

PUBLICATIONS DU CONSEIL SUPRÊME DES ANTIQUITÉS DE L'ÉGYPTE

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# ANNALES DU SERVICE DES ANTIQUITÉS DE L'ÉGYPTE

TOME LXXVI

2000-2001



LE CAIRE  
IMPRIMERIE DU C.S.A.  
2001

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DÉPARTEMENT DES PUBLICATIONS SCIENTIFIQUES DU C.S.A.

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## Preface

With the present volume, *the Annales du Service* steps into a new era, i.e. the twenty-first century. My colleagues will undoubtedly notice that it enters the new century with great vigour and remarkable vitality; a mark of its revival. This is clearly demonstrated in the improved quality of its presentation, printing, and even its papers.

The vitality can also be seen in its contents, whether they are excavations reports or pure academic researches, written by Egyptian or non Egyptian colleagues.

Our hope is that the regularity of issuing the volumes will encourage more and more of our fellow Egyptologists to come forward with their papers or reports, in any language of their choice, to be printed in *the Annales*. This way its prosperity will be ensured, its progress will be enhanced, and its future will be secured.

**G.A. Gaballa**  
**Secretary General of**  
**S.C.A.**

# REPORT ON THE ACTIVITY OF THE RUSSIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MISSION AT GIZA, TOMB G 7948 AND ADJOINED AREA, EAST FIELD, DURING THE SEASON 1999

Eleonora KORMYSHEVA

The work of the Russian archaeological mission (Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences) in the tomb G 7948 at Giza, East field, was realized by Prof. Dr. Eleonora Kormysheva (Director of the mission), Mikhail Tchegodaev (epigraphist), Dr. Olga Tomachevitch (egyptologist), Josef Dorner (surveyor), Marek Lemiesz (archaeologist), Anna Wodzinska (ceramologist), Leonid Dreyer (architect), Prof. Vasilij Kuzischin (archaeologist), Dr. Myriam Wissa (geologist). Egyptian Antiquity Organization was represented by Tarek Zaher, inspector of Giza. The work lasted from the 20<sup>th</sup> of March up to the 20<sup>th</sup> of May 1999. The activity of the season was concentrated on checking up the copies of the relieves in *Khafreankh* funerary chapel, architectural measurements of the chapels and shafts G 7948 and the adjoined chapels and shafts of G 7948-1 and G 7948-2, studying the pottery, as well as on the archaeological survey and cleaning the area around the tomb G 7948.

## **Khafreankh tomb (G 7948)**

During the season 1999 the iconographical and epigraphical studying of the offering chapel of the *Khafreankh* tomb was continued. Architectural measurements were accomplished in order to prepare architectural drawings of the walls, the shafts, and the funerary chambers. Studying of epigraphy and iconography revealed similarities between *Khafreankh* tomb and the tomb of *Iteti* who was considered as his *sn dt* according to the inscription on the eastern wall of the chapel. The type of *Iteti's* wig is the same as that in his tomb. The traces of the hieroglyphs *j* and two *t* designating his name are quite evident. This picture leaves no doubt that *Iteti* was represented here as one of the receivers of the offerings destined to the tomb's owner. Behind him there is a figure of a woman holding him by the shoulder. The third figure of the man is represented below.

New details and scenes which were missed by Lepsius are recorded: Eastern wall-*Iteti's* belt, boat ended by hedgehog. The most important correction concerns the so-called "stela of the Harvest goddess". The new copy of the scene leaves no

doubt that it was not a stela but a representation of the woman under the tent, holding the great steak in her hand and probably pounded grain.

Cleaning of the funerary chamber of *Khafreankh* tomb (10-11) was accomplished. Three more stone blocks with hieratic signs *mr* and *nh* designated a group of workers or a destination of the stone were taken away from the entrance (5 blocks with similar signs were discovered last season).

Architectural measurements and investigation of the space 2 behind the western wall of the *Khafreankh* tomb shows that the destruction of the western wall of this space at its southern corner was a result of incorrect calculation or even work in the period of its cutting. The wall in this space became so thin that it could be easily destroyed even by natural reasons or it was destroyed during cutting so as a plummet falls now on the extreme outside limit of the western wall.

#### **G 7948/1 -G 7948/2**

Architectural measurements of this space gives an idea that there were two different tombs here constructed during different periods. In favor of it speak different levels of the base which corresponds well to the traces on ceiling. The verification with the plummet confirm the supposition that the northern part of the slope could originally be the northern wall of the small funerary chapel. The chapel was continued in order to cut a new tomb with a shaft.

#### **Cleaning the adjoined area**

Adjoined area to G 7948 was surveyed and cleaned at three sections: northern side, southern side and western side to the top of the tomb G 7948. The size of cleaned area to the north of the tomb G 7948 - 6m x 6m. The size of cleaned area at the south 7m x 15m. Theodilite measurements were made by Josef Dorner, plan of the section drawn by Marek Lemiesz.

On the southern side (Fig.1) the rest of mud-brick wall (SW) was discovered. It is possible to suppose that this structure is the fragment of surrounding wall of a shaft, which can correspond to the hole in the western wall of the burial chamber of *Herenka*, wife of *Khafreankh*.



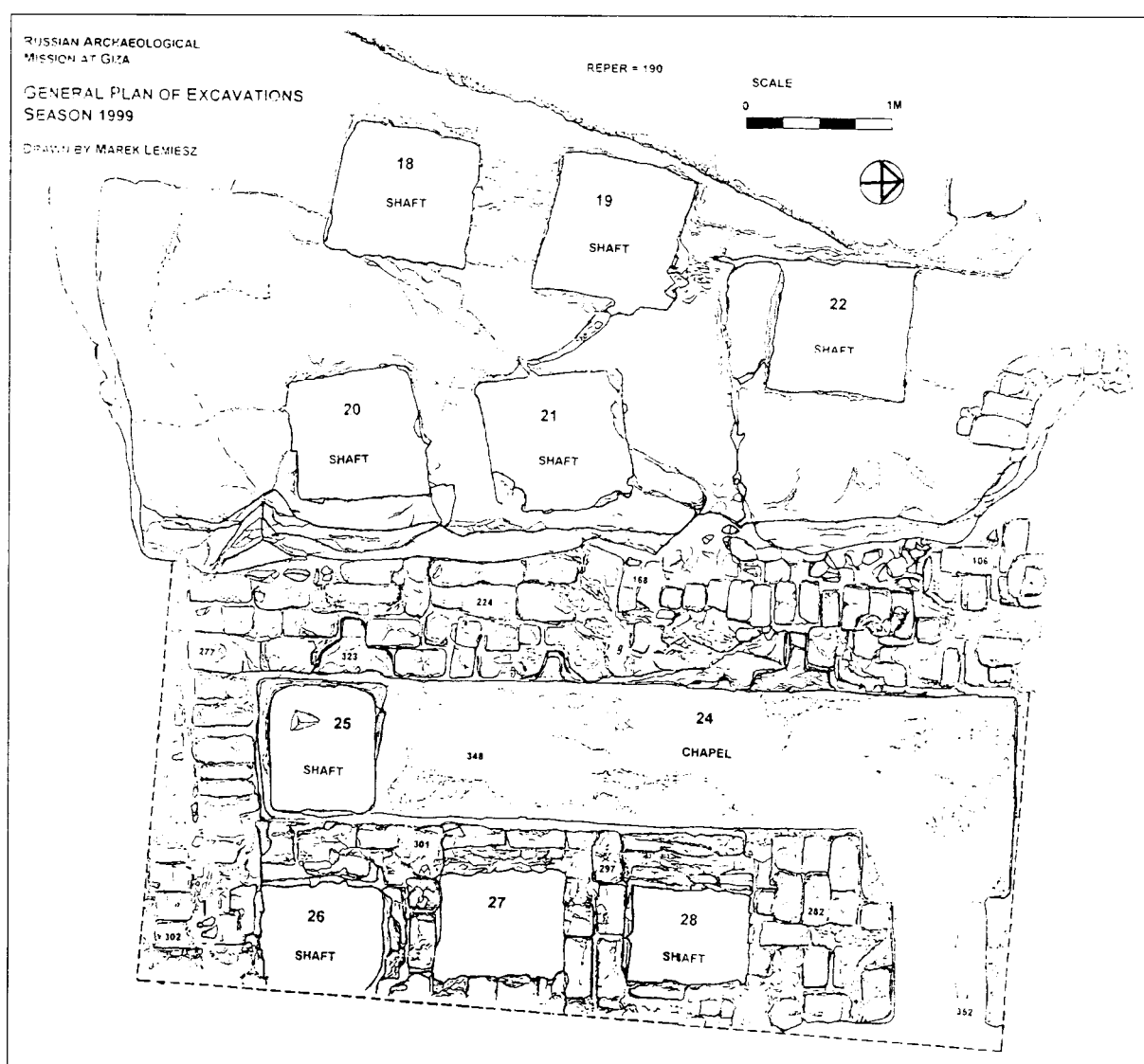


Fig. 1- General plan of excavations season 1999

On the northern area there were discovered 6 new shafts (see section 17- 22 Fig. 1) cut in the rock structure. One of them (17) was situated just near the shaft (16), which was found in the previous season. Two shafts (16, 17) were cleaned. In the shaft 16 there were found fragments of skulls, bones and jaws as well as fragments of mummy. The burial place is very narrow and presents a small niche for the body.

Other shafts (18 - 22) were found during the cleaning of the area to the north of these two shafts (Pl. I, a).

Measurements:

Shaft 16:

Depth 1.83m

Mouth: 0.64 x 0.67 0.70 x 0.75m

Shaft 17:

Depth: 3.50m

Mouth: 0.67 x 0.65 x 0.68 x 0.70m

Shaft 18:

Mouth 0.92 x 0.91 x 1.01 x 0.99m

Shaft 19:

Mouth 1.03 x 0.95 x 0.96 x 1.02m

Shaft 20:

Mouth 0.93 x 0.90 x 0.92 x 0.87m

Shaft 21:

Mouth 1.02 x 0.92 x 0.79 x 0.83m

Shaft 22:

Mouth 0.98 x 0.95 x 0.99 x 0.98m

The part of a mud-brick structure adjoined to the shafts cut in the rock was cleaned (Pl. I, b), which formed an irregular form mouth of the shaft 23. Size unknown-cleaned only southern part of mouth.

On the eastern side on the rock structure which contains 5 shafts (18-22) a mud-brick structure was cleaned.

The structure (24) represents a mud-brick chapel of L-shape form with the entrance from the extreme eastern wall adjoined to the northern wall. Its size 6 x 3 m. The size of the entrance: Height 1.30m; Width 0.62m; Depth 0.83m.

The trace of the hole for the fixation of the pivot was discovered near the northern part of the entrance. It permits to suppose a one wing door.

The western part of the chapel represents composition of the false-doors similar to that of *Khafreankh*. It was plastered and colored with two layers of white color and light pink. The upper part of the mud-brick false door was destroyed. The destruction increases from north to south.

The floor of the chapel was plastered. At the extreme southern part of the chapel the shaft (25), cut in the rock, was found (Fig.1).

The eastern wall of the chapel which presents the extreme eastern limit of the cleaned area is of 6m Length, 0.88m Width max. and preserved Height max. 2.18m. Three shafts (26 - 28) lying on this structure were found. (Pl. II).

#### Measurements:

Shaft 25:

Mouth: 0.97 x 0.90 x 0.79 x 0.90m

Shaft 26:

Mouth: 0.83 x 0.89 x 0.84 x 0.99m

Shaft 27:

Mouth: 0.89 x 0.79 x 0.89 x 0.74m

Shaft 28:

Mouth: 0.98 x 0.71 x 0.84 x 0.69m

An idea of its dating from First Intermediate Period-Middle Kingdom. Preliminary analysis of the mud brick also gives a possibility of that dating.

#### Finds

During the cleaning of shaft 17 one fragment of *oushebtii* was found. Made from faience, green color, broken. Measurements: Height 4cm; Width 1.5cm; Thickness 1.1cm. It represents a figure of a bearded mummified man with a long wig, tools in the hands, pillar on its back. A head is separated by two horizontal lines, uninscribed, without context.

During the cleaning a flint fragment of arrow head was also found. Its Measurements: Height 2cm; Width 0.05cm; Thickness 0.02cm; Color: light green, broken. It represents stone fragment, polished, with sharp surfaces.

Many fragments of bones and skulls were found. Approximately 3 human beings might be buried there. In the funerary chamber at the bottom a big fragment of mummy covered by lines was found. Its orientation north-south. Measurements: Length 55cm; Width 34cm; Thickness 3.5cm. Color: dark brown.

Several objects came from the cleaning debris at the top of the tomb. One of them is a fragment of *oushebt*. Measurements: Height 5.5cm; Width 3cm; Thickness 2.2cm. Color: green. Head of the figure is broken, only head with incised decor, part of a long wig, tools in the hands. Network ornament at the back right side, left side ornament is erased. Back pillar, separated from the head by horizontal line, uninscribed.

Fragment of seating man figure from basalt was found also during the cleaning of the top area from the tomb. The fragment represents a torso of a seating man with the trace of wig at back.

Fragment of a small chisel from flint was found near the entrance to the mud brick chapel. Its size: Length 6cm; Width 1.2cm; color: light brown.

### **Pottery**

Studying and drawings of pottery found at 1998 was continued and accomplished. In 1999 every fragments of pottery were counted according types and afterwards segregated into diagnostic pieces, that means parts of rims, parts of bottoms, handles, decorated pieces. The important fragments were drawn (totally 118 drawings).

Inside the tomb 177 diagnostic pieces were found: 37 in the shaft 3; 50 in the funerary chamber of *Khafreankh* (11); 14 in the shaft 4; 5 in the shaft 5; 8 in the entrance (6); 63 in the tomb "G 7948-1" (7 and 8).

The most important pottery was found in the funerary chamber of *Khafreankh* (11). So-called "Meydum" bowl with high mouth and rounded shoulder (Fig. 2, a - b).

The bowl was made of fine local alluvial silt including only very small grains of sand. Corresponds with other pots of this type from the end of dyn. IV<sup>th</sup> (time of Mycerinos) (Fig. 3)

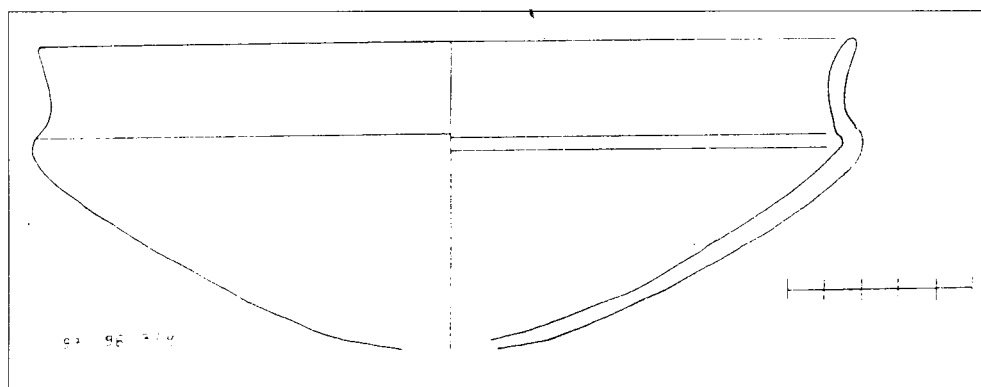


Fig. 2, a

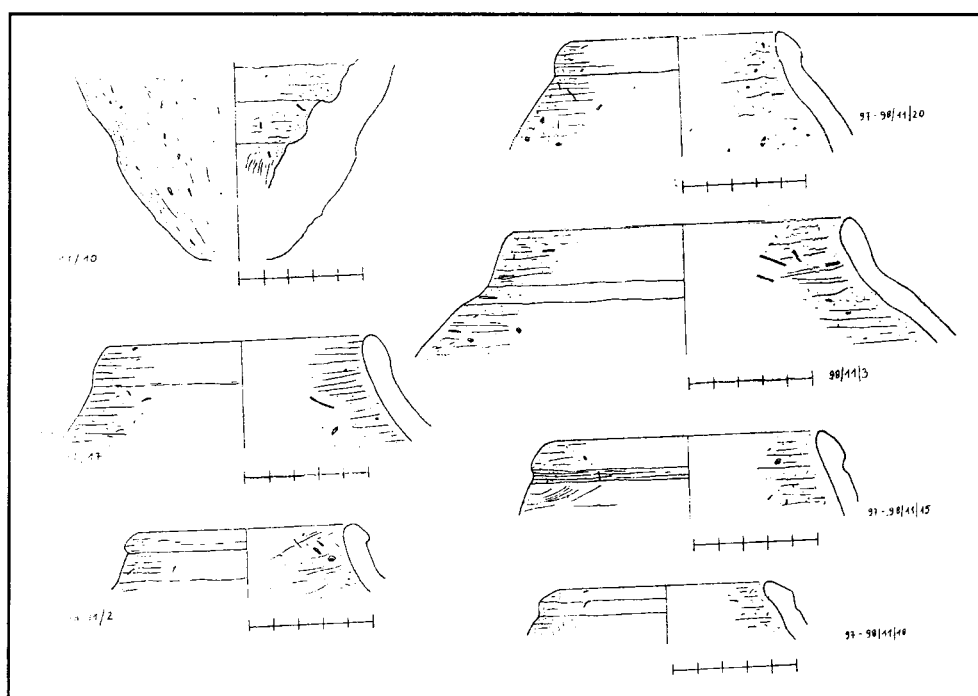


Fig.2, b



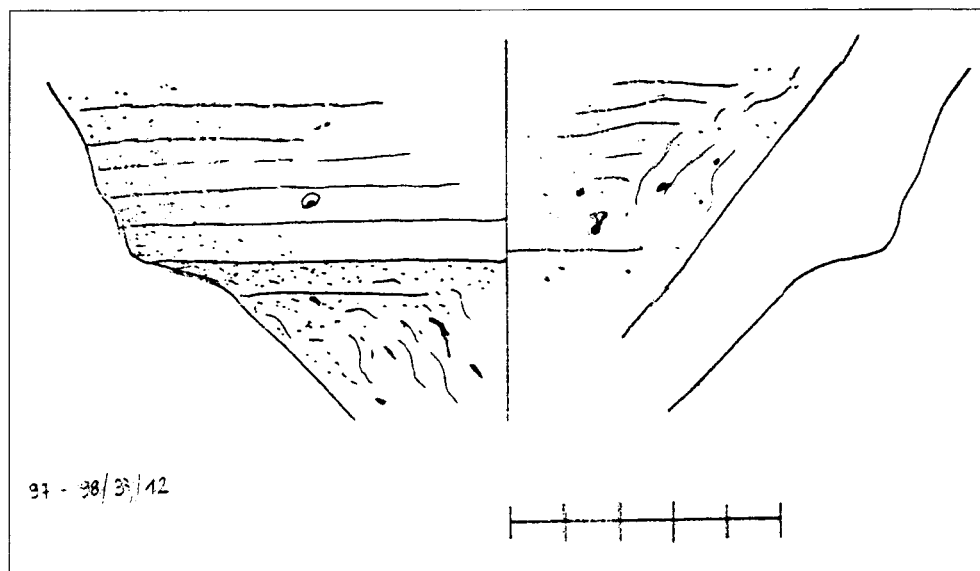


Fig. 3

In the shaft of *Khafreankh* other fragments were found. Only one example of this assemblage comes from dyn. V<sup>th</sup>.

Fragments of beer jars and one bread mould, found in the plaster between stones covering the *Khafreankh* burial, are coming most probably also from dyn. IV<sup>th</sup>. Vertical handled jar ( high 38.3cm) dated back to the end of dyn. IV<sup>th</sup> -V<sup>th</sup>. The surface was decorated in the so-called comb pattern (Fig. 4). The ancient potter had drawn in the still wet clay on the shoulder of the jar, a small square- like potmark. Similar jars seemed to be very popular on this area, quite numerous amount of them were found by Junker and Reisner.

Two big fragments of amphorae, two bottles, and small red polished jug from shaft 3 and 4, dated to I and II millennium A.D., belong perhaps to the second later burial found just above the layer of stones covering the burial of *Khafreankh*.

The ceramic from shafts 5, tomb (G 7948/2 -8) and the entrance (6) seem to be mixed without real archaeological context. Fragments of pots are dated to the Old Kingdom, New Kingdom, Third Intermediate Period and Roman Time as well.

A part of a big marl clay amphora with two vertical handles were found in the shaft of *Khafreankh* and *Herenka* as well. The so-called "transport amphora" belongs to the foreign Levantine pottery group.

During the work in the present season mud brick structure were found, outside of the tomb. Among bricks there were sherds of beer jars and ledge bowls typical for dyn. IV<sup>th</sup>.

Numerous fragments of pottery from two shafts (16 and 17) next to the entrance of the tomb are mixed. Approximate date of the most sherds is Old Kingdom, two sherds from New Kingdom and several sherds from Roman Period. Most probably they came from the cleaning of the area being found on the top of plateau above *Khafreankh* tomb.

Northern wall of the mud brick chapel was not completely cleaned. It seems also to have a continuation which probably may be a part of a new structure.

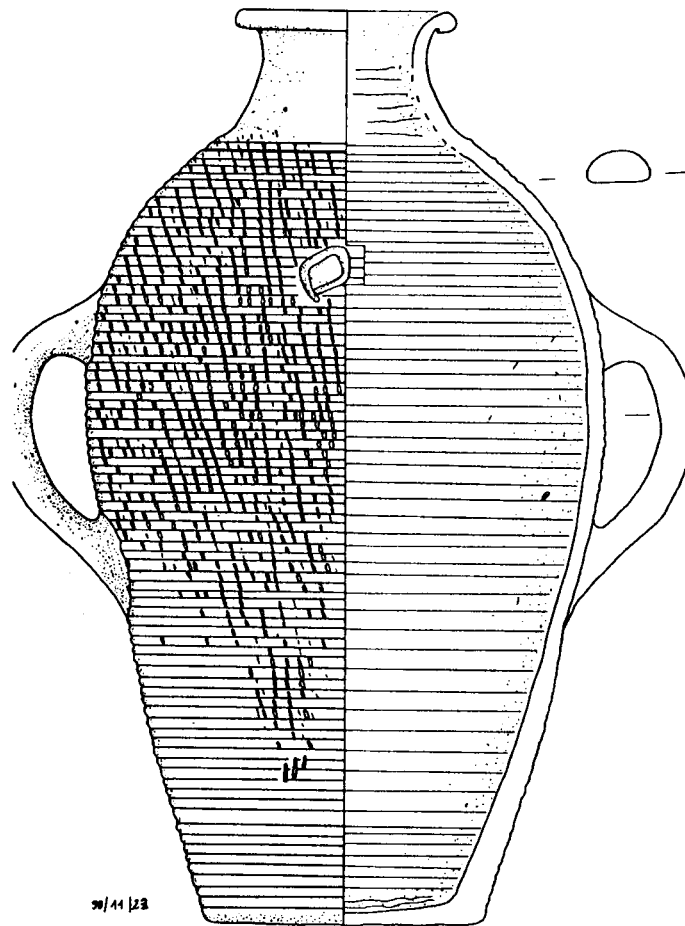


Fig. 4



a.



b.

PL. II

