

2 : The Private Tombs of the 4th Dynasty

Tomb of Queen Khentkawes. To the south of the Pyramid of Menkaure', lies three smaller and incomplete pyramids. The largest was probably built for Menkaure's principal wife. A granite sarcophagus was recovered from the central tomb, which contained the bones of a young woman.



This tomb is to the south of the main pyramids of Giza. She is thought to have been married to Shepseskaf, who was the last 4th Dynasty pharaoh and the son of Menkaure'. She is believed to have later married a high priest of Re, the sun-god, when the male line of the dynasties was very weak. She was the mother to a number of kings who are buried in Abu Sir and Saqqara. She acted as the link between the 4th and 5th Dynasties. Her tomb is a

huge sarcophagus and is linked to a mortuary temple. The temple is cut out of the limestone.

Tomb of Meresankh III. Meresankh III was a daughter of Kawab and Hetepheres II, and thus a grand-daughter of Kheops, during whose reign she was born. Although her father never became a king, she bore the title "daughter of the king" among indicate that this title may not be taken too her titulary. This may literally and may perhaps also mean "grand-daughter of the king". This may, however, also be explained by the fact that Meresankh became the step-daughter of king Djedefre, after the death of her father.

She was married to her uncle, Khefren, with whom she had as sons Nebemakhet, Niuserre, Khenterka and Duaenre. She also bore him a daughter, Shepsestkau and two other children. She out-lived her husband for a short time and died during the early years of Mykerinos. No tomb seems to have been prepared for her when she died, which may indicate that she died unexpectedly. Her mother, Hetepheres II, donated her own mastaba tomb, discovered in April 1927 by George Reisner and known today as G 7530-7540, and sarcophagus for the burial of Meresankh III.

Egypt. Monuments

A statue pair showing Meresankh III to the left of Hetepheres II was found in the rubble nearby the mastaba. It may originally have stood in a niche in the mastaba's wall. Today, it is in the Boston Museum of Fine Arts (see image to the image: KMT 7/4, p. 46).

right. Source of the



The sarcophagus found in the burial chamber still contained some human bones, belonging to a woman who died in her fifties, perhaps Meresankh III herself.

Tomb of Kawab . Kawab was a son of Kheops and Meritates. He married his sister, Hetepheres II, with whom he fathered several children. A relief found in the mastaba originally prepared for Hetepheres II but donated by her to her daughter, Meresankh III, identifies Kawab as the father of this Meresankh .

It is not certain that Kawab ever has been a crown-prince, despite his title "eldest son of the king", which may have been purely honorific or may indicate that he was a son of Kheops' most ,important wife. His importance is shown by his elaborate titulary one of his most notable titles being that of vizier.

Egyp. Monuments

He predeceased both his father and his wife. His elaborate mastaba tomb was discovered to the east of Kheops' pyramid in Giza (Mastaba 7110-7120). A burial chamber built in this mastaba for his wife, Hetepheres II, was left unfinished, as Hetepheres out-lived Kawab by many years and Hetepheres chose another tomb.

A posthumous honour was paid to Kawab several centuries after he lived, when prince Khaemwaset, a son of Ramesses II, restored one of his statues in the temple of Memphis.

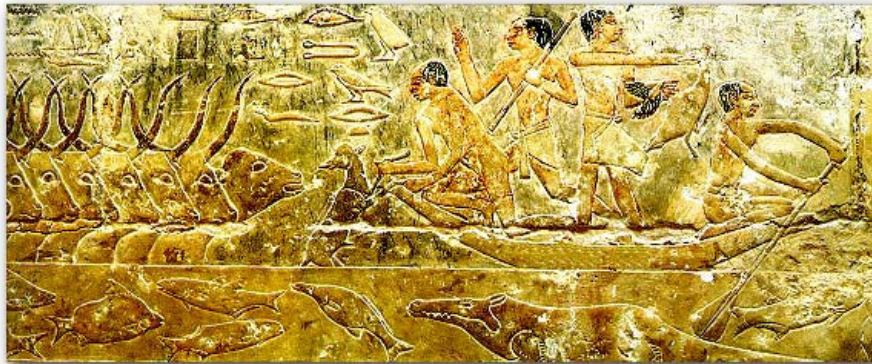


A relief representing Kawab was found in the mastaba of his daughter,

(Source: KMT 7/4, p. 47) Meresankh III

3 : The Private Tombs of the 5th Dynasty

Mastaba of Princess Idut . Idut was Unas' daughter who was king of the Vth Dynasty. The reliefs are of good quality and in good condition. In the second chamber of the mastaba, there is a scene of hippo hunting. There are also scenes of men approaching the The scenes in other rooms are very typical of .princess on shore other offering scenes.



Mastaba of Ptah-Hotep and Akhti-Hotep. This mastaba is actually a double mastaba. Ptah-Hotep seems to have held a very important position during the reign of Djedkare during the V Dynasty. Djedkare was the predecessor of Unas. Ptah-Hotep was self-described as a priest of Maat. Akhti-Hotep is thought to have been Ptah-Hotep's father. He was the vizier, chief of the treasury

Egypt. Monuments

and the granary, as well as a judge. This mastaba is smaller than the Mastaba of Ti, but is more interesting. The reliefs that are in the corridor have reliefs found inside are not all completed. The main



on both sides. On the left are what appear to be preliminary drawings in red. Over the red are corrections in black made by the master artist. Other reliefs show fowl being carried by servants to the right to a servants to Ptah-Hotep. At the end of the corridor is a pillared hall and then left is Ptah-Hotep's tomb chamber. The reliefs in the tomb chamber are the best preserved of the Old Kingdom. They have retained some color and are more famous than the mastaba of Ti. The ceilings in the tomb chamber are

imitations of the trunks of palm trees. Back into the pillard hall and to the left is the chamber of Akhti-Hotep. It is quite similar to Ptah-Hotep's, although less decorated. Through a passageway to the left is a chamber that contains a mummy that has not been identified. The passageway leads to the pillard hall and the entrance corridor.

Mastaba of Queen Nebet. Queen Nebet was the wife of Unas (Unis). This mastaba is located north of the Pyramid of Unas. It is very well preserved and fascinating. There are three rooms in this tomb. The most interesting is the second room. It contains some scenes of Nebet in the harem, or women's quarters, in the palace, which is rare to be seen. A gallery can be reached through a doorway from the second room. This gallery's walls are beautifully decorated.

Mastaba of Ti . In 1865, Mariette discovered the mastaba of Ti. It has since been restored by the Egyptian Department of Antiquities. Ti was a hairdresser to the royalty during the early V Dynasty, as well as controller of the farms and stock that belonged to the royal family. His wife was related to the royal family so his children were referred to as royal descent. He was not given this title. In this tomb, his wife and eldest son were also placed

Egypt. Monuments

although their remains were stolen along with the goods that were inside.



The mastaba was originally placed on top of the sand. It has sunk entirely into the sand it was placed on top of. The open court has a shaft that leads to the burial chamber. A narrow passageway leads into the burial chamber. The reliefs inside are close in quality and quantity to those in Ptah-Hotep's tomb, although there is much more of a variety of reliefs in Ti's tomb. All of these passageways are decorated with impressive reliefs. The main hall has a small room that sits along one wall with three eye level holes so that the dead could witness the offerings that were part of the tomb rituals. Inside this room was a statue of Ti.

4 : The Private Tombs of the 6th Dynasty.

The mastaba of Ankh-mahor is from the VIth Dynasty along with Mereruka and Kagemni. In the entrance the reliefs show those of scenes involving agriculture and fording. Medical scenes are



shown in the doorway that leads into a five pillared room. Thus, this tomb is referred to as the Physician's Tomb. Ankh-mahor was not a physician. He was a ka-priest. The reliefs in the five-pillared room are not in good condition, however they do show mourners very graphically.

The mastaba of Kagemni is of the VIth Dynasty. Kagemni is thought to have been a judge and a priest. The reliefs that are found in this mastaba are not as numerous as Mereruka's tomb,

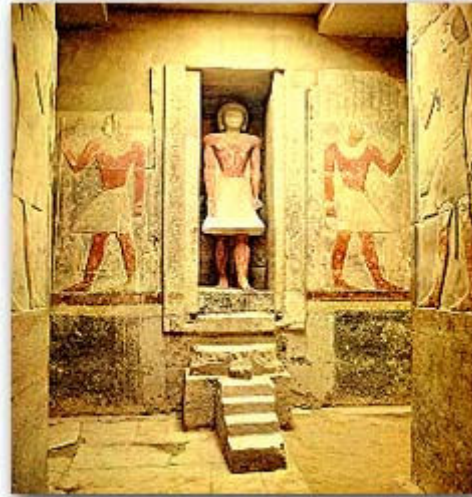
but the detail in each is very apparent.

Beyond the antechamber, you will find a three-pillared room. The reliefs on these walls show different scenes. There are scenes of fishing, ones with crocodiles, dragonflies, frogs and grasshoppers. Geese are shown with hyenas. On a different wall, a cow is lassoed and a puppy is being fed. There is a room to the right of the three-pillared room, which has reliefs of greyhounds and monkeys. Kagemni is shown in one as well. Birds are done very well in this room. The details of wading birds, ducks and geese eating are wonderfully done. There are also three offering rooms in this chamber.

The Mastaba of Mereruka is the largest in Saqqara. It has 32 rooms. Mereruka was the vizier to Teti, who was pharaoh during the VI Dynasty. He was also married to Teti's daughter, Hert-watet-khet. She is buried in the mastaba as well as their son, The paintings on the wall in the entrance show Meriteti Mereruka painting the seasons and playing a board game. The first three chambers are painted with scenes of furniture making, hunting and goldsmith working. There is a sacrificial chamber at the far end of the mastaba with six pillars. In this chamber a

Egypt. Monuments

statue of Mereruka was found intact. Hert-watet-khet's, Mereruka's wife, rooms are on the western side of the mastaba.



III : Temples of the Old Kingdom

Egyp. Monuments