposit of Room B comprised of three layers: the thick uppermost layer of *tafl* rubble (Layer 7); the thin sand and *tafl* layer (Layer 8); the lowermost layer composed of *tafl* rubble, about 20cm thick (Layer 9). In front of the opening of Room B a part of roughly laid mud-brick wall remained, and it was on the sand and *tafl* layer (Layer 5) extending from Room B (corresponding to Layer 8), which appeared to have been deposited after Room B was plundered and left open. Therefore, the mud-bricks were placed sometime after the chamber was looted, probably by those who made the neighboring Shaft 150. At the western part of Room B a bottom part of a wooden box-type coffin was remained on the lowermost *tafl* layer (Layer 9), suggesting that the coffin was not in situ. It was poorly preserved, making it almost impossible to assume the original appearance. The remaining part of the coffin measures 180 cm in length and 42 cm in width. Human skeletal remains, pot-sherds and fragments of plaster were also found in Room B.

Below the level of the floor of Room B the inclusion of *tafl* in the shaft filling decreased (Layer 10), and many pot-sherds were collected at the bottom. The ceiling of the lowermost chamber (Room C) was about 0.4 m

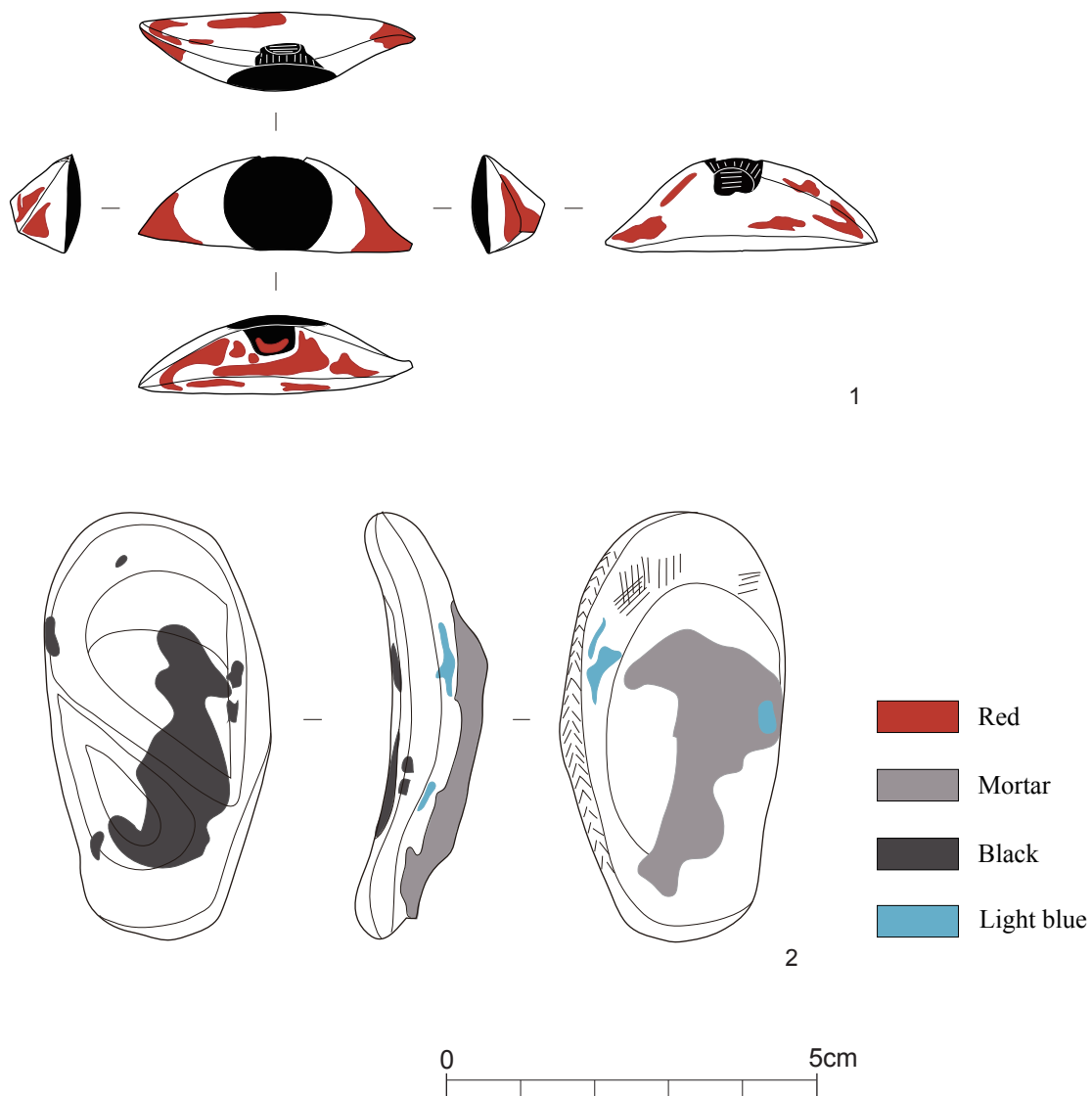


Fig.6 An eye inlay and a plaster ear from Shaft 151

below the level of the floor of Room B. Sand with *tafl* rubble accumulation (Layer 12) was observed around the opening of Room C, and it contained painted plaster, pot-sherds and wood fragments. There was a *tafl* layer (Layer 13) below the sand accumulation, and it also yielded fragmentary grave goods, including pot-sherds, painted plasters and human skeletal remains. The notable object is a left ear made of white plaster, surface of which still has a residue of painting (Fig.6.2). The painted plaster included a fragment of an eye (Fig.7.2) and fragments with cursive hieroglyphic inscriptions in black (Fig.7.3). These remains clearly indicate that the deceased interred in Room C had worn a painted mummy mask.

Fig.6.1 shows an inlay of an eye, found in the sand with *tafl* layer below the level of Room A (Layer 5). It belongs to a right eye, and made of two parts, black pupil (obsidian ?) and white part of the eye (Egyptian alabaster ?). Fig.6.2 is a left ear made of white plaster, found in the *tafl* layer of Room C (Layer 13). Traces of black painting is visible on surface of the outer part of the ear, and its opposite side which used to be attached

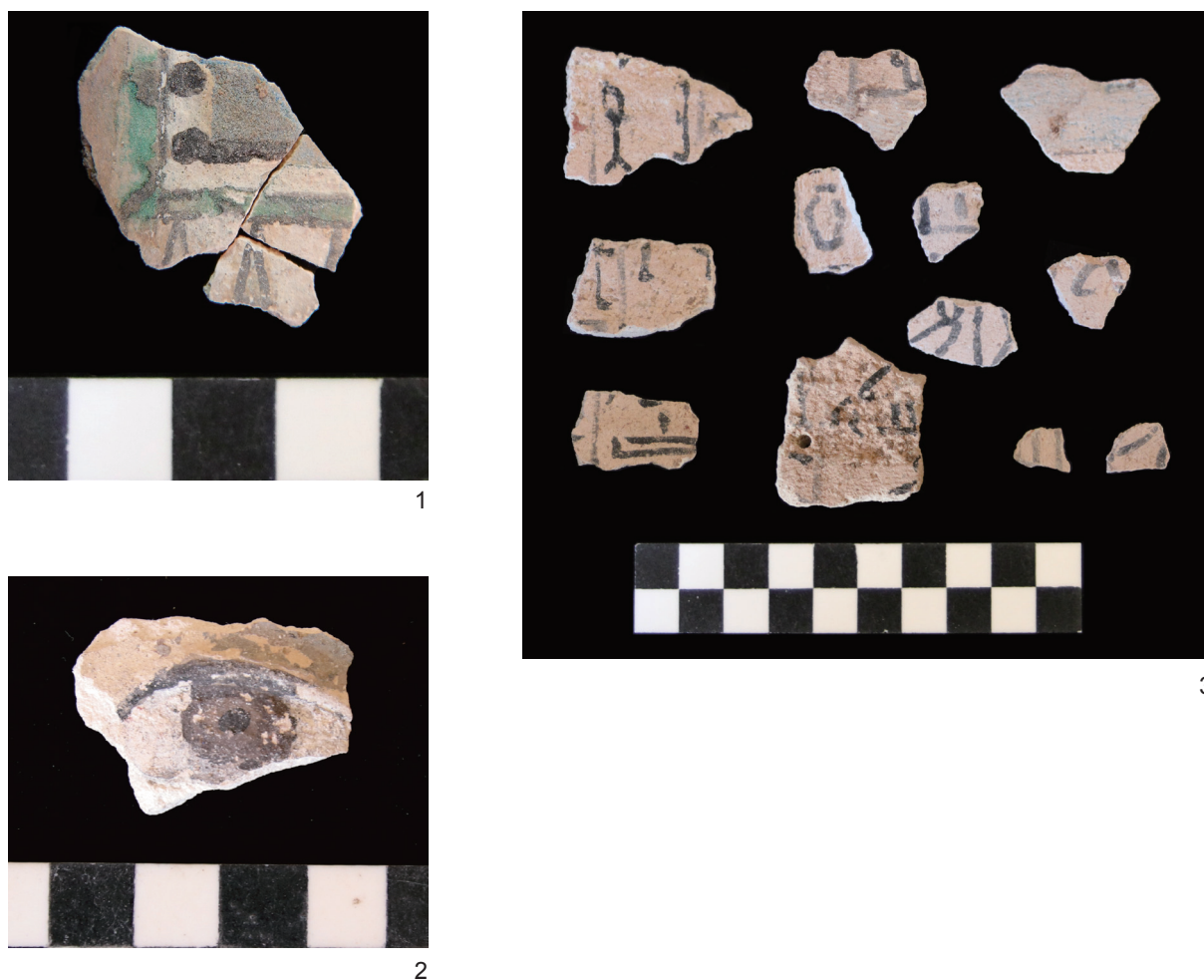


Fig.7 Painted and inscribed plaster fragments from Shaft 151

to the head have a trace of mortar and blue painting. Fig.7.2 is a plaster fragment which depicts an eye and was found in the *tafl* layer of Room C (Layer 13). Fig.7.3 shows fragments of plaster with cursive hieroglyphic inscriptions in black, which were found scattered across Room C. The ear, eye and fragments with inscriptions appear to have comprised of a painted cartonnage mummy mask³, and residues of blue painting in the attached surface of the ear indicates the possibility that its headdress was painted in blue.

Major shapes of pottery are provided in Fig.8⁴. Miniature dishes, made of Nile B or C fabrics, are found

³ Mummy masks with an extended part under its collar, on which cursive hieroglyphs were inscribed, are attested in the Middle Kingdom. One of the example is CG28073(M16C) (Lacau, 1903-1904: 165-166, pl.XXI).

⁴ Fabric of each pottery is as follows: Fig.7.1: Nile C; Fig.7.2: Nile B2; Fig.7.3: Nile B2; Fig.7.4: Nile C; Fig.7.5: Nile C; Fig.7.6: Nile C; Fig.7.7: Nile C; Fig.7.8: Nile C; Fig.7.9: Nile C; Fig.7.10: Nile B2; Fig.7.11: Nile C; Fig.7.12: Nile C; Fig.7.13: Nile C; Fig.7.14: Nile C; Fig.7.15: Nile C; Fig.7.16: Nile C; Fig.7.17: Nile C; Fig.7.18: Nile C; Fig.7.19: Nile B1; Fig.7.20: Nile B1; Fig.7.21: Nile B1; Fig.7.22: Nile B2; Fig.7.23: Nile B1; Fig.7.24: Nile B1; Fig.7.25: Nile B2; Fig.7.26: Nile C; Fig.7.27: Nile C; Fig.7.28: Nile B1; Fig.7.29: Nile C; Fig.7.30: Nile C; Fig.7.31: Marl C2; Fig.7.32: Nile B2; Fig.7.33: Nile B2.

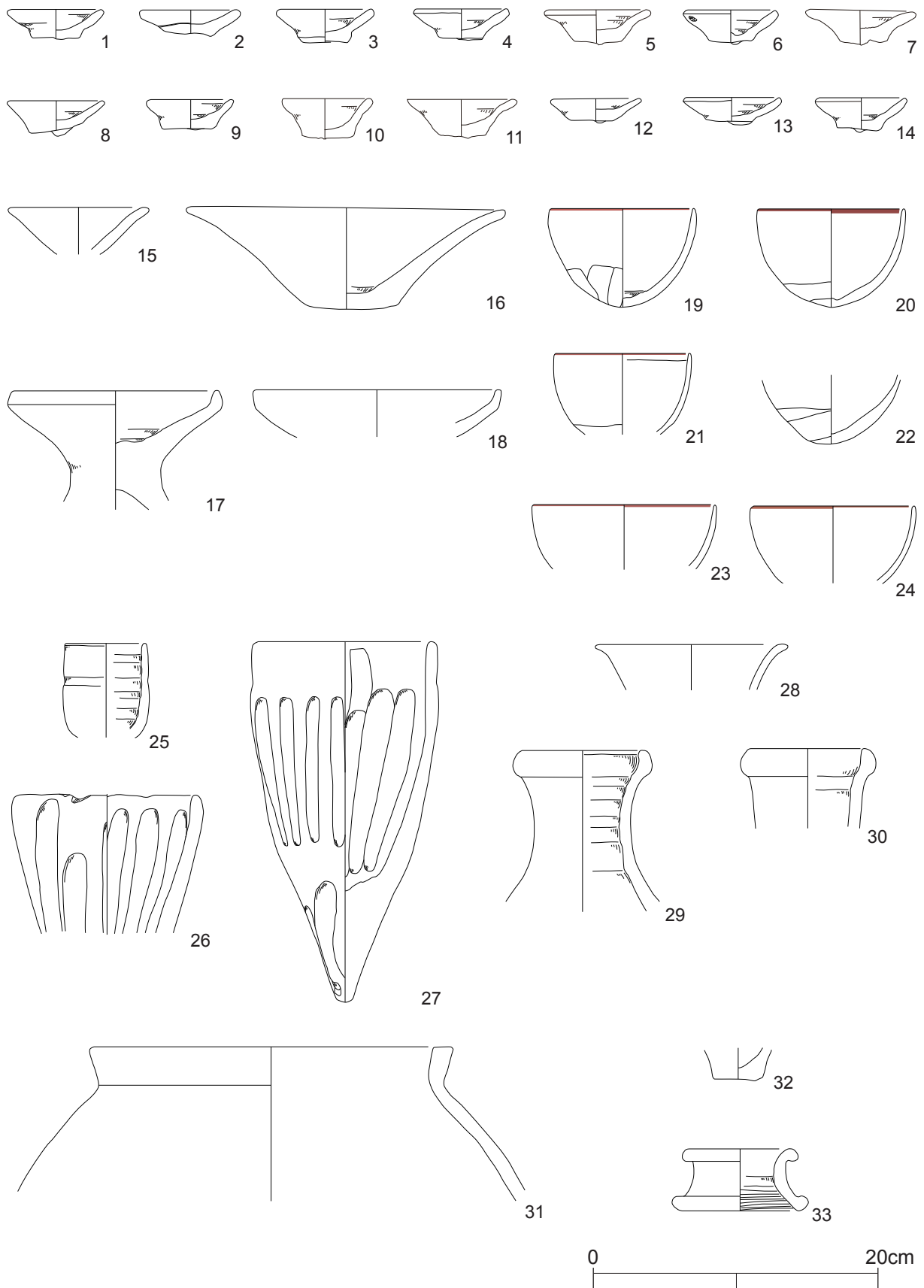


Fig.8 Pottery vessels from Shaft 151

from every chamber and the shaft filling (Fig.8.1-14). Chronologically important shapes are hemispherical cups and ‘Beer bottles’, the most common types among the Middle Kingdom repertoire. A gradual change of hemispherical cups, from shallow, unrestricted to deep, slightly restricted shape was attested by various scholars⁵, and the difference between cups found at the upper part of the tomb and the lower is worth noting. Cups shown as Figs.8.19 and 8.20 were reconstructed from pot-sherds found at Room A, a sand with *tafl* rubble layer in the shaft (Layer 5) and *tafl*-rich layer (Layer 6) directly below it, and they have a deeper contour than cups of Figs.8.23 and 8.24 which contained fragments from Room B or Room C. A neck of Nile C ‘Beer bottle’ (Fig.8.29) consists of fragments found at the sand layer of the shaft below Room A (Layer 4) and the sand with *tafl* rubble layer below (Layer 5), roughly the same level of the deeper cup’s sherds (Figs.8.19 and 8.20), and it has a thick modelled rim with an inner indentation, often called ‘kettle-shaped’ mouth, which can be attributed to Class 5 of *Handbook of Pottery of the Egyptian Middle Kingdom* corpus volume, datable to the first quarter of Thirteenth Dynasty (Schiestl and Seiler 2012: 672-673). On the other hand, fragments of hand-made Nile C conical vessels with distinctive vertical traces of the potters’ fingers on the inner and outer surface (Figs. 8.26 and 8.27), nicknamed ‘Meat container’ (Schiestl and Seiler 2012: 136), were collected mostly from the lowest part of the shaft or Room C. In this site ‘Meat containers’ occurred only in Shaft 58 so far, and the neck of beer bottles accompanied with those containers belong to the earlier type which prominently circulated before Class 5 bottles appeared⁶. Therefore, pottery vessels found at the lower part, especially Room C, are relatively earlier than those of the upper part, most likely derived from Room A. The chronological difference between the lower and the upper part of the shaft has significant implications for the using history of Shaft 151, and it is postulated that these three burial chambers were made and used in the following order: at first Room C, then Room B, and lastly Room A. Experiences of previously found intact shaft tombs (Shaft 42 and 65) taught us that after a coffin was placed in the chamber the shaft was filled with *tafl* rubble, which might be debris dug out of the shaft when it was made, and that is why residual *tafl* accumulation was often observed in plundered shaft tombs. Hence, once the placement of the deceased in Room C was finished, the shaft was filled up with *tafl* rubble, and it was dug out again when the space for the next burial was needed. Room B was made in the opposite side, slightly higher than Room C, being left the shaft filling in front of Room C untouched, most probably in order not to disturb the burial of Room C. Once the burial of Room B was finished, the shaft was refilled. After a certain period of time, again it was re-opened for the next burial, placed in Room A, at slightly higher level. The fact that the difference in the level between the ceiling of Room C and floor of Room B is approximately 0.4 m, which is the same as the difference between the ceiling of Room B and floor of Room A, corroborating that the spacing and changing of direction was not coincidence.

It is noteworthy that the sequence of making and use of the shaft with multiple chambers can be archaeologically determined by finds. It is important whether persons placed in these chambers were related, but

⁵ Do. Arnold identified a gradual change of hemispherical cups in Dahshur and Lisht from shallow to deep cups by using the ‘vessel index’, a ratio obtained by dividing the maximum width of the vessel by its height and multiplying the result by 100. At Tell el-Dab’a detailed studies of well-stratified hemispherical cups of the late Twelfth and Thirteenth Dynasties arrived at the same conclusion (Arnold 1988: 140-141, Fig.75; Bietak 1984: 480-481, Fig.III.2). However, it should be pointed out that supra-regional homogeneity of the cups is valid only from early Twelfth Dynasty to the second quarter of the Thirteenth Dynasty. See Seiler and Schiestl 2012: 105.

⁶ The chronological sequence of tombs in Dahshur North is discussed in Yazawa, K, forthcoming.

it is difficult to determine by the current state of the evidence.

Shaft 152 (Fig.9)

Size of Entrance: 2.1 x 0.7 m

Depth: 2.2 m

Location: 3E97a, c

The long axis of the shaft opening is oriented north-south. Although there was no chamber, the human skeletal remains and fragments of a wooden coffin were discovered, suggesting that the deceased was buried at the bottom of the shaft. Fine sand which filled the shaft also contained pot-sherds and fragments of painted plaster, one of which is a half of a right ear made of white plaster belonging to a mummy mask or an anthropoid coffin (Fig.10). Given the north-south axis of the shaft and the plaster ear which closely resembles the one found in the neighboring Shaft 151, the burial can be dated to the late Middle Kingdom.

As shown in Fig.10, surface of the outer part of the plaster ear was painted in black, and the inner part which used to be attached to the head has a trace of a mortar and a spot of blue painting, indicating that the headdress of the mask or anthropoid coffin was painted in blue. These characteristics and the size of the ear are quite similar to the one retrieved in Room C of Shaft 151.

Retrieved pot-sherds include two rim fragments of 'Beer bottles'(Fig.11). The fabric is Nile C, and both of them have a triangular modelled rim and slightly flaring neck, dated from the reign of Amenemhat III to the early Thirteenth Dynasty⁷.

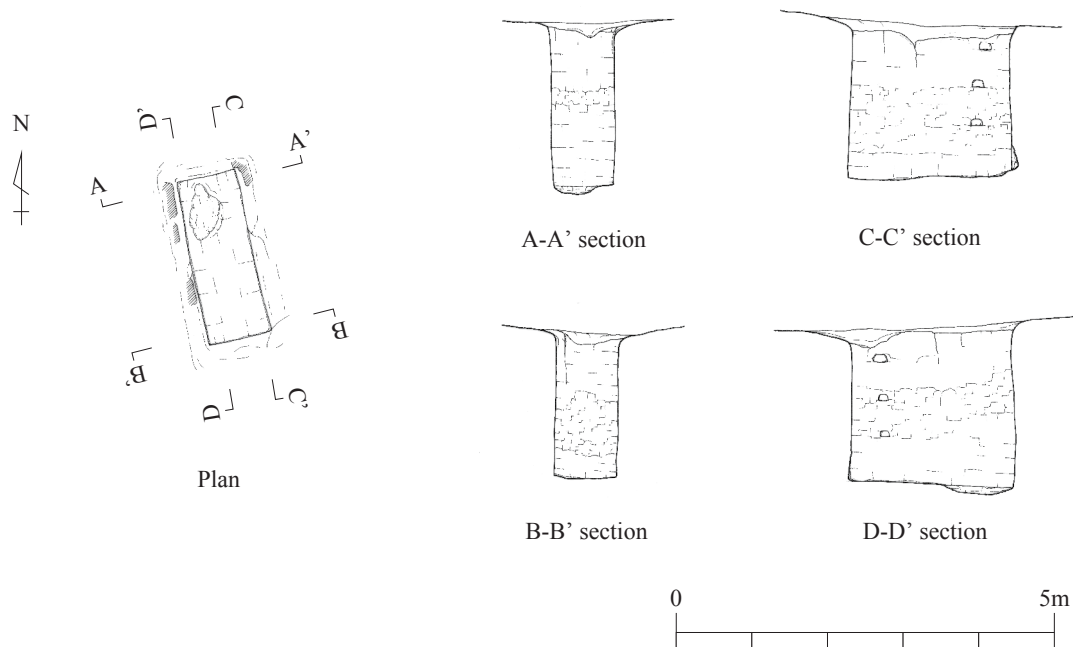


Fig.9 Plans and sections of Shaft 152

⁷ It can be attributed to Class 3d of *Handbook of Pottery of the Egyptian Middle Kingdom* (Seiler and Schiestl 2012: 660-661).

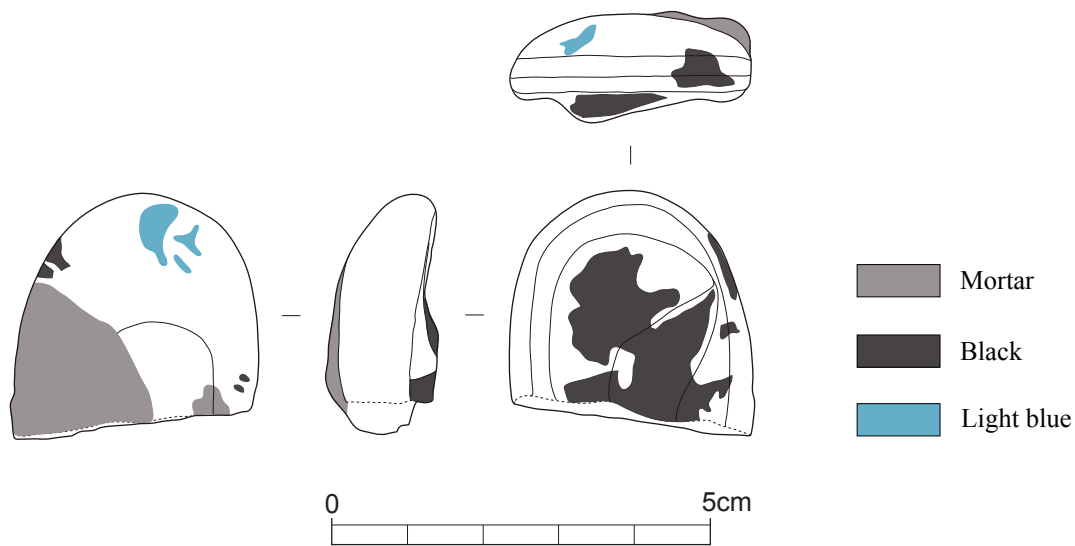


Fig.10 Plaster ear from Shaft 152

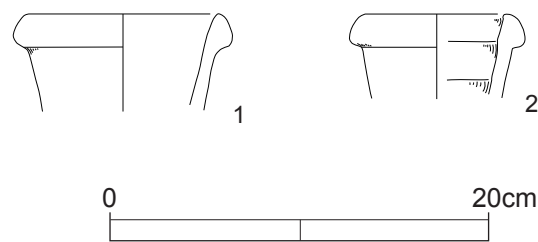


Fig.11 Pottery fragments from Shaft 152

Shaft 153 (Fig.12)

Size of Entrance: 2.0 x 0.9 m

Depth: 4.3 m

Dimension of the Room A: 2.0 x 0.9 x 1.1 m

Location: 3F07b

The long axis of the shaft opening is oriented north-south. At the bottom there is a chamber to the north (Room A). It was looted, and the shaft was entirely filled with wind-blown fine sand. In Room A a layer comprised mainly of *tafl* rubble was observed on the floor.

Fragments of human bones were vertically scattered at various depths, and pot-sherds were collected in the shaft and burial chamber, which contained a large round-bottomed bottle typical of the late Middle Kingdom. Wood and plaster fragments were also uncovered.

Major shapes of pottery are provided in Fig.13. Fig.13.1 is a Nile C large bowl found in the shaft, and Fig.13.2 is a rim fragment of large cup or bowl, made of Nile B2 fabric. Figs.13.3 and 13.4 are 'Beer bottles',

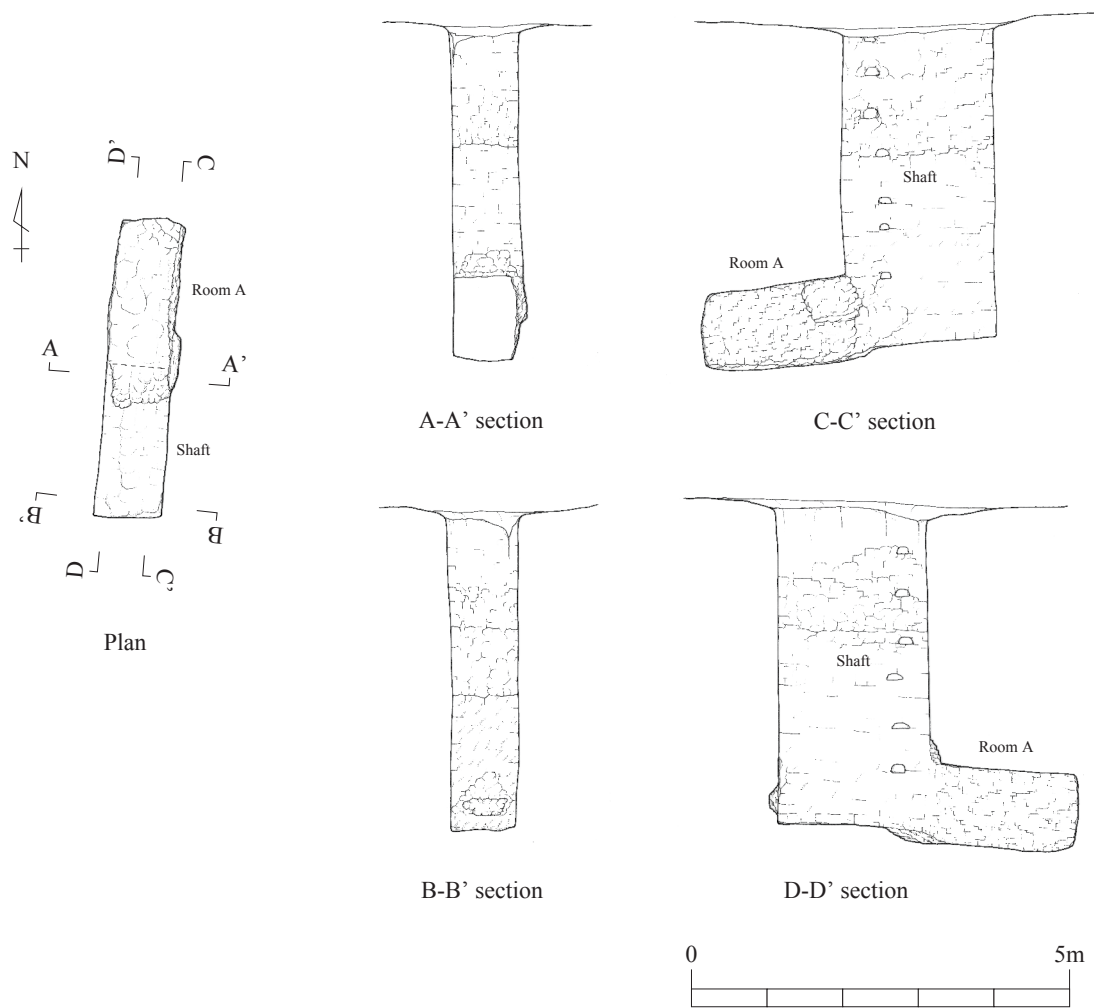


Fig.12 Plan and sections of Shaft 153

presumably belonging to the same vessel. The modelled rim has a rounded triangular shape and the neck is slightly flared, datable from the reign of Amenemhat III to the early Thirteenth Dynasty⁸.

Shaft 155 (Fig.14)

Size of Entrance: 2.1 x 0.9 m

Depth: 3.4 m

Dimension of the extended space: 2.4 x 0.8 x 1.1 m

Location: 3E98c

The long axis of the shaft opening is oriented north-south. At the bottom the wall of the shaft was extended to the west, in order to make a space for a coffin. This tomb had been plundered, and the most part was filled with wind-blown sand, occasionally containing *tafl* particles. The tightly packed layer of *tafl* was observed

⁸ It belongs to Class 3d of *Handbook of Pottery of the Egyptian Middle Kingdom* (Schiestl and Seiler 2012: 660-661).

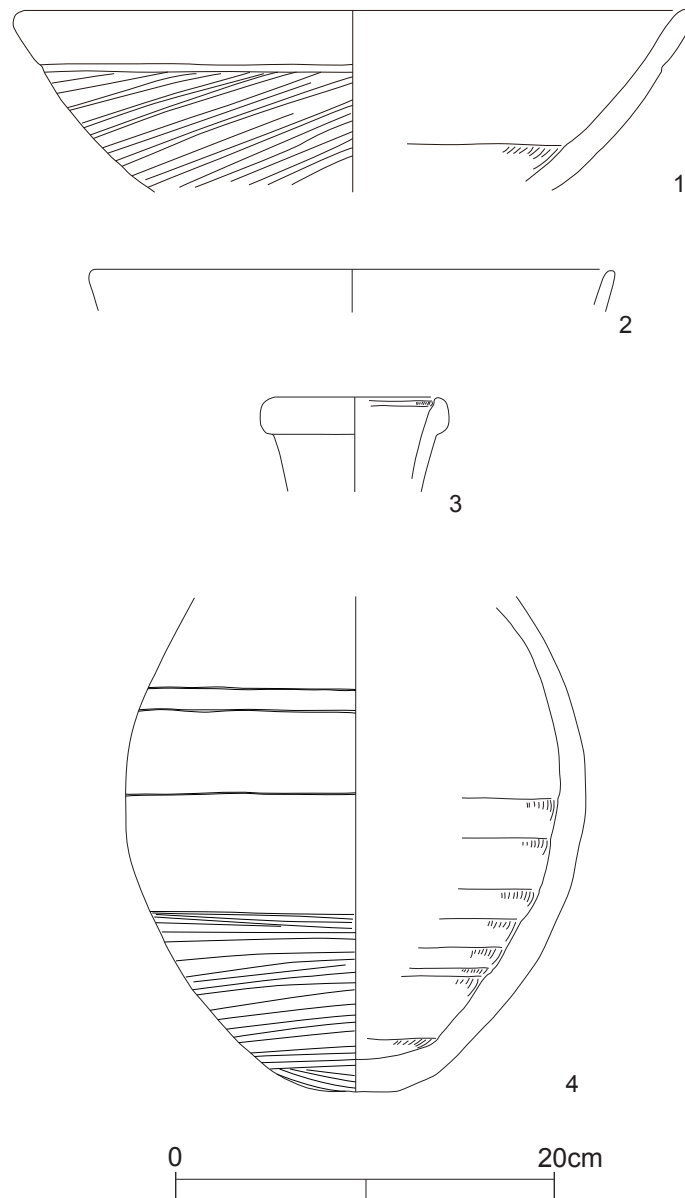


Fig.13 Pottery vessels from Shaft 153

immediately on the floor of the shaft, which yielded wood fragments.

A carved wooden ear which belongs to a mummy mask or an anthropoid coffin was also discovered in the *tafl* layer (Fig.15). White mortar was adhered on the inner part of the ear, on surface of which patterns of linen was visible, indicating that it was a part of a mummy mask or an anthropoid coffin made of cartonnage.

All vessels provided in Fig.16 were found from the *tafl* layer on the floor. Fig.16.1 is a hemispherical cup, and Figs.16.2 and 16.3, mostly likely both belong to a single jar, classified as ‘Beer bottle’. These are typical types of the Middle Kingdom.

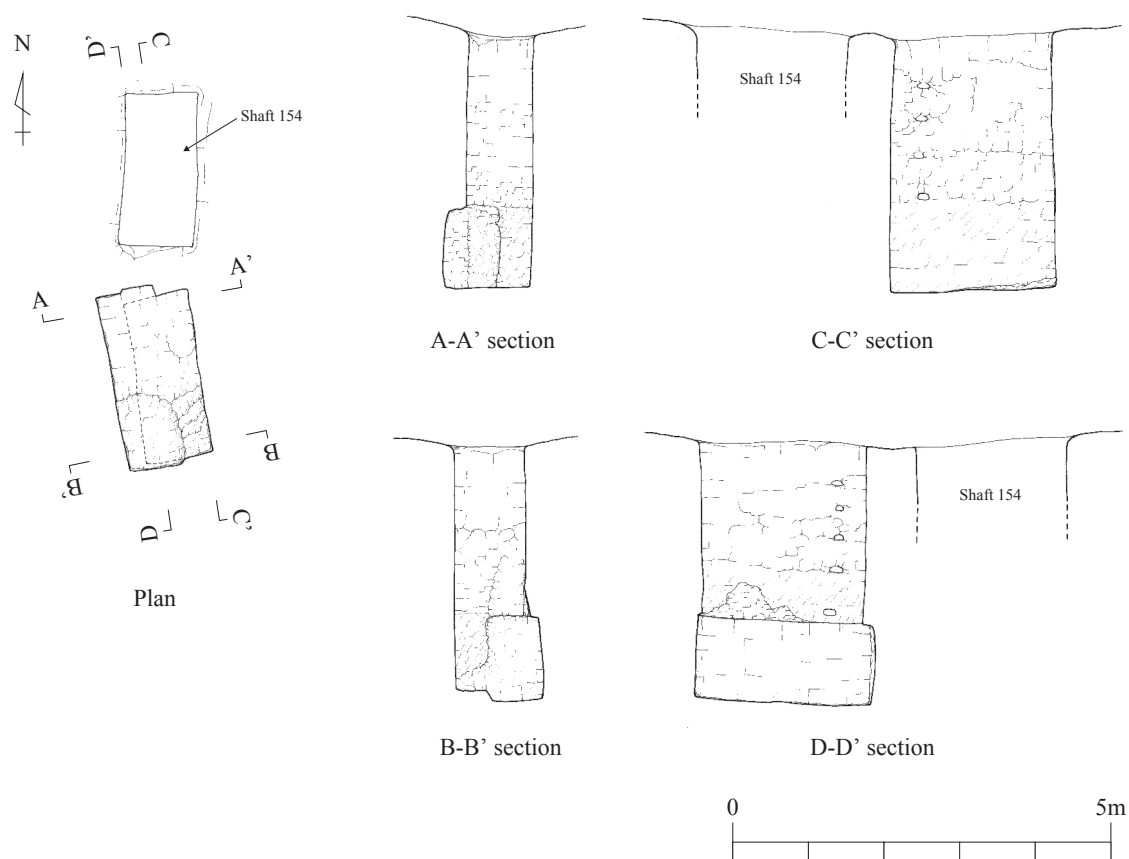


Fig.14 Plan and sections of Shaft 155

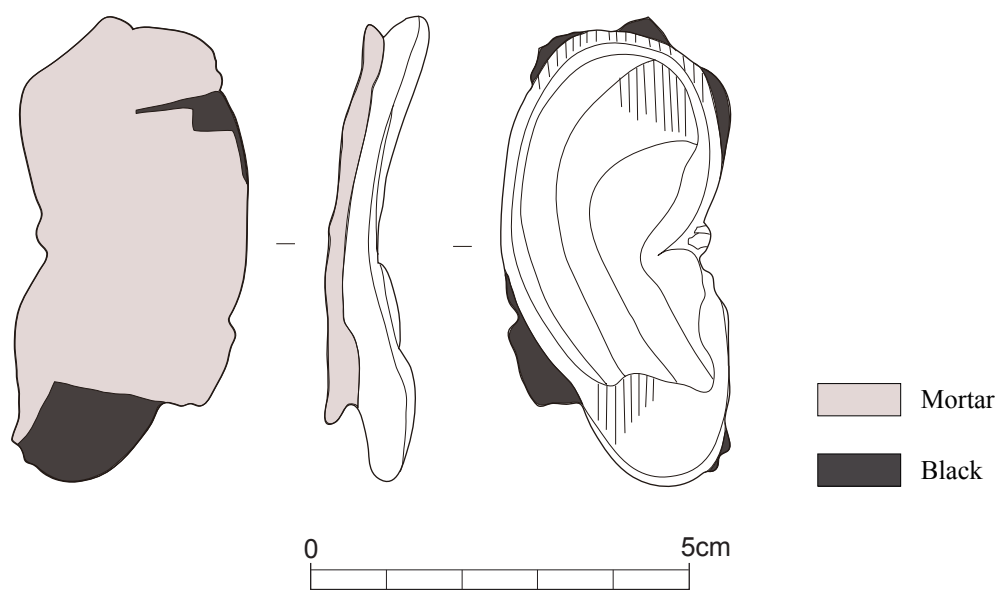


Fig.15 Carved wooden ear from Shaft 155

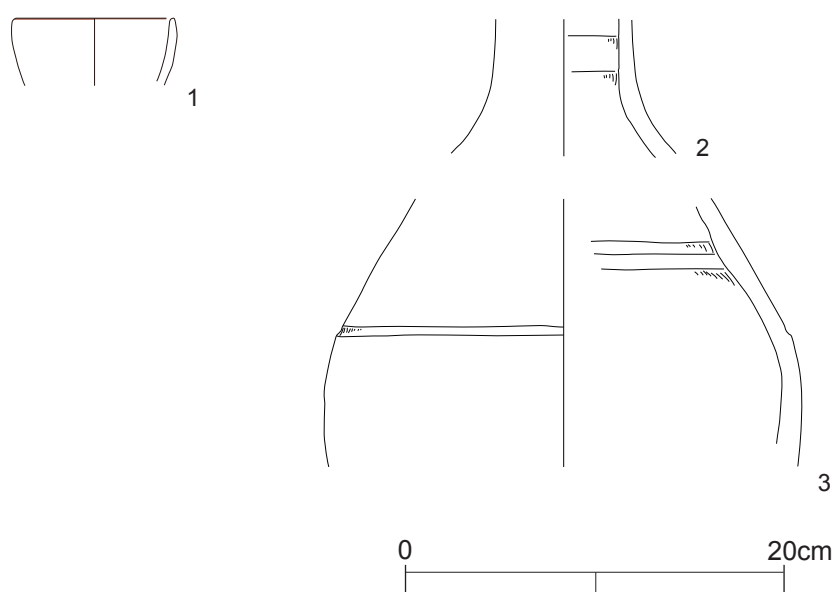


Fig.16 Pottery fragments from Shaft 155

Documentation of objects in the past excavations

Followings are results of the documentation of objects stored in the Selim Hassan Storage Museum at Saqqara.

Re-investigations of Small Objects Retrieved from Dahshur North (Seria Yamazaki)

During the 25th investigation of Dahshur North, we re-examined objects that were excavated in past seasons. Several small objects such as beads and amulets, which I re-investigated in this season, are reported in this paper.

[1] Faience ornament for the Middle Kingdom anthropoid coffin's headdress (Fig.17)

Provenance: Tomb of Sobekhat and Senetites (Shaft 65)

This faience ornament belonged to the headdress of the intact anthropoid coffin of Sobekhat, which was found in Shaft 65 in 2007 (Baba and Yoshimura 2010: 10-12; Baba and Yazawa 2015: 3, 5-9). The tomb of Sobekhat and Senetites was dated to the late 12th to early 13th dynasties. Similar black faience ornaments were recently retrieved from other tombs at the Dahshur North site: Shaft 134 and Shaft 138 (Yoshimura et al. 2018b: 7-9, 20- 22, Figs.6.1, 22.1). We excavated at least 96 such ornaments from Shaft 134, which indicates that there was originally an anthropoid coffin similar to the one of Sobekhat. However, the shape of those ornaments is slightly different. The faience ornaments of Sobekhat's coffin are rounder than the ones from Shaft 134 (Figs.17, 18). On the other hand, the ornaments from Shaft 138 are almost the same shape as those of Sobekhat's coffin. These kinds of ornaments have been recovered from other Middle Kingdom sites: the coffin of Hapi-Ankhtifi from Meir (Hayes 1953: 312, Fig.203), Harageh (Engelbach 1923: Pl.51), and tomb 24 at Thebes (Carnarvon and Carter 1912: 53, Pl.XLIV.2). Hayes presumed that the ornaments on the headdress of the anthropoid coffin represent "thick, wavy locks of hair" (Hayes 1953: 312, Fig.203).

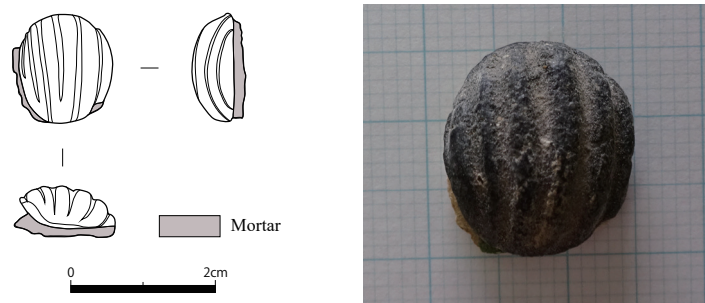


Fig.17 Faience ornament for the anthropoid coffin of *Sobekhat*



Fig.18 Faience ornament from Shaft 134

[2] Amulet with an incised standing figure (Figs.19, 20)

Object Number: 4o-0357

Provenance: Tomb of Ipay (Shaft A2 or Room H)

This glass (?) amulet is probably identical to the one that was published in a previous paper (Baba and Tsubono 2005: 70, 73). However, its back side has not been reported. In the 2018 season, I re-observed it closely and found that a standing figure of a god or a person was incised on the back. This standing figure is facing right and holding a scepter or a stick.

A similarly shaped glass amulet was retrieved from Gurob, and was dated to the Eighteenth to the Nineteenth dynasties (Brunton and Engelbach 1927: Pl.XLIV.58V). Unlike 4o-0357 from our site, it has no incised figures.

A sarcophagus and a number of grave goods dated from the Ramesside Period were found in Room H in the Tomb of Ipay (Yoshimura et al. 2000: 107).

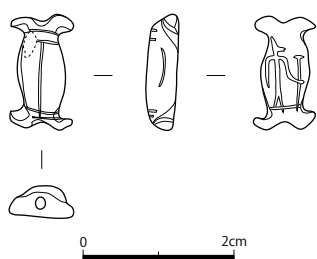


Fig.19 Amulet with an incised standing figure



Fig.20 Back side

[3] Stone vessel amulet (Fig.21)

Object Number: 2o-2470

Provenance: Shaft 17, Room B

This alabaster, vessel-shaped amulet was published in a previous paper (Baba and Tsubono 2005: 70, 73). However, it recently became clear that this amulet was not perforated straightly, but there is a horizontal surface in the middle. Traces of drilling can be observed on the upper side. It is possible that this was originally a drilled miniature stone vessel, and a narrower perforation was added afterward for stringing.

This amulet was found in Shaft 17, from which a stela dated to the late Eighteenth Dynasty (but before the Amarna Period) and a sealing with the name of Akhenaten were retrieved (Yoshimura et al. 1999: 143, 145-146).

[4] Flattened barrel bead (Figs.22, 23)

Object Number: 5o-1975

Provenance: Shaft 23, Room C

A large flattened barrel bead, probably made of white glass. Grooves were observed at the end cut of this bead (Fig. 23). According to Xia Nai (2014), this kind of perforation can be classified into Type 8 (Xia Nai 2014: pl.I.a), and these grooves were engraved before being perforated (Xia Nai 2014: 10). It probably helped to decide the position of perforation. He argued this is mainly for stone beads, but 5o-1975 shows that it could be used for other materials as well.

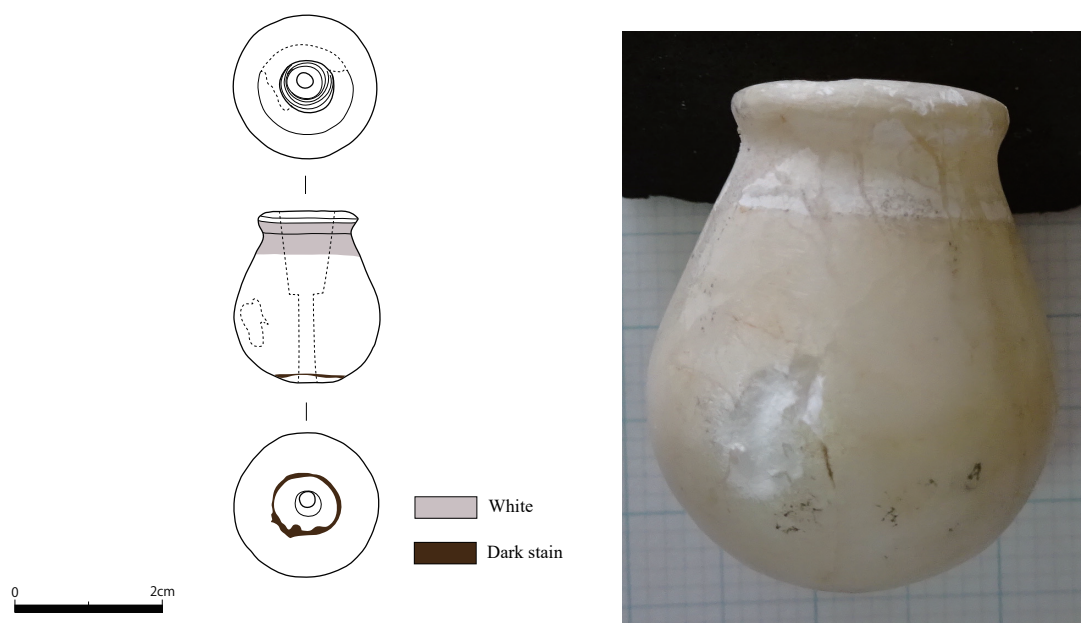


Fig.21 Stone vessel amulet

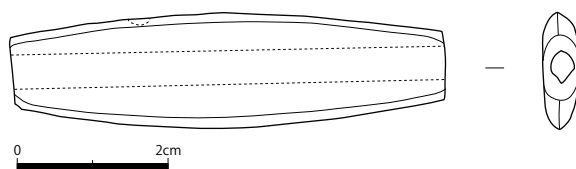


Fig.22 Flattened barrel bead



Fig.23 End cut with grooves

This bead was excavated from Shaft 23 in which shabtis, blocks with reliefs, parts of a wooden coffin, and a faience scarab with the name of Thutmose III were found (Yoshimura et al. 2000: 104-105, 107, 109).

[5] Semi-spherical bead (Figs.24, 25)

Object Number: 6o-0552

Provenance: Shaft 27, Room B

This semi-spherical bead, made of tusk or bone, was published in a previous paper (Baba and Tsubono 2005: 69, 72). In the 2018 season, I observed more details.

The convex surface is polished very well, but the reverse side is not smooth and is natural (Fig.25). Moreover, grooves can be clearly seen close to the perforation, like 5o-1975 above. Those grooves were probably engraved before the perforation, or it is possible that they are traces of stringing.

This bead was found in Shaft 27 from which several New Kingdom objects, including a sealing from a jar with the name of Tutankhamen, were excavated (Yoshimura et al. 2001: 51-53).

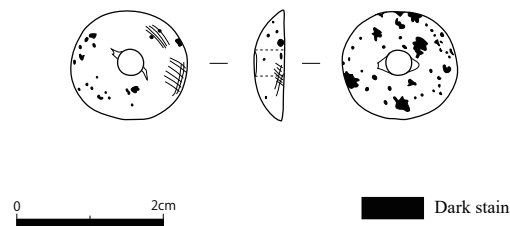


Fig.24 Semi-spherical bead

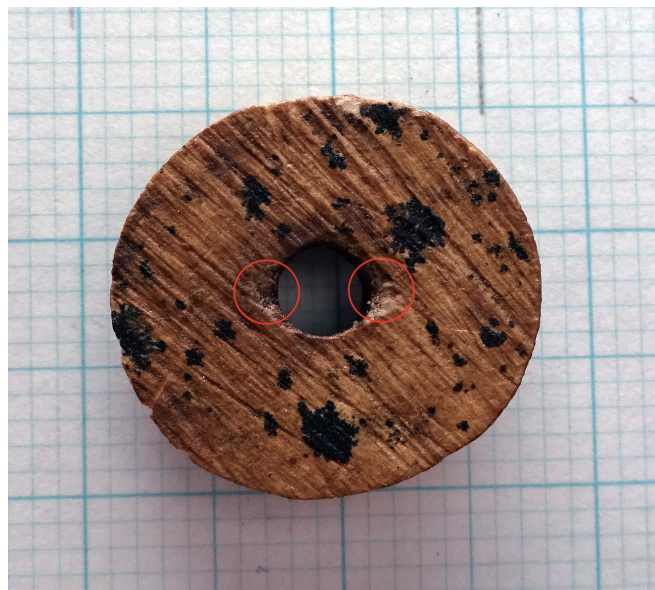


Fig.25 Reverse side with perforation and grooves

[6] Ribbed bead (Fig.26)

Object Number: 5o-2174

Provenance: Shaft 25, Room A

A tiny ribbed bead, which was published in a previous paper (Baba and Tsubono 2005: 70, 73), is made of red glass (?) and gold or silver. Similar beads made of gold were found at other New Kingdom sites (Xia Nai 2014: 120, Pl.IX, M68b), and the one retrieved from Gurob was dated to the Eighteenth to Nineteenth dynasties (Brunton and Engelbach 1927: Pl.XLIII, 47Y).

Shabtis, a large heart scarab, parts of a wooden coffin, and an amulet with the name of Amenhetep III were retrieved from Shaft 25 (Yoshimura et al. 2000: 104, 107).

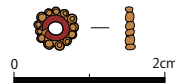


Fig.26 Ribbed bead

[7] Abdomen of stone heart scarab (Fig.27)

Object Number: 5o-1454

Provenance: Shaft 25, Room A

This is part of a stone heart scarab with incised texts, which was found in Shaft 25, shown above. The preserved texts are in two horizontal lines, as follows:

1. *dd.f ib.i n mwt.(i) ib.i*2. *n mwt.(i) ḥ3ty.i n ḥpr[w][...]*

“He speaks: My heart of my mother, my heart of my mother, my breast of transformations [...]”

(cf. Schneider 1996: 36, Pl.21, cat.196).

That is the first part of spell 30B from the Book of the Dead, which appeared in burials from the 13th Dynasty onwards (Maravelia 2002: n.26) and was often written on the abdomen of the heart scarab (Andrews 1994: 56).

Mortar can be observed on the reverse side, which indicates that it was originally attached to a certain object. The pectoral is a strong candidate for it, because heart scarabs were incorporated into pectorals from the New Kingdom onwards, and this practice extended to non-royal burials by at least the reign of Ramesses II (Andrews 1994: 59). There are adequate examples of pectorals with spell 30B on the reverse side (e.g., Feucht 1971: nos. 77, 205F; Martin 1985: Pl.33, Fig.93; Yamazaki 2018: 207, Fig.3). Moreover, several pectorals that are missing inlaid heart scarabs have been retrieved from Dahshur North (Yamazaki 2018: 207-212, Figs.3-6).

[8] Abdomen of faience heart scarab (Fig.28)

Object Number: 3o-1513

Provenance: Tomb of Ipay (Shaft A, Room A)

This is part of a faience heart scarab with texts that are almost invisible. Mortar can be seen on the reverse side, which indicates that it was originally attached to a pectoral.



Fig.27 Abdomen of stone heart scarab

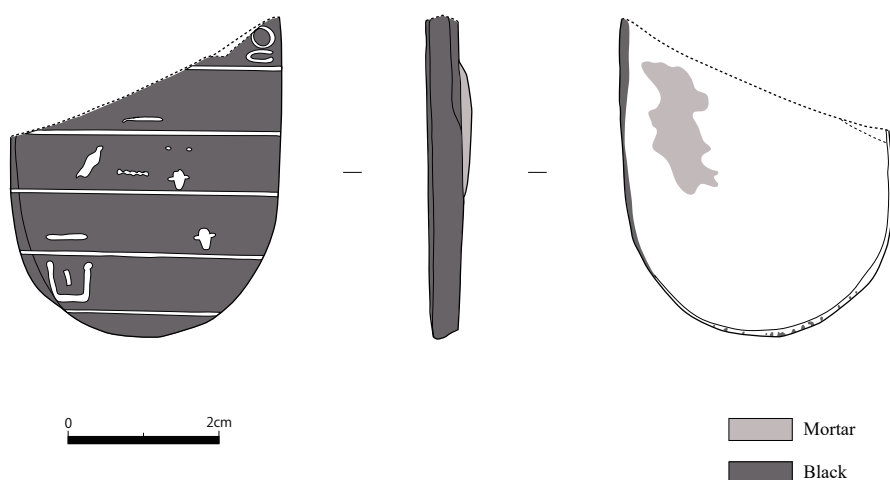


Fig.28 Abdomen of faience heart scarab

[9] Flail bead (Fig.29)

Object Number: 50-0379

Provenance: Shaft 24

This is a white conical bead made of glass (?). It is relatively heavy and has a glossy surface. Shabtis and parts of a wooden coffin were retrieved from Shaft 24 (Yoshimura et al. 2000: 107, 109), which indicates that this tomb was used in the New Kingdom. These kinds of beads have been found at other New Kingdom sites (e.g., Brunton and Engelbach 1927: Pl.XLIV, 58U; Giddy 1999: 113, Pl.25, cats.318, 968, 1035, 3131); they may have been used for a model flail or whisk (Giddy 1999: 113).

[10] Flail bead (Fig.30)

Object Number: 160-0244

Provenance: Shaft 82, Shaft

This is a small flail bead, which was published in a previous paper (Yoshimura et al. 2012: 32, Figs.11.1, 11.2). A closer investigation was conducted in the 2018 season. This flail bead is made of glazed stone, and a

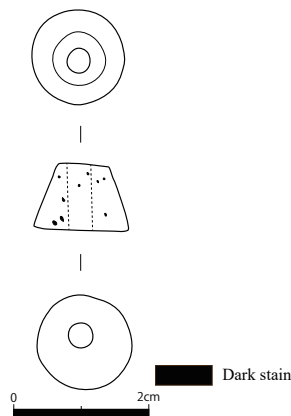


Fig.29 Flail bead

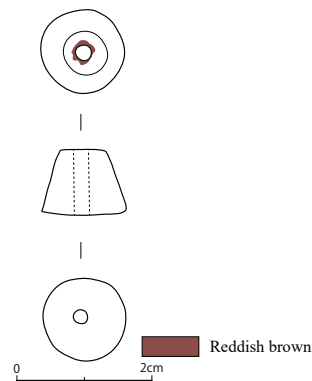


Fig.30 Flail bead with reddish brown pigment



reddish brown pigment is preserved on top. Flail beads have been retrieved not only from the New Kingdom, but also plenty of Middle Kingdom sites, including tombs of princesses (e.g., Morgan 1895: 114, Pl.XXXIX; Morgan 1903: 48, 54, 74; Mace and Winlock 1916: 15-16, 96-102, Figs.7, 35, Pl.XXIX; Pinch 1993: Pl.2, left; Arnold 2002: 124). 16o-0244 was found in Shaft 82, whose axis indicates that this tomb was used in the Middle Kingdom; in particular, pottery from this tomb was dated to the late 12th to early 13th dynasties.

[11] Flail bead (Fig.31)

Object Number: 16o-0263

Provenance: Shaft 82, Room A

This flail bead was retrieved from the same tomb in which 16o-0244 was found. However, the size, weight, material, and color are different. 16o-0263 is larger than 16o-0244, but is lighter in terms of weight since it is made of green faience. Moreover, close observation clarified that a small piece of gold foil is preserved in its lower part (Fig.31). As I mentioned above, flails made of conical beads have been excavated from many Middle Kingdom sites. Moreover, several beads –especially from princesses' tombs – have gold foil along their lower ends (e.g., Farag and Iskander 1971: 35-36, pl.XXXVIII; Arnold 2002: 124).

Flails from princesses' tombs are usually made of conical beads of different sizes and colors. They are often of blue/green glazed faience and carnelian. Therefore, 16o-0244 and 16o-0263 (Fig.32), possibly constructed from the same flail, and the smaller one (16o-0244), could be placed at the top (Mace and Winlock 1916: 16). 16o-0244 is a reddish brown glazed stone, and was probably substituted for a carnelian.

[12] Pectoral (Figs.33, 34)

Object Number: 4o-0046

Provenance: Tomb of Ipay (Shaft A, Room H)

This is a shrine-shaped stone (probably diorite) pectoral (Yamazaki 2018: 208-209). A scarab was possibly inlaid in the center. There are three diagonal holes for stringing, and we can also see the one failed hole that did not reach the top surface due to a very steep angle (Figs.33, 34).

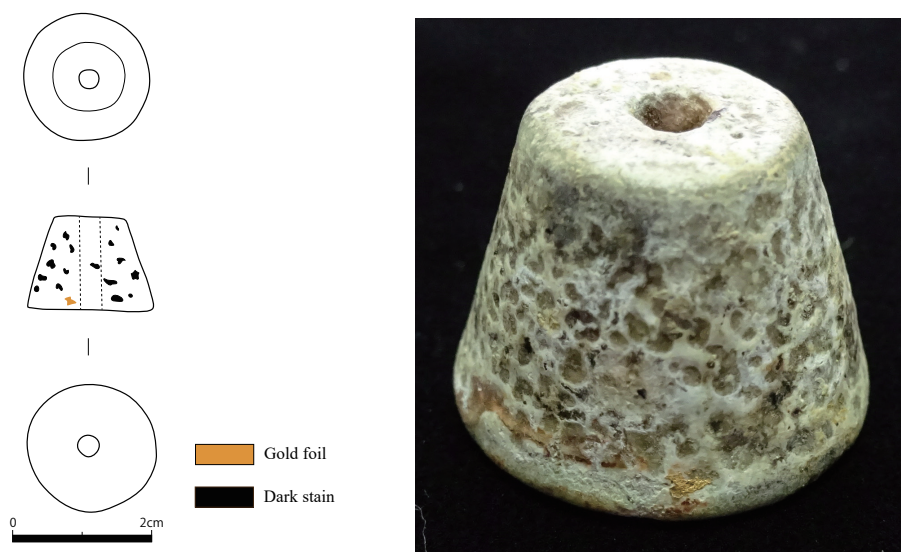


Fig.31 Flail bead with gold foil



Fig.32 Flail beads (left: [11], right: [10])

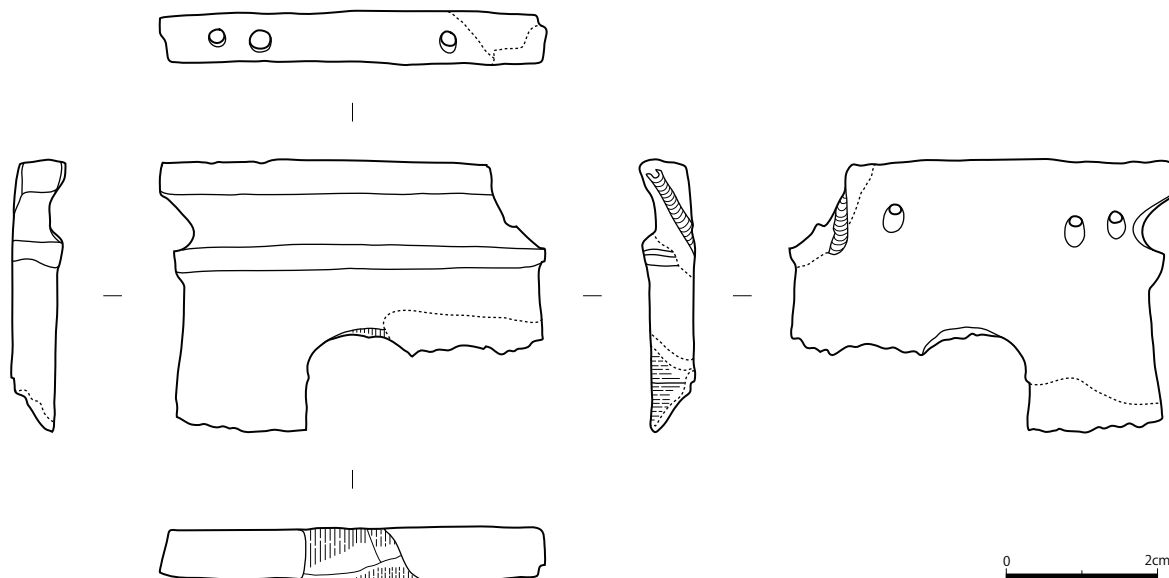


Fig.33 Shrine-shaped pectoral

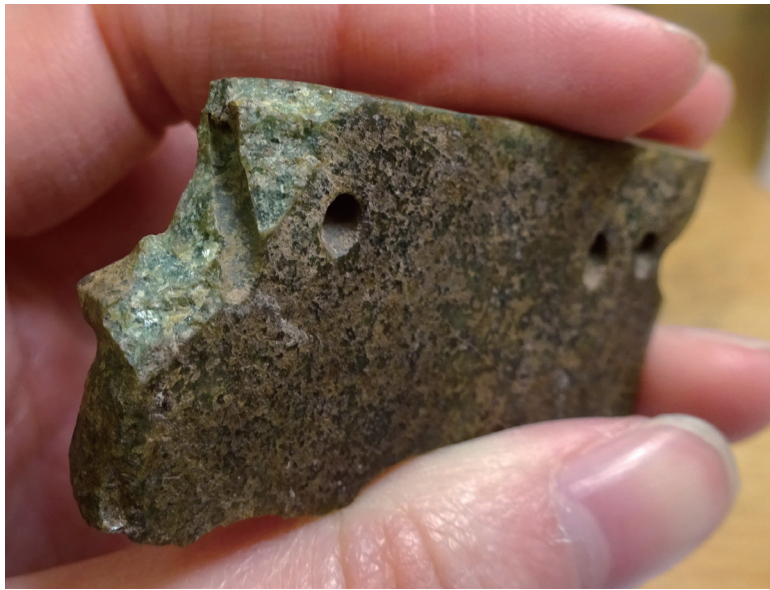


Fig.34 Trace of failed perforation

[13] Unknown Objects (Figs.35, 36)

Object Number: 50-1302+50-1966

Provenance: Shaft 23, Room B and C

They are enigmatic objects made of blue glass and bronze.

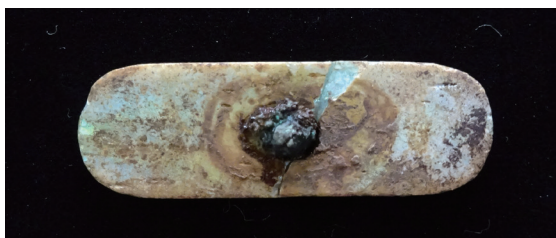
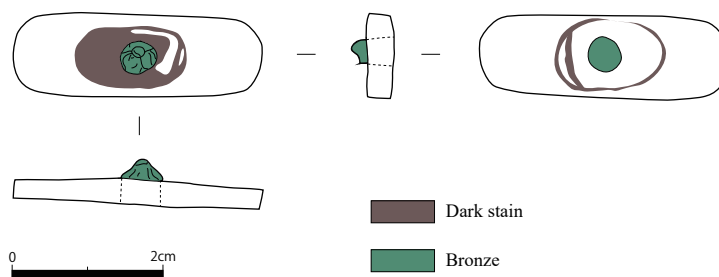


Fig.35 Unknown object (50-1302+50-1966)

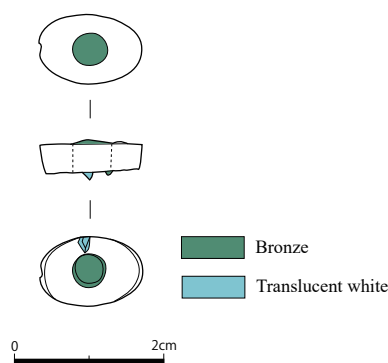


Fig.36 Unknown object (50-1718)

Hieratic Inscription (Motoharu Arimura)

Studies on hieratic docketts written on pottery surface have been done since the end of the Nineteenth century, and it has supplied a lot of clues to reveal the economy of ancient Egypt. In many cases, attention has been paid mainly to contents of inscriptions while other elements, for example, a shape of pottery and its fabric, had not been subjects of interest. However, we can obtain much information also from sherds itself besides the meaning of written signs, and combining them as possible as we can, more vivid image of the ancient Egyptian economy and society will be drawn.

At Dahshur North, over 20 sherds with hieratic inscription have been found since early seasons of the excavations. Though the presence of these materials was mentioned several times (Yoshimura et al. 1998: 115; Yoshimura et al. 1999: 146), most of them are still unpublished and not fully studied. In 2018's season, we have had a chance to study a part of these materials which are dated to the New Kingdom, and this paper is the preliminary report of the research. Some hieratic inscriptions are difficult to translate and interpretable in several ways; therefore, we do not regard interpretations proposed here as the final ones, and other better ideas are welcomed. It is hoped that the materials which will be shown below contribute to the study of the multi-aspects of the New Kingdom society.

[1] 2o-2508+4o-0622+4o-0637+4o-682 (EW-0005+175+0121) (Fig. 37)

Shape: Amphora

Fabric: Marl F, cream slipped exterior

Provenance: Shaft A, Room A, B and H

Transliteration: *ḥsb.t 7 irp n ? ? // ? ?* (Line 1) , *r^c-ms-sw-mry-imm^c. w. s ḥr /// m dr.t ḥnsw* (Line 2)

Translation: Regnal year 7, a wine of ? ? // ? ? (Line 1), Ramesses beloved of Amun l. p. h on /// under the control of Khonsu

Three strokes attached to the ending of *irp* are grouped vertically with *n* sign on this material although they are usually written under the vessel shape determinative, and few parallels exist (e.g. Pendlebury 1951: pl.LXXXVIII, no.106). Four long strokes follow the *irp n*, and a sherd which has similar group is found at

The second line begins with the name Ramesses II, and after *ḥr*, more specific geographical information must have been written. The name Khonsu directly follows *m dṛ:t* formula without the word such as *ḥry k3m* “chief vintner”.

Translation: // a ? wine of 4 days of vineyard of temple of million (of years)

The sign ḥḥ might be followed by $(m) \text{ rnp.wt}$, and the “vineyard of a temple of millions of years” is often mentioned (e.g. Spiegelberg 1898: no. 318; Raven 2001: cat. 432). Probably a king’s name and a chief vintner was mentioned in the second line.



Fig.38 4o-0741

⁹ “Alphabet + number” refers to Gardiner’s sign list.

suggested previously (Hayes 1951: 89). The other amphora cited above has *h* sign next to *irp n*, therefore it is possible that it also contained *irp n h3y nfr*. Normally, D54 is used as a determinative of *h3y*, but the trace of the remain is slightly different from usual shape of the sign (Möller 1927: 11, sign 120).

This material and 2o-2221+3o-1590 have an identical phrase, but we can see the difference between them, such as the way to write *tt*, and therefore the scribal hand might be different respectively.

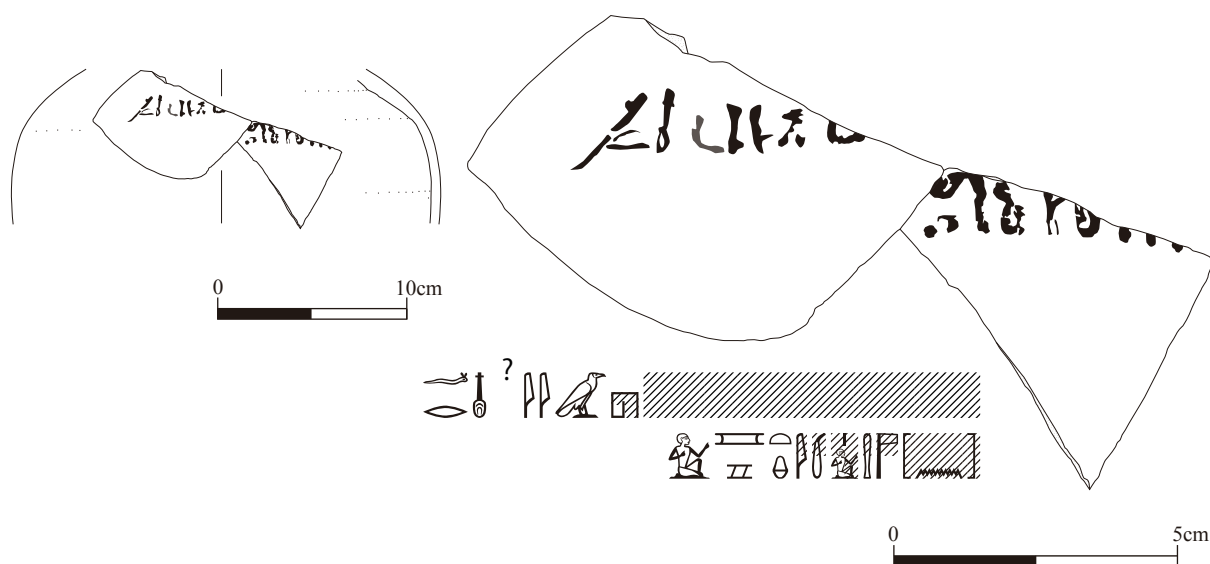


Fig.40 3o-0872+3o-1060

[5] 3o-0858 (EW-0172) (Fig.41)

Shape: Amphora ?

Fabric: Marl D, cream slipped exterior

Provenance: Shaft 17, Room C

Transliteration: ? ? s ?

Translation: ?

The inscription is complete since this group of signs are not preceded and followed by other signs. Most of them are written clearly, however, it is difficult to interpret. The first sign looks like G1 (Möller 1927: 17, sign 192) or W25 (Möller 1927: 44, sign 496), the next can be read F31 (Möller 1927: 36, sign 408) or, if the right stroke is excluded, a vessel shape determinative (Möller 1927: 45, sign 498), and S29 is the only the sign which can be read with confidence. The last sign seems *n*, but other reading is possible because the space around it is worn. Two long strokes might be Z5 (Möller 1927: 50, sign 559).

Given the shape of the sherd and the text aligned on center, it is possible to suggest that this material was used as a sort of tag.



Fig.41 3o-0858

[6] 3o-1567 (EW-0157) (Fig.42)

Shape: Flask

Fabric: Marl D, cream slipped exterior

Provenance: Shaft 17, Room C

Transliteration: see below

Translation: see below

From the shaft 17, several flasks were found, and this fragment must be a portion of these. First three signs are written clearly and it can be read in two ways. One is regarding N5 as the determinative of *dw3*, then the meaning is “morning”. The other interpretation reads it as infinitive and object, that is, *dw3 r3* “praising Ra”. Additionally, the ambiguous final sign looks like G5 (Möller 1927: 16, sign 184; Marciniak 1974: 196, sign 184), and if this reading is correct, the object of *dw3* appears to be *r^c-hr (-3hty)*. It seems that the latter is a better interpretation since it makes sense as a sentence.

Flasks with hieratic inscriptions are found in the Tomb of Senneferi at Thebes, and the writing denotes that all of them were used as containers of good wine (Bohleke 2015: 243-245). It is interesting that the type of information on the flask from Shaft 17 is definitely different from normal hieratic dockets such as ones from the tomb of Senneferi.

[7] 6o-1035 (EW-376) (Fig.43)

Shape: Amphora

Fabric: Marl D, cream slipped exterior

Provenance: Shaft 30, Room B

Transliteration: *mrht* // 10 (20?)

Translation: mrHt oil // 10 (20?)

A part of the inscription cannot be transcribed due to black resin covering the surface broadly. A numeral is the last recognizable sign on this sherd. Though we can see 10 sign clearly, there is a possibility that numeral is 20. It is difficult to tell them since thick stain veils the area which is critical to distinguish it.

Before the numeral, a unit of volume must have been written such as *hnw* used frequently in hieratic dockets. Considering the scribal hand, namely the space between the signs and its size, full spelling of *hnw* seems to be impossible. In addition to this material, another amphora with inscription “*mrht*” is found at Dahshur North (Yoshimura et al. 2002: 94). The term *mrht* is also written other than on amphorae, it is reported that the word is inscribed on cups made of Nile silt found in the tomb of Horemheb (Schneider 1996: 11).

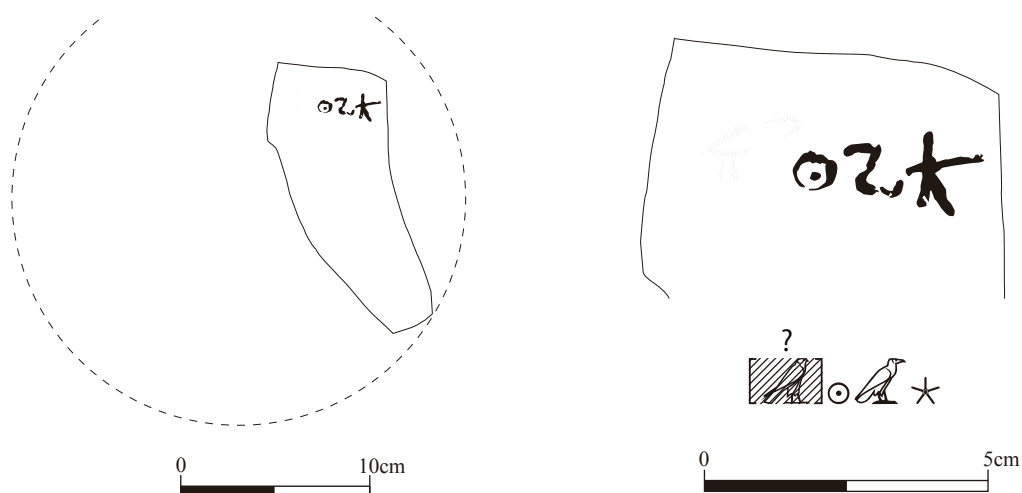


Fig.42 3o-1567

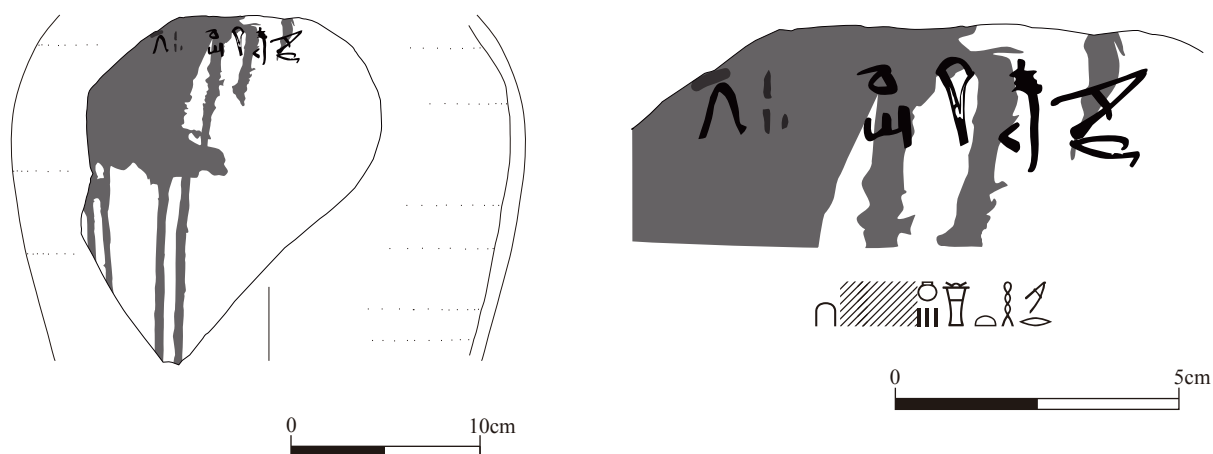


Fig.43 6o-1035

Photogrammetry for anthropoid coffins discovered in 16th season 2008

In 16th season (2008), four anthropoid coffins were discovered at Shaft 110. The tomb was already plundered, but coffins for the deceased were relatively well-preserved even though they were intentionally broken by a tomb robber to extract the owner's body. Conservation work has been finished, and in this season photogrammetry for these coffins was conducted, and the followings are the results.



Fig.44 Iryseraa outer coffin



Fig.45 Iryseraa inner coffin



Fig.46 Tawbpawmaat outer coffin



Fig.47 Tawbpawmaat inner coffin

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編集後記

本来これは研究所の紀要なので東日本国際大学エジプト考古学研究所の2017年から2018年にかけての学術活動の概要を書くべきところですが、それは大学全体の紀要に書くことにしました。理由は広くたくさんの方々に私たちの活動を知っていただくことが重要と考えたからです。研究所の紀要となると、エジプトに興味のある方の他には、読んでいただく可能性が少なくなってしまうです。エジプト研究・調査を大学のブランドとしていくために、大学の紀要に提出しました。又、研究所の紀要は1年に1回という決まりはなく、WEB出版の利点を生かして、いつでも何かまとめられるものがある時に随時出すことができます。そこで大学の紀要で全体的な報告とか、原著論文を中心にし、研究所紀要は調査報告とか、研究ノートを中心にしたものを掲載することにしました。

今本学のエジプト考古学研究所は、エジプト南部ではルクソール王家の谷西谷アメンヘテプ3世墓の修復の仕上げと貴族の墓地の調査・研究を継続しています。また、エジプト北部ではダハシュールの貴族墓、アブ・シール南丘陵の調査・研究、そしてギザ台地で第2の太陽の船発掘・修復・復原研究、そして西部墓地の地下マップ作り（クフ王墓探査計画）と大ピラミッドの宇宙線を利用したスキャンニングのプロジェクトが進められています。それぞれの調査・研究は研究所の紀要に次々と発表していく予定です。

今回は第2の太陽の船の部材の研究、第2の太陽の船の船坑出土の有機物の分析とX船分析、ダハシュール北遺跡調査概報（英文）を掲載しました。

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