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THE EXCAVATIONS AT MALKATA-SOUTH

1972 — 1980

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#### Foreword

More than ten years have passed since Waseda University started its excavations at Malkata-South in Luxor, Egypt in 1972. Since then we have continued our annual research there, not only in the field of archaeology but also from the point of view of anthropology, architecture and geography as well.

In the January of 1974, we discovered a mud-brick building with a colored staircase which was built by Amenophis III in the Hill of Fish. And in the December of 1976, we could build our permanent institution "Waseda House" near the Valley of Kings on the West Bank of Luxor.

However, we had to face the two deaths of our members, in the December of 1978, the first director of our team, Prof. Kiichi Kawamura and in the January of 1980, the chief of the anthropological team, Dr. Tamotsu Ogata, had passed away.

Overcoming these sad events, we have continued the survey and cleaning of the noble tombs on the West Bank of Luxor and also the excavations at the site of al-Fustat in the south of Cairo.

As the first Japanese team to make excavations in Egypt, we had to face some difficulties. However, with the help and good advice of the Egyptian Antiquities Organization (E. A. O.), Egyptologists of various countries, the Japanese government and also with the understandings of our university, we could overcome the problems and get the satisfactory results as would be reported in the followings pages. Our research project is to continue in the future, and we hope to keep publishing our results.

Our excavations have received the greatest kindness and assistance from E. A. O., especially from Dr. Gamal Mokhtar, the former chairman and Dr. Ahmad Kadry, the chairman of the E. A. O. and also from the chief inspectors of upper Egypt and the west bank of Luxor.

We appreciate very much to and also from the those courtesies which they have shown us.

September, 1985

Kiyohiko Sakurai  
Professor of Waseda University

## The First Season

The Waseda University Expedition Party at Malkata is the first Japanese mission for an archaeological survey in the Nile Valley. Our field work was started on the 4th of January 1972 and was finished on the 28th of February. During this period we dug up 32 squares ( $5 \times 5$ m), and 2 trenches ( $1.5 \times 20$ m) and surveyed the north-western parts of our field. The excavation was practiced by about 40 workers and 7 Quftis.

### I. The location of the site

The Malkata site is situated in the southernmost part of Qurna and is at a distance of 3.5km from the Mortuaty Temple of Ramesses III at Medinet Habu. The district is known by the name of Deir Shalwit. Characteristic feature of Malkata is that it has a vast area of the lower desert, the distance between the cliff of the Libyan desert and beginning of the arable land is approximately 2.2km.

At the edge of the lower desert, there is an Isis Temple (PL. 1) belonging to the Roman Period, of which only the sancturay and plopylon remain. The Isis Temple was surveyed by K. R. Lepsius (1810-84) in 1840 (Denkmäler aus Aegypten und Aethiopien, iv 80, 87; Text iii s. 191-3, Berlin,1849).

A grid covering the entire site was determined before the excavation (Fig. 1). The cardinal point was determined at L on the plan; a datum line was determined in the magnetic north-south direction and another in the east-west, crossing one another at the cardinal point. Thus the datum lines divide the whole site into four areas, of which the north-east quarter is to be called the area A, the north-west quarter B, the south-west C, and the south-east D. Both datum lines were divided into the intervals of 25m starting at the cardnal point (A,B,C and so on along the north-south line, and 1,2,3 and so on along the east-west). This set out a grid pattern over the site, giving a square of  $25 \times 25$ m. Each square was then divided into 25 small squares with the sides of 5m, which were numbered 1, 2, 3...25. The 5 meters squares thus given is to be called, for instance, A2A-20, C1B-13, D4C-15 and the like. Each square forms a unit of excavation area. We have also numbered the excavated squares in the order of excavation. Therefore S-1, for instance, indicates that it is the first square excavated. The cardinal point is 78.560m above sea level.

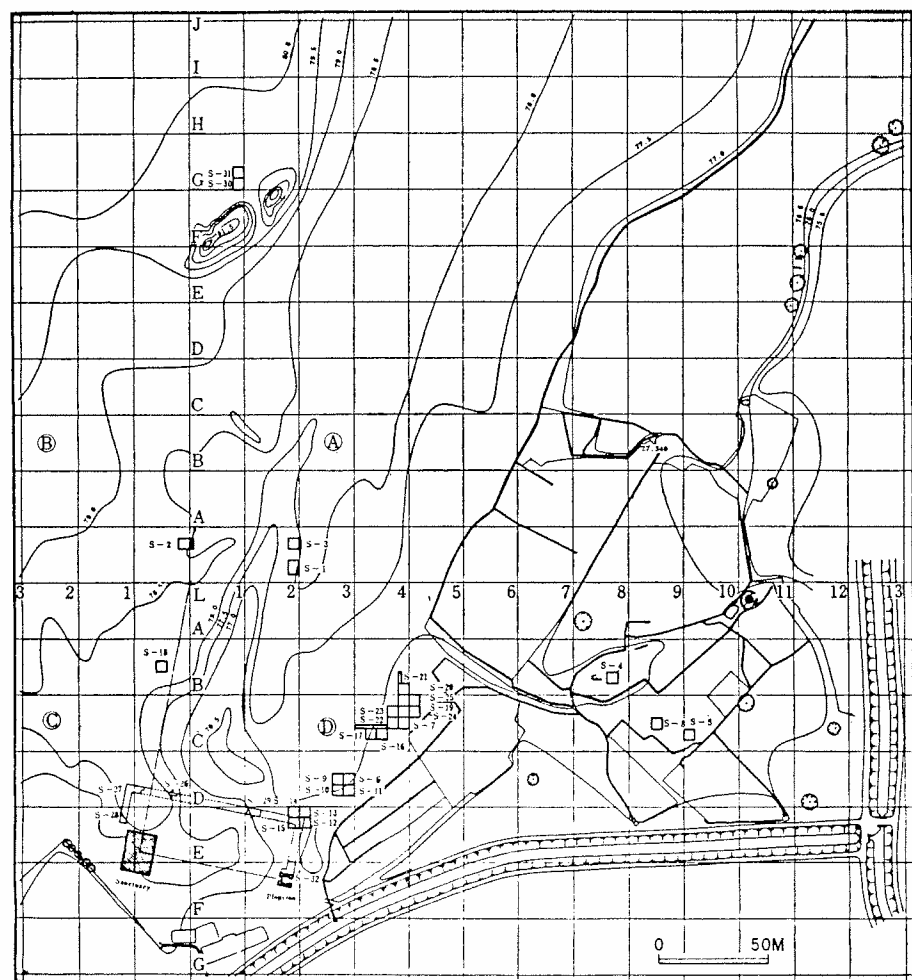


Fig. 1 Grid map of Malkata site and excavated area.

## II. Excavations of the Cemetery

In the S-1 (A2A-20) was found a rectangular grave built of mud bricks. Its bottom was 65cm from the surface; only three courses of the bricks which formed the lowest part of the wall, remained, the rest having collapsed inside the grave. The grave measured 2.0×2.3m, and was divided into two parts by the centerline of a row of bricks. Each brick measured approximately 30cm by 15cm by 8cm. The inside of the brick-wall was faced with mud-plaster. Although the grave had been robbed in the past, we found three beads, a tube, a small-ball with a hole and a fragment of an ushabti. Near the grave was a pit, which measured 68cm in diameter and 60cm in depth, with its inside mud-plastered. We found in the pit fragments of four bracelets, half of a large faience scarab, three coarse ushabtis, four stone weights, two small-balls with a hole, tubes, a number of beads and a small bowl. One of the ushabtis was of a medium size, its upper and lower parts lost. On this were recognized some hieroglyphs which read -ir, originally this must have been wsir. This pit must have been a construction related to the burial; both the grave and the pit belong to the Roman period.

The northern neighbourhood of the Isis Temple is the site of a Roman cemetery. In the S-18

(C1B-13), we found a human skeleton buried without a coffin, which was labelled as Sk-1. About 15cm below the present ground surface, there was the Roman ground surface. From that a pit-grave had been dug up. Its shape was oval, and was 205cm in long diameter and 80cm in depth. It retained almost entire human skeleton. Its face and body were in a supine posture with legs stretched. The skull oriented north-westward, and a stone was placed at each side of the skull. A large pot with two handles and without the bottom was put on the face. Parts of the bones were blackish by fire. According to Prof. Tamotsu Ogata, Department of Anatomy, School of Medicine, Niigata University, this is a skeleton of a female between forty and sixty years of age.

In the S-30 (A1H-25) which is situated about 300m to the north from the Temple, we found two anthropomorphous coffins of burned clay. They were found 15 or 20cm below the surface, and had oriented to N47°E. C-1 was intact, although C-2 had been damaged. C-1 measured 176cm in length, 46cm in mid-width and 35cm in height with the lid (PL. 5). The lid consisted of two parts; the face was three-dimensional like a mask of the Japanese *Noh*. It was originally painted, its red-paint still observed fragmentally. Large eyes and hawk nose are a characteristic feature. The breasts and the naval were represented realistically. A decoration surrounding the head of the lid ends about the shoulder with a representation of a human hand. The feet were arranged closely together like the mummy case and the toes were carved by the incised lines. Traces of horizontal, vertical and diagonal lines were recognized on the lid. They represent conventionally the strings bound round the mummy on which the long linen rolled like the bandage. In the coffin no other remains were found beside a skeleton which was not in good conditions. Its face was slightly turned to southeast, the body was in the supine posture and legs stretched closely together, but the elbows were bent and the both arms crossed on the breast in conformity to the ancient Egyptian custom. According to Prof. Ogata, the skeleton is that of a female between twenty and forty years of age. The grave is considered to belong to the Roman period judging from the feature of the coffin.

## III. Roman Houses

In S-7 (D4C-15), S-16 (D4C-18), S-17 (D4C-17), S-19 (D4C-10), S-20 (D4C-5), S-22 (D4C-14), S-23 (D4C-9), S-24 (D5C-6), S-25 (D5C-1), the site of Roman houses was found. It consisted of several rectangular rooms surrounded by the mud-brick walls. Their floors were about 60cm below the surface. But in the S-7 and the West and North Trenches, we had struck carelessly the mud-brick walls and floors because the discrimination of the bricks which had once been covered by water and soils was very difficult. In the S-19, S-20, S-22, S-23, S-24 and S-25, we found seven rooms some of which were partial, and they were named R1-R7. But the states of the S-16 and S-17 were so disordered that we did not discern rows of bricks. The size of the rooms were about 3.0-3.5m by 3.5-3.7m and had storepits about 50cm in diameter. Each room was surrounded with bricks arranged in two or three rows horizontally, and also in one or two courses. Some of the upper

parts of the wall bricks fell on the floors. The size of the brick was 30cm by 15cm by 8cm approximately. The hearth was built out of doors. In the southwestern corner of the S-21, we found the hearth which was surrounded with mud-bricks. Its shape was rectangular and measured 170cm by 115cm. In the hearth, there was a heap of ashes, and burned earth, and a bowl with a pouring lip and a flat base. Centering around the R-1, many objects were found. They were potteries, bronze objects, amulets, beads, Roman lamps, stone mortar, and so on.

In the S-16, there was a pit from which were unearthed a bronze female figurine, an ushabti, and a large Roman lamp. The diameter of the pit was 70cm and the depth 71cm. Near the pit we found a bronze candle-stick (PL.11), potteries. In S-17, we found two skeletons of oxen. It is unknown whether these had been buried there or not, and whether these belong to the Roman period or later times.

#### «Potteries and Clay Objects»

The potteries were amphoras, jars, pots, bowls and dishes (Fig.2). In the R-1, many amphoras were found upside down in a row. The amphoras have two handles at the neck, and almost all of them have a pointed bottom. Their average height is 50-60cm (Fig.2-1). Fig.2-3 from the R-1 is a pot with two handles, and both below the handles and on the body are respectively two black horizontal lines. It has a rim turning outward and a flat base. The diameter of the rim is 10.3cm, the height 14.1cm, the largest diameter of the body 14.0cm, and the diameter of the base 6.3cm. Inside the row of bricks in the R-5, two large jars with handles were half buried into the floor. One of them is a jar with two handles and the diameter of the diameter of the rim is 21.3cm, the height 47.0cm, the largest diameter of the body 33.3cm, and the diameter of the base 14.2cm. Fig.2-4 is the small basket-handled pot with the disk base. It was found outside of the R-2(S-25). Its height is 8.5cm and the diameter of the base is 2.9cm.

As for the clay objects, we found seven discs from the R-2, they are about 20cm in diameter, and 5cm thick. In the S-16, we found a coarse ushabti.

#### «Bronze Objects»

In the S-16, we found a candle-stick (PL.11). Although it had formed green rust, it is an excellent article. Its height is 13.1cm, the diameter of the rim is 4.2cm, and that of the base is 4.5cm. A female figurine from a pit of the S-16 had been so heavily green-rusted, that her face and other features are obscure, but a Roman style is recognized as a whole. Among other bronze objects, we found an arrow-head and fifteen coins. But the coins had been green-rusted, too.

#### «Others»

We found seven amulets of faience and of stone, representing Horus, Bes, Isis(?), etc. Moreover, we found beads, we found beads, fragments of glass and iron objects.

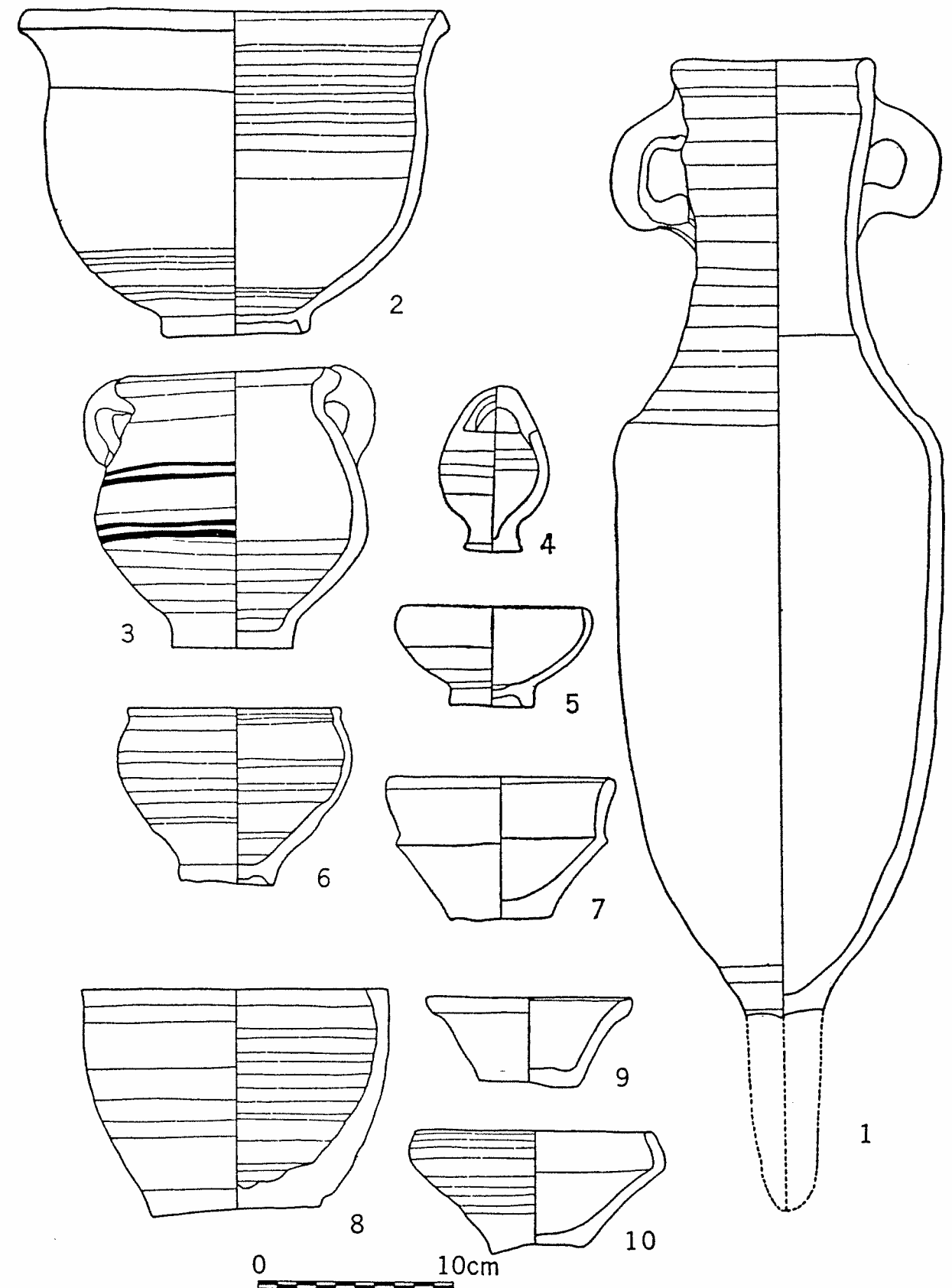


Fig. 2 Some examples of the potteries from the Roman house.

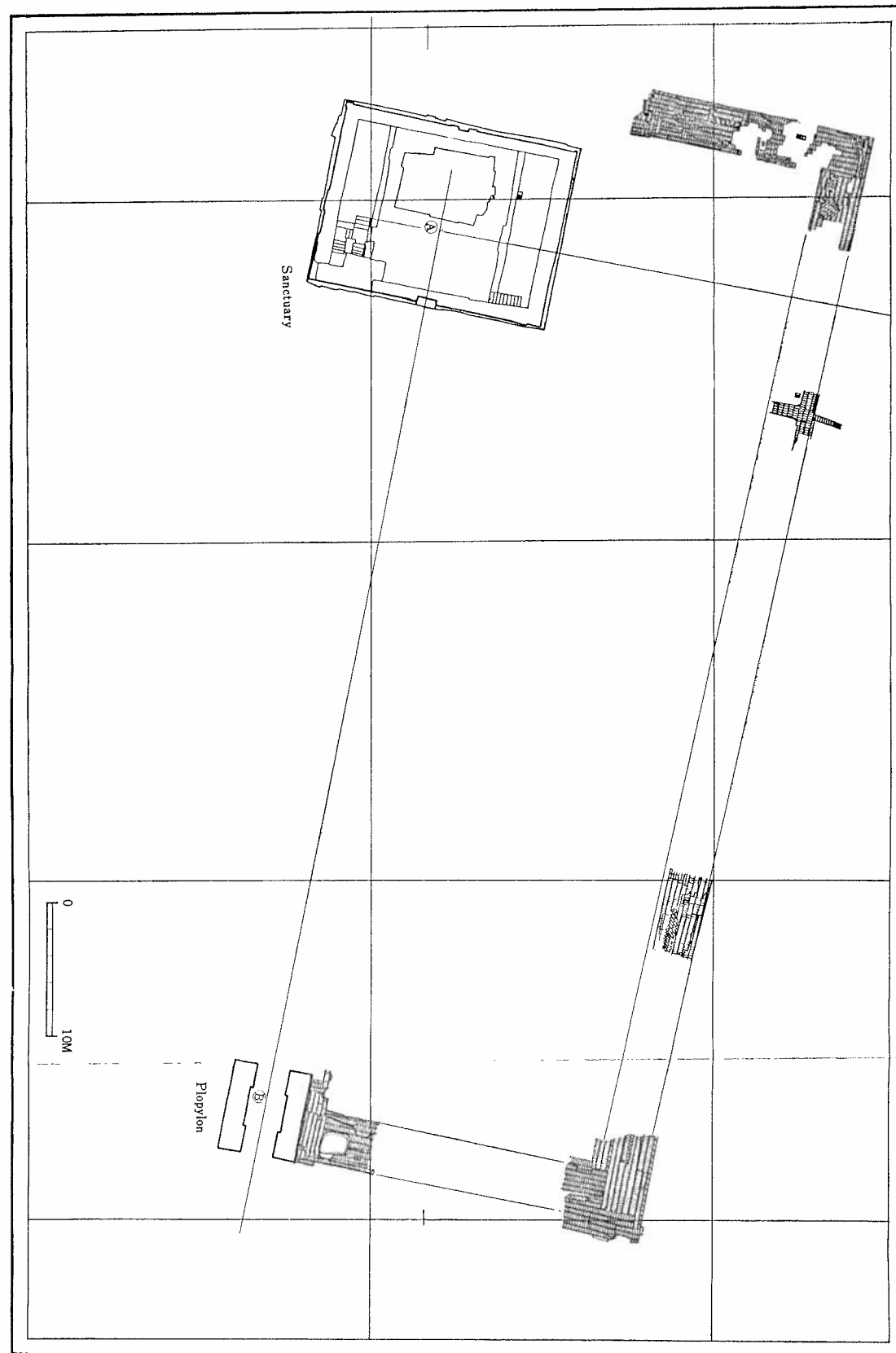


Fig. 3 The Temple area

#### IV. The Survey of the Temple Area

We cleaned the mud-bricks enclosure wall of the Isis Temple to make clear the boundary of the Temple Area, and dug up outside of the northern enclosure-wall to make clear the level on which the enclosure-wall stands. In the S-12, S-13, S-14, S-15, the northeastern corner was cleared, in the S-26 and S-29 part of the north wall, in the S-27 the northwestern corner, in the S-28 part of the west wall and in the S-32 the east wall adjacent to the plopylon (Fig. 3)

After these, we got the following results. The Temple had been built on the tongue-shaped plateau on 77-78m above the sea level, and was situated at the side of the water when the Nile flooded. The Temple faces to the east, and the axis which ties the center of the plopylon and that of the sanctuary is 10 degrees to the south off the magnetic east-west line. The enclosure-walls consist of the east wall about 4m thick, which starts at the plopylon, the north wall about 3m thick, which is 29m away from the axis, and the west wall 3.5m thick, a few meters away from the sanctuary. The difference in thickness of the enclosure-walls means the difference in their height: the west wall (the back wall) must had been lower than the east wall (the front wall) and the north wall (the side wall) even lower than the west wall. The length of the north wall is 82m from east to west, but the measurement of the west wall is still to be done because we have not yet cleaned the southern part of it. The south wall had been already destroyed by the constructions of the canal and private houses. The size of the mud-brick was about 30cm by 15cm by 8cm. It should be noted that in the construction of the wall the bricks had been arranged diagonally in the central part of it. In the S-13 and S-14, the bricks of the north wall were arranged in five or six courses below the Roman surface. Along the outside of the north wall a U-shaped moat 95cm in width and 78cm in depth had been constructed. Within this moat we found the skeleton of an ox. It is very difficult to decide whether it was buried or brought into the moat by water.

Among the foundation stones of the sanctuary we found the stones with reliefs and incised hieroglyphs. These are considered to have belonged to the former Isis Temple on the same site and have been reused for the present construction.

#### V. Discoveries of the Palette and a Hair-pin

Near the southwestern corner of the S-7, 85cm below the surface, we found an oval palette made of schist (PL. 7). A part of it had been chipped slightly. Its major axis is 12.5cm, the minor axis is estimated to have been 11.0cm and the thickest part is 1.5cm. There is an incised line along the rim to compose a belt 0.8-1.0cm wide, and there are incised continuous X-patterns in the belt. The center of the surface is slightly concavely from too much use. Near the palette and on the same level, a hair-pin made of ivory was discovered. It is 7.0cm in length, circle in its section, the diameter of which is 0.8cm at the end, and tapers gradually to form a pointed

end. The palette and hair-pin are considered to belong to the pre-dynastic period judging from the features of the palette at the Luxor district, and is a proof of the existence of the predynastic cemeteries or dwelling-sites in the near locality.

#### VI. Discoveries of the Upper Palaeolithic Strata

After the stratigraphically discoveries in S-7 of the Roman house and predynastic remains, we dug up still more. We did not find anything except the thick deposits of the muds by annual inundations of the Nile. The nature of the soil suddenly changed in the depth of 230cm below the surface; namely, we reached the sand layer with small stones which was about 10cm in thickness. Just below the sand layer, we recognized gravel with smallest fine stones about 30cm in thickness. We found many stone implements in the gravel. Below this layer, there is very solid another gravel layer like concrete. We could not dig up deeply furthermore. According to Dr. Rusdhi Said, Prof. of the Section of Geology, Cairo University, the gravel containing the stone implements together with the upper mud layer is named Sahaba silt, and dated between ten and twenty thousands years ago. The gravel stratum also was found in the West Trench (D4C), North Trench (D4C, D4B), S-20 and S-21 and many stone implements like those in the S-7 were discovered. Half of the stone implements consisted of the small blades, and the rest was the micro blades, middle blades, blades, backed blades, scrapers, a graver and pebble tools (Fig. 6). Most of the implements were made of flint. Surface of the stone implements were considerably patinous. Some bones were found in the gravel, they were semi-fossilized, and had traces of artificial scratches. These stone implements are considered to belong to the Upper Palaeolithic period judging from the types and techniques, the condition of the bones and the geological feature of the gravel.

#### VII. Collecting of the Flint Implements of the Mousterian Type

In the Northwestern part of Malkata district, we made the general survey on the lower terraces of the Libyan desert. At ten points (A-J) we found many flint implements. They consist of points, handaxes, bifaces, unifaces, scrapers, blade flakes, Levalloisian flakes, drills, cores and Levalloisian cores belonging to the Middle Palaeolithic period (Mousterian). (Fig. 7)

Malkata had been known only as the site of the Palace of Amenophis III and the Isis Temple. But the results of our survey and excavation prove that Malkata was the habitation area from the Palaeolithic times and that the prosperity of Thebes is traced back to the most ancient times.

(by Kiichi Kawamura)

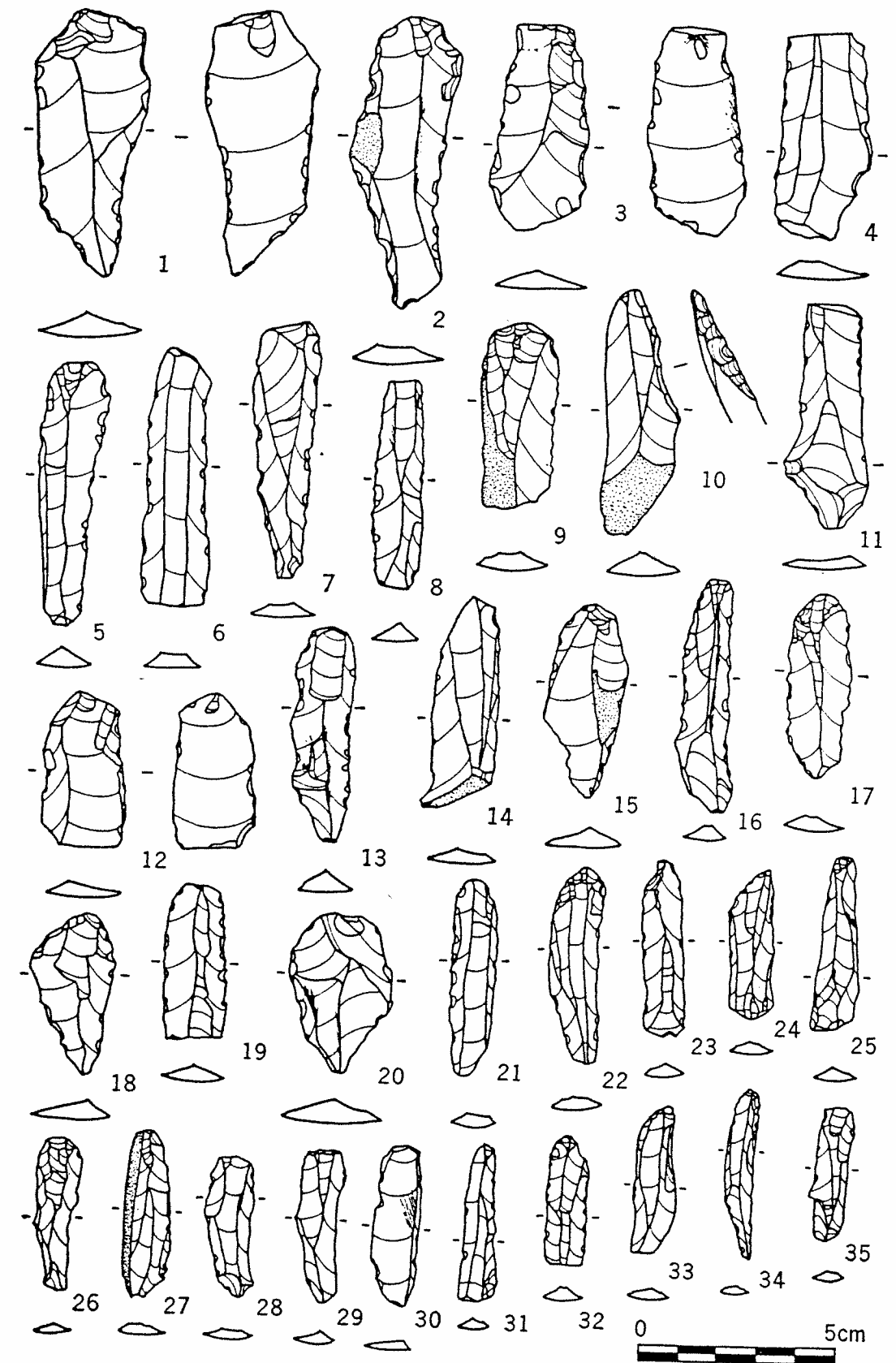


Fig. 4 Stone implements from the gravel of the S-7 (1)

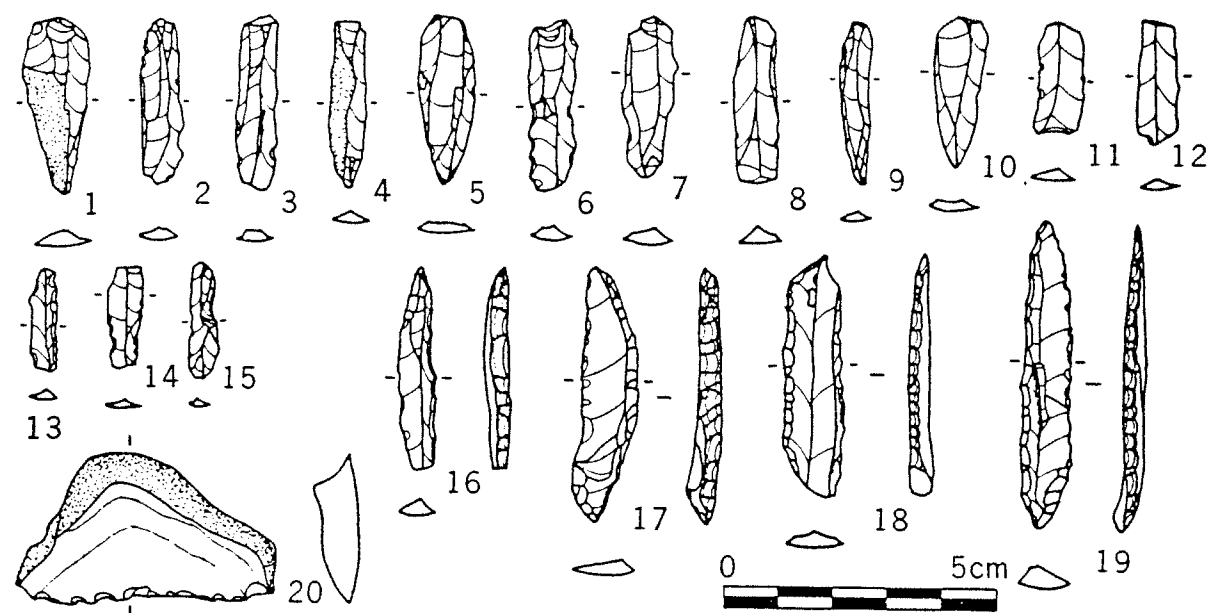


Fig. 5 Stone implements from the gravel of the S-7 (2)

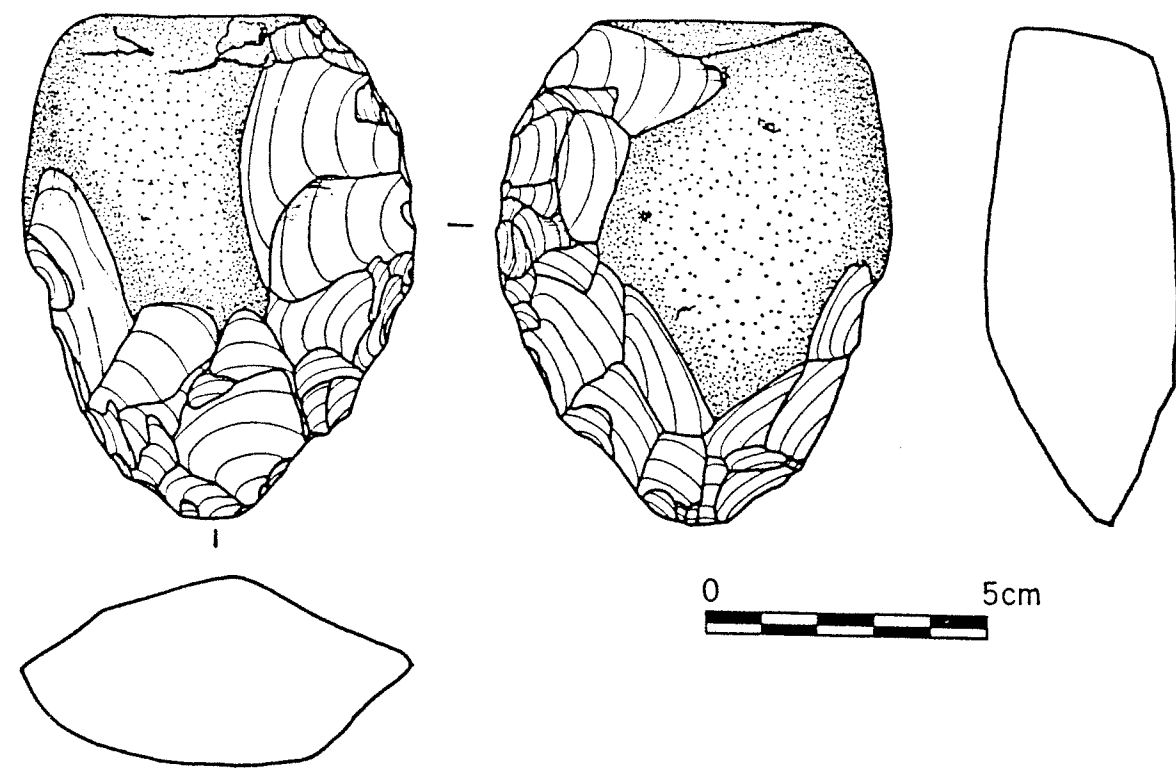


Fig. 6 Pebble tool from the S-21

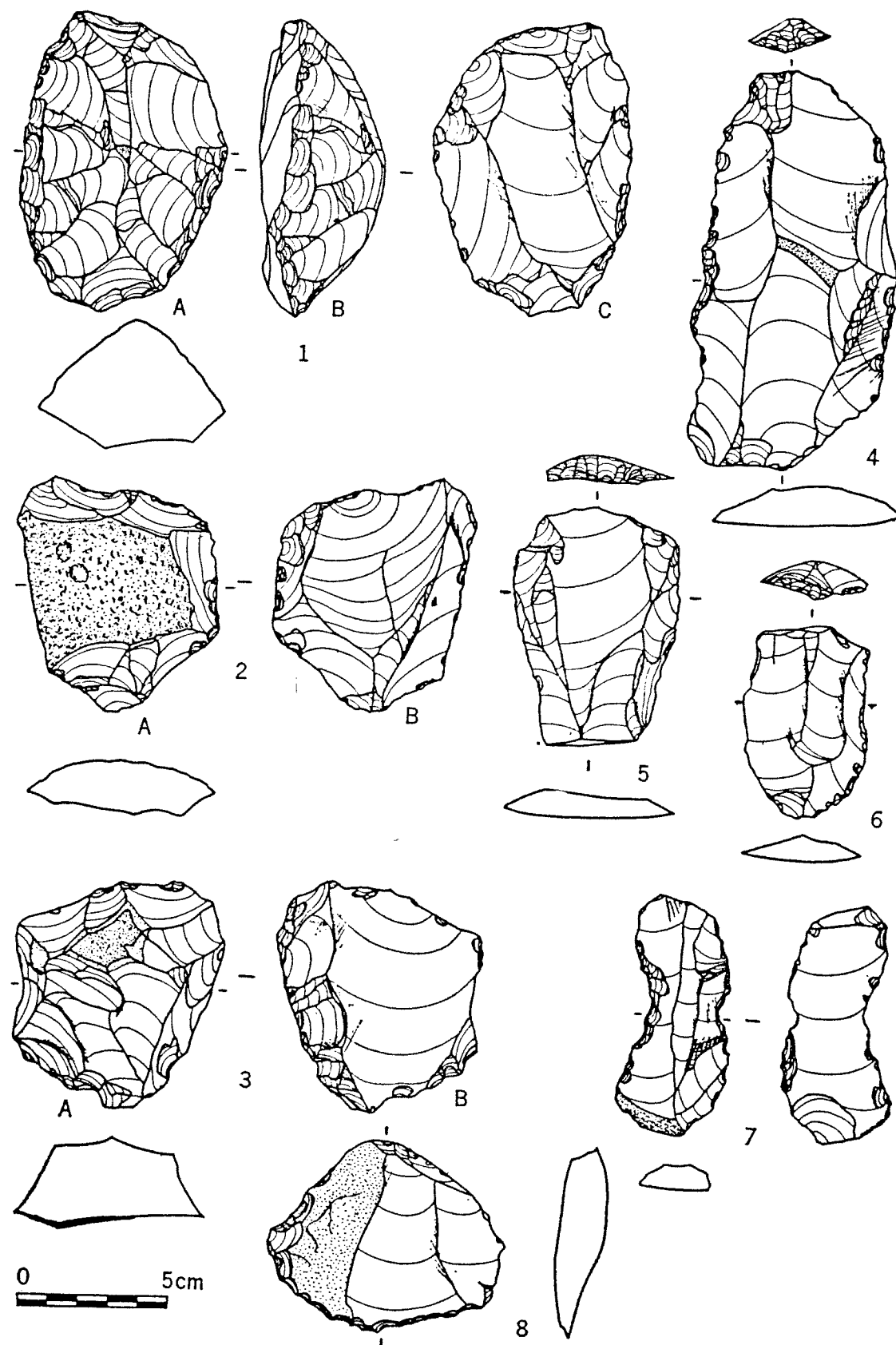


Fig. 7 Flint implements from the D-point



## The Second Season

Our field work began on the 18th of December, 1972 and finished on the 26th of January, 1973. During this season we excavated 90 squares (S-33 ~ S-122; a square is 5×5m ) which accounted for about 2,200m<sup>2</sup>. About 70 workers and 10 Quftis participated in the excavations.

### I . Excavations

During this season, we excavated three areas as follows:

1. Roman houses which were located north-east of the Temple and was the continual excavation of the last season, and we excavated S-33~S-86, S-108~S-122.
2. A Roman cemetery which was located on the north side of "Kom el Samak" and was the continual object of excavation during the last season.
3. A small wadi area which was located about 120m north of the Temple, and we excavated S-87 ~ S-93, S-95 ~ S-107.

### II . Roman Houses

Before the excavations, we had cleaned the floors of the rooms which had been excavated during the last season. As a result, we found in S-22 a new pit which measured 81-84cm in diameter and 76.0cm in depth, with its inside mud-plastered. We found in this pit 20 pieces of pottery consisting of amphoras, bowls, jars, pots, a basket-handled pot and a Roman lamp.

During this season, we first excavated S-33 ~ S-86 in the D4C, D4B, D4A, D3C, D3B, D3A districts on the northern part of the West trench which had been excavated during the last season, and then S-108 ~ S-122 in the D4C, D4D, D3C, D3D, D5C districts on the southern part of the West trench. These results proved that the Roman house, of which the floors and walls of the room we had already found during the last season, had been a large house made of mud-bricks and had extended to the north west direction. I believe that this large house had been rebuilt two times at least from the stratigraphical point of view. The house was composed of the several rectangular rooms about 3.0-3.4m by 3.0-4.0m. The size of each brick was about 30×15×8cm approximately. One of the houses measured about 30×25m, and its orientation was about 45 West to the North. Each room was surrounded by a brick-wall arranged in two or three rows horizontally, and also in one or two courses. So the walls had remained 45-60cm in thickness and 20-30cm in height, but in some places they had remained 30-60cm in height. In some of the rooms, we discovered pits of circular and rectangular shapes. In S-38, there was in a small room large unbaked pot made of mud-plaster fixed to the floor about 115cm in maximum diameter of the body and 77cm in height. Moreover, in the center of the room, there was a large oval pit which measured 230cm in diameter and 75.7cm in

depth. In this room, many objects were found. They were pottery, the upper part of a stone statuette of the bull-god, many beads made of glass, faience and stone, nine coins, bronze and iron hooks, a bronze ring, a stone disk, fragments of glass and ostrakon. The statuette of the bull-god was found inside of the large pit. In other rooms, we found potteries, spindle-whorls, Roman lamps, a fragment of a terracotta figurine, bronze objects such as cymbals and hairpin, fragments of glass, small pendants, many coins, beads, ostraca and so on.

Around this large house, we discovered some remains made of mud-bricks and many pits which were about 100cm in diameter on the average with their inside mud-plastered. But their character was not clear because they were fragmentary. In S-56 (D4B-14), S-61 (D4B-9), there were piled up large quantities of ash and potsherds. In these we found a small stone pot and bowl.

Around this large house, we found fifteen skeletons of oxen. During the last season, we had found two specimens, but it was unknown whether these had been buried there or not, and whether they belonged to the Roman period or not. During this season, these questions were answered. These oxen had been purposely buried in shallow pits artificially dug up in a rectangular or oval shape 1.5-2.0m in length (diameter) and 20-50cm in depth. Moreover, the skeletons were placed with their heads turned and legs flexed. And in some of them, deep-bowl or large Roman potsherds or mud-bricks were placed firmly on their heads. So I think that these skeletons of the oxen were clearly buried during the Roman period. But we did not find anything except the skeletons.

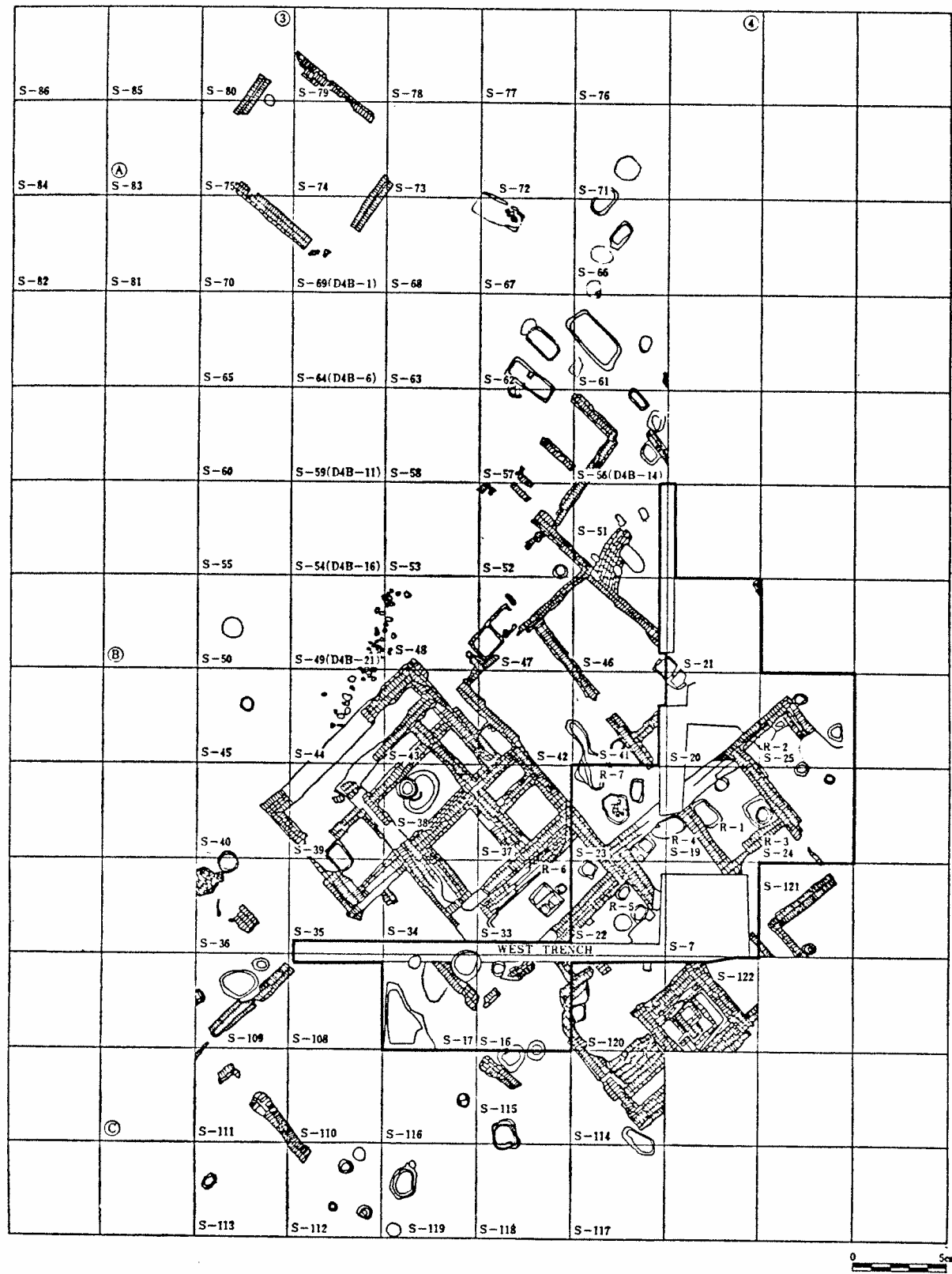


Fig. 8 Plan of the Roman houses.  
 (Inside the thick lines is an area which was excavated during the first season)

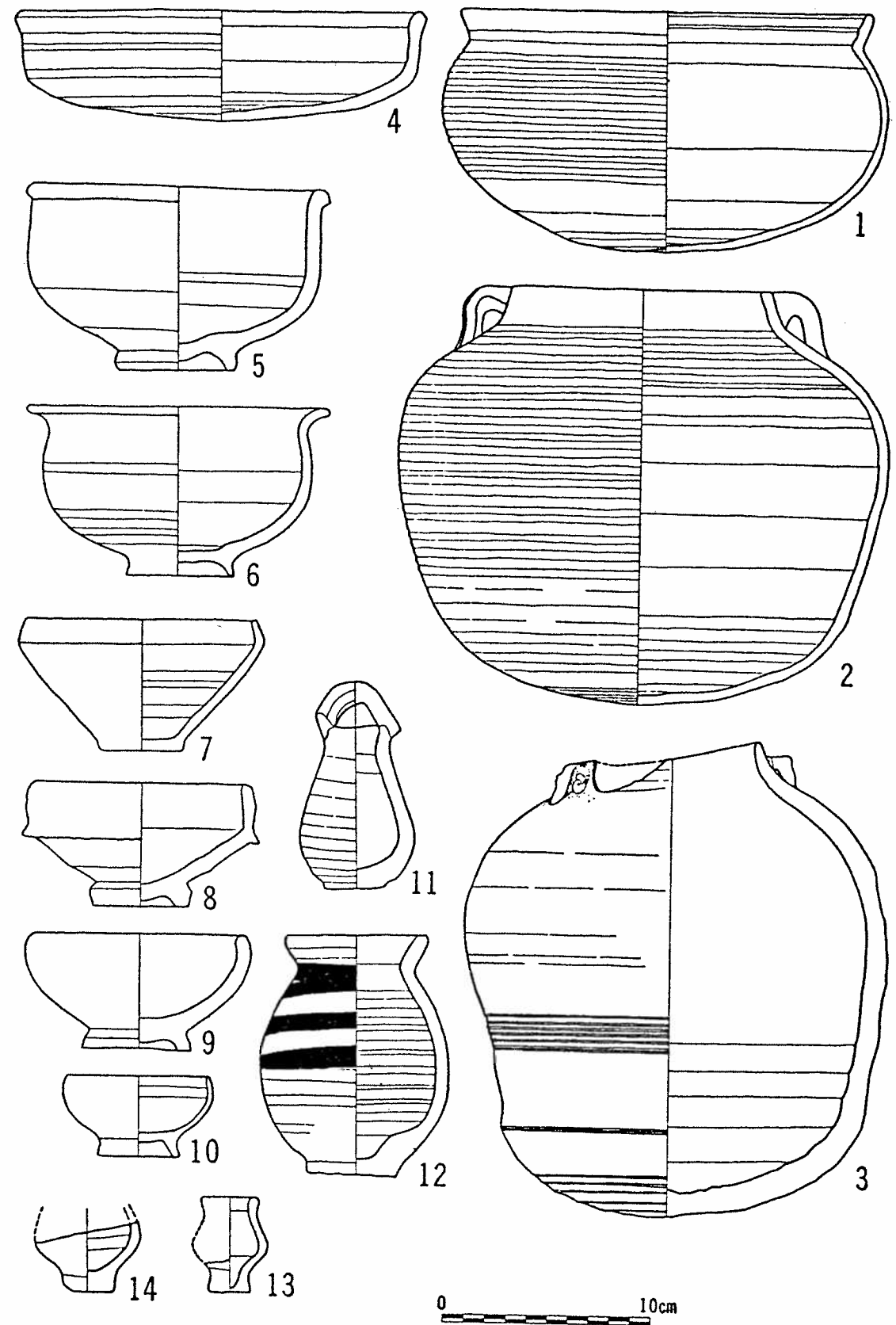


Fig. 9 Some examples of the potteries from the Roman houses.

⟨Potteries and Clay Objects⟩

The potteries were amphoras, jars, pots, bowls and dishes (Fig.9). As for the pots, many of them have two handles at the neck, and their average diameter of the body is 20-25 cm and average height about 20cm, and almost all have a round bottom. We found numerous small bowls, many of them having a base and a rim turning outward. Fig. 9-7 is a typical bowl, and its rim diameter is 11.0 cm, height 6.2 cm and diameter of the base 3.9cm. Fig. 9-11 is a basket-handled pot with a thin disk base. It was found inside the pit which had been found at S-22 as a result of a cleaning of the floor during this season. Its largest diameter of the body is 5.5 cm, the diameter of the base 2.9 cm and the height with the handle 9.9 cm. I think that this pot had been used as an incense-burner. A similar example had been discovered during the first season (Fig. 9-4). Fig. 9-12 is a painted small pot. On the body, there are three horizontal bands, their widths are 7-15 mm and colour dark purple. The diameter of the rim is 6.7 cm, the largest diameter of the body 9.0 cm, the diameter of the base 4.2 cm and the height 11.4 cm.

As for the clay objects, we found six Roman lamps, a part of ushabti, a lower part of the terracotta figurine and three spindle-whorls were found at S-52, and almost all of them were very brittlely.

We discovered eight ostraca at S-34, S-37, S-38, S-45, S-62, S-119, S-120 (two piece). They are shaped like a rectangle, triangle and trapezoid, and dimensions are about 3-8 cm on each side. There is script in demotics the contents of which are now being studied.

⟨Bull-god⟩

We discovered the upper part of a statuette of the bull-god in the pit of S-38 with an amphora (PL.12). Its remaining height is 13.9 cm and made of limestone. It was recognized that the head has a sun-disk between the horns and serpent uraeus is attached on the forehead.

⟨Stone vessel and stone objects⟩

As for the stone vessel, it was found in S-66 with many potsherds and a large quantity of ashes. Its diameter at the rim is 6.0 cm, diameter of the base 4.0 cm, height 1.5 cm and thickness 1.5-2.0 mm, and made of schist. Its shape resembles a Japanese *sake* cup. It may be that this had been used for rituals in the Isis Temple.

The spindle-whorl was found in S-122, its diameter at the upper side is 2.9 cm, diameter of the lower side 4.3 cm, average height 3.1 cm and made of limestone. The hole is bored straightly and has the same diameter.

In S-38, we found a stone-disk. Its shape is roughly circular and both sides are flat. Its diameter is 10.2 cm, height 1.7 cm and made of sandstone. In addition to the above, we found two fragments of a capital made of sandstone, and two fragments of slab of sandstone with graffiti. One of them may be a picture of a horse.

⟨Cymbals, coins and bronze objects⟩

Objects made of bronze are cymbals, coins, a hair-pin, a pendant, a ring and some fragments. Cymbals were found in S-116 fixed to each other because of green rust. The dimensions were 12.2 cm in diameter, 3.5 mm in thickness and the central knob measured 7.1 cm in diameter, 2.5 cm in height. On one side of the cymbals, a fragment of a ring was adhered to the top of the knob. But we did not find one on the other. I think that this fragment was for the ring to pass a finger through when the cymbals were played (PL.9).

A hair-pin was found in S-119. Its length is 8.3 cm and the end of it has been formed into a small loop about 9 mm in diameter.

As for the other bronze objects, we found a ring (S-38), a medal shaped pendant (S-113) and coins. We found forty-eight coins from various places in the houses, especially in S-120 and 121. They were green-rusted, but after cleaning, we could recognize some kinds of inscriptions, profiles and other pictures. Some of them were of Trajanus (A.D.98-117), Hadrianus (A.D.117-138) (PL.10) and Antinous.

⟨Beads and Amulet⟩

As for the beads, they were found in S-33, S-38, S-44, S-45, S-50, S-55, S-56, S-67, S-94, S-102, S-110, S-112, S-113, S-119, S-122, especially in S-38 where a number of beads were found, and glass, clay, faience as well as various types of stone like crystal, agate, green jadeite, limestone and white paste were employed in the production of beads. As regards shape, they consist of discs, cylinders, barrels, rings and small beads.

One of amulets is a tiny in the shape of a heart (hieroglyphic *ib*) and made of maroon coloured stone. Its material is not specified. This was found in S-45, and its height is 1.2 cm.

⟨Glass objects⟩

In addition to the many beads, we found fragments of small vessels and bracelets. Vessels were small bottles. Their colours were semi-transparent green, dark green and violet, and some of them had been silver-rusted. As for bracelets, we found eleven pieces, but all of them were fragmentary. Their presumptive diameters are about 8 cm, and their long-diameters of the section are 8.5 mm. They assume a black colour.

⟨Others⟩

In S-38, we found an iron ring with a diameter of 1.8 cm. Also we found a cowrie. In some squares, we found flint implements consisting of blade and some sort of scraper. They are apparently secondary accumulations.

As for the results of the above, I think that this large house was a structure which had a religious character and a relation to the Isis Temple near the house, and its date is 2nd Century judging from coins. And the buried-oxen were sacred bulls which had been reared carefully in the Temple.

### III. Cemetery

The northern neighbourhood of the Isis Temple is the site of a Roman cemetery. In the lower desert, 250 m north from the Temple, there is a large hill so called "Kom el Samak". During the last season, we had discovered two anthropomorphous coffins of burned clay (C-1 and C-2) at the northern side of the hill. During this season, we also found four anthropomorphous coffins 15 or 20 cm below the surface like the C-1 and C-2. They were labelled as C-3~C-6 in the order of the discoveries. All of them were oriented to about N47E the same as C-1 and C-2. But C-6 was almost damaged regrettably and plans were made to excavate C-5 on the next season.

#### <C-3> (PL.6)

It measured 175 cm in length, 40 cm in mid-width and 35 cm in average height with the lid. The lid consisted of three parts, the face three-dimensional like a mask of the Japanese *Noh*. Large eyes and hawk nose are a characteristic feature. It was painted, hair was brown and face yellow. A decoration surrounding the head of the lid ends about the shoulder with a representation of a human hand, and the tips of both hands represent the fingers and nails painted in red. The breasts were represented closely together like a mummy-case and the toes were carved by incised lines. Traces of diagonal lines were recognized on the lids. They represent conventionally the strings bound round the mummy on which rolled the long linen like a bandage. In the coffin, the sands piled up about 10 cm in height, and no other remains were found besides a skeleton which was in poor condition. The body was in the supine posture and legs stretched together. According to Prof. Tamotsu Ogata, Department of Anatomy, School of Medicine, Niigata University, this is a skeleton of a male between 30 and 40 years of age.

#### <C-4>

It measured 178.5 cm in length, 43 cm in mid-width and 30 cm in average height with the lid. The lid consisted of three parts, and the joints were so sealed up by the clay that the inside of the coffin had not admitted any sand at all. A three-dimensional face, realistic breasts and stretched legs were like the C-3. But the representation of the face differed from C-3. The eyes are not large, the nostrils are big and the cheeks are hollow. Long hair hangs in braids down under the ears. The face resembles the face of monkey. It was originally painted in chocolate-coloured paint which could still be observed in fragments. And the surface of the lids were originally

painted by plasters. The body was mummified but it was not in good condition. The feet were arranged closely together, and both arms stretched out straight. According to Prof. T. Ogata, the mummy was that of a female between 30 and 40 years of age, and it is clear by X-ray photograph that her shoulders were intentionally out of joint.

(by Kiichi Kawamura)

## The Third Season

The third excavation was delayed on account of the fourth Middle Eastern War. It was carried out from the end of December, 1973 to the beginning of February, 1974. At the beginning of the excavation, we asked Mr. and Mrs. Sukenaga Murai, the president of Waseda University, who were staying in Egypt at the invitation of the Egyptian Government, to make the first break in the excavation ground.

Here are the three purposes of this excavation.

- (1) The excavation of the entire site of the Roman Houses adjacent to the Isis Temple.
- (2) The cleaning of the south of the enclosure wall of the Isis Temple.
- (3) The excavation of the small hill called "the Hill of Fish" which lies 250m north-west of the Isis Temple, and the Roman cemetery around it.

### I. Roman Houses

The general state of the site of the Roman Houses became almost apparent during the second excavation. But we continued to excavate further toward the southeast of the site. As a result, few amphorae and the lower part of a jar were unearthed. A large number of fragments of potteries were accumulated in some layers down to the depth of 65 cm in the earth. Coins and ostraca were also unearthed. Then we examined the both sides of the building, and found the surrounded by rectangle or square bricks (the size of the former is 1.5m by 0.9m and the size of the latter is 0.65m by 0.65m). At S-135, we found a large painted jar and an ostrakon inside the jar. Though we dug into the north-east of the building to the ground level of the Roman period, we could not find anything.

Then we finished the excavation of the site of the Roman Houses. We cleaned the coins excavated during the second excavation, and we found that there were a number of Trojan(98-117 A.D.) and Hadrian(117-138 A.D.) coins. Therefore we concluded that it was reasonable to date the houses to the middle of the 2nd century A.D..

On the investigation of the Isis Temple, we could find the foundation of the temple except for the southeast corner. It became clear that the enclosure wall had symmetrically surrounded the Temple including the back of it except for the part of the pylon.

### II. The Excavation at the Hill of Fish

250m north of the Isis Temple, there is a hill called "the Hill of Fish" (Kom el-Samak). A trench was dug by robbers in the east of its center, and it divides the hill into two parts. We

named them the large hill and the small hill by their size. During this excavation, anthropoid coffins and human bones were excavated from the ramp, so it became evident that the whole hill was used as a cemetery. On the north side of the floor leading to the staircase in the small hill we found an anthropoid coffin, and a skeleton without head was found on the south side, both of which were laid parallel to the staircase. A skeleton of a child was also found on the north side of the staircase, 1.8m apart from the coffin. From the north ramp of the large hill, we excavated about 10 bodies including scattered human bones, a mummy without head, a skeleton of a woman buried in a crouched style and a skeleton without head buried in a stretched style. Some ceramic coffins, mummies which are assumed to be those of crocodiles and mummified of fish(catfish) were also unearthed. Many of the skeletons had no heads. Between "the Hill of Fish" and the cultivated field, a skeleton of an adult and three skeletons of children were found from the depth of 60cm under the ground. All were buried in a stretched style. We did paraffin treatment to the human bones except for those well-preserved.

### III. The Colored Staircase

In the latter half of the examination, we started the excavation of the Hill of Fish. At the same time the treatment of human bones and mummies were carried on. Before being divided into two by the ditch of the width of 4 to 5m, the hill had been about 80m long and 3.7m high and the major axis extended from east to west.

The excavation was started from the small hill. The surface of the hill was covered with earth and sand mingled with fist-sized pebbles. From under the surface of the south ramp, we found a side of the ruin in which mud-bricks were lined up like stairs with a gentle slope. On cleaning away 50 square centimeters of the surface sand on one stair, a part of the vivid colored painting was disclosed. The staircase had 20 steps in all and it was 3.5m wide 55cm deep, and 5cm high. Although on both sides of the staircase, bricks were piled up and pressed firmly to support it, the upper part from the 10th step on was ruined and the staircase itself had lost the both verge. There seems to have been few more steps in the place damaged by the tomb robbers. They were likely to have led to the building which must have stood on the large hill. The whole surface of the colored staircase (the tread) was painted. While the lower part was discolored, the upper part from the middle was comparatively well preserved. The bricks were arranged lengthwise and breadthwise and were then given the undercoating which was about 3 to 4cm thick and they were plastered and colored. Each step was surrounded by linear patterns, which made the step look like a panel. The both sides of the staircase were plastered for the width of 60cm and 4 black lines about 5cm wide were then drawn on the steps. It was painted white, blue and then white from the outside between the black lines. The longer sides also had white lines about 5cm wide on both sides. On the rectangle part of about 190cm by 45cm surrounded by

these white lines, a pair of bow and a life-sized figure were painted alternately on each stair. The bow was 1.82m in length and the bowstrings were painted in red on the white ground. Two diagonal lines were drawn on the part of nocks, and the grip in the center was drawn like a wide knot made of bowstrings and the surrounding was painted in yellow. Each figure was painted sideways standing on tiptoes with his hands tied behind his back.

We could distinguish three foreign races from their special feature, but they were all "captives". Those who have beard on the brown skin and bobbed hair with a white hair band are Syrians. Those who have chocolate colored skin, curled black hair (represented by blackpoints), almond eyes, flat nose, full lips and with earrings on are Nubians. Nubians have a slender neck and they have a belt hanging from their left shoulder. A similar belt is wrapped around their waist and it is tied in the front, hanging down (PL.16). The third race who have orange skin, shaved head, painted nose and reddish brown beard seems to be West Asians.

All the three races have long white clothes on. They all look upward toward the top of the staircase, but on each alternate step their head lies in the opposite direction. On the vertical faces of the steps, the stair with a bow is painted in blue and the stair with a figure is painted in red in order to get better effects when we look it up from the bottom.

As we dug 10cm from the present surface of the ground on both sides of the staircase, the foundation of bricks appeared. It seems to have surrounded the staircase. On the south of the top of the staircase, the square ruin in which bricks were lined up was found. The side of it was painted. We decided to examine it in detail at the next excavation.

When the outline of the staircase became clear, we began to build the surrounding wall to protect the ruin. While building this wall, another range of bricks were found on the west of the staircase and on the east of its bottom. Then a Roman grave and the floor of mud plaster were also found. Owing to the new discoveries, we were obliged to expand the wall than was planned. Furthermore, under its construction, we found another brick ruin of what seems to have been a room and a ditch on the north and the west of the staircase. Bricks laid out in a square was also found in the north-east corner of the staircase.

We started the excavation of the large hill by removing the surface sand and pebbles on its north half. Under the surface, mud bricks were arranged in a rectangular form. Also we found a rectangular room made of some layers of mud bricks.

On the east and north wall of that room, we could see the trace of mud plaster for painting and some trace of color painting. From the little higher area in the center of the large hill and the north ramp of the hill, a lot of fragments of mural paintings were excavated. Some geometric and floral designs are painted beautifully on the fragments with 9 colors, red, reddish brown, brown, black brown, green, blue, yellow, white and black. As we took off a part of the earth containing pebbles

from the north ramp of the hill, the plastered side of layers of bricks more than 2m high was disclosed. The plastered face was not vertical but inclined a little toward the inside. It was ascertained that the building on the large hill was built on the platform more than 2m high.

We found on the top of the large hill and on the west ramp a lot of fragments of mural paintings, 2 crocodile mummies, a skeleton of a woman, a mummy of a human leg, fish bone, a skeleton which was placed head down, a small perfect coffin of a child, and 2 skulls.

Then during the cleaning on the southern edge of the brick pavement, square bricks congealed with mud were discovered. Digging down inside it, we recognized on the south side 2 layers of bricks which were partly painted. It became clear that the cave in the north west corner had been bored rather deep.

We made a survey map with a scale of 1 to 50 and gathered findings and investigated the constructive relationship between the small hill and the large hill.

The design of bows and defeated people drawn alternately was also seen on the floor painting of the hall of the palace of Akhnaten(1379-1362 B. C. ) in Tell al-Amarna of the 18th Dynasty and in the relief of the wooden footstool of Tutankhamen(1361-1352 B.C. )of the same Dynasty. But the life-sized figure or the bow of 1.8m long with vivid color painting had not been seen anywhere else. Since the act of tramping on the defeated people is the symbol of the great power of the king and the kingdom, we concluded that no one but a pharaoh could go in and out using this staircase.

Owing to the historical background of the 18th Dynasty when the capital Thebes was most flourishing and also from the distinctive features in the design and colour, this staircase is supposed to belong to the 18th Dynasty, especially that of the reign of Amenhetep III who had built the palace 2km north from the staircase. But no inscription was found to support it.

The color of the staircase has faded away after the long age for the heat of the sun and the wind of the desert. So after the excavation, we chemically treated it, applying the mixture of polyester and toluene and acetone on the surface and by congealing with polyvinyl-acetate. Then we covered it with 10cm of fine sand 10cm of earth and surrounded it by the brick wall of 1.8m in height in order to preserve it.

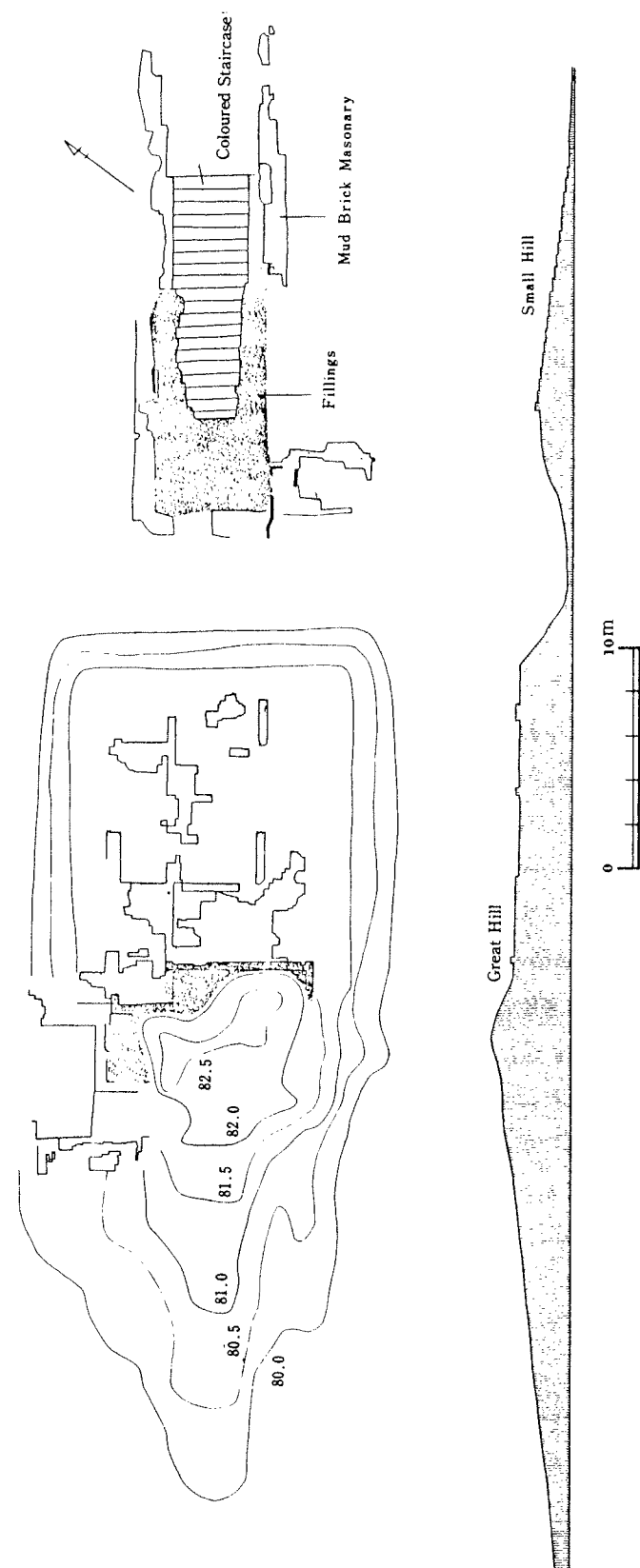


Fig. 10 Plan and Section of Kom el-Samak after the Third Season.

## The Fourth Season

The fourth excavation was carried out from the end of December 1974 to the end of January 1975. This excavation had four purposes as follows. We asked Professor Yasutada Watanabe to join in the mission from the architectural point of view, and reinforced the Architectural Team.

- (1) Overall excavation of the site of the building on the large hill, which extended to the colored staircase of the "Hill of Fish".
- (2) To make clear the character and the date of the site of the building on the large hill.
- (3) To dig down around the "Hill of Fish" to the surface ground of the 18th Dynasty in order to search for relative sites.
- (4) Excavation of the graves of Roman period which spread on the ramp and around the "Hill of Fish".

Overall excavation of the site of the building on the large hill was started from the central part where earth and sand piled up deepest. Soon beautiful fragments of mural paintings began to appear among gravels and bricks. The fragments were distributed in the area of about 1.9 by 2.0m and 60cm deep. Since the fragments of mural paintings lied on the thick mud plaster, we needed more time than was expected to excavate them.

The fragments of mural paintings amounted to some hundreds including fine fragments. The average size of them was 10-20cm in the length of one side. There was a variety of patterns, such as parallel belts, zigzag pattern, checkered pattern, a pattern of parallel lines, geometric patterns like circles, designs of plants like leaves and fruits, designs of vessels like vases and goblets, representations of parts of human limbs, and animals. They were painted in many colors, red, blue, green, white, black, brown, pink. Collapsed bricks were discovered all over the top of the large hill from the south to the east when excavated. We also found over 10 fragments of pottery with yellow brown lines and blue pigment peculiar to the latter half of the 18th Dynasty. (Since we can see a lot of complete pottery of the same type with this colour at the site of the palace of Malkata of Amenetep III, we call them Malkata-blue.)

From the south ramp, a ruin with layers of bricks appeared. And the sidewalls surrounding the large hill were found. It also became clear that the building was built on the square platform of 2.4m high. The width of the side wall was 2.2m and the outer wall inclined a little ( $6^\circ$  on average) to the inside. Some part of the wall remained in the original height of 2.4m. There is an opening without bricks in the middle of the west, north and south sides but there was no opening in the east side. It was supposed to be the passage for the construction of the platform. The platform was constructed firmly and the length from east to west was 19.2m



including the thickness of the both side walls.

We dug into the ramp on the south of the large hill, which lies just opposite the colored staircase in order to get hold of the connection between the colored staircase and the platform. The level of the lower part of the south ramp and the level of the floor which extended in front of the colored staircase (dakka - fastened floor - about 79.30m) was the same. A side wall with the width of 1.3m made of layers of bricks appeared from the east face of the ramp. There was not a staircase but the ramp way with a gentle slope appeared, but the width of the ramp way accorded to the width of the colored staircase.

As the excavation on the platform progressed, some new facts appeared. Since there were two brick foundations one over the other of the building, the building is supposed to have been rebuilt at least once the platform seems to have extended 6.75m to the south at the reconstruction. The platform must have been extended also to the north, but we could not find the definite trace on account of the trenches made by robbers. After some careful excavation and observation, we could find the evidence of its existence.

A new staircase along the south side wall of the original platform sloping down towards the east was discovered from under the extended platform. We named it the south side staircase. The south side staircase was 1.8m in height and 40cm in depth with 17 steps. No painting was recognized on them and this staircase was steeper than the colored staircase. A great deal of fragments of mural paintings were unearthed around the south side staircase, especially from the south of the staircase.

The above evidences reinforced the theory that the building on the "Hill of Fish" had undergone the extension and the reconstruction at least for one time. The first platform was 19.2 square meters and the south side staircase was placed on the south side of the platform ascending from east to west. There was a porch on the top. On the north side of the platform there seems to have been another staircase. This building is likely to have been once abandoned and later the platform had been extended and it was rebuilt on the rectangle platform of 19.2m (from east to west) by 30-34m (from south to north). At that time, scraps containing the fragments of mural paintings of the abandoned building was utilized as the filling-up of the extended part. After the extension, the colored staircase was put on the north of the platform and the ramp way with the same slope was put on the south. We could find as many as 20 steps on the colored staircase, but the rest was destroyed when trenches were made by robbers. From the design of the three races and bows, it is natural to think that six steps make one series. For that reason, the number of the steps must be a multiple of six. Judging from the height of the platform and the distance from the staircase, we concluded that the original staircase had 30 steps.

Among the 1000 collapsed bricks excavated on the platform and around the ramp way, we discovered 3 bricks engraved with the cartouche which represented the name of Amenhetep III (1417-1379 B.C.). It was the convincing material for dating this building.

We have to wait for the future study in order to grasp the character of the building. Judging from the investigation till now, we can say that it is a building belonging to a pharaoh, because they used mud bricks for the construction. From the design and the gentleness of the slope of the colored staircase, we can guess that some sort of ceremony displaying the power of a pharaoh was held here. It is possible that the building with the colored staircase was the sanctuary shrine and a pharaoh had held his jubilee festival (the ceremony of the renewal of the throne) 30 years after the enthronement here. According to chronicles, Amenhetep III held his jubilee festivals on the 30th year, the 34th year, the 37th year after his enthronement.

The investigation of the surrounding of the "Hill of Fish" was done on the latter half of the excavation near the colored staircase. As a result, the foundations of the side walls were found. The width of it was 1.3m. A Roman skeleton and two complete amphorae of large size were also excavated.

<Skeletons and mummies.>

On this excavation 24 skeletons and mummies of the Roman period were found around the south ramp of the large hill. Among them five bodies were in the earthen anthropoid coffins and two infants skeletons were buried in the earthen jars. Out of the twenty-four, ten were those of infants. So as in the previous examination the occurrence of infant skeletons is very high. On the upper part of the lid of the anthropoid coffin was moulded eyes, nose, ears, and mouth like the face and on the lower part of two legs were moulded. Many of them were buried with their heads toward north. Most of them have no pattern on the lid. Some of them had a pattern of lotus painted in black all over the lid. In the coffin there were no funerary objects but from within one broken skull a long silver needle 12.9cm in length was found. The joints of some of the mummies were taken intentionally. It would be valuable data to get a better understanding of funerary ceremonies in the Roman period. 50 human bodies were discovered in all from the first to the fourth excavation. In the topsoil of the large hill, dozens of mummies of fish of 50-70cm long were excavated from two places, which seemed to be catfish.

The summary of the fourth excavation is given above. Not all the excavations originally planned were carried out. Some of them remained untouched. The rest was left over for the fifth excavation.

During this excavation, a part of the colored staircase was destroyed by somebody. The Egyptian Government could not make clear the cause. We felt sorry for it.



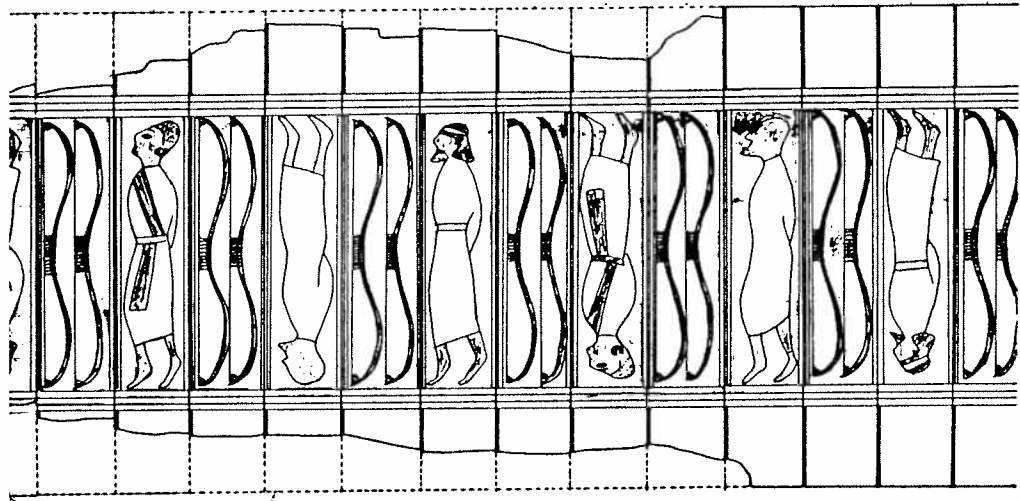


Fig. 11 Rough Sketch of Paintings on the Coloured Staircase.



Fig. 12 Mud Bricks engraved with the Cartouche of Amenhetep III.

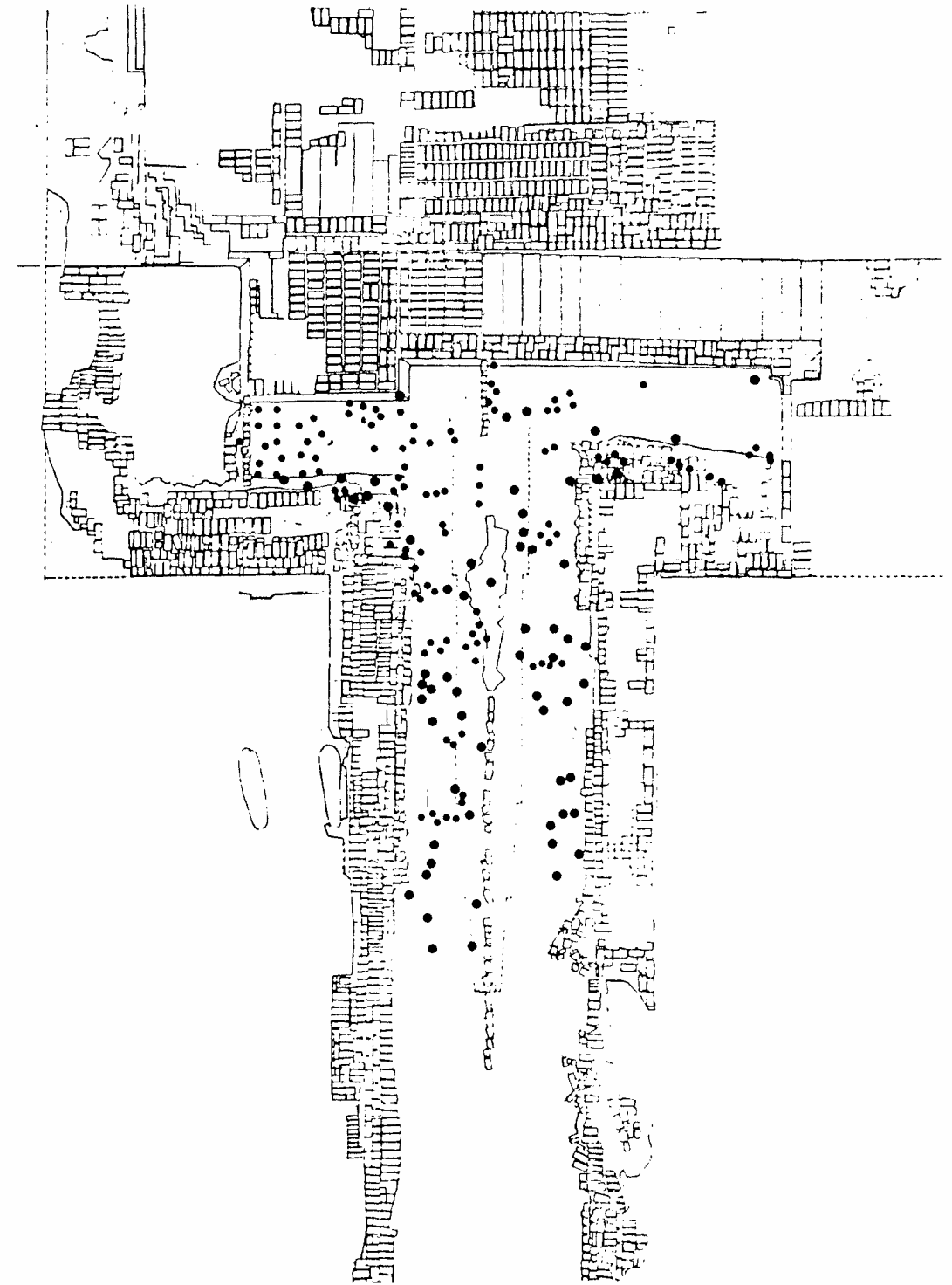


Fig. 13 Distribution of Mural Paintings Fragments discovered during the Fourth Season.

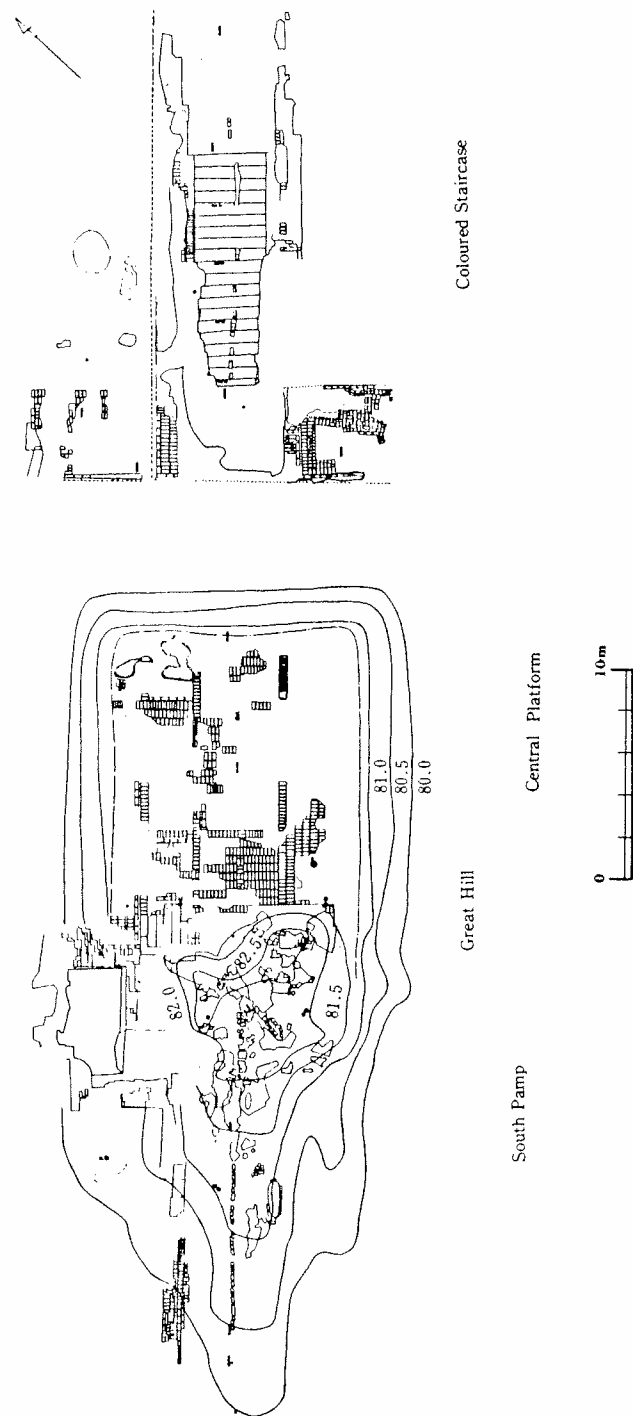


Fig. 14 Plan of Kom el-Samak after the Fourth Season's work.

## The Fifth Season

The fifth excavation was carried out from the middle of January to the beginning of February 1976. The purpose of this excavation is to complete the surrounding walls of the coloured staircase based on the results of the investigation around. When we discovered the coloured staircase from the small hill of "Kom el-Samak" on the third season of our excavations, we surrounded the whole staircase with brick walls of 2.0m in height in order to preserve it. Moreover before the fourth season's excavation, on June 1974, we surrounded again the whole "Kom el-Samak" including the large hill with brick walls of 2m in height. But since the base of the side wall of the colored staircase was discovered out of the wall during the fourth season, we had to enlarge the enclosing wall to the outside in order to protect the site perfectly.

The examination was done to the extent of about 500 square meters on both right and left sides of colored staircase on the large hill. On the east side, the soil of the small hill still remained 40-50cm high. It seems to have been the base of the east side wall. Dakka was also noticed partly. Unearthed materials are : 5 fragments of large astragals which rimmed the entrance of the building (the cut section is oval, pilaster strip with reddish brown line on the plaster), a fragment of Malkata-blue, 2 fragments of mural paintings, a faience bead, 4 glass beads, stone implements, a piece of coffin. Pilaster strip, fragments of mural paintings and Malkata-blue are likely to belong to the 18th Dynasty and they would have been parts of the building on the large hill.

We passed on to the examination of the west side. It turned out that the surrounding walls for protecting the colored staircase lied on the base of the side wall of the colored staircase. Further from the west side, one earthen anthropoid coffin (V-5C) and four human skeletons (V-1,2,3,4) were newly found. Among them, it was verified that for V-2,3,4 a pit was dug for the burial. But V-1 stretched on the back with the head to the north, and it seems to have been thrown into the hollow rather than being buried. V-2 was bented on its side with the head to the south and the face to the east. Some broken earthenware of middle size without mouth was put in front of the face. The fragments of earthenware were also found near the chest. V-3 was bent on its side like V-2 with legs and arms loosely bent in front of the face. The head lied to the west and the face to the north. The pit of V-3 was oval in shape. The diameter was 147cm and 52cm at the longest, and its depth was 10cm. It was the deepest pit for burial excavated so far. A large fragment of the reddish brown earthenware with no pattern was put over the skull. These skeletons were decided to be of the Roman period like the other group of bones and mummies judging from some earthenware excavated at the same time. V-4 was buried stretched on the back with the head to the south.

All of the finds were picked up in or on the surface of the soil. A fragment of a glass

bracelet, a glass bead, a stone bead, a pilaster strip, lithic implements, two Roman vases of middle size without mouth were unearthed side by side from the same level as the anthropoid coffin.

During this excavation, we found a lot of tree stumps and roots on the west of the colored staircase. But according to the C-14 test, their date was of the modern age.

## The Sixth Season

The sixth excavation was from the middle of December 1976 to the beginning of February 1977. This excavation had 5 purposes as follows.

- (1) The elucidation of the platform on which the building had been built. The verification about the extension and the restoration of the platform and the building.
- (2) A complete excavation of the northern colored staircase and the southern ramp which was built symmetrically across the platform.
- (3) Gathering of data for the future reconstruction of the colored staircase, the platform and the ramp.
- (4) The investigations about the coffins, human bones and tree trunks.
- (5) Supplementary investigation of the site of Roman Houses.

At first, the south side staircase, the colored staircase, the whole skirts of the large hill and the entire east side were cleaned up. The coffin excavated from the west side of the joint of the large hill and the south ramp was found not to be wooden but ceramic. During this work, we found two faience beads.

### I. Excavation at the central platform.

We dug two test pits (2 × 2m) on the east of "Kom el Samak" and made the survey of the ground. As a result of digging into as deep as 80cm from the surface of the earth, we found that gravels and pebbles and pink sands heaped 4m deep and there were limestones underneath. On this excavation, we divided the platform into 4 areas. The north-west is A(5 by 6.2m) area, the north-east is B area, the south-west is C area and the south-east is D area. We placed a ramp way for our passage on the east of the center. We dug 30cm into A area and took off bricks from B area and cleaned the entire platform. Then a fragment of Malkata-blue painted pottery appeared. On the investigation of A area, pink sand stratum mingled with pebbles continued to 60cm of depth. The engraved surface plain of the south half is little grayish and about 5-6cm of the top soil on the section is blackish brown. It seems to be "BALTA" just under the brick wall. On the point of 75cm under the surface, the depression of the grayish brown earth and bricks were noticed by the south wall in the area of 2 by 3m. Ten pieces of thin bricks (30 by 15 by 5cm) were unearthed. Limestone stratum was under the bricks. We stopped digging at 210-220cm because the dakka appeared and took the section of the north and the west (one twentieth). We picked up all the bricks during the examination of B area, leaving the bricks of the first period. At 70cm down, we recognized the depression of bricks on the wall.

The depression of bricks (usual size 37 by 16 by 8 cm) were also found near the east

edge. It seems to have been the upper part of the slanting layers of bricks on the north wall. The excavation progressed to just right above the dakka discovered in A area. We took sections of the east and the south (one twentieth).

When both A and B planes became the same level, the dakka was cleaned off. Taking away the bank between them, we excavated fragments of Malkata-blue painted pottery. Final excavation disclosed the irregular row of bricks at the same height of dakka or underneath. The plane of dakka was found at the back of central opening of the north wall to the extent of 160 by 45cm. We took the section containing both A and B area.

The excavation passed to C and D area. After the cleaning of C and D area and the photographing of the state of pavement of bricks, we set about removing bricks. We found the relics as follows, fragments of earthenware, pieces of colored wood, fragments of potteries, fragments of plaster, pieces of colored cloth, wooden chips, charcoals, etc.. All the relics were excavated from the upper part.

We took the section of the south side staircase and south balcony and progressed the excavation in the pink sand and the pebble stratum. Consequently the south side staircase was also assumed to have the same construction of the filling of earth as in the south balcony. The photographing of the platform in detail and the section of the retaining wall (side wall) of the platform and the verification of the joint followed. The parts of the cutting down of the south side staircase and the south balcony were also photographed.

## II. The South ramp.

The excavation of the south ramp was done in tracing the dakka. A Roman coin was unearthed just above the dakka (above sea-level 79.00m). By the following study, the coin was proved to have crept in during the third excavation of test pits on the large hill and no connection with the date of the site. It was 1.3cm in diameter, 0.1cm thick. The face and the letters were found on the surface, but we could not read them. According to the level, the dakka was 79.085m in the south slope, and 78.955m in the east of the south ramp. A lot of fragments of earthenware were excavated. We picked them up after paraffin treatment. In the fragments of mural paintings, there were some representations of human face (eyebrows, nose, mouth and chin) (It was unearthed in the upper part of the central brick layers.) and also some representations of back head and both arms and a big fragment representing a bull was also found. Fragments of mural paintings were found piled up. The south wall at the landing of the south side staircase was partly painted in yellow.

On taking the central brick layers off, fragments of mural paintings with a design of lotus were excavated among the bricks. Scattered fragments of mural paintings were found near the south side staircase. They contained some representation of the back head of a human.

Dakka from the south side ended at the east side of the central brick layers. Besides the relics already mentioned, there were fragments of potteries (they seemed to belong to the Roman period), a large number of fragments of mural paintings (they contained some representations of fingers and hair, some had half circular patterns on the yellow ground and some represented animal legs and square pilaster strip etc.), potteries, flint implements, fragments of mural painting representing the astragals.

We passed to the follow-up excavation on the west of the central brick layers. After taking off part of the central brick layers, we photographed the layers of bricks between the balcony and the wall of the extended part (the west side) and took them off. Most of the bricks were not complete in form. Some had balta or color paintings. A great deal of fragments of mural paintings were excavated. We kept on excavating along the surface of dakka further and cleared away the earth and sand under the balcony so the most part of the dakka plane would be revealed. A lot of fragments of mural painting were unearthed. We found the fragments of potteries and beads.

We cleaned off all over the site, and took pictures of the entire site and details of the central layers of bricks. Cutting down at three places in the central brick layers about 1m wide each, we photographed the base of each part and both sections on the east and the west. From the east section, a clay figure and a large number of fragments of potteries were excavated. Some of them represented the human profile looking right.

We made the vertical section and the six horizontal sections of the south ramp. We dug under the balcony further to the dakka level.

After removing the remainder of the extension of the platform, which had been left under the staircase, the south side staircase was revealed in full view. The staircase had 18 steps. The width of the staircase was 1.7m in the lower part, 1.8m in the upper part. The base of the central pillar appeared from the south of the first step. The side wall run parallel with the retaining wall of the staircase. While removing the bricks and the soil, a numerous fragments of mural paintings containing the representation of legs, fingers and palms appeared. After the cleaning under the staircase, we removed part of the extended platform in order to verify that the banisters turned to the south. In consequence, it became clear that the side wall of platform was parallel to the retaining wall of the south side staircase and that the trace of bricks which was left little there corresponded to the north side staircase. The side staircase was 182 by 40 by 12cm on the 17th step, 170 by 40 by 12cm on the first step. Dakka under the staircase had a slope of about 6 degrees.

In order to examine the structure of the colored staircase, we made a cut-down in the 19th step and made a trench of the width of 220cm there. At the depth of 30-40cm bricks appeared irregularly and a fragment of a polished black granite statue, and fragments of potteries were found. As we dug the trench further, the dakka plane appeared in the west. We further excavated fragments of painted astragals, fragments of potteries, fragments of mud-bricks with white plaster. Most of the potteries were red polished. We photographed and surveyed the north

side of the trench. Then the removal of the soil on the south side was started. And we found fragments of potteries, astragals, fragments of earthen coffin, glass beads and pieces of bones. As the result of the cut-down, it became clear that the colored staircase is consisted of bricks in the lower part, and of sand and pebbles in the upper part. After that we cut down the remainder of the 19th step and the 18th step about one meter in depth. Fragments of potteries including two fragments of painted pottery so called Malkata-blue, pieces of bones, fragments of plaster and fragments of mural paintings with the design of lotus were found there. The layers of bricks near the center was directed to the north. We photographed and made a section of the surface of the cut-down. We ended this work by piling up bricks for the reinforcement on the east half.

We gathered human bones in the east and the west side of the colored staircase.

We verified the brick pavement on the platform and we recorded and surveyed where the brick pavement remained. The brick pavement also remained on the landing of the south side staircase and on and around the balcony. We also found the trace of bricks which marked the limits of the east edge of the extended platform. From the examination of the structure of dakka in the south side staircase, we found out that dakka was doubled, one over the other, and went under the extension of the platform. It shows the dakka had been constructed twice. The upper dakka was reconstructed because the lower old dakka had been damaged for the long use.

We made a plan so as to get hold of the relation between the platform and the colored staircase. As a result of the investigation about the height of the retaining wall in A area of the platform and about the construction of the layers of bricks, such things as follows became clear. The north side had 13 layers at most ( the southeast side had 10 layers ) and remained from the bottom 150cm in height. 35L(35cm in length) type bricks and 30L type bricks were used there. The lowest layer was the foundation where bricks were laid lengthwise (h=15cm). We measured the height of each part of the retaining wall on the east area, and we found little error on its level. Some different ways of piling up the bricks were used in order to adjust the height.

In C and D area of the platform, the upper part of brick layers were finally verified. On the south ramp, the side wall and the south corner of the south side staircase were verified. We measured the distance between the east and the west wall and checked the location of the central brick layers. We recorded the vertical section of the north retaining wall in B area.

According to the survey of the slope of the retaining wall at the southwest corner of the south side staircase, the west and east face of the retaining wall of the platform inclined evidently, but the north and south face were nearly vertical. It turned out that the section under the floor had four types of formation:

1) the pavement of bricks 2) the basement of bricks 3) the layer of brick scraps 4) the layer of pebble and gravels.

We examined the openings in the retaining walls of the platform. In the north opening,

bricks were laid slantways. It seems that they had been piled up straight, but had fallen down. The layer in the south side were laid slantways except for the upper part and inclined to the inside. The inner half of the side wall contained only earth and sand. The observation of the south opening of the platform and the sketching of the section and the elevation, the sketching of the section of the central layers of bricks on the south ramp followed. After photographing we got rid of the layers of bricks. While doing this, we found that the layers inside (from the seventh layer from the top) were slanted.

After closing the south opening, they built the south side staircase along it. But we could not find the trace of the finish (ex.plaster) at the face where the wall and the staircase bordered. At last, we measured the level and made the plan ( one hundredth ) of the platform and the south side staircase. We also surveyed and made plans of the bottom of the east and west retaining wall at the south ramp.

From the west of the colored staircase, the anthropoid coffins and human bones were found. On this excavation, we surveyed and picked up two anthropoid coffins and four skeletons excavated during the fourth and fifth seasons and a skeleton of a baby newly discovered there.

The anthropoid coffin excavated during the fourth excavation was 170cm in length with three lids. Lotus pattern was painted in black all over the lid. The body was mummified and 140-150cm in length. The anthropoid coffin which was excavated during the 5th season was 170cm in length and 42cm in the widest part. The lid had been largely damaged and the body had been partly mummified. There was a trace of a covering cloth with blue painting on the face. We congealed the two coffins and the bodies with paraffin and picked them up. Part of the bricks in the side wall was taken off to make a rectangle hollow of 180 by 40cm ( some bricks were arranged in front of it ) to place an earthen coffin. The coffin was in very bad condition, so that we could not see the lid in detail. The body was buried stretching on his back and four limbs were mummified. It is impossible to pick it up from the coffin, because the coffin had been stuck into the side wall.

Therefore we paraffined and kept it there after measuring. The body was 148cm long. The skeleton of body wrapped with cloth was discovered in the west of the anthropoid coffin of the fourth season. But it was also in bad condition.

Parallel with the investigation of skeletons and anthropoid coffins, we picked up tree stumps as materials found in the north side of the colored staircase. The measurement of age resulted in  $330 \pm 75$ B.P. (by Japan Isotope Association ) and  $425 \pm 75$ B.P. It means that it belonged to the 16-17th century and the trees existed there at that time. It was the problem to be solved in future. The classification of the tree is in investigation now.

In the area of the Roman houses, the mud of the Nile was thickly heaped up under the stratum

of the Roman period. The sand stratum with small pebbles started from the depth of 2.3m below the surface of the earth, and it was about 20cm thick. A large number of lithic implements mainly containing brades of the late paleolithic era were discovered.

We decided to dig the damp area 15m in diameter where weeds were growing in the northeast of the Isis Temple. Fragments of potteries were found near the top. We discovered the remains of bricks in the form of arc. In this season, we had no time to dig more than 70cm under the ground level. If these bricks were in a circle, the diameter would be about 10m. During the excavation, we found relics as follows. A stone plate of black granite, a fragment of stone plate made of basalt, an ostracon, an ushabti, a fragment of stone bracelet, a fragment of glass bracelet, fragments of painted potteries, fragments of potteries, fragments of red bricks, fragments of mudbricks and many fragments of black granite. This could have been a well. We finished this season's work deciding to put off the further excavation for the next season.

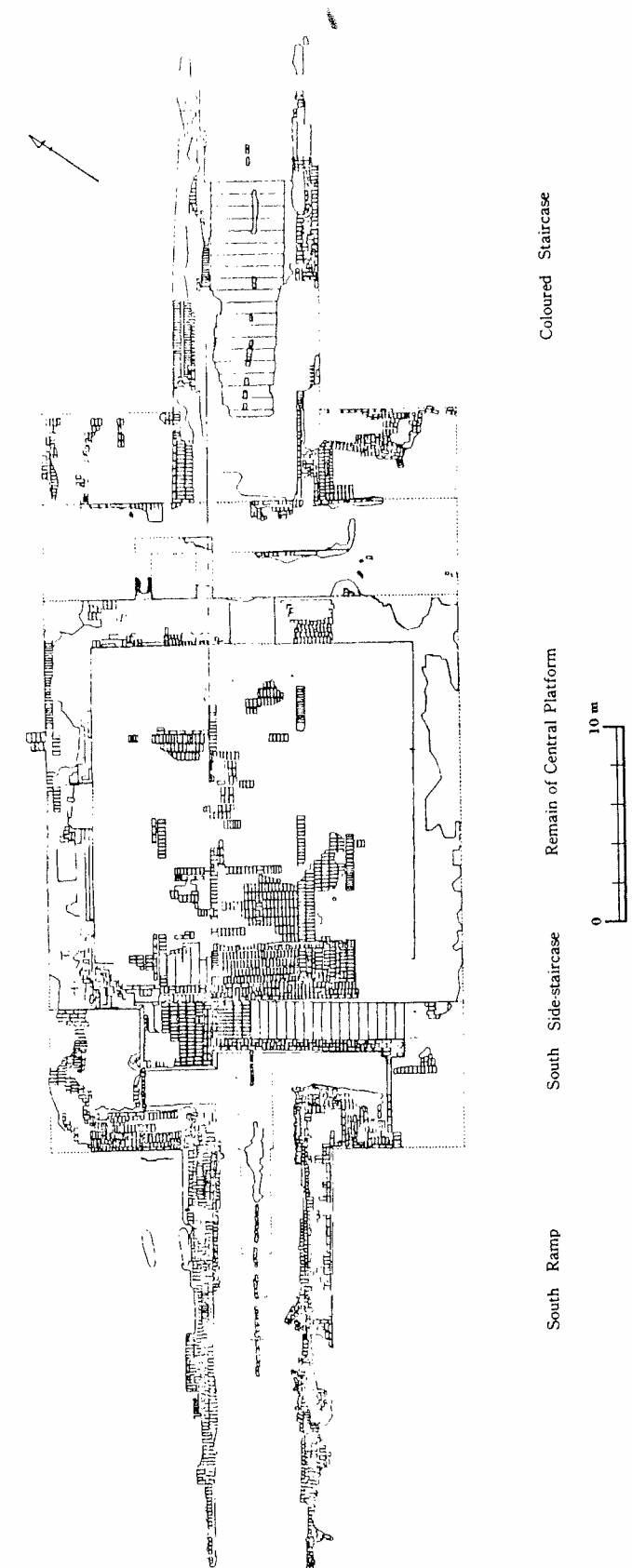


Fig. 15 Plan of Building of Kom el-Samak after the Sixth Season.



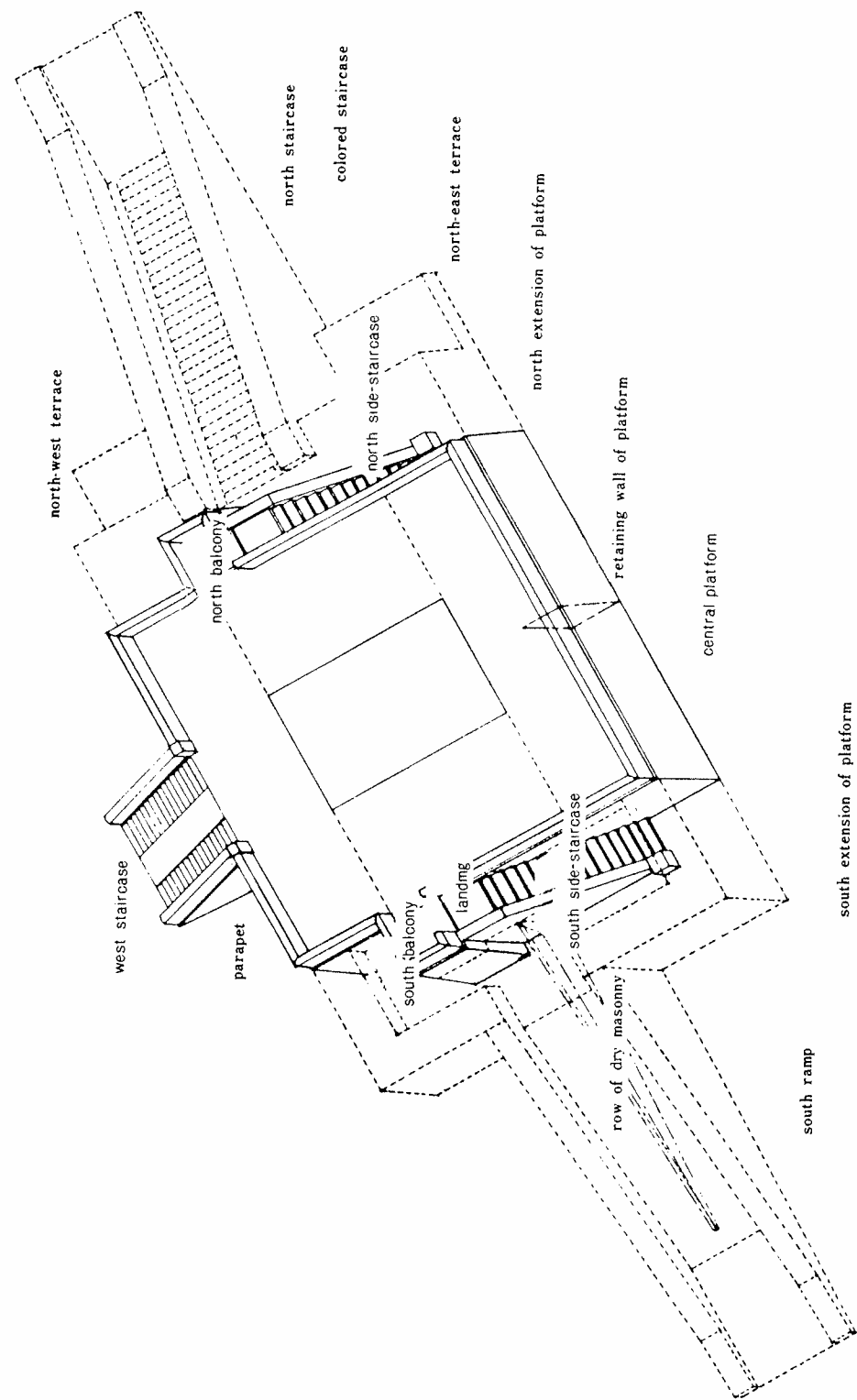


Fig. 16 Rough Sketch of Building of Kom el-Samak.

## The Seventh Season

The seventh season's work was carried out from December 1977 to January 1978. The main purpose of this season's work is not a field work but an arrangement and measurement and photographing of findings which we have found the last season. It was centered on the survey and the photographing of the fragments of potteries, stone vessels, clay figurines, fragments of mural paintings and lithic implements out of relics excavated in the area of "Kom el Samak" and the Isis Temple during the last season.

These works were done at Waseda House in the area of Tarif in Qurna village, which was constructed just before the 6th season. We could make a great number of surveys and photographing there.

We visited the private tombs of the New Kingdom in the west bank of the Nile river in Luxor. It gave us a great deal of data for making a comparative study of mural paintings we have found in our field.

We found Waseda House very useful for making reports, examining our findings, photographing and other work.

## The Eighth Season

The eighth season's work was carried out from the middle of October 1978 to the end of January 1979. The purpose of this excavation is as follows;

- 1) the termination of the excavation at the Malka-South site,
- 2) the photographing and the measurement for making the report.

### I . Excavation at Kom el-Samak

At the beginning of the excavation, bricks on the east of the wall of the central platform and the wall of central platform were removed. When the removal reached to the seventh layers, we cleaned and photographed it. Till then, we had picked up a lot of relics including the fragments of potteries. Above all, a large-sized fragment of Malkata-blue painted pottery (about 10cm long) is notable. It was excavated in the sixth layer, to the east of the opening in the north wall of the platform. We removed the bricks which had remained in the north and the west of the platform and cleaned them. The cleaning of the outside of the north wall made us notice the ruins of the north side staircase and the balcony, etc. at that time. We removed scores of mud bricks which were scattered in the lowest stratum of the central platform and cleaned the west and east walls. Limestone powder was scattered within the limits of few meters to the south of the west wall, we picked them up. We found the trace of the north side staircase. The part remained was found to be the fifth step. We measured and photographed it. The north side staircase remained to the east, outside of the north wall of the central platform.

We passed into the investigation inside the platform and few test pits were dug. Some part in the platform was too hard to knock the pickel in, especially where there was a lot of pebbles. In some part there were stratums of pebbles, dray sand, and limestone in this order. It is not clear whether these stratums were artificially made.

As a result of the observations of the test pits in the platform, every sort of stratum was found from every part.

- 1) gravel stratum
- 2) small and middle-sized pebble stratum
- 3) small and middle-sized pebble plus mud (or a little hard sand)
- 4) sand stratum
- 5) dakka (a. architectural dakka    b. imitated dakka (mixed with mud like the mortar, grayish white like the cement))
- 6) lime stratum (a. the upper part    b. the lower part)
- 7) fragments of the mud brick
- 8) large pebble and earth etc.

During the test digging, the lithic implements and flint flakes were excavated.

We cleaned the remain of the lower part of the retaining wall of the north balcony which was on the north of the north side staircase. It became clear that the retaining wall was about 80cm in width and the filling earth remained inside it.

We proceeded to the examination of the south ramp. Collapsed bricks in the south corner inside the west wall and bricks of the east wall were cleared away. So we began to excavate in the retaining wall of the south ramp. When the removal of bricks of the east wall at the northend of the south ramp reached to 14th layer from the top, the bone was unearthed which seemed to have been the lower part of a human leg. From the condition of the bone, it seems that it was buried much later than the time of the construction of this ramp. A large number of fragments of mural paintings were unearthed. Many of the fragments were comparatively fine. We took a picture of them and picked them up. The overhang bricks near the center were removed. While at work, the large-sized fragments of mural paintings (many of them had rosette patterns) were excavated. We picked them up after photographing. We cleared away the corner of the west wall for fear that it should collapse by itself. During this work we found a large number of fragments of mural paintings representing a part of human body and the pottery fragment with white slip on the surface.

We began cleaning the colored staircase and got rid of the covering earth on the staircase. The fragment of Malkata blue painted pottery was unearthed. Then we removed the bricks of the protecting wall on the east of the colored staircase and picked up fragments of potteries and the mural paintings. After removing unnecessary bricks on the colored staircase, the wall on the east side of the staircase appeared.

The pictures on the surface of the steps of the colored staircase were examined. It was found out that there was a picture of a Syrian on the first step, a picture of a Nubian on the eleventh step, and a picture of a Syrian again on the thirteenth step. We made a life-size tracing of the Syrian on the thirteenth step. Also the pictures of a bow and a Nubian and a West Asian were sketched and studied.

We also measured the brick (its form is unusual) which was found on the dakka near the first step, and the brick which was part of the railing of the colored staircase. Next we dug under the damaged pavement on the 14th, 15th, and 16th step. Fragments of potteries appeared, and there were bits of bricks, pebbles and sand. Dakka appeared from the lowest part while digging down. So it became clear it was built after the platform was extended. The above is the study made in the eighth season at the "Kom el-Samak".

The last summary of architectural study of the "Kom el-Samak" was done, including the examination of the relationship between the colored staircase and the central platform, and also how the extended part was joined to the original platform.



## II. Excavation of the well at the Isis Temple

We continued excavating the site of the well in front of the sanctuary of the Isis Temple. The site is within the enclosure wall of the Isis Temple. It is located about 250m to the south of the "Kom el-Samak", and about 75m to the southwest of the Roman Houses area. We excavated leaving a bank of the width of 1m in the center of the well in order to observe the layers. The first layer that is 1m from the top was a dry earth and it included many fragments of potteries and pebbles. Finally we could distinguish 32 different layers. Below 1m from the top on, the soil contained much water, and there were layers of black earth, reddish burnt earth, ash, etc.. These layers piled like concave lens, as though they poured toward the center from the outer part. From the 7th, 8th, 13th, and 14th layer, potteries, mainly amphorae appeared.

When we dug about 3.5m from the top, water started to come out. It made us impossible to dig any further than 4m from the top. The scale of the well is 11m in the north south direction, and 10m in the east west direction. So it is almost circle. The depth is more than 5m and it was dug almost vertically. It was constructed by making a hole of the diameter of about 11m and bricks were placed inside. And earth and pebbles were put between the bricks and the side of the hole to finish. Red bricks seem to have surrounded the well, but one-third of the original bricks were lost. There was a part of the wall of the well (to the east) where the upper half was consisted of red bricks and the lower half was consisted of mud bricks. There was a staircase to go down on the southeast of the well. These steps were made with blocks of sandstone, and it went down in a spiral way along the east. We could count as far as 18 steps, but the rest went into the water, so we could not verify the number of the steps.

We found the following things while excavating this well. They were a great number of pottery fragments (Fig.17) (including complete amphorae: 30 in number), fragments of painted potteries, incised potteries, potteries with nail-shaped pattern, two Roman lamps, an ostrakon, an upper part of a limestone stela (there was a relief of a king and gods on the surface; Greco-Roman period), five stone vessels, a fragment of a stone bracelet, a fragment of a glass bracelet, a fragment of a bronze bracelet, fragments of glassware, four coins, four beads, a part of ushabti, stone materials for construction, etc..

By observing the potteries found, we could not find any difference between those found in the upper layers and those in the lower layers. Therefore, these things seem to have been thrown away into the well in a relatively short time. Some of the potteries had a stamp of a Coptic cross on the bottom inside. Some of the amphorae were characteristically Coptic. These findings belong to the period of the Coptic culture, so they seem to be of the 5th century A.D.

Accordingly the well must have been in use before that period. The relationship of the well and the Roman houses nearby and the reason for its location there must wait for further studies. While this research, our director, Professor Kiichi Kawamura had passed away for the illness. It was a great loss for the Egyptology in Japan.

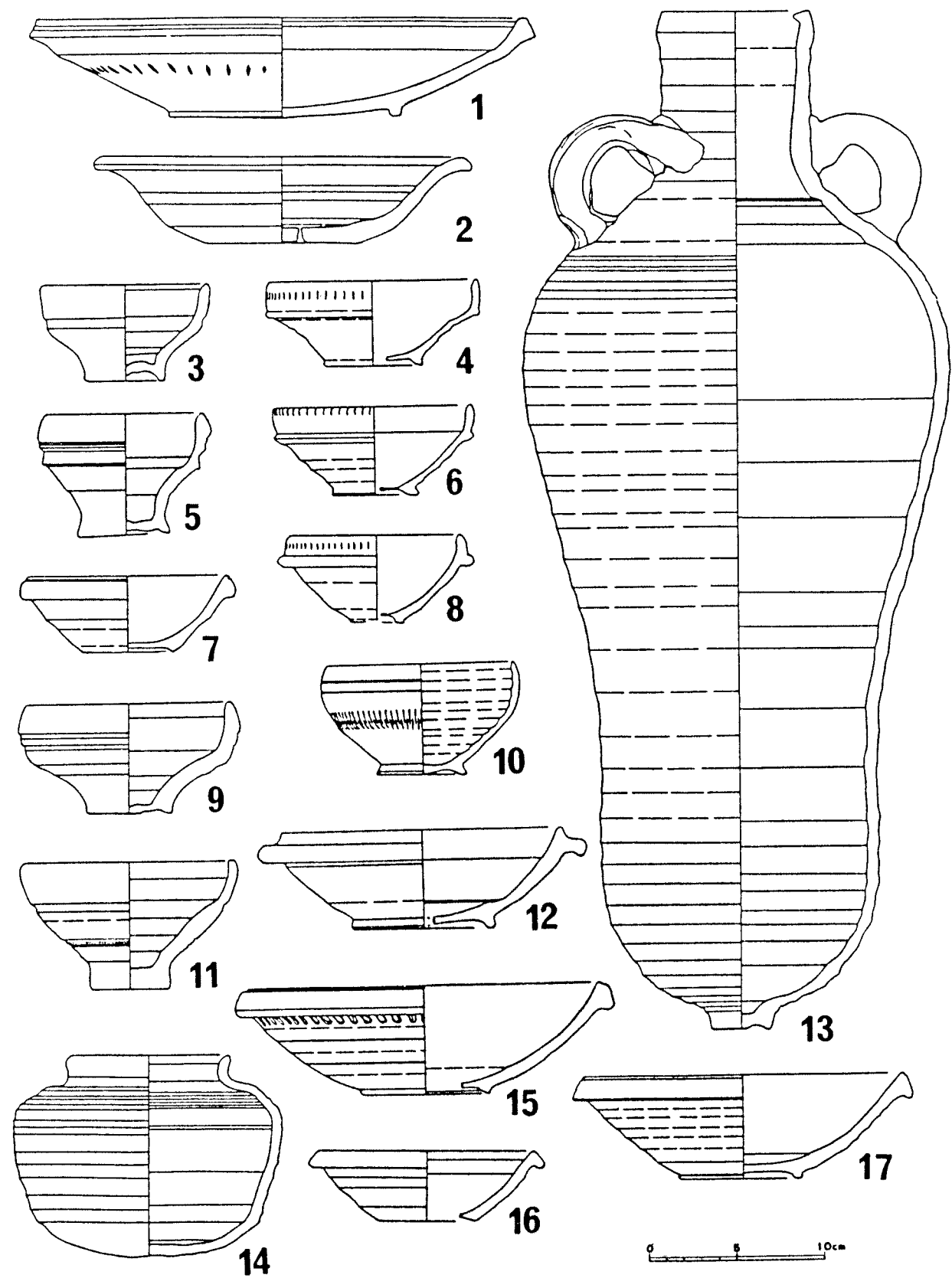


Fig. 17 Some examples of the potteries from the well at the Isis Temple

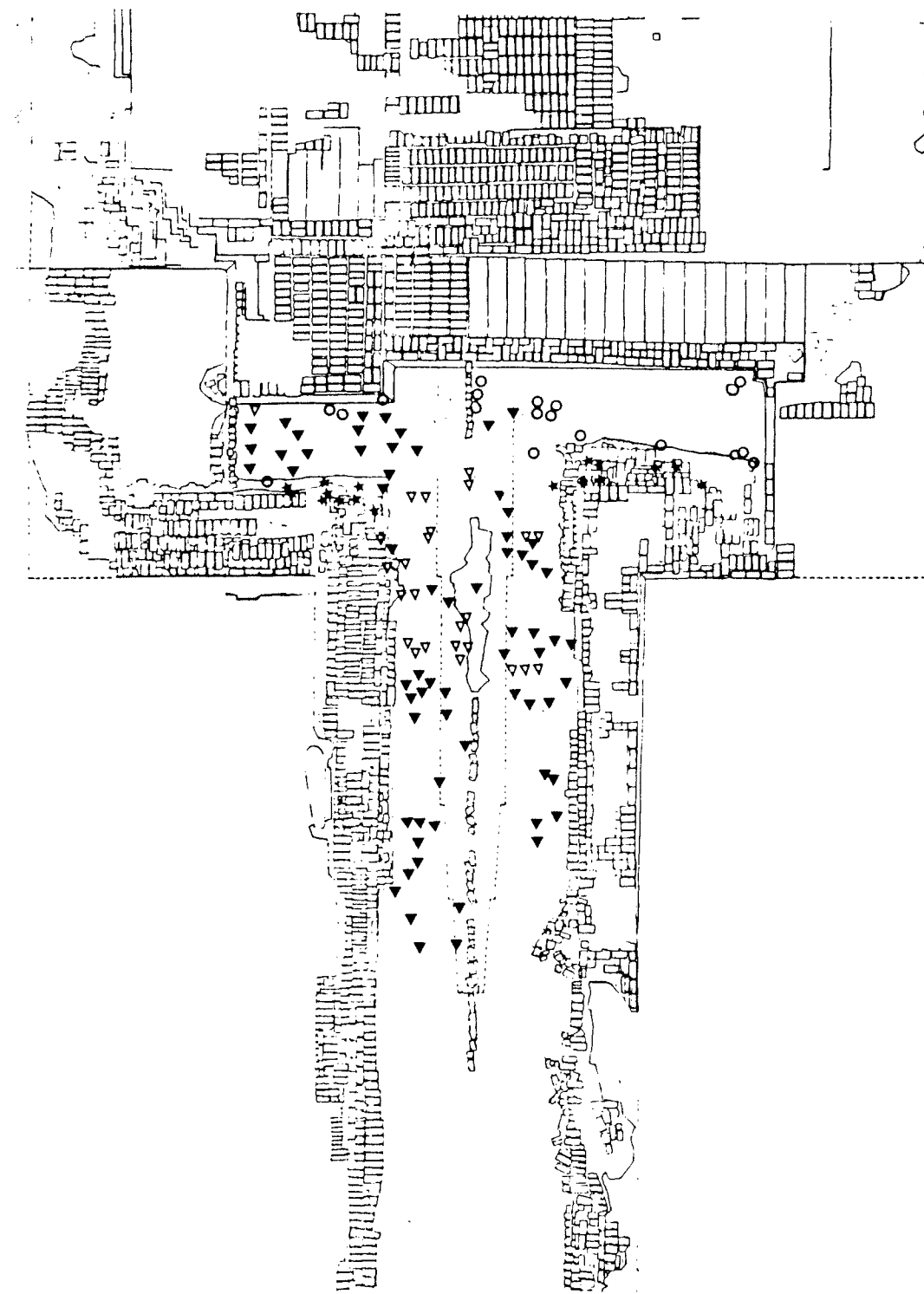


Fig. 18 Distribution of Mural Paintings Fragments discovered during the Third (○), Fifth (△), Sixth (★), and Eighth (★) Seasons' works.

## The Ninth Season

The Ninth season started in December, 1979 and it went on till January, 1980. The purpose of this season's work was to summarize the results of the excavations done through the first to the eighth season at Malkata area.

We photographed, and took measures of the findings which had been kept in the storehouses of the Egyptian Antiquities Organization.

We made a previous survey for the next season's excavation, i.e. the private tomb No.241, in the Khokha area on the west bank of the Nile in Luxor.

Just after this season had ended, the chief of the physical anthropological team, Dr. Tamotsu Ogata, the professor of Niigata University, had passed away.

It was a double loss for our team.

## The history of our excavations

Nov.1966 - Mar.1967	The general survey in the Nile Valley
Mar.1969	The preliminary research for the selection of the excavation area
Apr.1970	Waseda University Egypt Archaeological Committee was established
Feb.1971	Malkata-South site was selected for the excavation
Jan.1972 - Mar.1972	The first season
Dec.1972 - Feb.1973	The second season
Dec.1973 - Feb.1974	The third season (The discovery of the colored staircase on the Hill of Fish)
Dec.1974 - Feb.1975	The fourth season
Jan.1976 - Feb.1976	The fifth season
Dec.1976	Waseda House was built on the west bank of Luxor.
Dec.1976 - Feb.1977	The sixth season
Dec.1977 - Feb.1978	The seventh season
Jun.1978	The exhibition of Malkata finds at Waseda University
Nov.1978 - Jan.1979	The eighth season
Dec.1979 - Jan.1980	The ninth season

⟨the members of the excavation party from the first to the ninth season.⟩

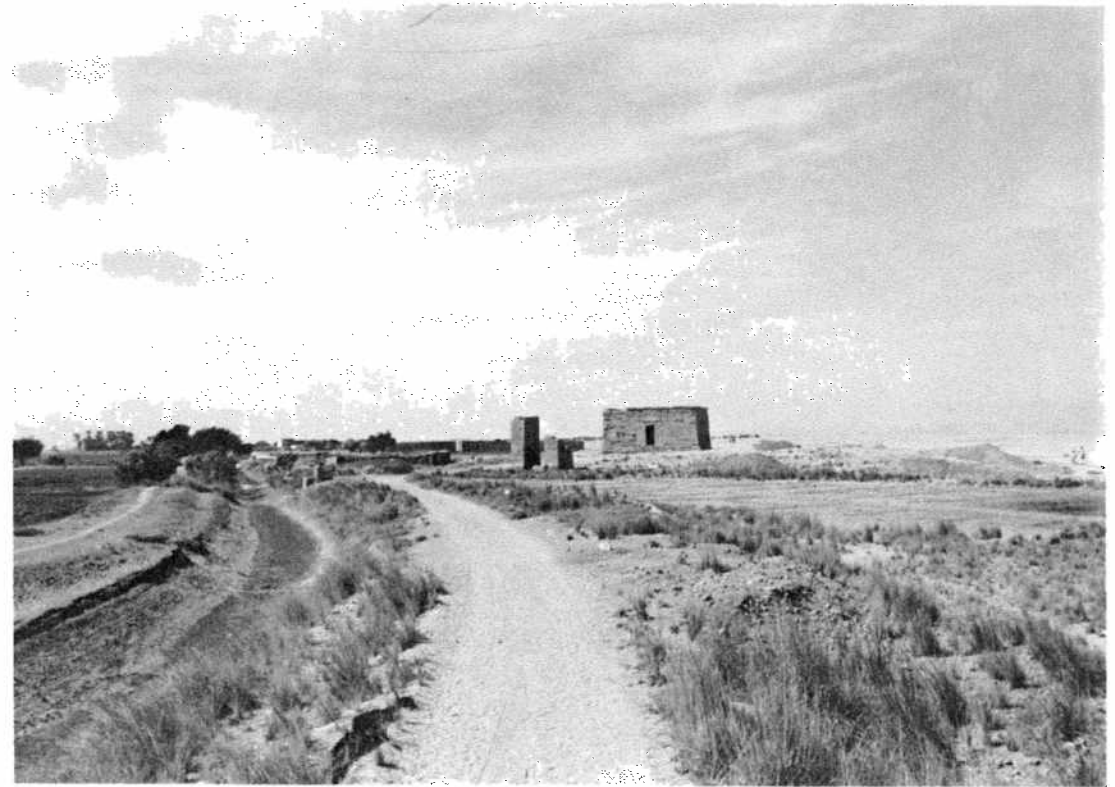
‡the numbers in ( ) shows the seasons in which they participated in the excavation.

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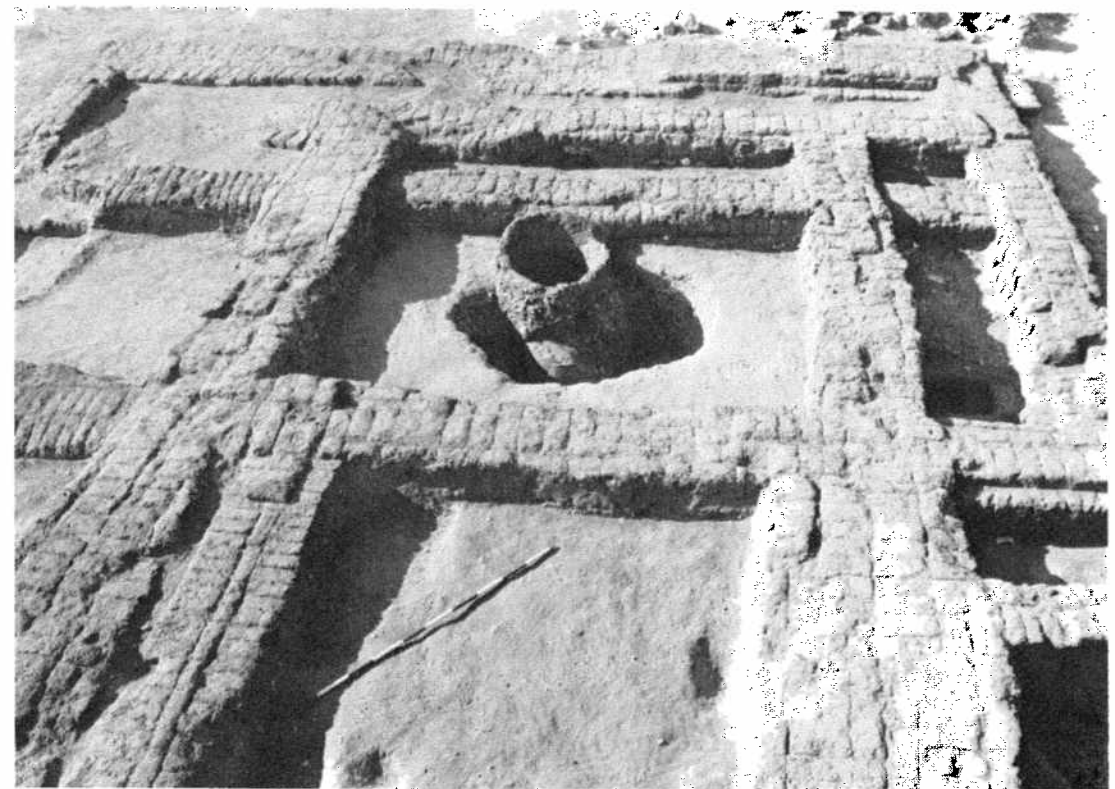
⟨Inspectors⟩

Mr.Ahmad Hindi(1) Mr.Henry Alfy(2,3,5,6,8) Mr.Mohamed Lotfi(4) Mr.Mohamed Radwan(8)

Ms.Nihad Aziz(9)



PL. 1 General view of the Isis Temple (Deir Sharwit).



PL. 2 The foundations of the Roman House.

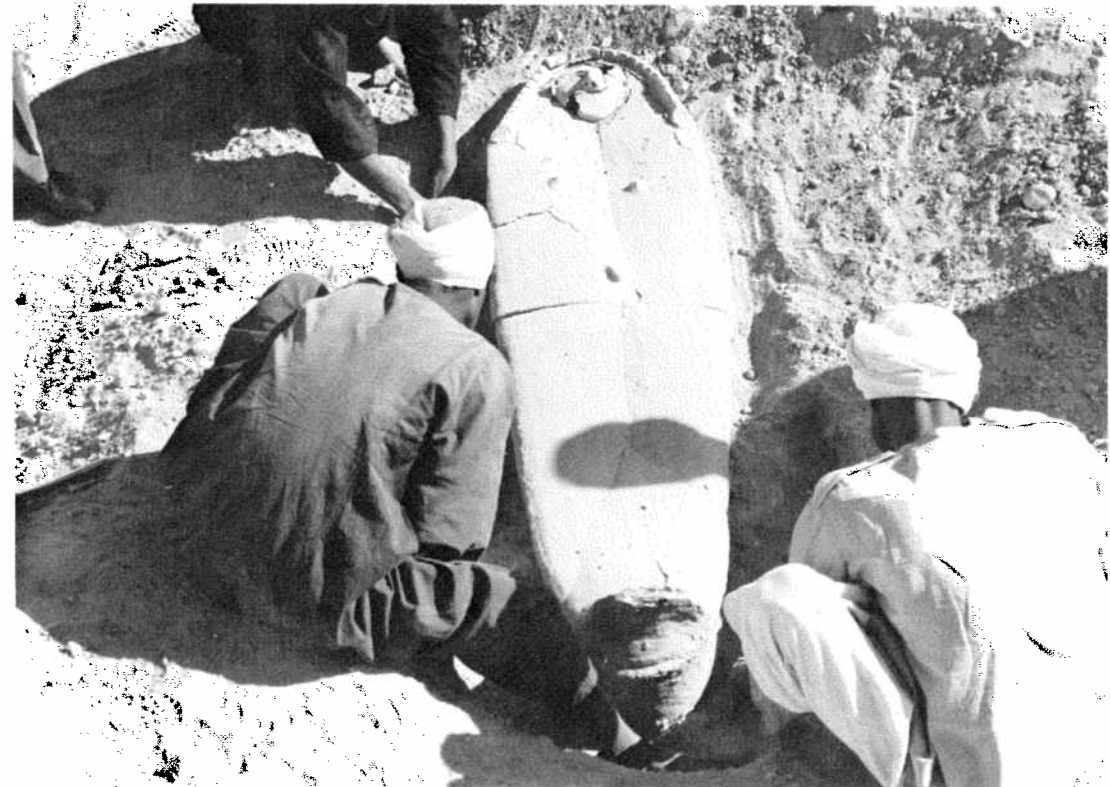




PL. 3 General view of the Roman Houses.



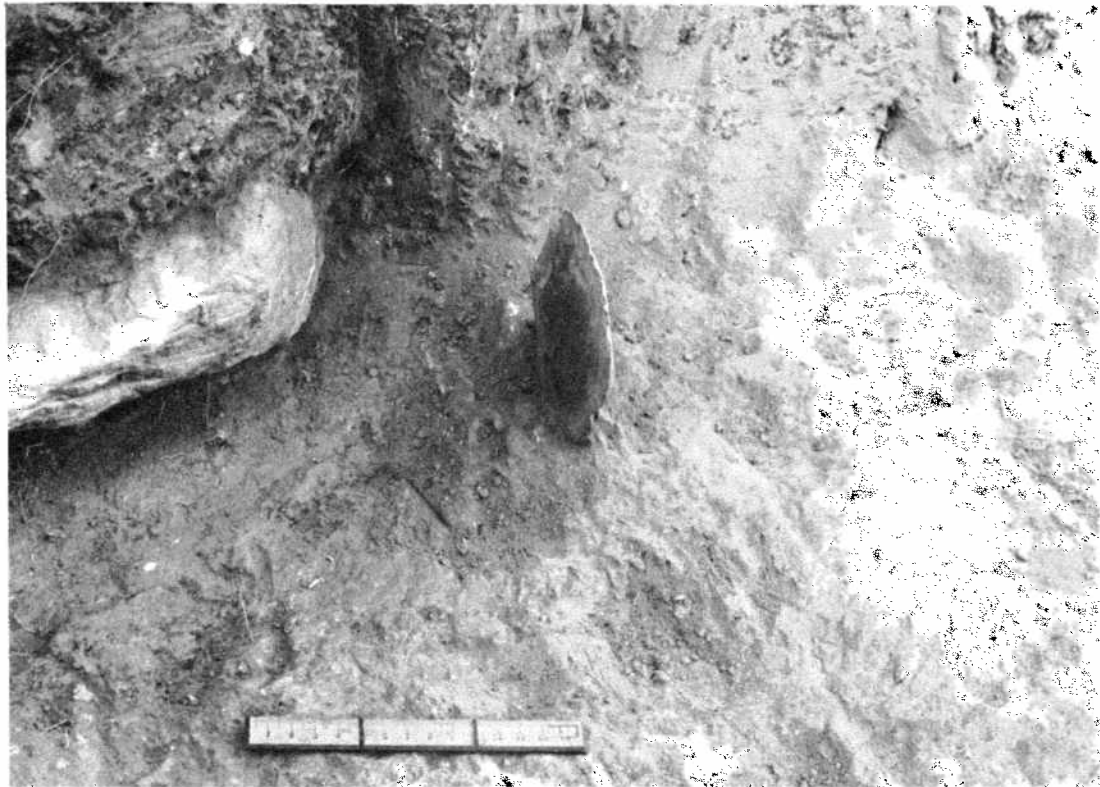
PL. 4 General view of the Roman Houses.



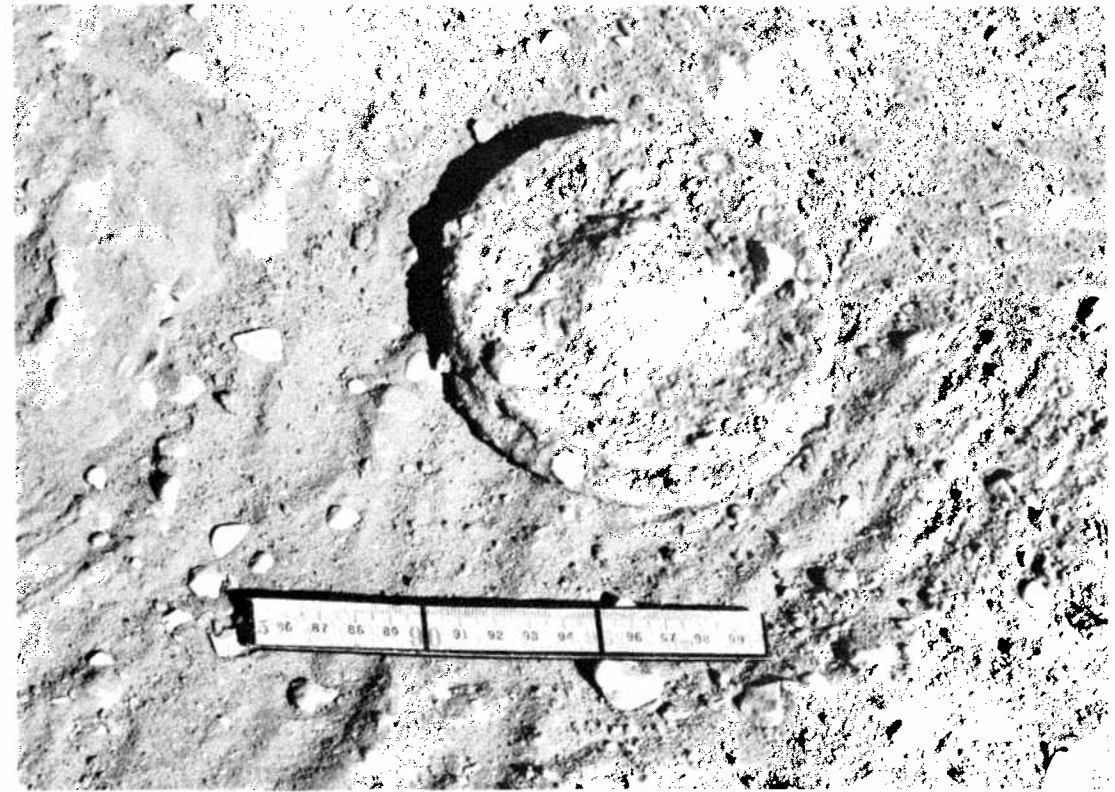
PL. 5 A clay coffin C-1, S-30.



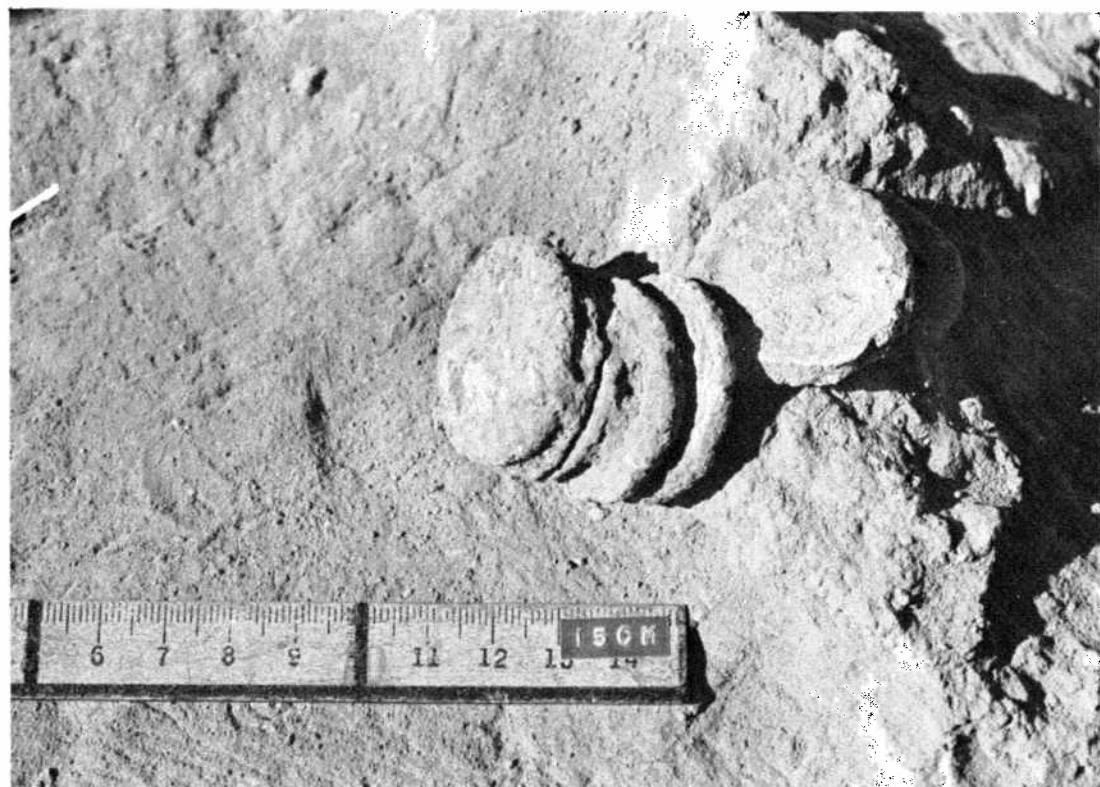
PL. 6 Upper part of a clay coffin C-3.



PL. 7 A Palette from the S-7.



PL. 9 Bronze Cymbals in situ.

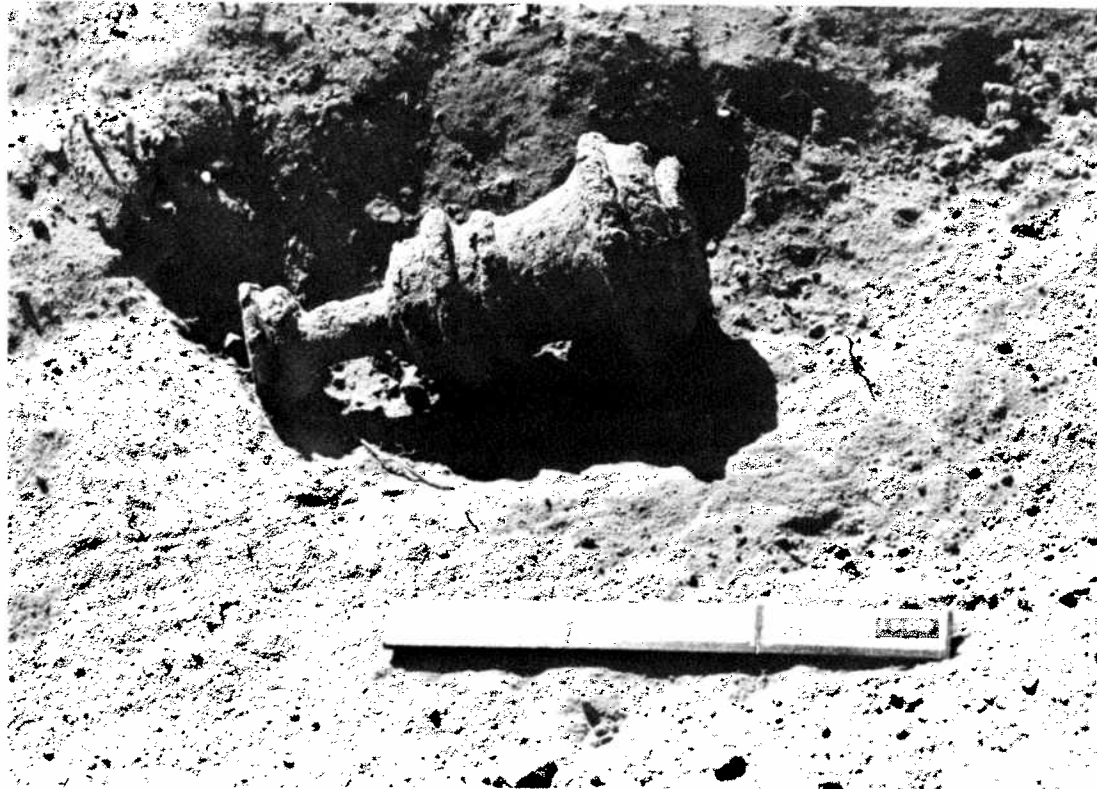


PL. 8 Bronze coins in situ.

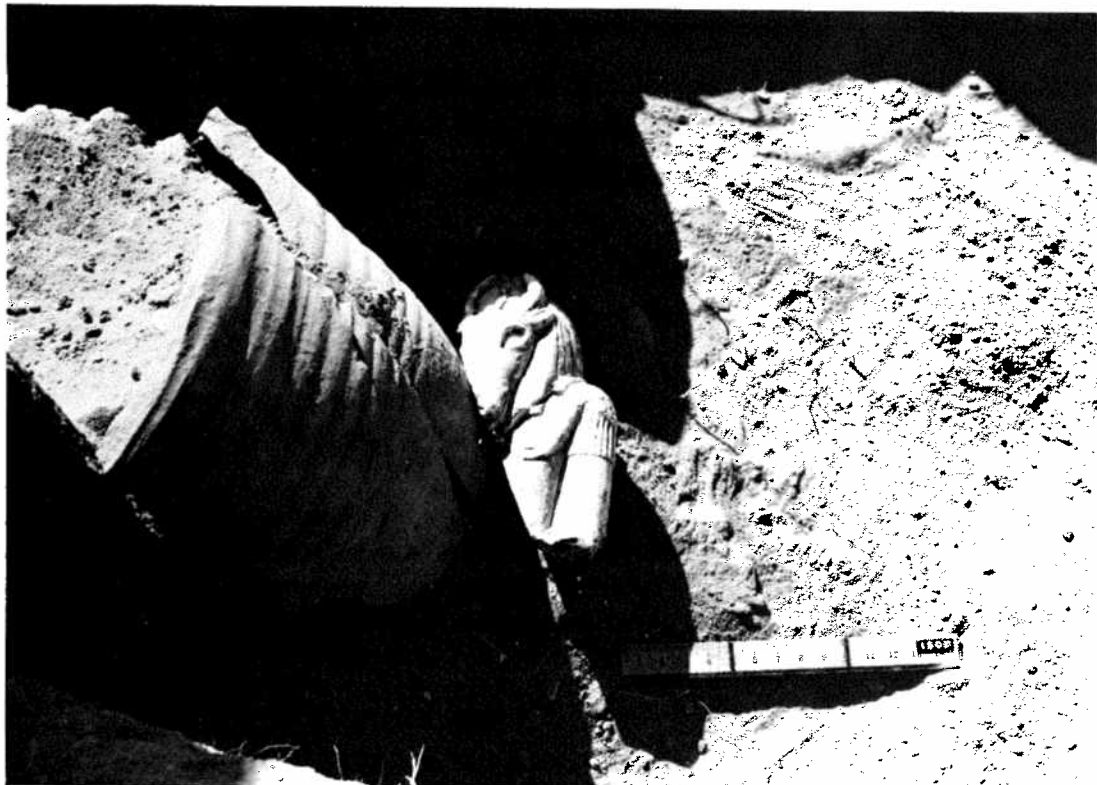


PL. 10 The two sides of Roman coin after cleaning. (Hadrian coin)





PL. 11 A Candle-stick from the S-16.



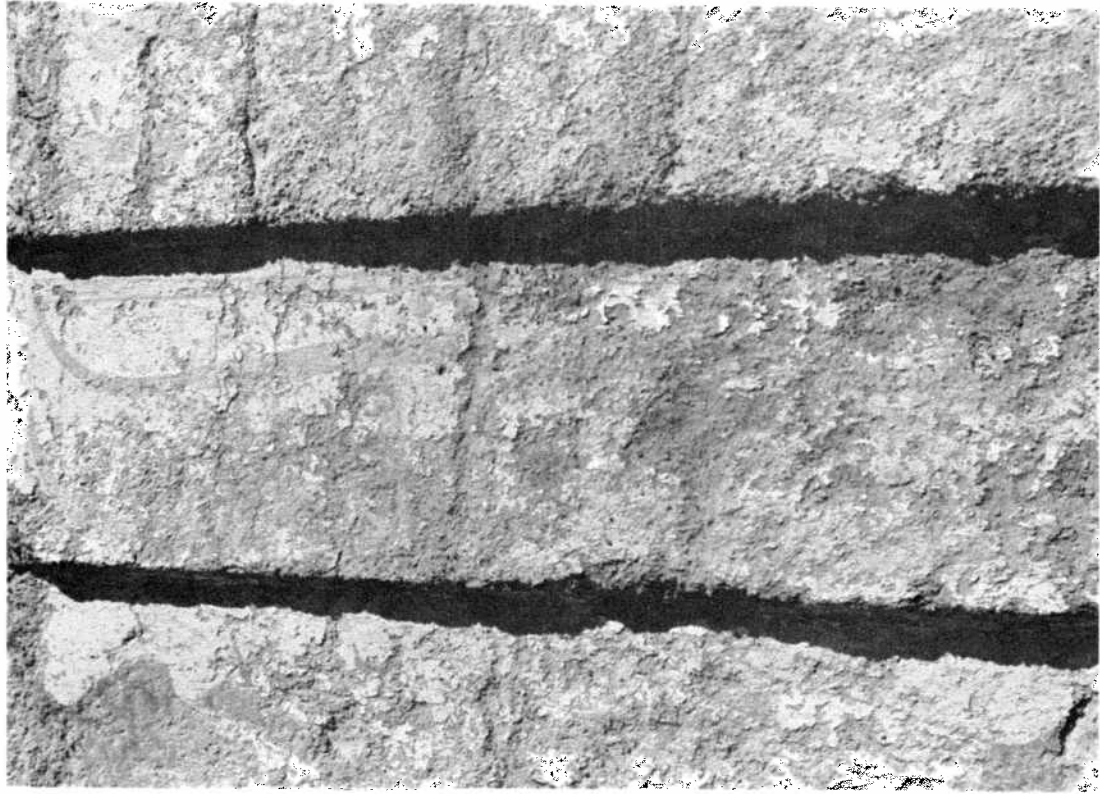
PL. 12 Upper part of a statuette of the Bull-god.



PL. 13 The Discovery of the colored staircase at Kom el Samak.



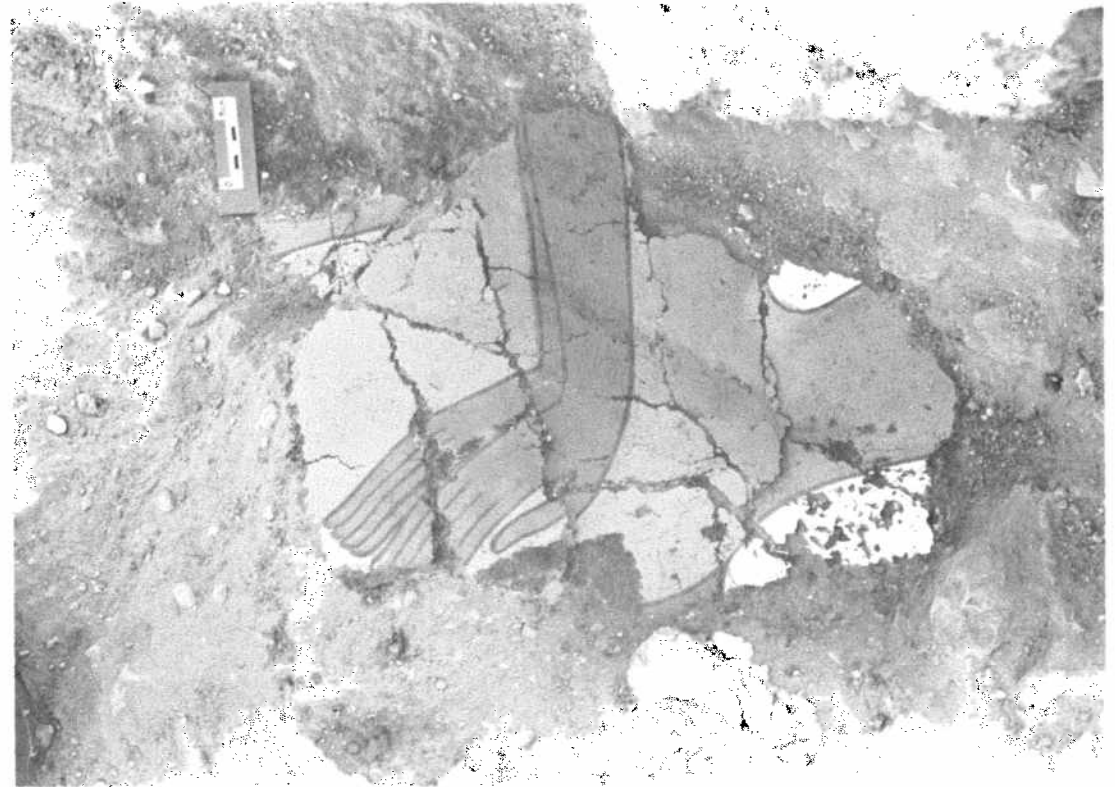
PL. 14 General view of the Hill of fish ("Kom el Samak") from the North.



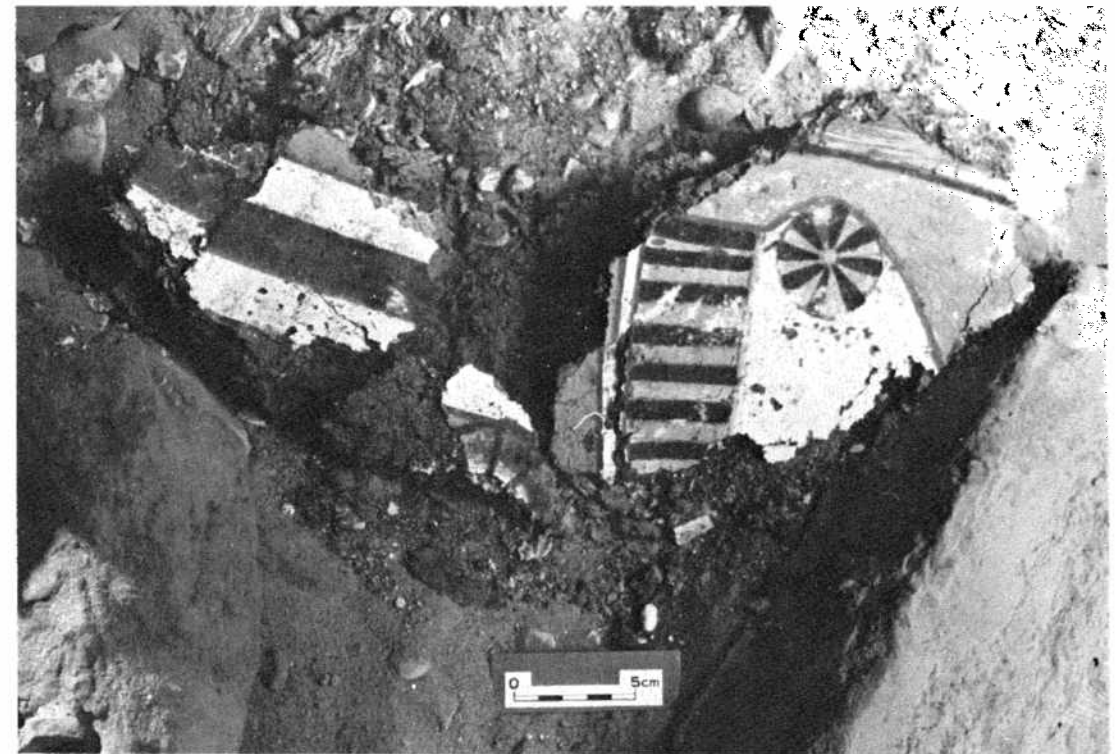
PL. 15 Part of the colored staircase.



PL. 16 Detail of a Nubian captive on the colored staircase.



PL. 17 Fragments of mural painting in situ.

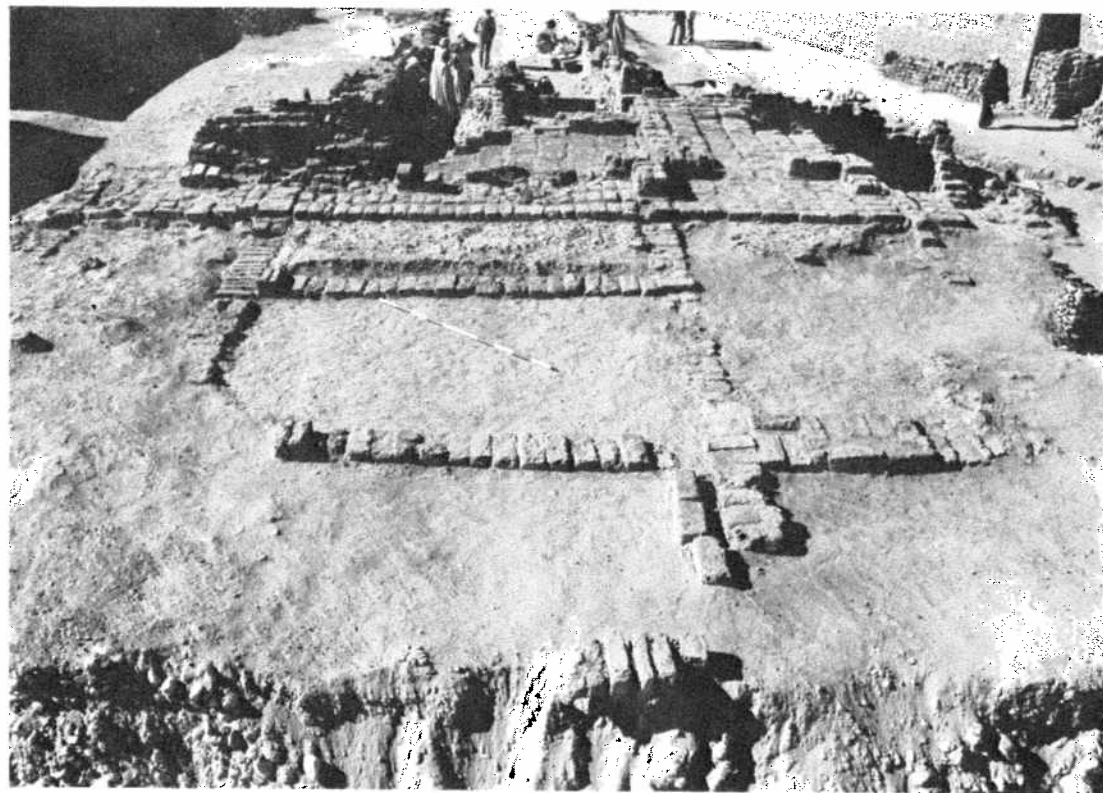


PL. 18 Fragments of mural painting in situ.

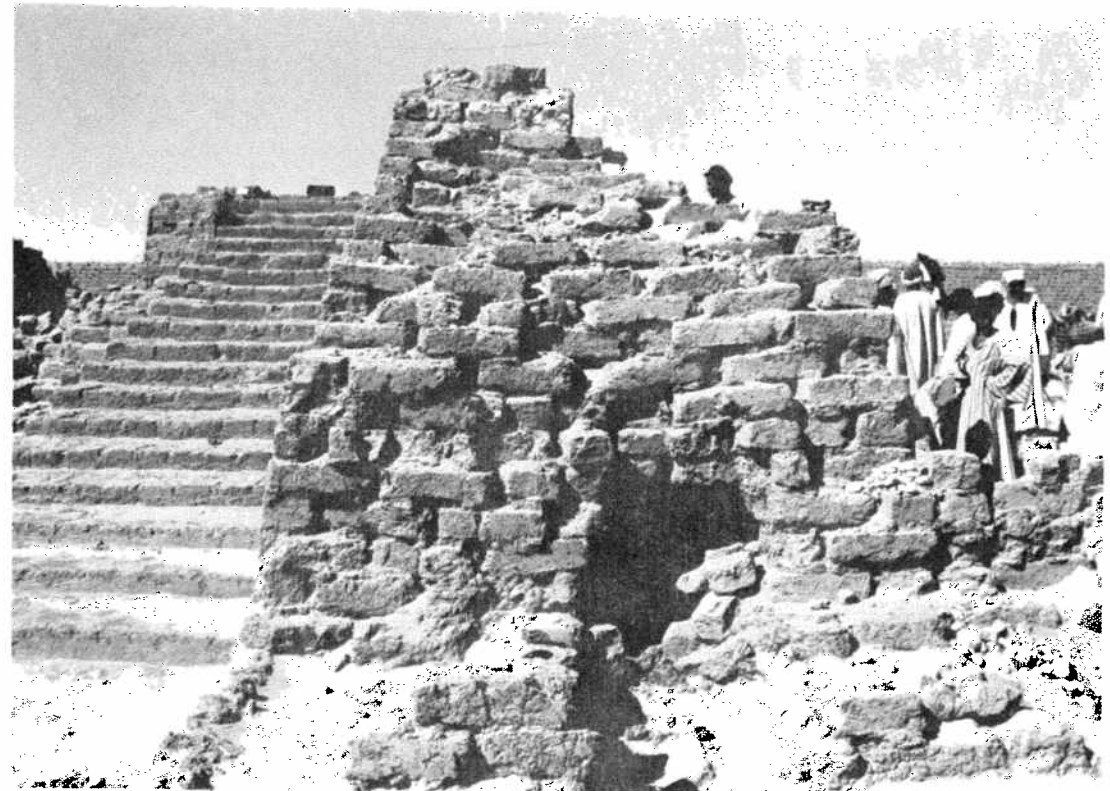




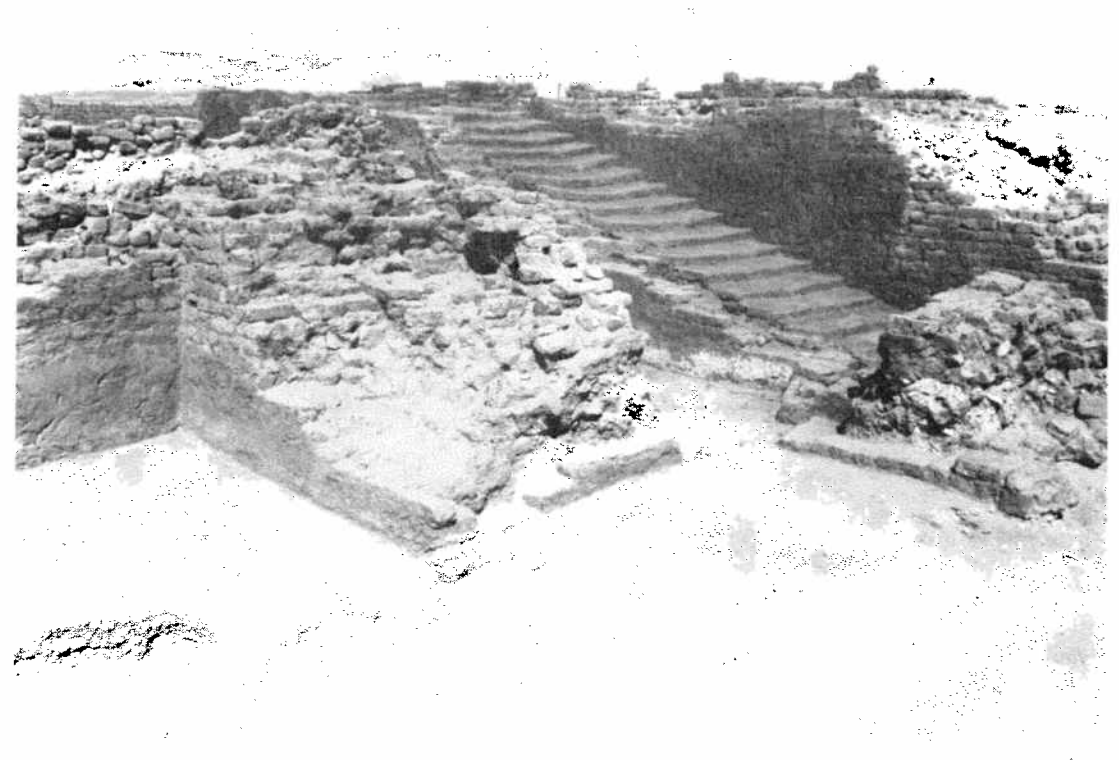
PL. 19 Cleaning at the top of the central platform.



PL. 20 The foundation of the building at the top of the central platform.



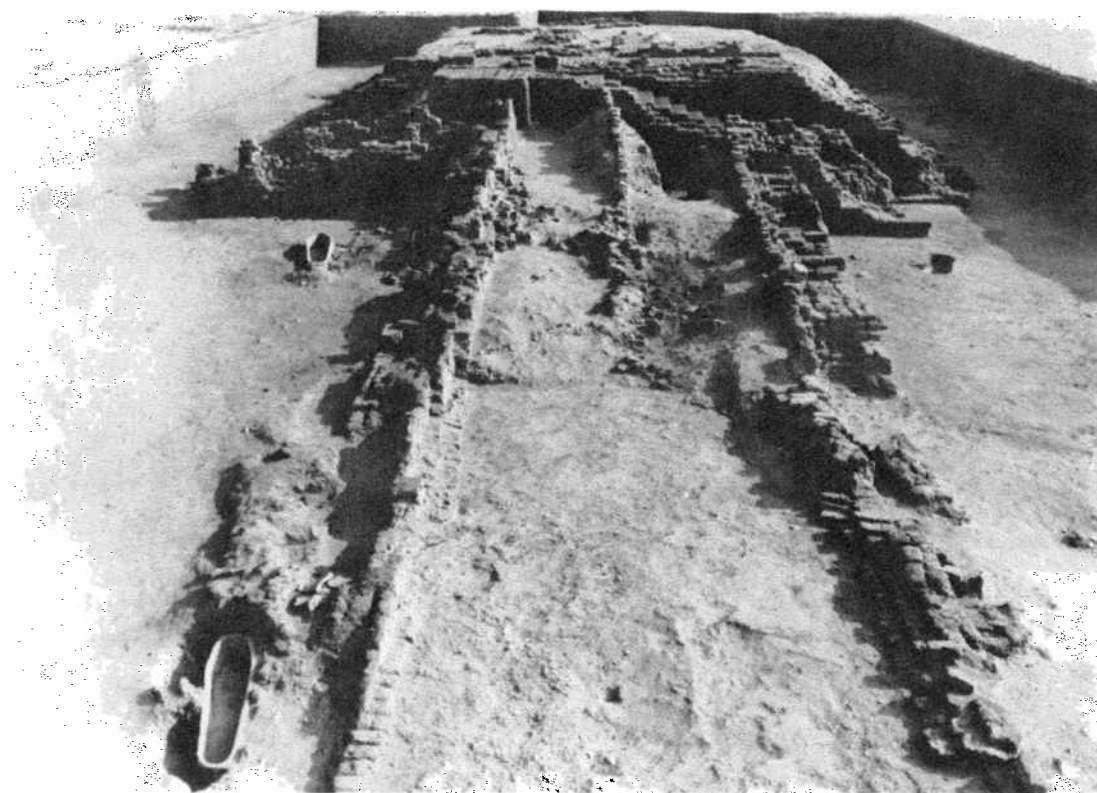
PL. 21 Excavation of the south side-staircase and central platform at Kom el Samak.



PL. 22 South side-staircase after excavated.



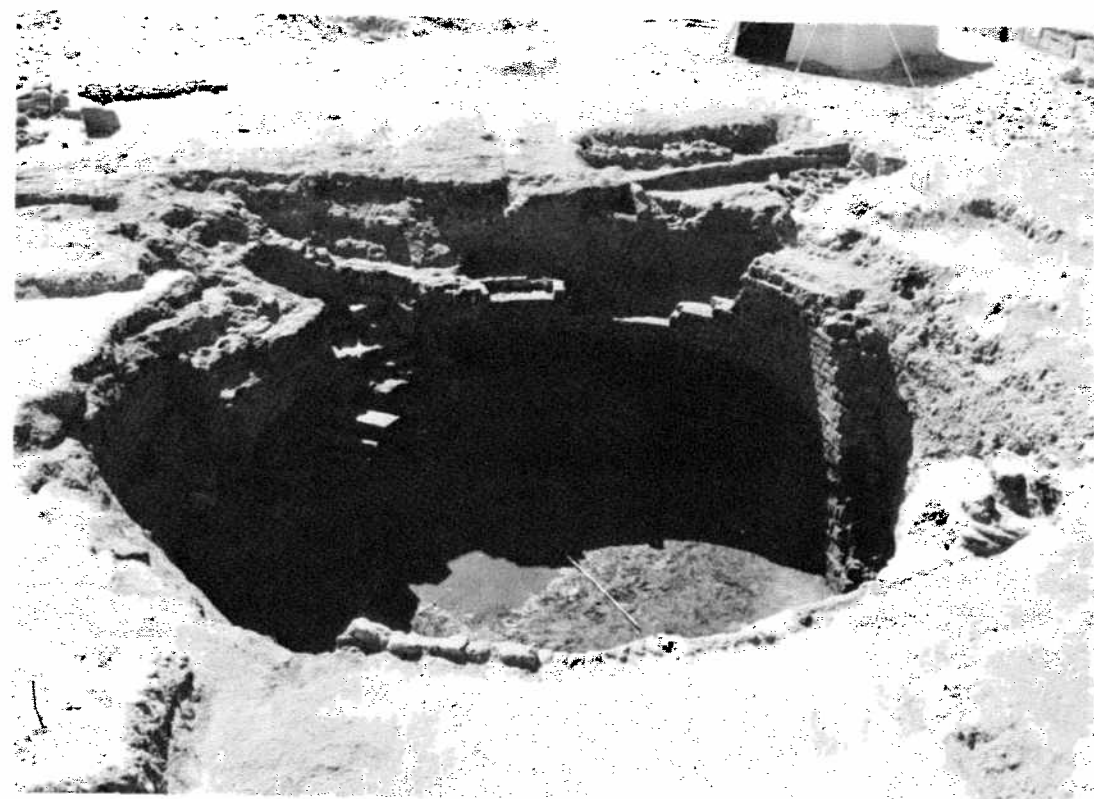
PL. 23 Excavation of the south ramp of "Kom el Samak"



PL. 24 General view of the "Kom el Samak" after excavation viewed from the south (the sixth season)



PL. 25 General view of the well and Temple area from the top of the Isis Temple.

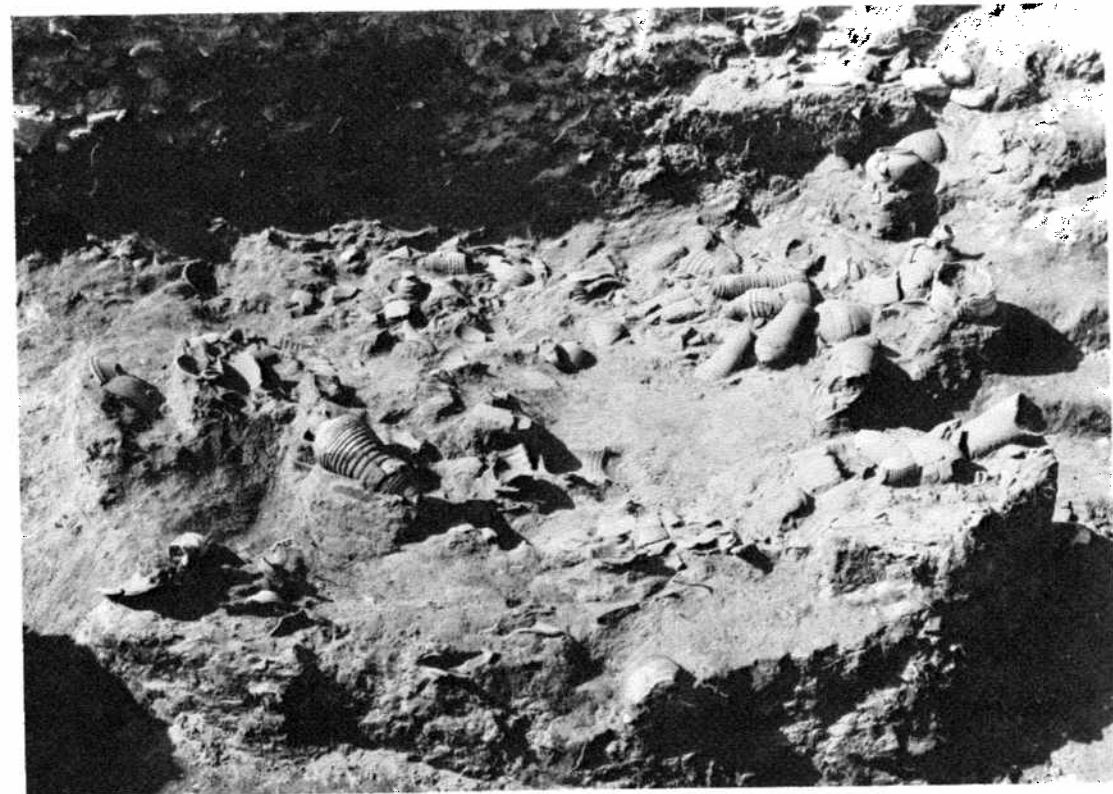


PL. 26 General view of the well.





PL. 27 Brick-masonry of the well.



PL. 28 Potteries



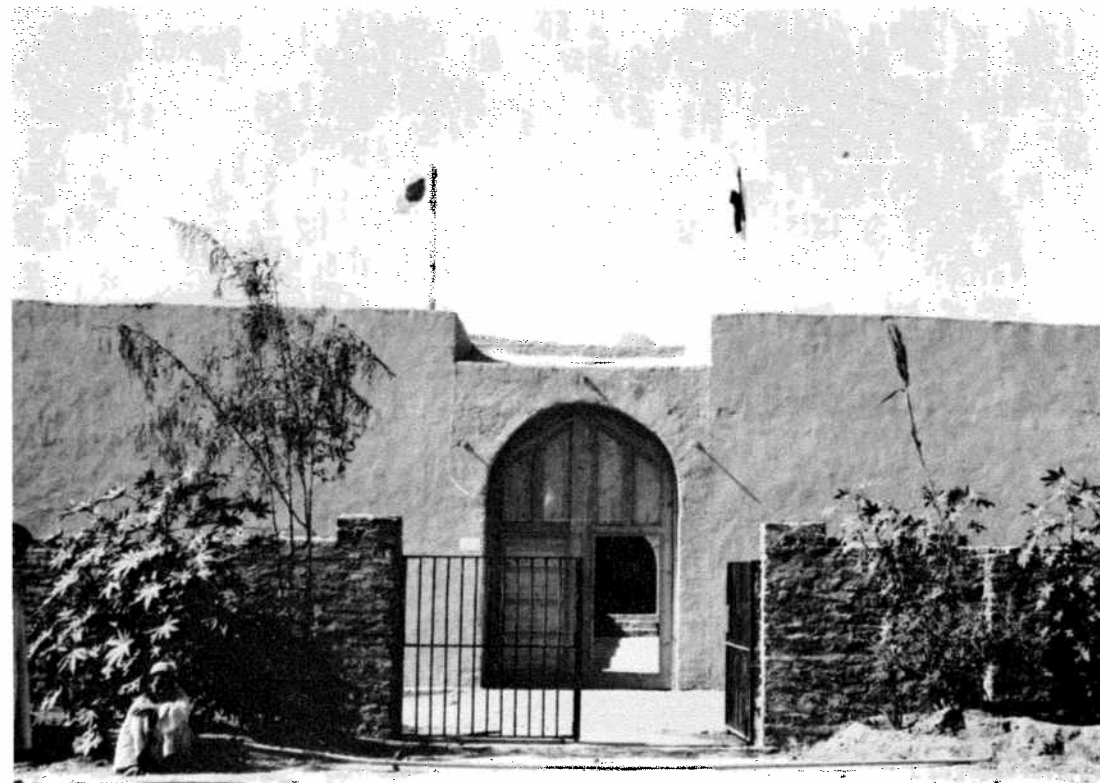
PL. 29 Coptic Potteries in situ.



PL. 30 Graeco-Roman Stela from the well.



PL. 31 Waseda House



PL. 32 The Entrance of Waseda House.