

# GIZEH AND RIFEH

## INTRODUCTION

1. THE work of the British School of Archaeology in Egypt, during the past winter, lay partly at Gizeh, and partly in the district between Asyūt and Sohāg. The reason for this division was that only a small part of Gizeh was available, not enough for a season's work, the whole of the pyramid region being already occupied by American and German claims. A large and speculative district in Upper Egypt was therefore also occupied by the School, and the greater part of the season's work was carried on there. The whole party began work at Gizeh on December 1. Mr. Ward and myself explored the western desert, from Asyut to Sohag, December 24 to 29. I returned to Gizeh, and then went back to Mr. Ward to begin work at Rifeh on January 10; Mr. Rhoades left Gizeh and began work at Deir Balyzeh January 18, and was joined there at the end of the month by Mr. Mackay, who had finished packing at Gizeh. At the end of February Messrs. Mackay and Gregg went to Deir el Ganādleh, and Mr. Rhoades joined us at Rifeh. By March 11 the whole party was reunited at Rifeh; March 17 I left, and the rest of the party gradually diminished till Messrs. Rhoades and Mackay finally closed the packing on April 2.

The importance of Gizeh in the IVth dynasty is known to every one by the three pyramids of the kings; but discoveries of late years indicated that there had been an earlier cemetery to the south of the pyramid region. Half a mile south of the Great Pyramid a ridge of rock rises from the plain, above the Arab cemetery and a group of trees, which form a well-known landmark in many pictures. This ridge runs south for half a mile, and is riddled with tombs, especially at its southern end: it was this cemetery which we examined during December. In the plain beyond it lay two patches of pottery and stone-chips; the nearer was around a tomb of the Ist dynasty, which had been opened by M. Daressy for the Cairo Museum; the further or southern patch

was of the age of Ramessu II, and had apparently been a monument of his son Kha-em-uas. The division of the work was that Mr. Ward, Mr. Mackay, and Mr. Rhoades took charge of the workmen, and began to measure up work and keep accounts, and Mr. Mackay also took some photographs; Mr. and Mrs. Firth did much of the drawing; while I organized the work and also did drawing and photographing. I have to thank Dr. Reisner for kindly allowing our cases to be deposited at his camp, between the close of the work at Gizeh and the end of the season.

2. At Deir Rifeh our work extended from the well-known Coptic village by the ancient tombs, at about six miles south of Asyut, for about three miles southward to beyond Zowyeh. The finely sculptured rock-tombs, now in possession of the Copts, were not touched by us, as Mr. Griffith had carefully copied them twenty years ago (*The Inscriptions of Siūt and Dêr Rîfeh*); but I copied some remaining painting in two other of the great tombs. In front of these we searched the banks of chips, and found a few unopened tombs of smaller size with fine burials; and the whole of the small rock-tombs were cleaned out, but very little was found in them. Our principal work lay in the cemeteries of graves dug in the plain below the cliff (see Pl. VIII). Here we found burials from the VIIth dynasty down to mediaeval times, but mostly of the XIth, XIIth, and XVIIIth dynasties. Our huts were built by the side of the modern cemetery just south of this ground; and south of us lay another cemetery, of the Hyksos age. Going further to the south we pass a cemetery of the XVIIIth dynasty near Zowyeh, entirely plundered recently; and the next group is a small cluster of burials of the VIth dynasty at the mouth of a valley, and another group out in the plain a little further to the south. Some eight miles south of our camp is another small cemetery of the VIth dynasty at Zarāby. The work at Rifeh was mainly superintended by Mr. Ward, while I was engaged in drawing and photographing.

Mr. Rhoades afterwards joined us, while Mr. Ward did part of the packing. Mr. Mackay worked the cemetery at Zaraby, and afterwards finished the packing at Rifeh.

3. All along the western desert are innumerable Coptic settlements on the cliffs. These are all of one type; in each case a quarry-cave of Roman age has served for a refuge for the Egyptians at the Arab invasion; walls were built in the great rock caverns to divide them into houses; as peace became established the buildings extended out over the foot-hill in front of the quarry-cave; lastly, at any time during the past eight centuries, one or another of the old strongholds has been abandoned, and the Copts have settled in villages on the edge of the cultivation, leaving their old refuges with little or no regard. These settlements are usually known as Deirs, called after the nearest village. In our district there were the following: (1) at 4 miles south of Asyut, Deir Dronkeh, now recently deserted and a new village built on the slope below it; (2) at 6 miles, Deir Rifeh, still fully occupied, but with many new houses below it on the slope; (3) at 8 miles, Deir Zowyeh; a little early settlement on the cliff at the mouth of a valley, appears to have been attached to a large square fort-like Deir on the edge of the cultivation, now fully occupied; this great Deir or Coptic village must be early, as it is surrounded by a wide stretch of rubbish mounds which go back to Roman times; (4) at 11 miles, Deir Balyzeh, a large settlement high up on the foot-hills with quarry-caves, dating from about the VIIth to Xth century A.D., now entirely deserted; this was largely excavated by Mr. Rhoades first, and then by Messrs. Mackay and Gregg; (5) at 19 miles, Deir el Ganadleh, a large quarry-cave full of walls, paintings and inscriptions, and considerable buildings outside of it. Half a mile south of it is a later Deir, in which a modern screen has been added to the sanctuary, and service is occasionally held; the doors stand open, and there is an immense circular well in front of it, about 20 feet across and 160 feet deep. Thirty miles south of this we reach the well-known Red and White monasteries, Deir Abu Bishai and Deir Amba Shenudi, which are original Roman buildings before the Arab conquest.

We have to thank Dr. Alexander, and the staff of the American College at Asyut, for help to our workmen, and facilities in other ways. They relieved us of the need of transporting duplicate pottery and the skulls found at Rifeh, by accepting them for the collection which is being formed at the College.

## CHAPTER I

### THE 1ST DYNASTY. GIZEH.

4. IN 1904 M. Barsanti found, and M. Daressy excavated, for the Cairo Museum, a tomb of the 1st dynasty, in the plain about a mile and a half SSE. of the Great Pyramid. The account of the work is published in the *Annales du Service* vi. 99. The brief description there given need not be repeated, as a much more detailed account follows here. But some statement of the objects discovered is valuable. Pieces of charcoal of the roofing remained in the ruins. The southern chamber contained fourteen flint knives, some of the type of the first on pl. IV, beside broken fragments, and some scrapers. The next shallow chamber contained long jars of the type shown in *Abydos* i, vi, 13. The deep burial chamber contained more pieces of jars and eight large conical seals, apparently of the type 126 (*Royal Tombs* ii, xvii) from a piece which I found: also pieces of alabaster and hard stone vases, including about sixty cylinder jars; small sketches of nine types are given. A few pieces of ivory also appeared. In the two northern chambers were pottery jars, of the types in *Royal Tombs* i, xlii, 35, 55 and 78. As the objects remain in M. Daressy's room at the Museum, and he was away when I passed through Cairo, I could not draw them for complete publication as I had wished.

5. The structure of this earliest tomb of the Memphite region is important, as showing how far the Abydos type was followed in the new centre. The form of the tomb may be seen in Pl. VI. The middle chamber surrounded with piers is the deepest; the two chambers at each end of that are about half the depth; and the whole of these subterranean chambers were covered over by a brick mastaba with panelled sides. These various parts we now describe in detail.

The burial chamber is over 35 feet long (426 inches E., 422 W.) and over 18 feet wide (221 N., 220 S.); it was over 7 feet deep originally, but is so much broken at the top edge that it is hard to trace the roofing. The best indication of depth is that of the northern chamber where the roofing beams were traced at 33 inches over the floor, which is 60 inches over that of the burial chamber, or 93 inches altogether, and this agrees with the height of the top of the wall in the north-west corner where it is preserved. In the south-west corner the floor is rather lower, and the highest plastered face is 96 inches over it.

Within this chamber was a wooden lining, which rested on a footing beam; and the space between the lining and the wall was divided by the brick piers. Such is exactly the arrangement of the tomb of king Zet, contemporary with this at Abydos. These brick piers—as at Abydos—were built in after the wood lining was in place, as the ends abutting on the wood are bare brick, while the sides are plastered, and the mud mortar has been squeezed out against a vertical face at the end. The corner pier is shown on Pl. II, where the groove of the footing beam can be seen running into the pier, but met by the beam at right angles before entering the brickwork. A strange feature is that the upper part of the piers has a hollow shell of one brick thick, the wall was plastered behind this, and then the hollow was filled up with bricks, as seen in the photograph.

The purpose of these piers was not merely to subdivide the space, but also to embrace and steady the upright posts which carried the wooden lining. In each pier is a circular hollow, shown at ground level on the plan. These hollows are 5 or 6 inches across, and slope forward as they rise. The best preserved, at the north-west corner, are 5 to 10 inches from the lining face at 62 up, 8 to 13 inches at 42 up; therefore it would lean forward to touch the lining face at 95 up, or exactly at the level of the roof. These posts doubtless carried a long beam to which the wooden lining was attached.

The wooden chamber inside was about 356 × 164 inches, according to the traces of the base beams and posts. There is no trace of a wooden floor either in the burial chambers or in the shallower chambers at the ends. In the southern chamber a line of wood along the floor was part of a box about half an inch thick. The clearing out of the chamber by the Museum workmen may have removed traces of the flooring and fittings, as they had certainly taken out large jars, which were standing in place. Though the chambers were partly burnt, the floor beams had survived till much later times. Across the burial chamber is a skew wall roughly built of bricks, some burnt red, others crude black, side by side, showing that it was built from the burnt ruins of the tomb, perhaps in Roman times. Through this wall the floor beam ran intact, and has left a hole six inches high and five wide. In other parts the places of the floor beam were five inches high and four wide. The extent of burning varied up to partial vitrification; probably much of it was due to the unguents.

The end chambers were evidently for offerings,

being only 33 high; traces of jars remain along the side of the southern chamber. The walls average 39 inches thick (38-41); and the chambers are about 220 from east to west, like the burial chamber, and 104 (101 to 107) from north to south. The sides have been greatly cut away recently, apparently in clearing the tomb, so that it is difficult to trace their real place.

6. The existence of a mastaba above the chambers was not suspected until we cleared the ground. The best preserved part of it is shown by the view in Pl. II; the plan in Pl. VI. The panelled brickwork is of the same plan as that of the tomb of the queen of Mena at Naqada, and the great mastaba on the top of the hill at Gizeh shown in Pl. VII. The faces of the brickwork were all coated with white plaster, and the floors of the bays likewise whited. In two places a pot was left in the bay, before being covered over by the coating wall, 22 to 25 inches thick; this wall is seen in the view, Pl. II, on the right hand of the panelling. The extent of the mastaba was proved by a row of bays on the west, by a fragment of a bay on the south, another on the east, and by the inner face of the wall on the north; for the dimensions see sect. 13. The general position of the missing bays is roughly indicated by the rounded outline on the plan.

On each side of the mastaba, at a short distance from it, was a line of graves, see Pl. VI; on the west side they were joined together, being formed by two long parallel walls with cross-walls between, shown in Pl. II; on the other sides the pits were built separately. All of these graves were lined with brickwork, mud-plastered, and roofed by wooden poles a few inches apart, covered with brushwood. The only difference between these and the Abydos graves of the royal retainers and officials, is that all the graves were there joined together as only the western row is here. The graves vary from 78 to 102 inches long; but twenty of them are between 86 and 89 inches, seventeen are longer and nine are shorter. The breadth is about 52 inches.

7. At the south-east of grave 12 the top of the lining-wall was at 45 inches over the floor of the grave; thence up to 63 inches was a bed of marl thrown out in excavating the graves. At about 60 inches up was brick rubbish from building the grave, and at 63 in the loose sand which covered it were some broken pieces of coloured stucco. The original built paving over the grave was at 69; and thence up to 83 was blown sand and mud rubbish

over it. These pieces of stucco were thus on the old surface around the grave, but below and outside of the brick paving which covered the grave. The pieces (see Pl. V E) had formed a stucco coat which had been put over a raised grave structure. This building had been ribbed with blue stripes, sunk in a white ground; and had a plain battlemented dado around it, from which the round-topped tomb had sprung. Then at a later date the whole had been replastered, covering the dado and top all in one uniform coat with stripes. The stucco found was this coating, bearing on one side a cast of the older structure, and the face of the newer on the other side. This section and view of the inner side is shown on Pl. V E, with the restoration sketch. The ribbing was in the same place on the inner and outer coats; but in parts it obviously slanted. The original tomb and the new coat had been coloured blue on the same bands. The bands measured were white 4·4, blue 5·8, w. 4·0, b. 3·2, w. 7·4, b. 3·1, w. 3·8, b. 5·9, w. 4·6. It seems then that there was a broad blue of 5·9, with a narrower of 3·1 on each side. The whites between averaged 4·2 wide, and a broad white of 7·4 parted the groups of blues. The whole group was 28 inches. The dado spaces are 13·2 high and 15·2 low, or 28·2 inches for the group. The bands therefore keep pace with the dado, though not centred over the battlements. The curvature of the stucco indicates a breadth of about 103 inches; but as the Egyptians used a parabolic arch, the actual breadth would be rather less.

The original size of the built-up tomb was probably adapted to the grave below. The nearest of these graves that could be measured was 126 inches long including the end walls. Now if there were the number of battlements that are shown in the restoration sketch they would be 126·4 long, or exactly the length of the grave and its walls. If there were the number shown on the end, the breadth would have been 98·4, agreeing with the breadth of rather under 103 shown by the curvature; the grave with its walls below was about 84 wide over all. As the stucco was found between graves 11 and 12, and grave 11 had contained a very rich burial, it seems probable that this decorated tomb was above grave 11.

8. The burials had all been disturbed, and about half of the graves were empty; two graves with bones remaining are shown in Pl. III A, the former is grave 38 and the latter is grave 39. As regards the direction, the bodies remaining in four N.—S. graves were all with head north, face east. Of the E.—W. graves,

three had head to east and four had head to west, but all with the face to the north. Thus evidently the head to north and face east was the normal position of burial. All the bodies had the knees sharply bent, where the position was preserved. At Abydos the royal retainers lay with head north in five cases, south in one other; and facing half to east half to west; but the graves in the town of the 1st dynasty are contrary in direction, eight having head to south, one to north, and one to east; and all lay on the left side, that is usually facing west. Hence the royal retainers at Abydos and the Gizeh burials have the same direction; while the Abydos town burials are reversed.

The sketches of the plans of graves are shown in Pl. VI A. It seems that the graves were plundered while the roofs were still in place, as in some cases the alabaster jars had evidently been thrown one on the other in a corner and broken on the floor of the grave. The contents of the graves were as follows. The cylinder vases are all drawn in Plates V, A, B; the bowls in Plates V, C, D; the pottery in V, E.

Grave 000. Flint knife, Pl. IV; large ivory spoon, rotted; 1 cylinder jar; 1 bowl.

1. 1 bowl; 2 large jars.
2. 2 bowls, one with *was* sign.
3. 2 cylinder jars; 1 bowl.
4. 2 large jars, 2 egg-shaped jars, bowl, pottery.
5. 2 stone bowls.
6. 1 cylinder jar.
7. 6 bowls.
8. 2 bowls.
11. 2 ivory cylinder jars, III; IV; V, 15, 16. Ivory ibex, IV; V, 9: circular boxes, IV; V, 19–21: 2 spoons, V, 31, 32: hair-pin, V, 26: hand, IV; V, 25: bull's leg, IV; V, 28: disc foot, V, 27: bit of cup, V, 24: slip, V, 18: covers and slates, IV; V, 10, 11. Gold needles, IV; V, 13, 14. Copper lid, IV. 2 copper tools, V, 22, 23. 4 small stone vases, III; V, 1, 2, 4, 5. Lazuli vase, III; V, 3. Bit of flint armet, V, 29. 6 cylinder jars; 13 bowls.
12. Copper bowl. 6 cylinder jars. 5 bowls.
13. Ivory cylinder jar, V, 17; long spoon, V, 34. Glazed disc, IV; V, 35. Adze at hand and at knee, III, A. 2 ivory pins. Cylinder jar. 2 bowls.
14. 2 pieces of flint bracelets, cylinder jar, 2 bowls.
15. Vases as in Pl. II. 3 cylinder jars, 6 bowls, 3 pots.
16. Cylinder jar.

## STONE VASES AND SMALL OBJECTS

5

17. 3 cylinder jars.  
 18. Cylinder jar, 4 bowls.  
 21. Bowl.  
 23. Ivory gazelle wands, IV ; V, 6, 7. Comb, IV ; V, 8. Lid, V, 12. Flint armlets, III. 4 pots.  
 36. 2 pots.  
 38. Pottery. See view Pl. III A.  
 39. Bowl. See view Pl. III A.  
 40. 2 cylinder jars. Box coffin.  
 41. 2 cylinder jars and stand. Flint scrapers.  
 42. Trace of box coffin.  
 44. Trace of box coffin.  
 51. 2 bowls.  
 56. Slate palettes, III. Copper chisel. Inscribed flint, III A. Flint flakes.

9. The stone vases are drawn in the Pls. V, V A, V B, V C, V D, and some photographed in Pls. II and III. The types are well known in the Ist dynasty (compare *Royal Tombs* ii, Pls. xlvi. to liii G). The cylinder jars of alabaster have the wavy line in only two examples, and such belong to the beginning of the dynasty; but the cord pattern is closely notched as in the first half of the dynasty, and not coarsely as in the second half. The small trumpet-mouth vases belong mainly to the tombs from Mena and Zet. The slate, syenite, and alabaster bowls are of the types from Zer to Den. Hence as this tomb is dated to Zet by the sealing (III A), it does not seem that there was any perceptible lag in the styles between Abydos and Gizeh. In Pl. III the four cups and the barrel vase are from grave 11, the upper necked vase from grave 13, and that at the base from a tomb on the hill.

As regards the materials they are closely like those used in the royal tomb of Zet. The total numbers for comparison are 60 vases recorded here, 85 from the tomb of Zet, and 752 from all the royal tombs. Reducing these to percentages of each kind of stone we have—

	Gizeh	Zet	Abydos (total)
Crystal . . . .	1	5	8
Basalt . . . .	3	3	5
Syenite, &c. . . .	7	10	11
Volcanic . . . .	1	5	11
Serpentine . . . .	1	3	3
Slate . . . .	19	7	8
Dolomite . . . .	11	15	14
Alabaster . . . .	47	28	18
Coloured limestone . . . .	4	20	13
Grey „ . . . .	0	3	5
White „ . . . .	6	1	4

The predominance of slate and alabaster at Gizeh is due to the forms having been more exhaustively drawn, whereas a great mass of duplicate examples at Abydos were not registered. On the whole the Gizeh tombs seem poorer in the rare stones, which might be expected as they are only the tombs of retainers and not of a king as at Abydos. The vase fragments found for the Museum in the main burial at Gizeh are not published in detail, and I could not refer to them as the official in charge was away when I enquired.

The exact similarity of a remarkably fine bowl of metamorphic rock to one from the tomb of Zet (*Royal Tombs* ii, 1, 153) suggests that they came from the same workman. Altogether there is no local difference of any importance between the objects used at Abydos and at Gizeh, and this shows the unification of the civilisation at the time.

10. In one grave, 56, at the east end of the south line, two slate palettes were found, indicating that the scribe or artist was buried there. These are shown in Pl. III; each has one pan covered with black and the other with red paint. From the size of the pans it is clear that they were not for small quantities used in writing, as the colour would dry up too quickly; nor were they for colour-washes on walls, as they would not hold enough. The use of them seems to have been for painting scenes on the flat, or for colouring statues; and certainly a small brush was used, as shown by the streaks of colour on the edges of the larger palette. Such a palette is shown hung by one end over the shoulder of a scribe, on the panel of Hesy; and this larger palette has a hole in the end for hanging it. The size of the larger palette is 10·94, 10·98, 10·76 long, 5·45, 5·48, 5·50 wide, the pans 4·60 across; the lesser is 4·14, 4·11 long, 2·17, 2·18, 2·20 wide, the pans 1·72 to 1·74 inches across.

The accounts of this scribe were found in the grave written on a slip of flint, at about the position of the hands. This is photographed on Pl. IIIA. The numbers on it are written much like the piece of accounts from the tomb of Zet (*Royal Tombs* i, xix, 11), and we read the numbers 78, 103, 40 and 60.

In the same grave, 56, a much corroded copper chisel was found beneath the large palette, lying upon the pelvis. In another grave, 13, on the west side, two copper adzes were found; the better preserved is shown on Pl. III A. The body was in a box coffin about 49 × 28 inches, with the knees

sharply bent; one adze lay before the arms, the other was set upright between the knees. These are exactly the same form as the copper adze of king Zer, *Royal Tombs* ii, vi, 23. A copper bowl, rather crushed and corroded, was found in grave 12; it was like that from the tomb of Semer-khet, *Royal Tombs* i, xii, 11.

The flint-work was much like that of the same period elsewhere. The first knife on Pl. IV is like a curved tip of one found in the tomb of Zet; and the second knife is like the fragments found in the tomb of Zer, see *Abydos* i, xiv. The pointed flakes resemble those of Zer and Zet, and the round-ended flakes from grave 41 are like those of Zer, Zet, and Mer-neit. Thus the style of flint-work, both detailed and rough, agrees with that at Abydos, and shows that there is not fifty years of difference either way between the work of the southern and northern capitals.

The flint bracelets, Pl. III, were found on the right fore-arm of a body in grave 23. They are like those found in the tombs of Zer and Zet.

11. The toilet objects are shown in Pls. IV, V. The little circular ivory dishes with lids, are not known before. The two loops at the sides are doubtless for a hinge-pin and a closing-pin: the decoration on the sides and lids is by rows of drilled spots. They were probably for containing eye-paint. Below these in the photograph is a carved hand from a statuette. Next is an oryx couchant forming the handle of an ivory lid, of which a piece of the edge lies below. At the right hand is a bull's leg from a casket. At the base of the photograph on the left are two ivory covers for kohl slabs, and one slate slab; such small slabs and covers belong to the time of Zet (see *Royal Tombs* ii, xxxviii, 2, 50, 51). In the middle is an ivory comb, of the same form as one from the tomb of Zer (*R. T.* ii, xxxiv, 26). Below it are two needles of gold; they have only been found of copper before. At the right is a copper cap from a jar, and a cylindrical jar of ivory.

The two ivory wands, Pl. IV, with gazelle heads were found in grave 23; they are finely carved, and were doubtless used by a dancer for marking time, as in the scene in *Deshasheh*, xii. Below is a disc of blue glazed pottery, now faded white, with holes for suspension.

The spoons were frequent in graves, but are always found broken up in the plundering. The various forms are drawn in Pl. V. A similar bowl was found in the tomb of Zer (*R. T.* ii, xxxiv, 81). They differ from prehistoric spoons in having the

curious bend of the handle turning down to the under side of the bowl.

12. The bracelet of hawks, Pl. III, is of blue glazed pottery. It is a cheap imitation of the type of gold and turquoise bracelet found in the tomb of Zer (*R. T.* ii, i), and pieces of the same form are known in ivory and in lazuli (*R. T.* ii, xxxv, 81). In this case the backs of the pieces are plain, and therefore it is seen that some faced one way and some the other way, unlike the royal bracelet where they all looked the same way. At least three have been lost, there are eight facing to left and only five facing to right; the extreme left-hand one in the photograph is reversed. The pieces have two threading holes running through each; and as some small glazed ball-beads were found with them, twice as many as the hawks, it seems that the beads were threaded between the plaques. The two thread-holes run into one in the terminal rings, by which the bracelet was tied on. The long beads of similar blue glaze were doubtless a necklace; they were found in the grave with the bracelet pieces.

13. The measurements of the panelling of the brickwork of the mastaba are regular, the successive portions being (in inches) —

	Projection	Bay	Group
	108	71	179
	106	72	178
	109	70	179
	107	76	183
mean	107.5	72.2	179.7

These are in the proportion of 3 to 2,  $107.5 \div 3 = 35.8$ , and  $72.2 \div 2 = 36.1$ . In the projection the panels and the flat wall average exactly the same width, 15.3.

On continuing from the southern remaining panel to the fragment on the south face, the distance is 354 or 2 groups of 177; and from the northern remaining panel to the north face was 540, or 3 groups of 180. Thus the fragments of the ends fall very closely in their right place. The total length was 1897 and breadth 831; deducting the 108 repeat of the projection, this gives 1789 for 10 groups, and 723 for 4 groups; or 179 and 181 for the average group of side and end. It can hardly be questioned that the bay is 100 digits and the projection 150, the group being 250. The true diagonal digit of the 206 inch cubit is 728, and 250 of this would be 182 inches for the group. We find in the IIrd dynasty mastaba (sect. 18), on the contrary, that the customary digit, of

28 to the cubit, was used. Some other dimensions, such as the distances to the outside of the east and west graves, and length of the brick chamber, seem to indicate cubit measurements; but as co-ordinate measures do not agree with this, it is best to leave these out of consideration.

## CHAPTER II

### THE IIND AND IIIIRD DYNASTIES. GIZEH.

14. ON the top of the south end of the ridge facing the cultivation, looking down on the site of the tomb of the Ist dynasty, we found the remains of a tomb of the IInd dynasty. It had originally consisted of a sloping passage, closed by two successive stone portcullises, beyond which was a funeral chamber. Later one portcullis was drawn out upwards, the other was broken, the chamber was cut to pieces by a deep shaft passing through it, the contents were scattered, and a mastaba of the XXVIth dynasty was piled up over the site, with the fragments of early vases in the filling of it. The precise period of the tomb is given by impressions of five different jar-sealings of king Neter-en (Pl. V E), which were found thrown into a small well.

The limestone portcullis now lying on the surface is 118 to 120 inches long, 48 to 55 wide and  $11\frac{1}{2}$  thick: it must weigh over  $2\frac{1}{4}$  tons. The grooves for the portcullises are 57 inches wide, and 24 to 25 across: the depth in the rock is 143 inches, or not much more than the length of the block. The two pairs of grooves were 34 or 36 inches apart.

15. The stone vases had been all broken; some of them remained in the chamber, but the greater part had been thrown out and mixed with the later filling of the mastaba. As being well dated to a reign of which hardly any vases were known (*Royal Tombs* ii, viii, 12, 13), they make a welcome addition to the history of vases. The forms are mainly dishes (21), and a few bowls (4) and cylinders (5); but there were many more too much damaged to restore, and therefore the numbers are not exact. The material was nearly all alabaster (26), with gypsum (2 drawn and many others broken), limestone (1), and pink marble (1). It seems then that hard stone had been entirely given up, and the flat dish was by far the commonest form. A pottery jar like those of Perabsen (*R. T.* ii, vii, 31) was also found here.

16. On the top of the hill further back, due south of the Great Pyramid, is a large mastaba, marked on

the plan of Lepsius, which was opened and traced round by Mr. Covington and Mr. Quibell. The plan here given, Pl. VII, is due to measurements taken by different members of our party; and as discrepancies exist about the details of the chambers, I regret that we cannot entirely depend upon it. The general arrangement and position of the chambers beneath the mastaba is sufficiently certain for comparison with other remains. It is of the same type as the mastabas of the kings Hen-nekht (or Sa-nekht) and Neter-khet, of the beginning of the IIIrd dynasty (Garstang, *Mahasna*, vii, xviii); and these all differ so much from the royal tombs known down to the close of the IInd dynasty, and those of the end of the IIIrd dynasty and onwards, that we must regard the Gizeh tomb as nearly contemporary with the beginning of the IIIrd dynasty. Unfortunately no name has been found on vases or on sealings; indeed no sealings could be found in it, although I offered a large reward to the workmen.

The outside of the mastaba is panelled on exactly the same pattern as the mastabas of the early Ist dynasty, under Mena (Naqada) and Zet (Gizeh). It seems hard to believe that the detail of such a pattern had continued in use for five centuries without change. The only alternative would be to regard this mastaba as a work of the Ist dynasty, with a reconstruction of chambers of the IIIrd dynasty. But against that is the fact that this is on a hilltop, whereas all the Ist and IInd dynasty tombs are in low ground; and also that there is no sign of alteration in the body of the mastaba. There is therefore no apparent escape from accepting the long continuance of the precise detail of a pattern for so many centuries.

The wall coating round the mastaba is 12 inches from the face of it, and 56 inches thick: and outside of it is a smooth slope of 174 inches wide, rising 40 inches up to the base of the wall. This covering wall is much more important than in the earlier examples.

17. From the inside of the mastaba there were obtained hundreds of fragments of stone vases; but as most of the larger pieces had been removed before, and are now lying in boxes in the Cairo Museum, it seems useless to attempt drawing or restoration till they can be re-united. Two or three forms are shown on Pl. VI D. Beside these there were found many stone balls or marbles for a game, in the well which led from the subterranean chambers to the still lower funeral chamber. These marbles are shown of the actual size in Pl. IV. There were 2 of carnelian,

1 of brown agate, 9 of hard brown limestone, 52 of white quartz, and 59 of white limestone. The red carnelian were .42 and .50 inch diameter, the brown stone .46 to .56, the quartz .41 to .64, the limestone .38 to .58 inch.

At the top of the same well is a ledge cut in the rock, and on clearing this our men found a polished slab of chert, about a foot long and two inches wide. This is figured in Pl. III A, lighted from the back to show the translucency. It is not a knife, as there is no edge to it; though thinning towards the circumference, it is bounded by a uniform polished band around it, about a sixteenth of an inch wide. No such object is known before, so it is now in the Cairo Museum.

A lump of small tools or models made in copper, was found in the tomb; the types which can be distinguished are drawn in Pl. VI E. They are similar to those from the tomb of Neter-khet and Sa-nekht (*Mahasna*, xvi, xxiii).

18. The total size of the mastaba as measured by Mr. Mackay is 2160 inches on E., 2184 on W., 1114 on N., 1112 on S. The projecting parts of the face average 77.8 inches and the bay between 69.4 long. There are 14 bays and 15 projections in the length, 7 bays and 8 projections in the width. If we subtract the final projection from the length and breadth, they are 2082 and 1035, or 100 cubits and 50 cubits, divided into 14 and 7 similar portions, each therefore of 200 digits. On examining the subdivisions of the projecting part we find that the average of the flat faces is 11.8, of the recesses 10.2 inches; while if we take the mean digits of the whole length, .7415 inch, 16 digits is 11.86, and 14 digits is 10.38. These being spaces of 16 and 14 digits, the whole projection is 106 digits and the bay 94 digits. Within the bay the average width of the wide recess is 29.8 ± .4, and 40 digits is 29.7; hence the bay is a recess of 40 digits with 27 on either side. These dimensions are not based on the pure digit (of which 40 is the diagonal of the square cubit), but on the customary digit of 28 to the cubit; and the cubit here averaged 20.76, which is rather a long value.

It should be recorded that we also cleared around a large stone platform on the east side of the mastaba just described; the appearance of it is shown on Pl. III A. On the top it had no continuous stonework, the blocks being only the basement of the walls, which are now destroyed. A pit in the middle of it was cleared, but led to nothing. From being exactly in front of the mastaba I supposed that it

might have been the base of a stone temple, for the king buried in the mastaba, but nothing was found bearing on this. On the west side toward the north, and on the north side, some stone bowls were found, three of syenite and four of alabaster, which are figured in Pl. VI D.

A tomb shaft was found just below the great mastaba on the east; and two bowls of black porphyry, four of diorite, one metamorphic, and four of alabaster were found, which are figured in Pl. VI E.

### CHAPTER III

#### THE IV<sup>TH</sup>—VI<sup>TH</sup> DYNASTIES. GIZEH.

19. THE great buildings of the pyramid kings stand to the north of the ground which was open to the work of the British School. But in searching the ridge of hill south of the Sphinx we found that the face overlooking the cultivation had a row of rock-tombs cut in it, and many small brick mastabas. The mastabas did not yield any objects, the chambers had been rifled long ago, and the stone lintels had been removed, perhaps by Lepsius. The rock-tombs, though entirely plundered, had the inscribed stone lintels yet remaining. These were photographed in position, and afterwards carefully taken out. The views of them in both states are given in Pl. VII A, and other views of the tombs without inscriptions are in Pl. VII B. I should have wished to plan and explore this hill more completely; but the inexorable necessity of finding work on a very limited ground for a hundred workers brought from a distance, who could not be temporarily dismissed, and the loss of their wages on unprofitable work, compelled me to start digging at Rifeh sooner than I had wished.

The general plan of this cemetery as made by Mr. Firth is given on Pl. VII C. It will be seen that the tombs are all quite separate in design, and do not form part of a group on one system. Where rock-chambers are cut into the hill, it is usual to have a court of brickwork built on in front of them. In other cases the rock is dressed flat, false doors are cut on the face of it, and burial pits are sunk in the rock behind one or more of the false doors. Or else we find this imitated in brickwork with a mastaba face, and pits behind it, as on Pl. VII B. Inside the rock-chambers there is sometimes a shallow burial pit with a little chamber at the bottom; in other cases there is a rough false door, never inscribed, but built of blocks,



and on removing these a grave is found cut in the rock, and roofed over with slabs of stone. One such was quite intact. I examined the skeleton, of which some bones were displaced; yet it did not seem that there was more disturbance than was due to falling apart, nor any clear evidence of dismemberment. The head was to the north.

The plain between the hills to the west of this ridge, three-quarters of a mile south of the Great Pyramid, was also examined. The whole surface is covered for many feet deep with broken stone-chips from quarrying. As it is too remote to have been used as a ground for the waste from pyramid building,—such waste being wanted to bank up the pyramid platforms,—the only solution seems to be that a bed of good stone existed here, which has all been quarried out for the pyramids, and only the quarry-waste left on the ground. Yet a difficulty remains in there being many pieces of red granite, and some of other stones, scattered about the west side of the rocky ridge, as if some costly building had existed in this region. No ground for such a building could be traced, although we looked over the whole area.

20. The inscriptions of the cemetery belong to the Vth or VIth dynasty. On Pl. VII A, at the top, is the lintel of “The royal sealer of the granary Ne-ptah-nofer-her; his wife Nofert; his children the interpreter of records Amgesa, Khut, Ka-em-redui, and Kakaa. The necropolis man Pepa is satisfied with the contract which has been made with him.” Below that is the roll over the doorway, with the inscription for the husband alone. “Give an offering to the king, and an offering to Anup who is in Ta-zeser, for a burial in the cemetery for the lord of devotion to the great god, the royal sealer of the granary Ne-ptah-nofer-her.” The meaning of the *suten hotep da* formula has been somewhat cleared by the construction of it at Tell el Amarna, where the crystallized tradition was broken, and the grammar of it can be gleaned from the variants. The possible meanings to be considered in the usual form are: (1) may the king give an offering to a god for favour to the deceased, or (2) may the king and a god give an offering for the deceased, or (3) give an offering to the king and to a god that they may favour the deceased, or (4) a royal offering given to a god for the deceased. Now in the tomb of Huyu (Davis, *El Amarna* iii, xxii) there is “*suten da hotep* of thy bread and beer of thy house, &c.” The sense (1) is impossible as no God is named; (2) is impossible as

the estate of the deceased furnishes the offerings; (3) or (4) are left as the only meanings. Again in the same tomb (D., *E. A.* iii, xix) there is “*Ankh suten du hotep* O Ua-en-ra . . . king of south and north Nefer'kheperu'ra” and “*Ankh suten du hotep* O ‘He who is great in duration.’ I give praise to thy fair face . . . Akhenaten.” This will not agree to the sense (1), nor to (2) as there is no person named but the king, and he is not asked to offer to himself. The sense (3), “Give an offering to the king,” followed by his titles, is perfectly sound. And the prefix of *Ankh* before *suten*, shows that *suten* is the king, and not as (4), the adjective “royal” applied to the offering.

Below is a roll from another tomb inscribed “Royal friend, the skilful (maker) of date wine of the king, superintendent of the farm stores, Akhet-ab.”

Next is a view of a tomb door, and of the lintel apart, reading “Give an offering to the king, and an offering to Anup in his divine house, for a tomb in the mountain of the west, for the lord of devotion to the great god, the ship's captain, the reckoner of the treasury, the royal friend, Per-en-ankh.”

At the base on the left is a lintel, “Give an offering to the king and give an offering to Anup lord of Ta-zeser for his burial in the underworld of the royal friend, the superintendent messenger of the judges, the superintendent messenger of the palace, companion in the palace, the lord of devotion to the great god, Er-du-ne-ptah.” On the roll below is “His wife Ymeryt.”

The last group is a lintel reading “The royal friend, companion in the palace, Er-du-ne-ptah. His wife Ymeryt. He says the necropolis man is to bring these things for a sacrificial offering, never may there be a diminishing therein.” And on the drum below is “Er-du-ne-ptah, Superintendent of physicians (?) Er-du-ne-ptah. His child, of his body . . .”

On Pl. VII B is an altar slab inscribed “Give an offering to the king and to Anup within Ta-zeser for a good and great burial in the western mountain of the underworld for the lord of devotion to the great god, and a house of offerings of bread, beer, and cakes to him on the festivals of the new year, of Tahuti, of Uag, of the *sad*, of the great feast, of Pert, and of *saz*. The royal friend, devoted to the great god, the royal purifier, Ra-hapef.” I have to thank Dr. Walker and Miss Murray for light on these titles and phrases.

## CHAPTER IV

THE VI<sup>TH</sup> DYNASTY. ZARABY AND ZOWYEH.

21. THE cemetery at Zarāby is on the western desert about two miles south of Abutīg. Mr. Mackay excavated it and recorded the details of 126 graves. The objects all belong to the VI<sup>th</sup> dynasty, according to the graves of that age found at Hu (*Diospolis Parva* xxviii). The principal stone vases and three burials are shown in Pl. VII E, and the pottery in Pl. VII F. From the notes we can classify the characters of the burials in the following details.

The position of the bodies was always with head to the north and face to the east: and this agrees with the direction found both at Denderah and Hu in graves of this period. The bodies which remained in the graves were not uniformly treated. There were 22 laid at full length, 18 with the knees somewhat bent, 16 with the knees sharply bent and the body contracted, like the early dynastic and pre-dynastic burials, and 4 dismembered burials all protected by large stones laid over them. These dismembered bodies are important as the latest of such a class of burial; the details are as follow. Grave 83, the skull lay parallel to its natural position but in front of the hands, and an alabaster jar (VII E lower line of small vases, left end) was placed where the head should have been: the grave was eight feet deep and was protected by piling big flints upon it, with 2 feet deposit of sand and gravel over the flints. Grave 86 contained two burials together, the head of one separated six inches from the body; the grave four feet deep, protected by piles of stones, and buried under a foot of sand and gravel. Grave 97 contained two burials; the skulls lay at the north end, one facing downward, one facing west; the ribs and vertebrae lay in a heap in front of the skulls; only a leg bone and three arm bones remained from the limbs: the grave was four feet deep, protected by large stones, and covered over with six inches of sand and gravel. Grave 121, had the skull lying base up facing north, with jaw beneath it; only the pelvis and legs sharply bent were found, but they were in excellent preservation; the grave was three feet deep and protected with large stones. Each of these examples seems due to dismemberment before burial, as the large stones placed over the grave were still in position. Beside these there are other less certain cases, as follow. With the body perfect there is grave 20, skull 3 inches off; grave 39,

skull 4 inches off; grave 51, skull 2 inches off; grave 60, body face down, skull 4 inches off, with jaw on top of it; grave 67, skull 2 inches off; grave 118, only a jaw, no skull, six feet deep with large stones over it. With no trace of a body, there was grave 15 with a skull and a jaw on the top of it. With bones piled up in a heap, and two burials mixed together in the grave, there were graves 42, 43 (see photographs Pl. VII E), and 81, the last with the two skulls on the top of the heap. With the previous clear instances of dismemberment in view, it seems most likely that these latter cases are really due to ceremonies before the burial, and not to being pulled about by plunderers. Such are the latest cases known of ceremonial separation of the body.

22. The positions of the stone vases were at the ends of the graves. Five at the north end, two at the NW. corner; four at the south end, and two at the SE. corner. The forms shown in Pl. VII E are all well known at the close of the Old Kingdom. It may be noted that the larger forms, those marked 3, 5, 37, were all found at the south end of graves. While the long tubular vases with collars, 35, 45, 57, were all at the north ends.

The positions of the pottery were nearly all at the north end of the grave. The examples are NE. 35, N. 23, NW. 7, W. 1, SW. 1, S. 2, SE. 3, E. 5. Hence three-quarters of the pottery was at the north or north-east; usually it was raised on a ledge above the head. The forms are given in Pl. VII F, and are the same as those of the Old Kingdom at Denderah.

23. The mirror was found in four cases at the north-east, that is before the face, in two cases it was beneath the head, and in two cases at the south-east corner. A copper adze was the only other metal work.

In two burials button-seals were found at the neck; and in 23 graves beads were in position on the neck. The types of these were what are known from Hu and other places, of the VI<sup>th</sup> dynasty.

The burials at Zowyeh were partly in a small mound of stream-laid debris at the mouth of a valley (see Pl. VII E), and partly in the plain in front of this. The graves had mostly been plundered, and but few objects were obtained. The best was a string of carnelian amulets of the usual VI<sup>th</sup> dynasty style, found in the valley mound. The pottery found is here marked Zow in Pl. VII F.