

THE ROYAL TOMBS OF THE IST DYNASTY.

INTRODUCTION.

1. THE present volume describes the continuation and conclusion of the work on the Royal Tombs of Abydos, begun last year. It has not been practicable to include every result in this account, as some classes of objects require more study, such as the carved slate fragments and the worked flints. Nor is there any special virtue in comprising the whole of my results in two volumes, when so large an amount of the material from the same site is still lying in Paris awaiting publication. But at least there is now issued every inscription, and almost every class of objects, which have been obtained in this final work of rescue by my careful workmen.

The production of ninety-eight plates is a matter requiring time, both for digesting the material into order from rough heaps of fragments, and for the merely mechanical labour of drawing. To carry out this, several workers were needed. Mr. Mace superintended the excavations, and so left me free to work out the piles of sealings, stone fragments, and small objects. I only occasionally saw the digging, mainly for planning the tombs of Den and Perabsen, the central chamber of Zer, and the south half of Khasekhemui; the rest were planned by Mr. Mace. My wife drew all the plans, besides doing much in sorting and

arranging material. Miss Orme's help was more valuable than ever, as she developed all my photographs, and inked in fifty-seven plates of my pencil drawings, beside drawing marks on pottery and helping in sorting the stone vase fragments. Without her doing such a great mass of work, this volume could not have appeared till many weeks later. Miss A. Umlin sorted much of the vase fragments, and joined many complex fractures, besides doing a great part of the daily marking of objects.

The general course of work was, that I photographed in the morning, sorted and drew stone vases in the afternoon, and sorted and drew sealings in the evening; though each kind of work was also taken at other times.

The importance of the material for study makes it needful to thoroughly publish every fragment. But as much of it will only be wanted by specialists, and would not add to the general interest in the subject, we have had to divide the plates as in the publication of *Denderah*. The large edition presented to all subscribers contains sixty-three plates, of which fifteen are photographs and forty-eight lithographs. Besides this the supplementary plates which are not of general interest number thirty-five, of which ten are photographs and twenty-five lithographs. These are all distinguished by

letters added to the numbers, and are fully described in the text of this volume. They can be procured either separately or bound together with the whole series.

2. Again a rich harvest of history has come from the site which was said to be exhausted; and in place of the disordered confusion of names without any historical connection, which was all that was known from the *Mission Amélineau*, we now have the complete sequence of kings from the middle of the dynasty before Mena to probably the close of the IInd Dynasty, and we can trace in detail the fluctuations of art throughout these reigns. The 166 plates of results from our work will need some twenty or thirty to be yet added to record the whole of the information, which no one could hope to have recovered two years ago.

And this recovery is not only after the removal of everything that was thought of value, both by the *Mission*, and also by the thieves of Abydos who did the work, but it is in spite of the determined destruction of the remains on the spot. The pottery jars were smashed, avowedly to prevent any one else obtaining them. The stone vases, broken anciently by fanatics, are referred to thus, "ceux qui étaient brisés et que j'ai réduits en miettes" (*Amélineau, Fouilles*, 1897, p. 33), and we indeed found them stamped to chips; the stacks of great jars which are recorded as having been found in the tomb of Zer (*Fouilles*, 1898, p. 42) were entirely destroyed; the jars of ointment were burnt, as we read, "les matières grasses brûlent pendant des journées entières, comme j'en ai fait l'ex

périence" (*Fouilles*, 1896, p. 18); the most interesting remains of the wooden tomb chamber of Zer, a carbonized mass 28 feet by 3 feet, studded with copper fastenings, have entirely disappeared, and of another tomb we read "j'y rencontraï environ deux cents kilos de charbon de bois" (*Fouilles*, 1896, p. 15), which has been all removed. The ebony tablets of Narmer and Mena—the most priceless historical monuments—were all broken up in 1896 and tossed aside in the rubbish, whence we have rescued them and rejoined them so far as we can. In every direction we can but apply to the destroyer his own words concerning the Copts who left the remains, "tous brisés de la manière la plus sauvage" (*Fouilles*, 1896, p. 33).

Of new methods employed in this work some may be worth future use, such as the restitution of the forms of the stone vases by an adjusting frame, the clearing of the weathered stones by a filling of sand on the face, and the adoption of a complete mode of registering every wrought fragment from a tomb by inventory sheets of outlines (plates xxxii. to xlv.), which enable a general idea to be obtained of the contents, and the trial of any union with pieces elsewhere preserved.

As most of the tombs are diagonal to the points of the compass, it may be stated that the upper sides of all the plans here are called the north in the descriptions, except pl. lxii., the top of which is called east, as owing to the shape it could not be turned; and the general plan, pl. lviii., which is placed with the west at the top.

CHAPTER I.

THE SITE OF THE ROYAL TOMBS.

3. The general periods of the different groups of tombs can be readily distinguished by the change in the character of the objects found in them. In the sealings, for instance, there is a class of animal-figure seals which are closely like the later prehistoric work; these are only found commonly in the B group of tombs, few in the tomb of Zer, fewer still in that of Zet. On the other hand, the seals of Perabsen and Khasekhemui are more nearly like those of the IVth Dynasty: and those of Perabsen are intermediate between the earlier style and that of Khasekhemui. From the objects alone, therefore, it is clear which are the earliest and which the latest tombs; while the relative positions on the ground show in most cases the order between these limits. It is evident that the earliest royal tombs are the easternmost of the larger ones, and that the progress was to the west, planting the tombs alternately north and south of the middle line. Even without any internal evidence of the order of certain kings, we should place the groups in this general succession.

4. When we examine the details, the relative order is more closely fixed by the presence of re-used vases of a king in the tomb of a later king. So that if we ignore all historical lists we can restore the order of the tombs in the following manner, referring to the letters shown in pl. lviii. :—

$\left. \begin{array}{l} B \\ O \\ Z \end{array} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \text{by style of} \\ \text{sealings,} \end{array}$	order	$\left. \begin{array}{l} B \\ Z \end{array} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \text{by re-use} \\ \text{of vase.} \end{array}$
Y by sealings, between Z and T.		

$\left. \begin{array}{l} T \\ X \\ U \end{array} \right\}$	by re-use of vases.
Q	by position after U.
$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{Raneb} \\ \text{Neteren} \\ \text{P Perabsen} \end{array} \right\}$	by re-use of vases.
V	latest, by sealings.

Hence the order of the tombs is in a line westward from B to Y; then alternate on each side of Y are T, X, and U; Q is placed further west of U; and then, after a pause, comes P on the opposite side, and then V again opposite to P.

In this order we have not fixed the place of the separate kings of the B group, nor that of Hotepahau, except that he is shortly before Perabsen. But so far we have been independent of the historical lists.

5. In the first volume of *Royal Tombs* we have already shown how this order of the tombs agrees with those which can be identified in the lists. Two more such identifications can now be added; for on seal 109 we read Zer—Ta, and similarly on seal 2 (vol. i.) we read Zet—Ath, thus corresponding to the Teta and Ateth of Sety's list. Of the tombs placed in order above we can then identify

O	Zer—Ta=Teta, 2nd king,
Z	Zet—Ath=Ateth, 3rd,
Y	
T	Den—Setui=Hesepti, 5th,
X	Azab—Merpaba=Merbap, 6th,
U	Mersekha—Shemsu=Semempses, 7th,

B 2

and I have shown how the early form of the second name of Qa—Sen—was mistaken for Qebh (vol. i. 23), and so stated in the list of Sety.

It is evident then that five or six of the eight kings named in the 1st Dynasty are identified here in the right order of the tombs. Hence it is to the group of tombs marked B that we must look for Mena and his predecessors; and it is in this group that abundant objects of King Aha are found. Hence Aha must be within a reign or two of Mena. Looking at the sealings, it is clear that the seals of Aha are more like those of Zer than are any of the other earliest sealings. Hence Aha would come to be identified with Mena, entirely apart from the evidence of the ivory tablet from Naqada, on which that identification has hitherto rested.

Here a question arises, How is it that objects of Aha should be so abundant at Abydos when his tomb has been already found at Naqada? Where was his tomb? at Naqada or Abydos? Now at Naqada were found many ivory labels of necklaces, mentioning the number of stones, and with the name Neit-hotep on the back. These probably belonged to a queen of Mena. And if we must fix on one tomb as that of Aha, and one as that of a connection of his, it would be the Abydos tomb which would be that of Aha, where several ebony tablets record offerings to him; and it would be the tomb with Neit-hotep's necklaces which would be that of a queen. Also it is far more likely that a tomb in the great series of royal tombs should be that of the king, and that a tomb apart in another cemetery should be for a queen of his.

Hence it seems that the facts as now known would show that Aha—Mena was buried in the royal series at Abydos; and that the tomb at Naqada was that of his queen Neit-hotep, naturally buried with vases and objects belonging to the king. Further, it seems not improbable that one of the sealings there found is to be read "the spirit of Neit-hotep," *ba Neit-*

hotep (see De Morgan, *Recherches* ii., fig. 559), and was the queen's own seal.

We may now consider this group of B tombs more in detail. We know of this age several kings whose works are ruder than those of Mena, and who therefore must be presumed to have preceded him in that rapidly rising civilization. But unhappily the contents of these B tombs have been so ruthlessly confused and destroyed by recent digging that the chance of recovering their history has been almost lost. The list of named objects associated with certain tombs is as follows (see pl. lix):—

Ka, pottery . . .	B 7, 11, 15.
Narmer, jar . . .	6.
„ sealing . . .	17, 18.
„ tablet . . .	18.
Sma, about . . .	15—19.
Aha, vase . . .	17.
„ tablet . . .	18.
„ tablet . . .	19.
„ gold strip . . .	15.
„ <i>Bener-ab</i> objects.	14.
„ sealings . . .	16.

There is also King Zeser (*Royal Tombs* i. iv. 3), whose simple title of *nebui* connects him with King Sma and the vases of Zer (pl. v. 13, 14), and who therefore must be placed also among the pre-Menites.

The position of King Sma is indicated in another way. Several toilet objects with the name of Neit-hotep were found in the graves of female domestics around Zer, but none of the seventy gravestones bear this name. It seems then probable that these were disused toilet objects of Neit-hotep, the queen of Mena, such objects having been passed over to her handmaidens, who died in the next reign—that of Zer—and had the things buried with them. Now on one of these objects of Neit-hotep (pl. ii. 11) there is apparently *nebui Sma*, and as Sma cannot have been the husband or son of Neit-hotep, he was probably her father. Hence

we are led to place Sma as the immediate predecessor of Mena, who married his daughter Neit-hotep. The extreme rudeness of the sealing and pottery inscriptions of Ka certainly point to his being before Narmer. Hence we have the series:—

Ka,
 Narmer,
 Sma,
 Mena,

with Zeser probably before Sma, and yet after Ka. How far can the tombs be identified with these kings? The general order is from east to west. Hence B 19 is probably the tomb of Mena; and it is in No. 19 and the tombs adjoining it (15, 17, 18) that the objects of Mena are found. And such have doubtless been scattered in throwing the contents of No. 19 into tombs already opened.

The objects of Sma are found about B 15, but on the surface, so that their place is not certain. There would be nothing against the tomb of Sma being B 15, next to Mena.

The objects of Narmer are found in B 6, 17, 18. The large jar in B 6 is not likely to have been thrown far, and might well have been turned out of B 10 in throwing the contents back. So great a king is not likely to have had so small a tomb as B 17 or B 18, where only small objects of his were found. So that B 10 has a better claim than any other to be the tomb of Narmer.

The tomb of Ka is certain, as it was still full of cylinder jars, many of which bore his name; and the only other things of his were found some on either side, at 11 and 15.

And as Zeser was probably after Ka it is more likely than not that B 9 was his tomb, the only dated object in which was a sealing of Narmer, who was probably his successor.

The whole of the three rows of private tombs to the east of these great tombs contained no name on the sealings but that of Aha—Mena;

and hence they seem to have been added in his reign as tombs of his domestics.

Moreover objects of Mena were in B 14, including three with *Bener-ab*, "sweet of heart," probably a queen or daughter of Mena; and other pieces with this same name lay near by.

The whole result of this inquiry, piecing together all we can, from the order of the kings, and the sites where their objects have been thrown, is thus:—

B 7 Ka
 B 9 Zeser
 B 10 Narmer
 B 15 Sma
 B 19 Mena
 B 14 Bener-ab
 B 16 Domestics of Mena

The two tombs unnumbered to the north of B 14 were cleared last year by Mr. MacIver, who found there pottery (see *R. T.*, i., xxxix. 2, xl. 8) with rough figures of a hawk like that on sealing 96, and a bit of a bracelet with what is probably the name Aha roughly cut. So probably these were of sons or brothers of Mena.

Thus we have reconstructed the list of Thinite kings before Mena so far as the facts allow, and perhaps so far as we are ever likely to ascertain them. The case would have been very different had these tombs not been so confused by the previous work here.

6. The facts about the second dynasty, the kings after Qa, must now be studied. In the tomb of Perabsen we found that there were buried with him vases of three other kings, which—by the unbroken rule here—are therefore his predecessors. Their names are Hotep-ahai, Raneb, and Neteren; and it is certain that Raneb preceded Neteren, as the latter had defaced and re-used a vase of the former (pl. viii. 2). As on statue No. 1 (Cairo Museum) these three names are in the above order, and the succession of two of them is now proved, it is only reasonable to accept them in this order.

The only link to the list of Sety I. is that if these are the immediate successors of King Qa (who closed the Ist Dynasty), then Neteren is the king Baneteren of the list. As there is no contrary fact this may be accepted.

After these comes Perabsen, and therefore he would be the Uaznes of Sety's list.

Before Khasekhemui must probably be placed Khasekhem, whose statues and vases were found at Hierakonpolis (*Hierakonpolis*, pls. xxxvi. to xli.); if so he would be the Senda of the list, Sethenes of Manetho.

Then there remains but one name in this dynasty, Zaza, according to Sety's list, to be that of Khasekhemui. Now there seems reason for this king being the last ruler of the Thinite dynasties, as there is no royal tomb known later than his at Abydos. Moreover we meet in his tomb with sealings naming the "king-bearing mother" Hapenmaat. She seems to have been adored throughout the IIIrd Dynasty, and thus appears to be the deified ancestress of that dynasty.

Also a sealing of Perabsen was found in the tomb of king Neterkhet (opened by Mr. Garstang, working for the Egyptian Research Account); and this king is the same as Zeser on the Seheyl stele, the 2nd king of the IIIrd Dynasty according to Sety. This shows that there was no great interval between Perabsen and the IIIrd Dynasty.

The length of the IInd Dynasty in the copyists of Manetho would at first sight be longer. But in the version of Africanus, which is usually the best, Syncellus, his copyist, introduces two more kings from Eusebius; and we now see that this is probably an erroneous emendation. There is, however, a King Khaires, who may well be the king Kara whose cylinder Mr. Quibell found at El Kab (*El Kab* xx. 29).

From all these available facts it seems that we ought to restore the dynasty thus:—

Tombs.	Sety.	Manetho.
Hotep-ahai	Bazau . .	Bokhos
Ra-neb . . .	Kakau . .	Kaiekhos
Neteren . . .	Baneteren .	Binothis
Perabsen . . .	Uaznes . .	Tlas.
(Khasekhem)	Senda . .	Sethenes
(Kara)	Khaires
Khasekhemui	Zaza . . .	Neferkheres

We must note that Perabsen cannot be the same as Send, as there were different priest-hoods of these two kings. There are, however, difficulties with the list of Saqqara; and we have to choose between that version, as against the list of Sety and the presumption that Khasekhemui was the last of the dynasty. The above list is all that seems authenticated on all sides; but it may have to be extended by later discoveries.

CHAPTER II.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TOMBS.

7. The oldest tomb that we can definitely assign is that marked B 7 (pl. lix.), the tomb of King Ka. This is a pit with sloping sides, about 20 feet by 10 feet.¹ The thickness of the brick walls is that of the length of one brick, about 11 inches; and the soft footing of the wall and pressure of sand behind it has overthrown the longer sides. The chamber has never been burnt. The broken pottery mixed with the sand, which filled it, largely consisted of cylinder jars, like the later prehistoric form W 80 (see *Nagada*, pl. xxxii.); and these had many inscriptions on them, written in ink with a brush, most of which showed the name of Ka in the usual panelled frame. There can therefore be no doubt of the attribution of this tomb.

The tomb B 9 is perhaps that of King Zeser, who seems to have been a successor of Ka. It is of the same construction as that of Ka, and about 18 by 10 feet. It never was burnt.

8. The tomb B 10 appears to be the oldest of the great tombs, by its easternmost position; and the objects of Narmer point to this as his tomb (see pl. lvi. 1). The brick walls are 5 feet thick at the end, and 7 feet on the long side. The batter is 9 inches at the end, and 12 inches in the sides. Thus in both the thickness and the batter of the walls there is a care shown in proportioning the strength of the ends and the sides. The size is about 26 feet by 16 feet, and the depth 10½ feet. There are two holes in the floor, one being at the middle of each long side; and two other holes between these and the south corners: so it seems that there were five

¹ The details of exact dimensions are placed together for comparison at the end of this chapter.

posts on each long side, and probably one in the middle of each end, to carry the wooden roof. This tomb was never burnt.

9. The tomb B 15 is probably that of King Sma (see pl. lvi. 2). Its walls are not quite so thick, being 50 inches at the end. The size is about 26 feet by 16 feet; and there is a large batter of 14 inches in the sides, and 12 inches in the ends. The depth is 13½ feet. The post holes in the floor suggest that there were five on the long side, and one in the middle of each end, as in the tomb of Narmer. But along the sides are holes for roofing beams near the top of the wall (lower sides at 149 from the floor, the wall being 160 to 170 inches high); they are drawn here on the east side, but others on the west were mostly broken away and inaccessible. These roof beams do not at all accord with the posts; and this proves that, here at least, the posts were for backing a wooden chamber inside the brick chamber. If this be the case here it was probably also true in Narmer's tomb; and hence these brick tombs were only the protective shell around a wooden chamber which contained the burial. This same system is known in the Ist Dynasty tombs, and we see here the source of the chambered tombs of Zer and Zet. Before the age of Mena, the space around the wood chamber was used for dropping in offerings between the framing posts; and then, after Mena, separate brick chambers were made around the wooden chamber in order to hold more offerings. This chamber was burnt; and is apparently that mentioned by M. Amélineau *Fouilles, in extenso*, 1899, p. 107.

10. The tomb B 19, which contained the

best tablet of Aha—Mena is probably his tomb; for, as we have noticed, the tomb with his vases at Naqada is more probably that of his queen Neit-hotep.

The length of the tomb is about 26 feet, and the breadth of it 17 feet; with a batter of the walls like that of the other tombs.

It appears to have had five posts along each side, like the other tombs.

As both of the tombs B 17 and 18, to the north of this, contained objects of Mena, it is probable that they were tombs of his family.

But the great cemetery of the domestics of this age is the triple row of tombs to the east of the Royal tombs; in all the 34 tombs here no name was found beside that of Aha on the jar sealings; and the two tombs B 6, 14, seem to be probably of the same age. In B 14 were only objects of Aha, and three of them with *Bener-ab*, probably the name of a wife or daughter of Mena, which is not found in any other tomb. In B 6 was a vase of Narmer, probably turned over from his tomb B 10, as B 6 is clearly of the same group as B 14, the tomb of Bener-ab.

11. The Tomb of King Zer—Ta (pls. lx., lxi.), has an important secondary history as the site of the shrine of Osiris; established in the XVIIIth Dynasty (for none of the pottery offered there is earlier than that of Amenhotep III.), and visited with offerings from that time until the XXVIth Dynasty, when additional sculptures were placed here. Afterwards it was especially despoiled by the Copts in erasing the worship of Osiris. But of this later history the main remains were collected already by Amélineau, and it is the early state of the place as the tomb of King Zer that we have to study here.

The tomb chamber has been built of wood; and the brick cells around it were built subsequently against the wooden chamber, as their rough unplastered ends show (pl. lvi. 3, 4); moreover the cast of the grain of the

wood can be seen on the mud mortar adhering to the bricks. The beams on which the wooden planking of the sides rested were 9 × 5 inches; of the 9 inches the wall end covered 3, and the mud mortar stood out 2 inches more, covering thus 5 inches, and leaving 4 inches wide for the footing of the planks. There are also long shallow grooves in the floor, a wide one (10 inches across) near the west wall, 3 narrow ones (2 inches across) parallel to that and a short cross groove: all probably the places of beams which supported the wooden chamber. Besides these there was, till four years ago, a great mass of carbonized wood along the north side of the floor, 331 × 36 inches, or 28 × 3 feet; in which were copper wire and nails. This was probably part of the flooring of the tomb, but it has entirely been destroyed after M. Amélineau uncovered it.

The floor of the tomb, beneath the wood-work, was covered with a layer of bricks 3 inches thick, which lay on 5 inches of clean sand. But all the middle of the tomb had been cleared to the native marl for building the Osiris shrine, of which some fragments of sculpture in hard limestone are now all that remain.

The size over all of the wooden chamber must have been about 28 feet square; the whole space including the cells around being about 43 feet × 38 feet. The best preserved parts of the wall are 9 feet high, and it is 8½ feet thick.

A strange feature here is that of the red recesses, such as I have described last year in the tomb of Zet. The large ones are on the west wall, and in the second cell on the north wall. Beside these, there are very shallow ones on each side of each of the cell walls on the north and south, except the eastern narrow cell on the north, and the two most eastern ones on the south; there is also one niche in a cell on the east. No meaning can yet be assigned to these, except as spirit-entrances to the cells of offerings, like the false doors in tombs of the Old Kingdom.

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In the north-west corner of the tomb, a stairway of bricks was roughly inserted in later times in order to give access to the shrine of Osiris. That this is not an original feature is manifest: the walls are burnt red by the burning of the tomb, while the stairs are built of black mud brick with fresh mud mortar smeared over the reddened wall; also the bricks of the tomb are $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, those of the stairs are 14 inches long.

In the narrow chamber at the head of this stair we found several jars of the Aegean type (base of pl. liv.) remaining perfect, with carbonized cloth; these are noticed with pl. liv. The later stairway was entirely removed in order to recover the early remains, including the beautifully engraved ivory box, pl. v. 4, xxxv. 13, which was under the stairs.

It is notable that the burning of these tombs took place before the re-use in the XVIIIth Dynasty; as is also seen by the rebuilt doorway of the tomb of Den (pl. lvi. 6), which is of large black bricks over smaller red burnt bricks. It is therefore quite beside the mark to attribute this burning to the Copts.

The great ranks of graves of domestics around this tomb had been nearly all cleared out by the plunderers of the past; and only a few objects were found in them, such as the ivory lions (pl. vi. 34) in O 29; the copper tools (pl. vi. 23—26) in O 31; the gold pin and tablet (pl. va. 6, 7), etc.

12. The tomb of King Den—Setui was partially cleared last year around the smaller graves on the N.E. and S.W.; it has now been completely examined. The plan given on pl. lxii. will be seen to differ considerably from that published by M. Jequier; indeed it is difficult to see how some of his imaginary details were invented. The irregularities of the building, the varying angles, and the curvature of the entrance and sides of the chamber, are all carefully verified. There are two systems of direction; (1) the entrance passage, the eastern

chambers on either side of it, the north side of the excavation and brickwork of the great chamber; and the south-west step passage and chamber by it; the other system is, (2) the great chamber, the north and south rows of graves, and those to the west.

How can this error have arisen? The surrounding rows of graves are probably later than the setting out of the great chamber, later, that is, by some hours or perhaps days. From the fact of the two stairways having the same bearing it is seen that their direction is not a stray error. It seems most likely that the stairways were first marked out by pointing to an object on the horizon, and the pit dug for the chamber. The error arose in making the south side of this pit not parallel to the north; the building was started on the south side, the north had then to follow that; the north and south rows of graves followed the sides of the chamber; while the east row had to be square with the entrance passage.

The length of the passage is 78 feet over all. Its general appearance in relation to the pit is shown on pl. lvi. 5, and a nearer view in fig. 6. The great brick chamber is about 50 feet by 28 feet, and 20 feet deep. The recess at the east end of it is 15 feet by 5 feet.

The astonishing feature of this chamber is its granite pavement, such considerable use of granite being quite unknown until the step pyramid of Saqqara, early in the IIIrd Dynasty. At first sight it might here be connected with the repairs of this tomb under Aahmes II.; but I found that the casts of stone vases (of the Ist Dynasty forms) yet remained upon the granite, proving that it was a part of the original tomb. Of this paving but few blocks remain; one at the west end, three at the north side, three or four lying loose, one threshold, and three small blocks in the south-west chamber. The western block, with a groove cut along it, is shown in photographs, pl. lvia. 1, 2. Around the sides of the chamber is a flooring of bricks, bordering

the granite floor, as seen in pl. lvia. 1; these are laid as three lengths and one breadth, making up 27 inches width of brick bordering. At the north side the brick border is 16 inches wide. Some of the slabs are of grey gneissic granite, which splits into thin masses, the western slab being 111×64 inches, and only 5 inches thick; other slabs are of hammer-dressed massive pink granite. The blocks on the north side are (1) 53×28 , running 6 inches under the east wall; (2) 98×28 ; (3) $52 + x \times 27$ inches. That there were other blocks is clear by the cast of a block remaining against the side of this line of blocks. The eastern recess of the chamber was, however, all paved with brick, like the bordering of the pavement on the other sides. A block lying in the middle of the chamber is $55 + x \times 47 \times 10$ inches thick; it has been called an uninscribed stele, but is clearly a paving stone. The stele of Den was probably of limestone, like those of Zer and Zet, as the back of a limestone stele with rounded top, 21.6 inches wide, is lying in the tomb of Den.

Having now described what is left of the granite, we turn to the traces of the structure over it. Upon the three northern granite blocks traces remain of the wooden structure, casts of two beams, two planks, and seven post ends. It will be best if I describe the structure which they prove to have existed, rather than state the details. Against the north wall was a timber side, of planks laid horizontally, the outer skin 3 inches thick, the inner 2 inches; it is possible, however, that one cast might be due to a plank dropping out of place, so that there may have been only one skin 2 or 3 inches thick. These horizontal planks were fastened to upright posts to maintain them; the posts were on the inner side, and were much like modern joists, 3×10 inches, with the narrow edge against the planks; and they were at intervals of about 35 inches. Having thus faced the brick wall, much like a modern timbering of an earth face

in excavations, a second such timbering was built to form the chamber side, with the joist uprights towards the other joists, and the smooth plank face forming the inside of the chamber. The space in which the joists stood between the outer and inner plank facings was 38 inches wide. This space, partially divided by the upright joists, was floored over with brickwork on the granite, 5 inches thick. And in the space were placed large quantities of stone bowls and vases. In the burning of the tomb, the resins, ointment, &c., which were in these, melted and ran out, forming a paste with the mud, and so the vases became bedded. Afterwards these stone vases were all removed, probably at the time of clearing out the tomb and rebuilding the door jambs, a restoration which is dated by a piece of a stele of Aahmes II., found here by Amélineau. On the east side of the tomb there appears to have been only a single screen of planks, as a beam 7 inches wide is placed at the foot of the wall. It may be noted that the joists were roughly hewn at the lower end, of which the impression was left in the mud brick; and every joist had twisted on the base where it had no attachment, showing that it was firmly attached at the top. This twist, due to winding in the wood, is about 20° , and is exactly like that often seen in the posts supporting railway platform roofs. The twist was that of a left-handed screw in all cases.

The height of the chamber is quite unknown. The thick wall has a definite flat top, plastered over 259 inches ($21\frac{1}{2}$ feet) above the granite floor. This top has a sharp outer edge, which I carefully searched for, regarding it as a dwarf wall like that of Zet; but when it was defined it proved to be in line with the outer face of the thick wall where broken down; and hence it is the wall itself which was smooth plastered flat on the top, while a coat of mud plaster was also spread out eight inches lower than the wall, on the native marl, far beyond the wall, to the outer rows of graves.