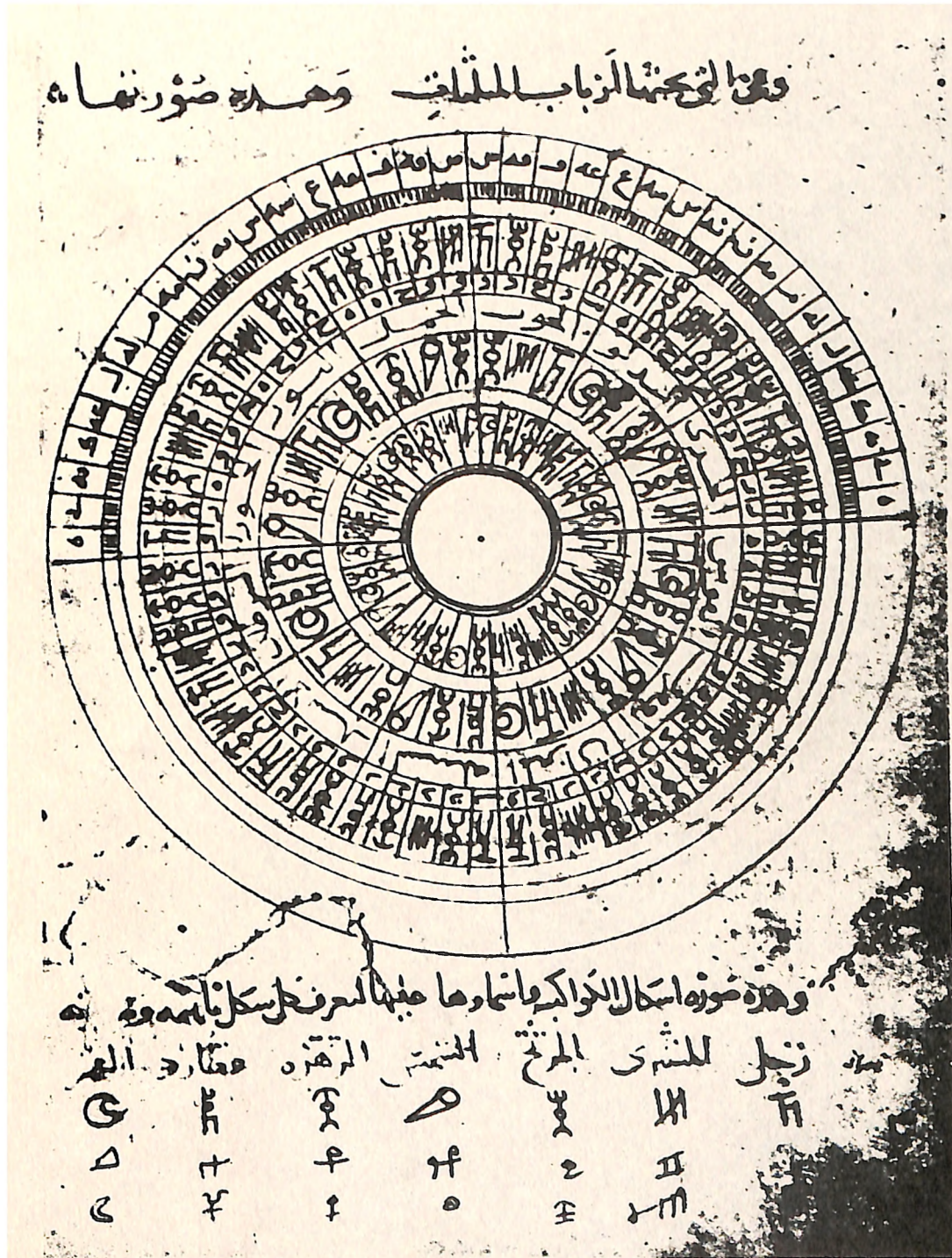


# AMERICAN RESEARCH CENTER IN EGYPT

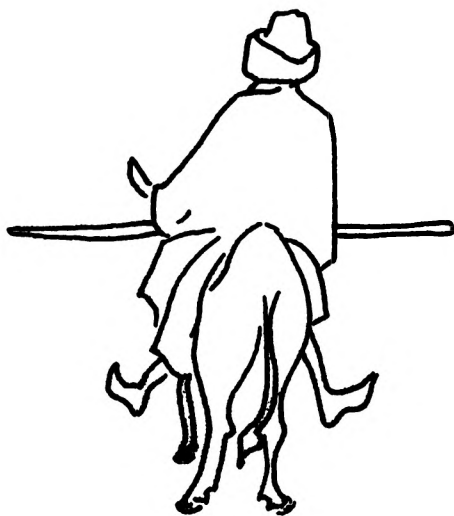
# NEWSLETTER



## RECENT CONTRIBUTIONS

The ARCE is extremely pleased and delighted to acknowledge with thanks the 1983 donation of the CHASE NATIONAL BANK (EGYPT) S.A.E. in the amount of LE 80,000. As with their generous contribution for 1982, Chase again offers us one-half this sum as an outright payment and the second half on condition that we raise a "matching" amount on a one-to-one basis. It should be stressed that this expression of support is of vital significance for our future.

As part of the program made possible by the Chase contribution, please note the announcement on page 44 of a new ARCE fund for conservation and restoration.



*New York City, March 10, 1983*

THE ARCE RECEIVES AN NEH CHALLENGE GRANT

We are extremely pleased to announce an award to the ARCE of a National Endowment challenge grant in the amount of \$200,000. The formal, public notice was made by the endowment's chairman, William J. Bennett, at a news conference in Washington, March 9, 1983.

The ARCE is one of 84 cultural and educational institutions throughout the country to receive these grants this year. There were 249 applicants. Among the winners are 12 museums, 2 media organizations, 25 colleges, 14 historical societies, 3 university presses, and 7 public libraries.

The point of a challenge grant is to "stimulate private sector support for the humanities", in the words of Chairman Bennett. For each dollar offered by the NEH, the institution must raise three from non-Federal sources. This means that the ARCE is now committed to a campaign of raising \$600,000 in new revenue by the grant's termination, July 31, 1986.

Bennett observed in his press statement that "A challenge grant is recognition of merit and promise. It indeed challenges an institution to make to the public the same strong case it made to the endowment".

The ARCE plans to reserve the full Federal portion as additional endowment and to apply the majority of other gifts and donations from this campaign to strengthen the core services and operations of the institution itself, particularly of the Cairo Center.

In addition to endowment, there will be substantial new expenditures for library, archaeological equipment (microfilm readers, cameras, theodolite, word processor, computer, augur, ladders, etc.), new accounting procedures, administrative staff, space, and outreach and publicity. Another major benefit will be an expanded publications program to bring the ARCE Journal up to date and commence perhaps a dozen or more new volumes of its monograph series. Such volumes include archaeological reports on el-Hibeh, Fustat, and the Fayyum, as well as a 700-page English language guide to scientific manuscripts in the Egyptian National Library.

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THE ARCE NEWSLETTER  
NUMBER 123, FALL 1983

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*Cover: An illustration of the astrological information that was occasionally recorded on the backs of astrolabes, as well as in treatises on astrology, taken from MS TA (=Cairo TR 105) of the treatise on instruments by Rasulid Sultan al-Ashraf. This diagram is of interest because it displays precisely the information engraved on the back of one of al-Ashraf's astrolabes now preserved in the Metropolitan Museum of Art. For further information see D. King's Mathematical Astronomy in Medieval Yemen: A Biobibliographical Survey. Malibu: Undena Publications, 1983.*



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Teresa A. Indiveri  
Editor

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## PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE DEIR EL-BALLAS EXPEDITION, 1983

The second season of survey and clearance was conducted at Deir el-Ballas from January 11, to March 17, 1983.<sup>1</sup> The expedition was funded as part of the American Research Center in Egypt fellowship program and additional support was given through the Department of Egyptian and Ancient Near Eastern Art of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, by Miss Abby Simpson, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Sahlins, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Haynes, Mr. and Mrs. Gorham Cross, and Mrs. E. Anthony Kutten.

The expedition staff consisted of Peter Lacovara, Edward Brovarski, Cynthia Shartzter, Sue D'Auria, and Jacqueline Crowley as site supervisors, Charles Evers as architect, Mark Lehner as surveyor, and Robert Lasater as photographer.

Deir el-Ballas was originally excavated by G. A. Reisner, A. M. Lythgoe and F. W. Green as part of the Phoebe A. Hearst Expedition of the University of California in the years 1900-1901<sup>2</sup>. The expedition uncovered a large royal palace of the Late Second Intermediate Period and Early Eighteenth Dynasty (ca. 1600-1550 B.C.), and a large settlement and a series of cemeteries. Although Reisner retained the notes and photographs of the original expedition, the site was never published and has only been briefly mentioned in the Egyptological literature.<sup>3</sup>

The goal of the 1983 season was to complete the record of the Hearst Expedition; however, it soon became clear that some important areas of the site had never been excavated and fortunately still remain intact.

The 1983 survey focused on several areas:

1. A general survey of the site was undertaken by Mark Lehner and Peter Lacovara which included laying out a control network and the placing of monumented points for future reference. In addition, detailed topographic maps were made of the South Wadi and South Hill.
2. Clearing and planning of the North and South Palaces was done by Charles Evers, Cynthia Shartzter and Peter Lacovara.
3. Some of the houses exposed by Reisner were cleared and replanned by Jacqueline Crowley, Peter Lacovara and Edward Brovarski.

4. An undisturbed house mound was partially excavated and planned by Cynthia Shartzter and Sue D'Auria.

The planning of the palaces was done at a scale of 1:50 while the domestic structures were planned at a scale of 1:20. All excavated material was sieved, first through a 10 mm. sq. mesh screen and then again through a 2 mm. sq. mesh screen. All organic and artifactual material from each level and each feature within that level was recorded and saved for analysis. Ceramic samples were collected from various areas of the site in association with various architectural and occupational features.<sup>4</sup>

#### The South Wadi and South Hill

In 1980<sup>5</sup> it was noted that the remains of ancient settlement were visible in an area at the eastern end of the South Wadi which had been obscured by stacks of fuel used by the village potters. Thanks to the intervention of the Egyptian Antiquities Organization this material was removed and we were able to fully appreciate the significance of this portion of the site.

A regular pattern of slight variations on the surface is visible when this area is viewed from an elevation. By mapping sherd scatters, wall traces and slight topographic changes, a picture of the unexcavated structures which lay under the ground began to emerge (fig. 1a & b).

Unlike the rest of the site where the house remains are more or less loosely scattered in a random fashion over the plain and in the wadi beds, these buildings appear to be tightly grouped in an orderly pattern and are bordered by long narrow structures. This layout suggests an analogy to the administrative sector of the central city at Tell el-Amarna<sup>6</sup> (fig. 2).

Another possible parallel to Tell el-Amarna was revealed by similarly mapping the areas to the east of the South Hill. To the north of this area, Reisner uncovered a series of contiguous, roughly built houses with narrow streets and alleyways similar to the workmen's villages at Deir el-Medina<sup>7</sup> and Tell el-Amarna<sup>8</sup>. While lacking the strictly rectilinear plans of the above, the individual units do flank a long central street and although an enclosure wall has not yet been found, the compactness of the design suggests that the village was delimited in some such way.

Again, as at Amarna<sup>9</sup>, on the side of the hill beside the workmen's village are traces of long rectangular structures roughly built of stones, alluvial and marl bricks and partially cut into the hillside (fig. 3). The remains of these buildings resemble the chapels near the workmen's village at Amarna (fig. 4a & b) which consist of one or more courts connected with short

flights of steps and a niche for the placement of votive objects. Among the cultic artifacts found in association with the chapels at Amarna were pottery bowls containing figurines of deities.<sup>10</sup> Fragments of a similar vessel holding a model of a Hathor cow came from the area of the South Hill chapels at Deir el-Ballas (fig. 5a).

A few graves appear to have been associated with the Amarna chapels.<sup>11</sup> While the workmen's village at Deir el-Ballas was cut through by graves of a slightly later period, the 1983 survey revealed traces of an unexcavated cemetery on the South Hill itself, which may date to the period of the original occupation of the site.

### The North Palace

The North Palace had been planned by the original expedition; however, there were inaccuracies in the existing plan and a great many questions about the construction and building history of the edifice were left unanswered. The palace is built of massive (ca. 55 x 28 x 15 cm.) mud-bricks and constructed around a central series of casemates which served as a foundation for an elevated second story. Outside of this was grouped a number of columned courts and a long entrance corridor. Many of these features had decayed and were covered by sand and rubble and had to be cleared in order to be planned again. In removing these deposits it was found that a number of Coptic and Roman levels remained intact and these in turn may seal the New Kingdom occupation strata of the palace.

In one of these areas remains of a wall painting consisting of red panels on a yellow ground with a black dado was uncovered and from another area came a Coptic ostrakon (fig. 7).

### The South Palace

Unlike the North Palace, the South Palace does not appear to have served as a residence at all. Its location, on top of a high hill commanding a view of the Nile and surrounding territory, suggests that it may have functioned as a lookout post or watchtower. It, too, is built of unusually large mud-bricks and is constructed on casemate foundations. The western facade was partially cleaned and planned during the season (fig. 8), but further recording remains to be done in the court and the area above the casemate platform.

### The Houses by the North Palace

Several of the well-preserved private houses to the west of the North Palace enclosure were cleared and re-planned this season, in order to see what additional information they could supply to add to the scanty record of the original expedition.



One of these structures, temporarily designated "House 'D'" was composed of a number of long rectangular courts and contained grain silos and a large semi-circular oven (fig. 9a). Although Reisner restored the central room as a pillared hall, it in fact contained a number of irregularly spaced postholes, jar emplacements and pits suggesting an open work area (fig. 10). One posthole when sectioned still contained a cast of the original post and the mud which had been smoothed up against it (fig. 9b).

To the south of "House 'D'" was a low mound with several walls and one room exposed. We began to clear this structure assuming that it had already been excavated by the Hearst Expedition. However, it soon became clear that most of the structure was still unexcavated.

The building appears to be over 25 meters square and several test squares were opened up around it. In one of these a small area was excavated down to ground level.

The first level encountered under the surface debris was made of collapsed roofing material composed of mud-brick, mud plaster with reed impressions, fragments of reed, sticks, rope and palm logs. In these debris were bird feathers and even the remains of a tiny lizard such as those which inhabit the ceilings of modern village houses.

In area 5a (fig. 11), beneath this level was found a column base which had been recut for use as a socket for a beam of a loom such as those found at Amarna<sup>11</sup>. Beside the socket were the remains of the actual beam (fig. 12b) and on the floor, a "spinning bowl"<sup>12</sup> (fig. 12a) and a stone bench. All these features correspond strikingly to the depiction of a textile workshop as represented in the tomb of Djheutynefer at Thebes<sup>13</sup> (fig. 13a). In association with these features were pieces of thread, unspun textile fibers, bits of cloth (fig. 13b), and in addition, fragments of an openwork leather kilt similar to that from the burial of Maiherperi.<sup>14</sup>

The remarkable state of preservation illustrated by these last finds and the important parallels to Tell el-Amarna revealed by the survey indicate that a future season of excavation should yield even more important results. However, just as they have been discovered many of these areas are in danger of being destroyed by the expansion of the modern village.

*Funded by the  
Smithsonian Institution*

Peter Lacovara  
1982-83 ARCE Fellow

NOTES

1. We are grateful to the Egyptian Antiquities Organization, in particular Dr. Ahmed Kadry, President of the Egyptian Antiquities Organization, Mr. Mutawwa Balbush, Director General of Antiquities and Excavations in Upper Egypt, Mr. Mohammed el-Sughayyir, Director of Antiquities in Upper Egypt at Luxor, and Mr. Hussein el-Afuni, Chief Inspector of Qena and Baliyana and the Inspectorate at Qena for their interest and generous assistance. We would also like to thank Mr. Rabbia Hamdan, who acted as our inspector for the season and was of great help in all aspects of the work. The success of the season is due largely to the advice and assistance of Mr. Mark Lehner, Ms. Cynthia Shartzter and Dr. and Mrs. Lanny D. Bell. In addition we are also indebted to Miss May Trad of the ARCE, Cairo for all her help and kindness.
2. For a summary of the work of the original expedition, see Lacovara, P., "The Hearst Excavations at Deir el-Ballas: The Eighteenth Dynasty Town", in Simpson, W. K., and Davis, W., eds. Studies in Ancient Egypt, the Aegean, and the Sudan: Essays in Honor of Dows Dunham (Boston: 1981), pp. 120-124.
3. Smith, W. S., revised by Simpson, W. K., The Art and Architecture of Ancient Egypt (New York: 1981), pp. 278-281.
4. The inapplicability of nonprobabilistic sampling to sites with complex architecture has been stated quite convincingly by Robert E. Fry in "The Economics of Pottery at Tikal, Guatemala: Models of Exchange for Serving Vessels", American Antiquity, Vol.44 no. 3 (1979), pp. 494-512.
5. Lacovara, P., "Archaeological Survey of Deir el-Ballas 1980", ARCE Newsletter, No. 113 (1980), pp. 1-7.
6. cf. Pendelbury, J. D. S., City of Akhenaten III : II (London, 1951), pls. Ia and XX.
7. cf. Bruyere, B., Rapport sur les fouilles de Deir el-Médineh: 1934-5 (Cairo: 1939).
8. Peet, T. E. and Woolley, C. L., The City of Akhenaten I (London: 1923), pp. 53 ff.
9. *ibid* and Kemp, B. J., "Preliminary Report on the el-Amarna Expedition, 1980", JEA, Vol. 67 (1981), pp. 5-20.
10. Kemp, *op. cit.* pp. 14-15 and fig. 6.
11. Peet, *op. cit.* pp. 60-61.

12. Nagel, G., La céramique du Nouvel Empire à Deir el-Médina (Cairo: 1938), pp. 183-188.
13. Davies, N. De G., "The Townhouse in Ancient Egypt", Metropolitan Museum Studies, Vol. 1 (1928-9), pp. 223-55, esp. pp. 239-40 and fig. 1a.
14. Nord, D., in Brovarski, E. J., Doll, S. K., and Freed, R. E., eds., Egypt's Golden Age: The Art of Living in the New Kingdom (Boston: 1981), pp. 175-176.

fig. 1 a



Surveying in  
South Wadi

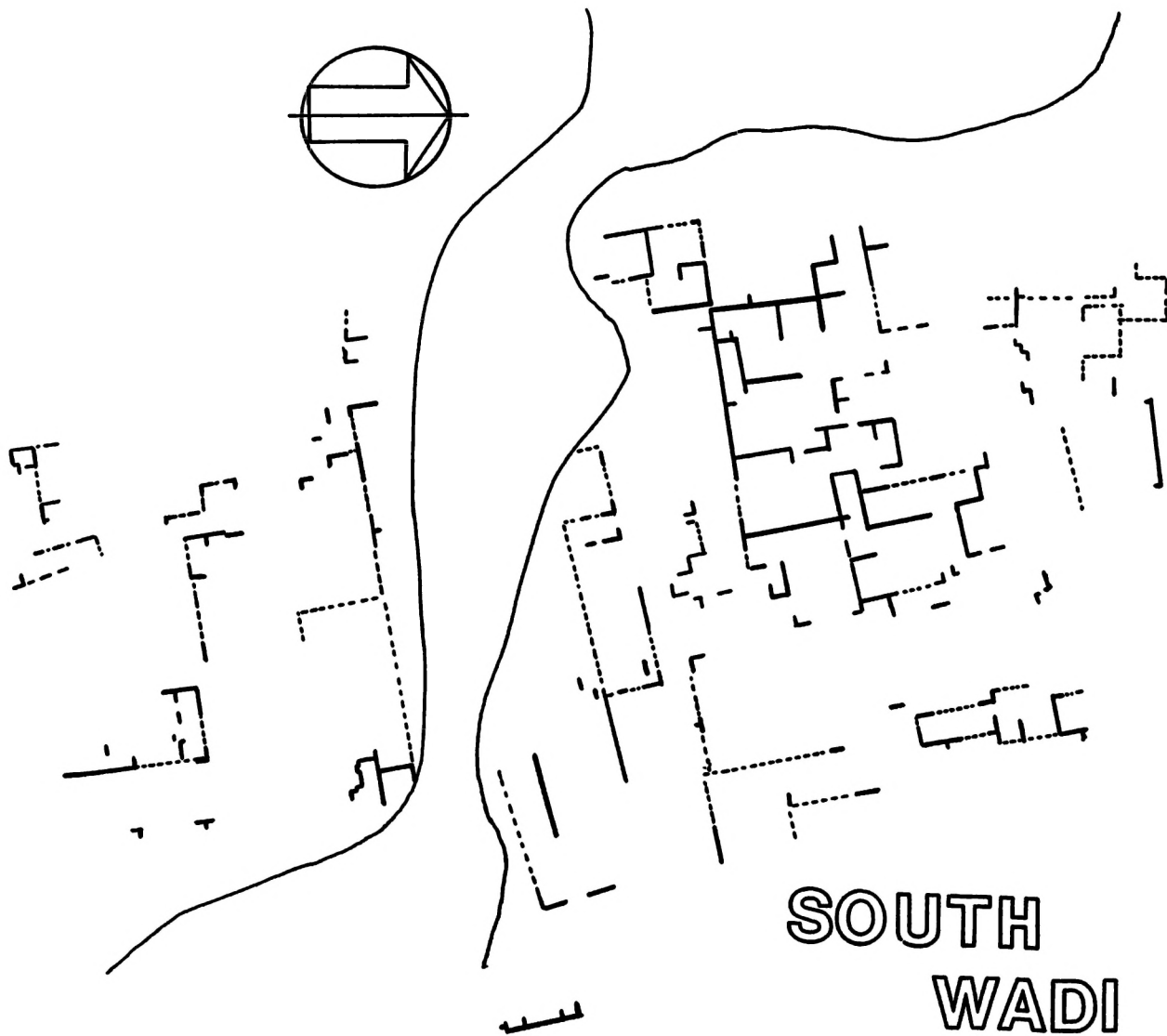
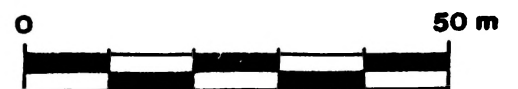


fig. 1 b

South Wadi plan





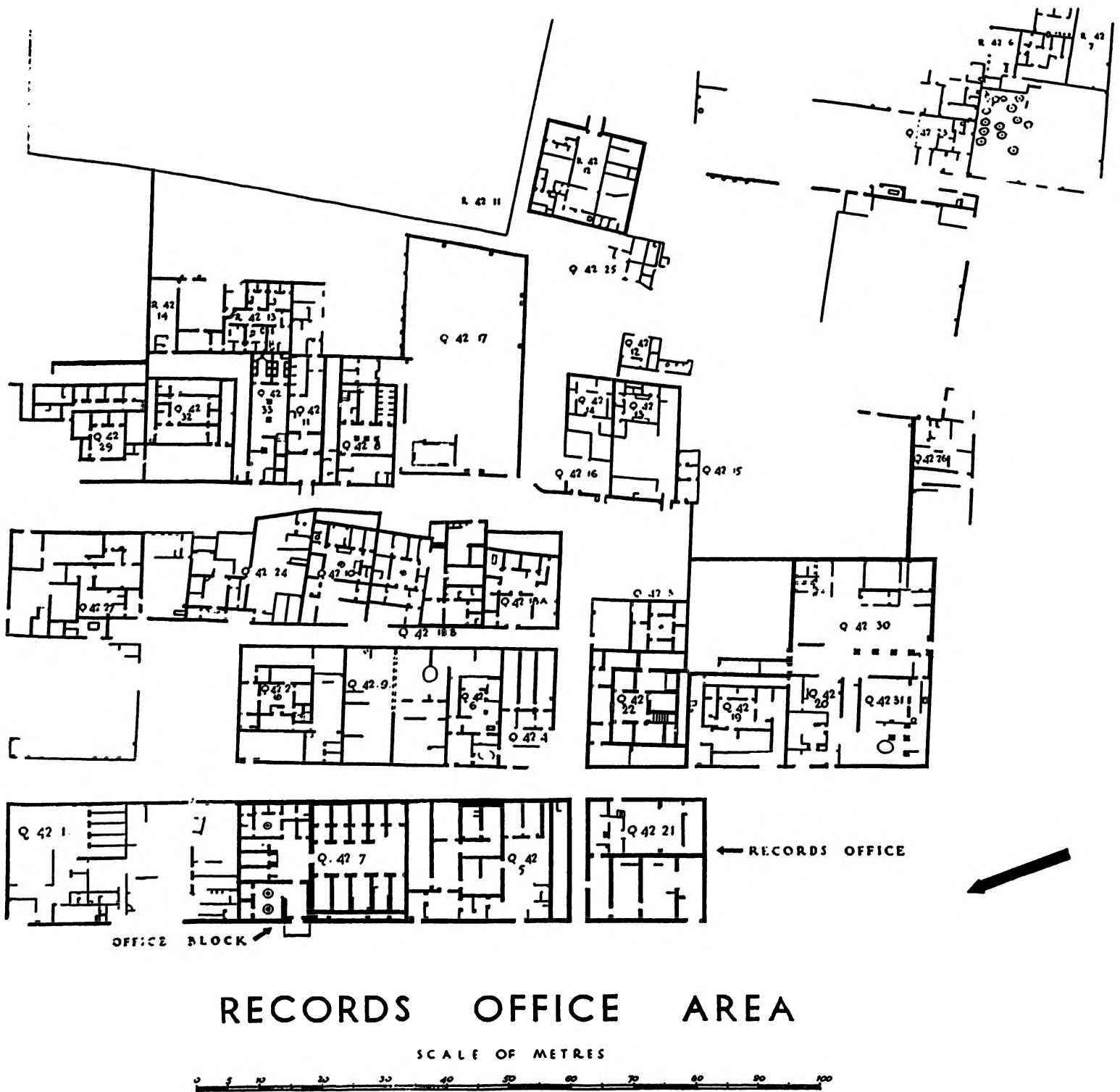
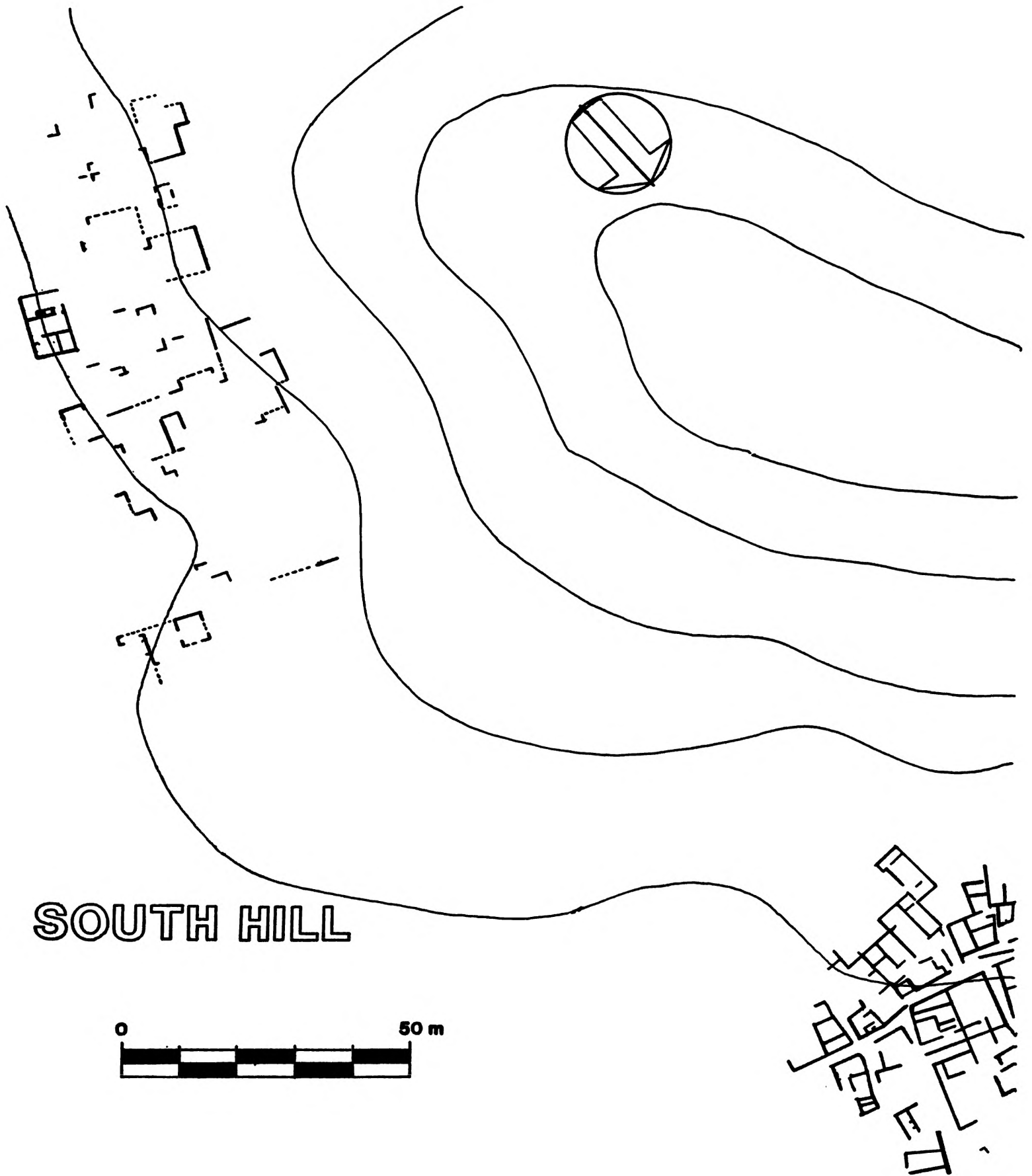
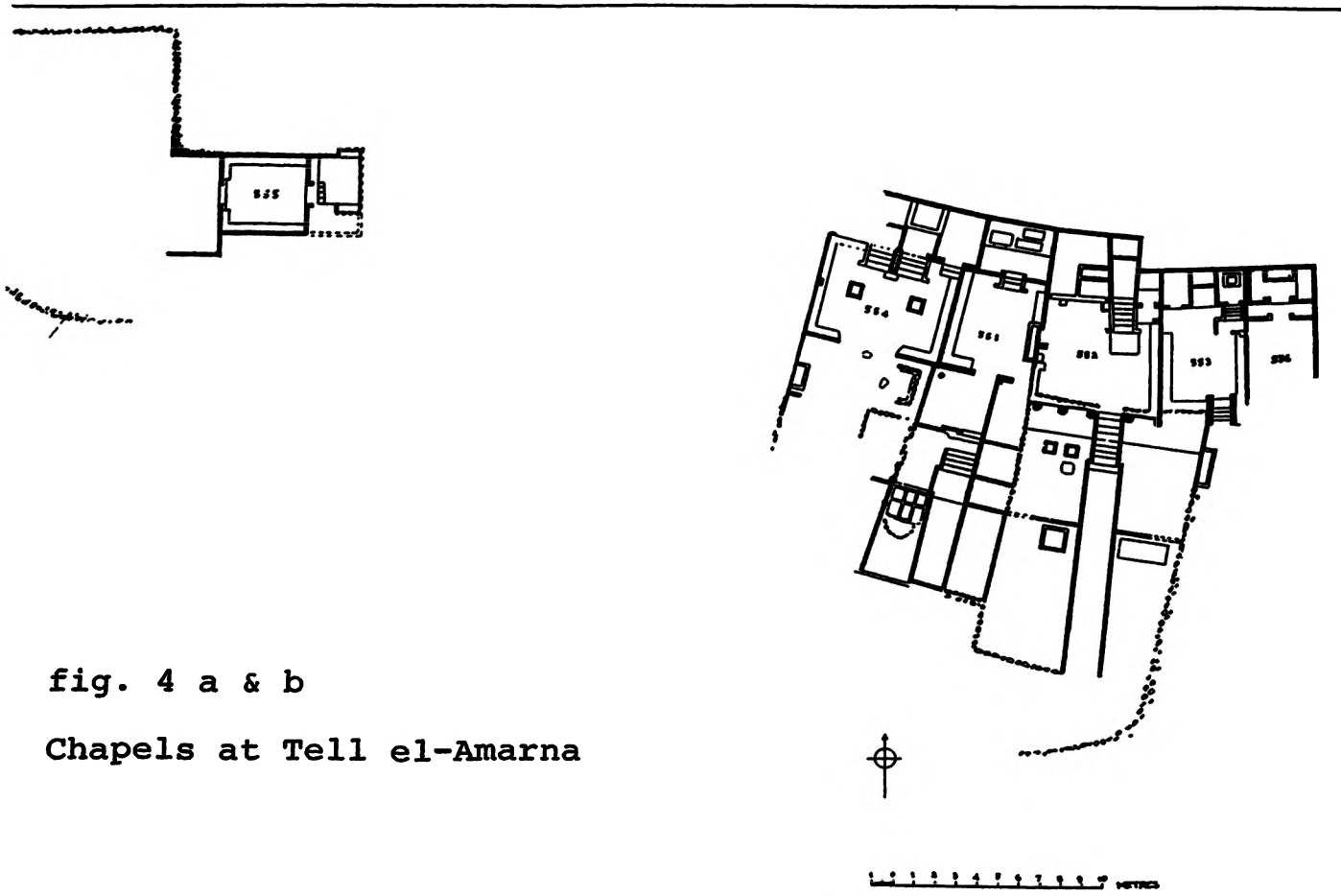
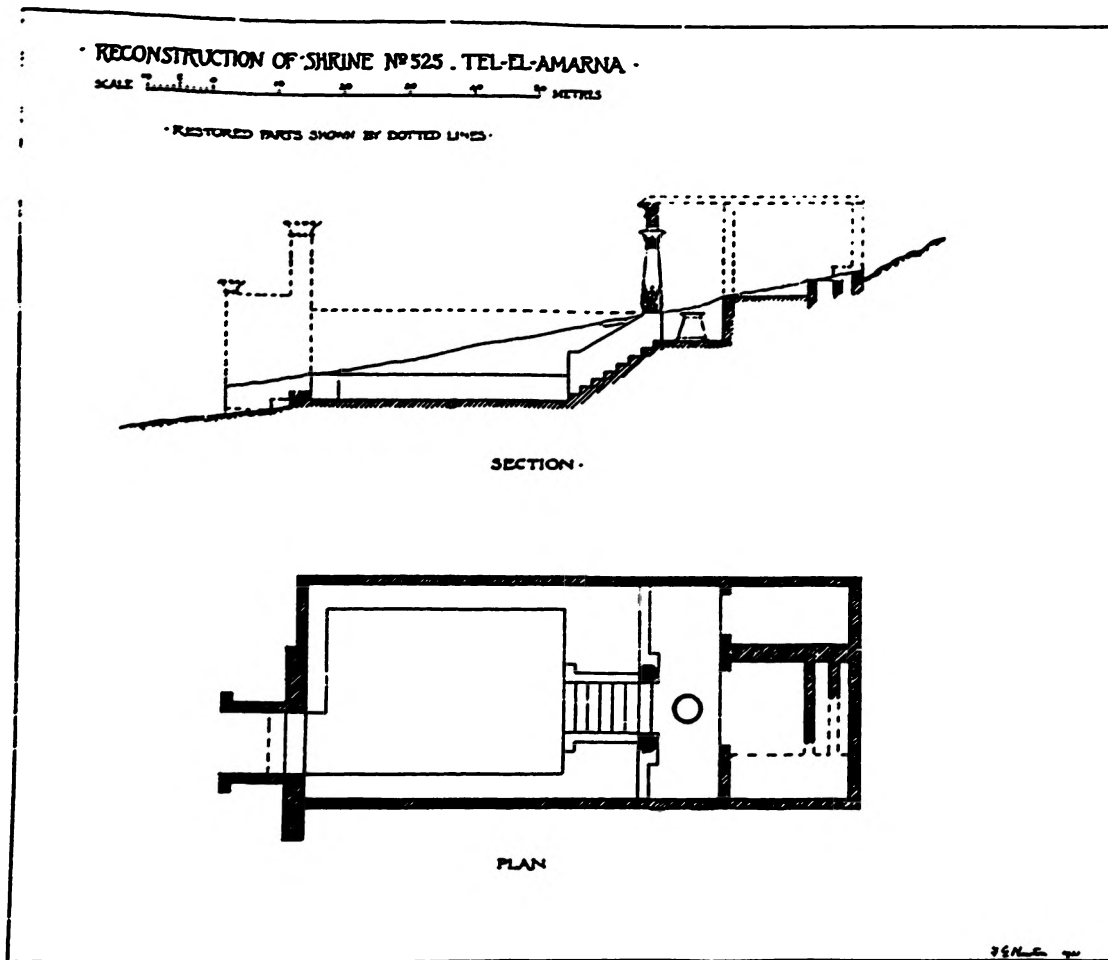


fig. 2  
 official district, Tell el-Amarna

fig. 3





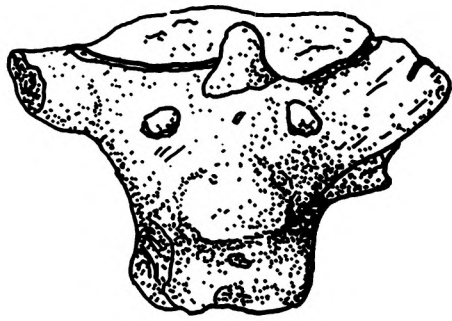


fig. 5 a  
Fragment of votive bowl  
containing a figure of  
Hathor from South Hill.

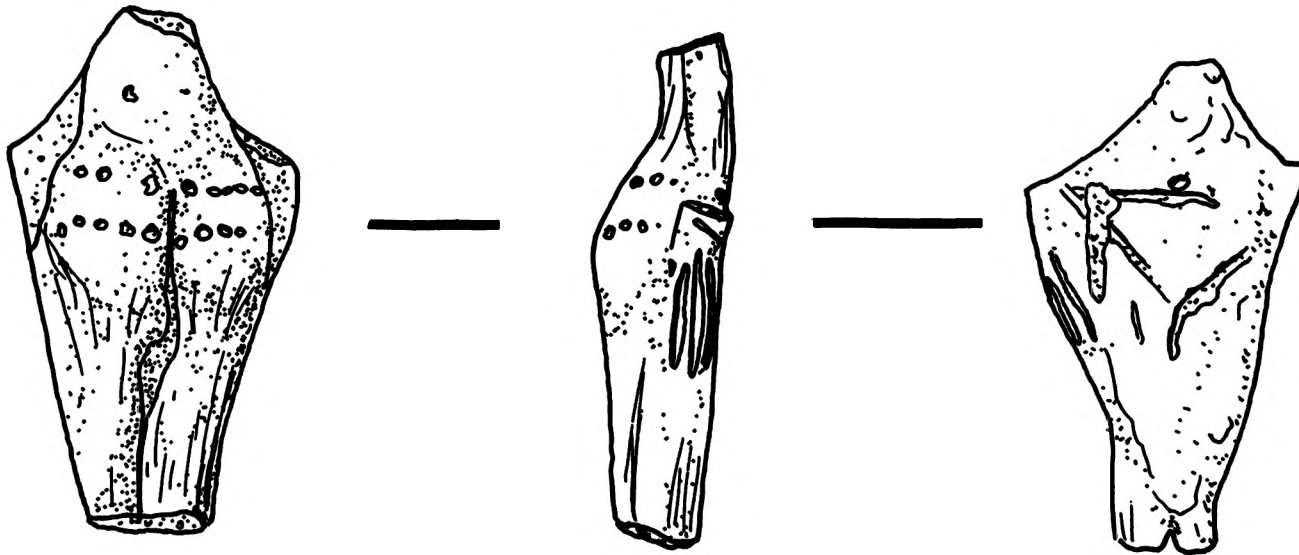
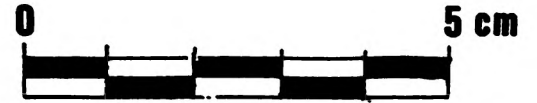


fig. 5 b  
Fragment of a female figurine from House 'E', Room 5 a.



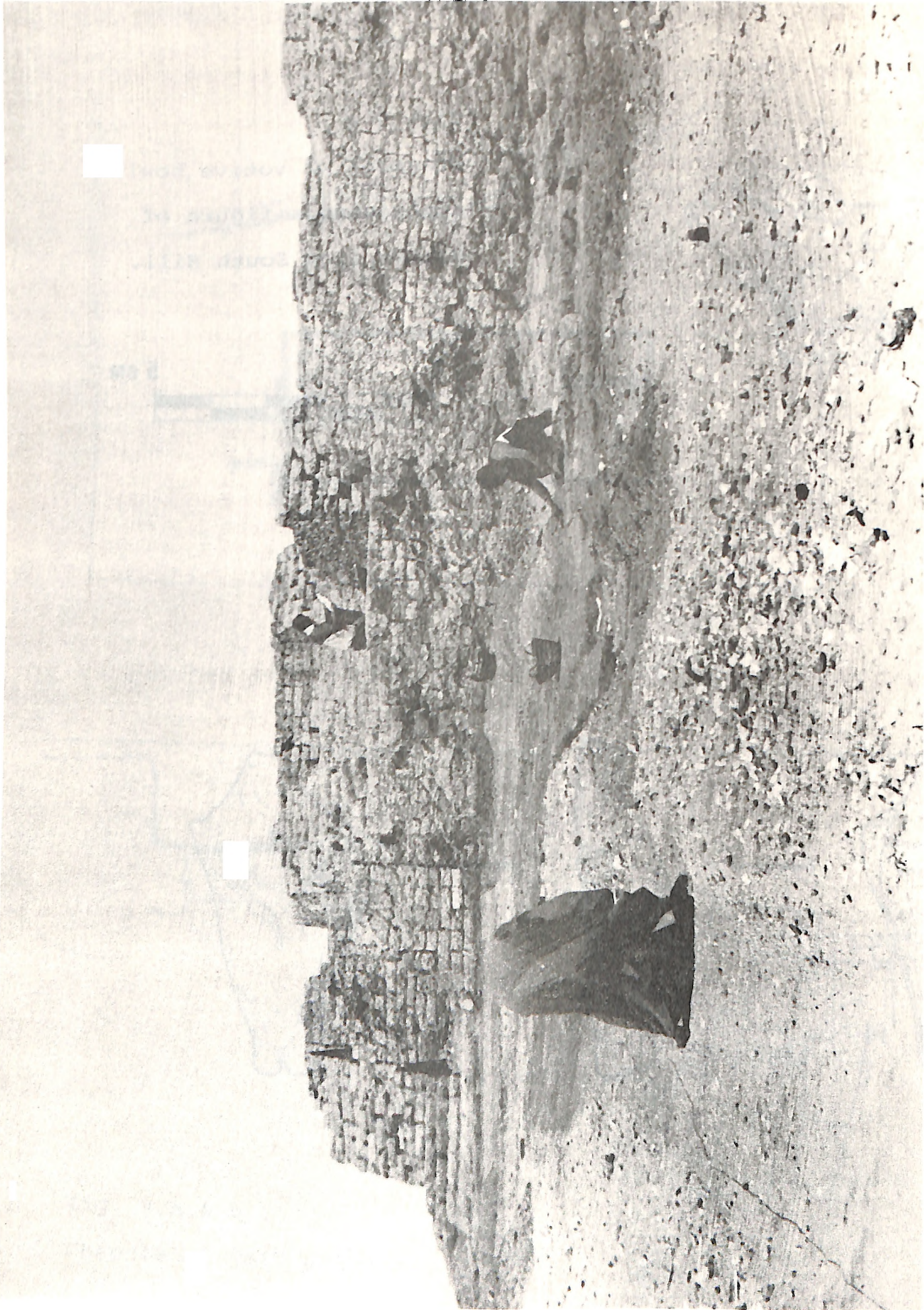


fig. 6

Clearing and planning the entrance corridor of the North Palace.



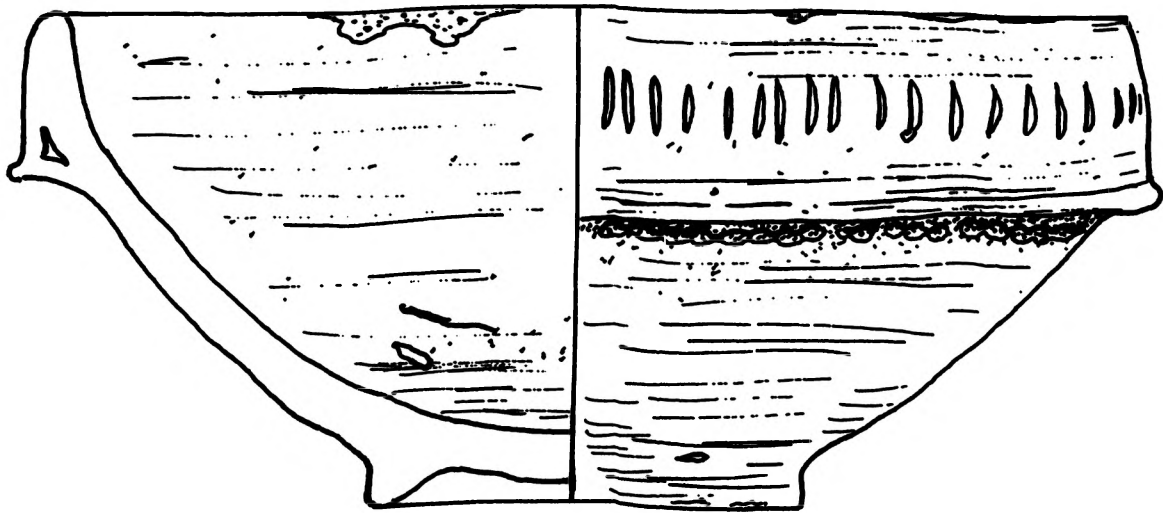
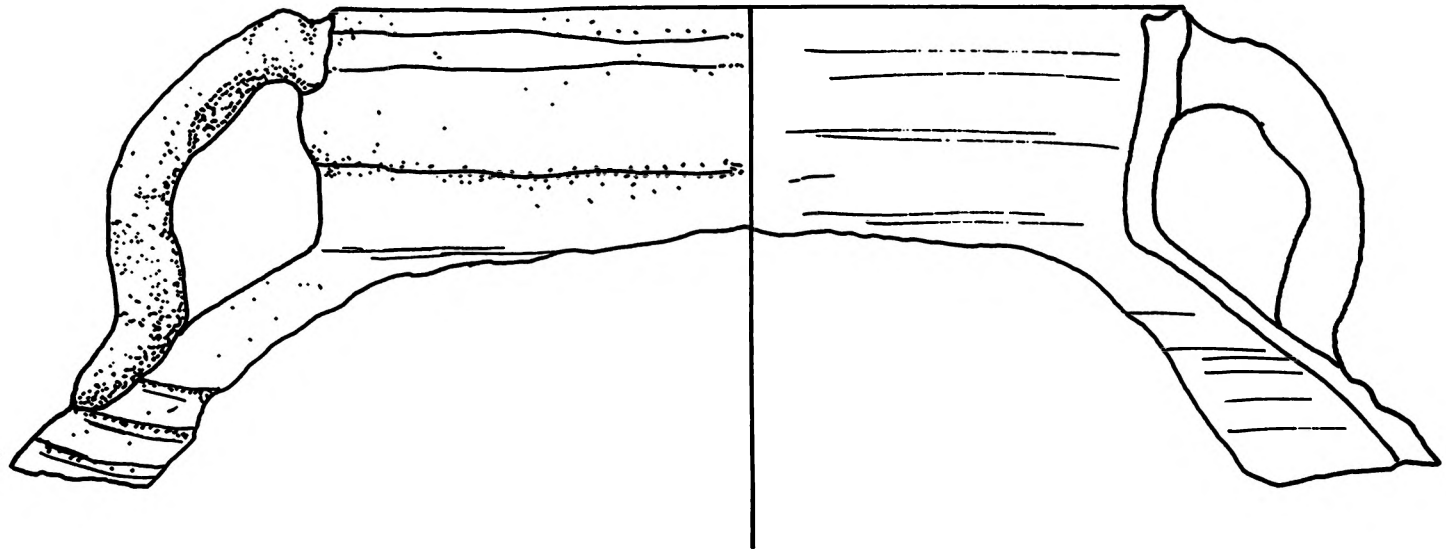


fig. 7

Coptic pottery and ostracon from  
later occupation levels at the North  
Palace.







Main staircase, South Palace.



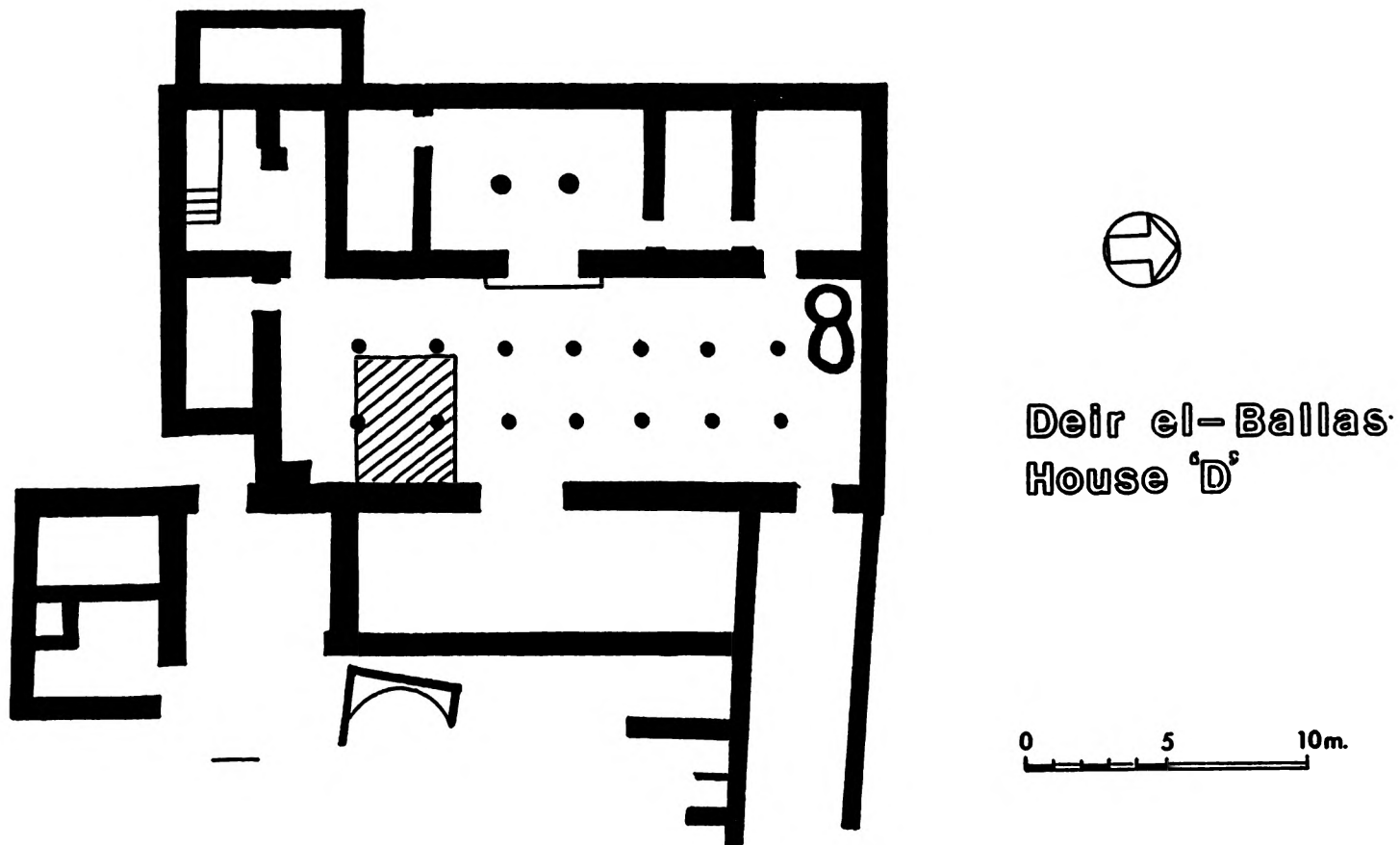


fig. 9 a  
Plan of House 'D', area of fig. 10 shaded.

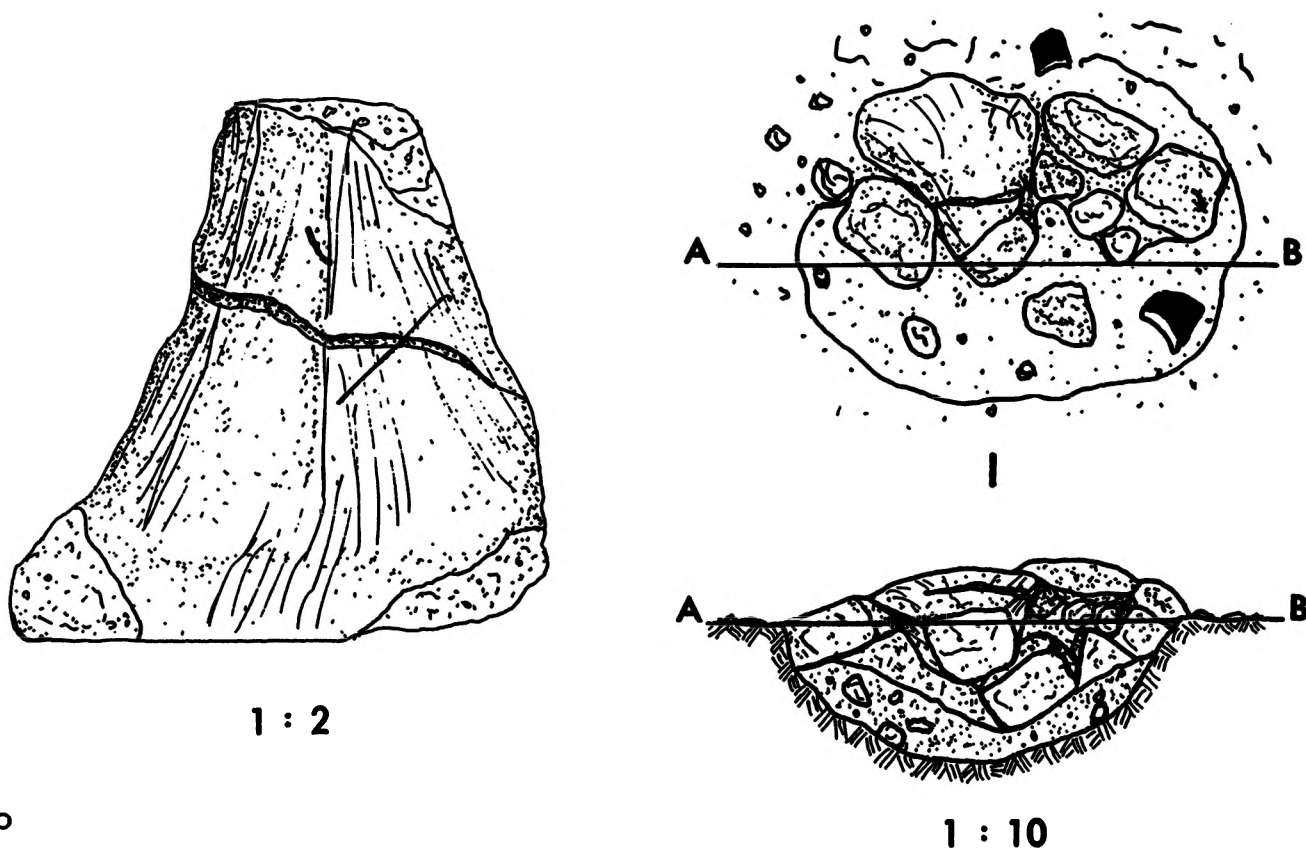


fig. 9 b  
Cast of post and plan and section of posthole.



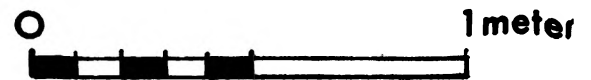
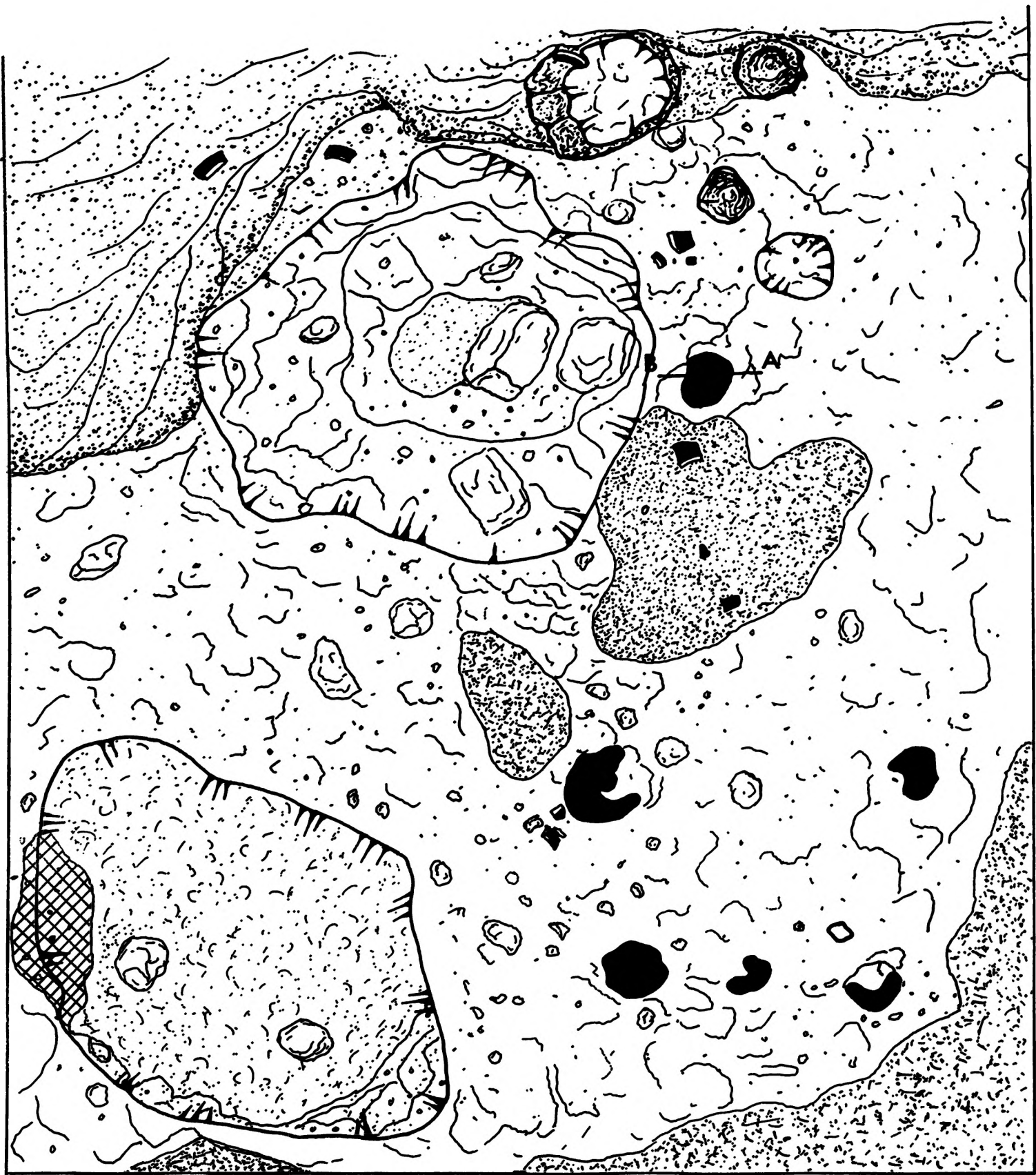
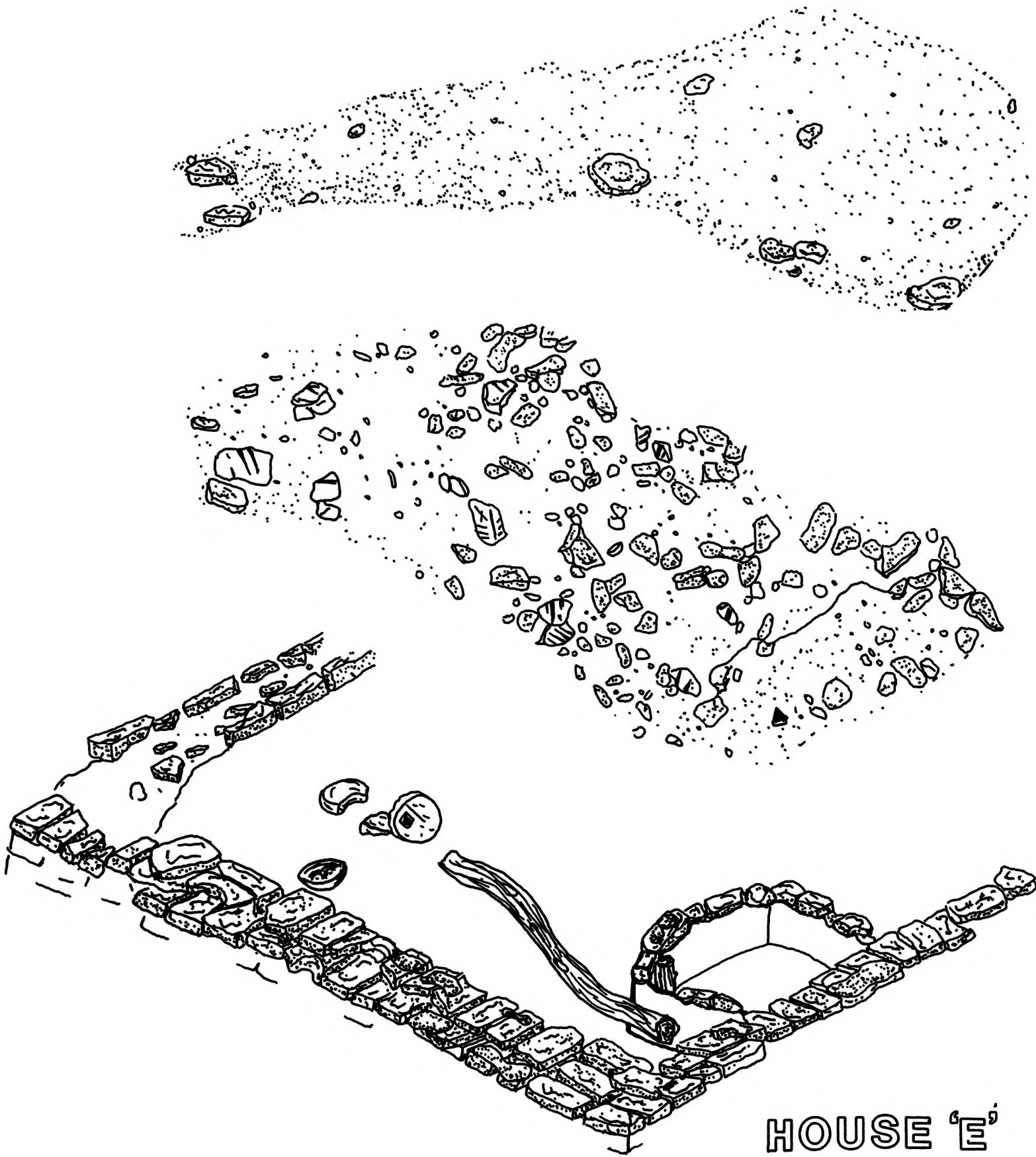


fig. 10

Floor plan of House 'D' showing postholes and pits.



HOUSE 'E'  
Area 5a





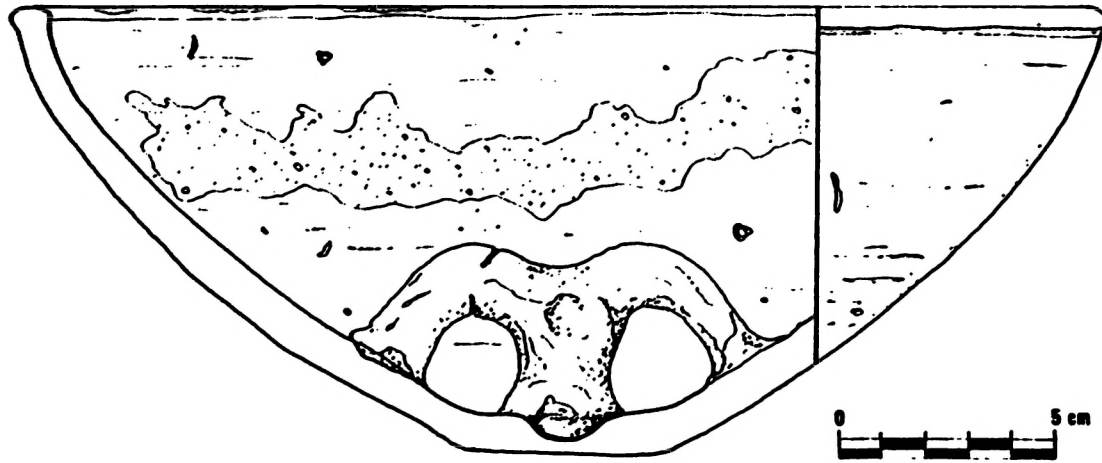


fig. 12 a

'Spinning Bowl' from House 'E', Room 5 a.

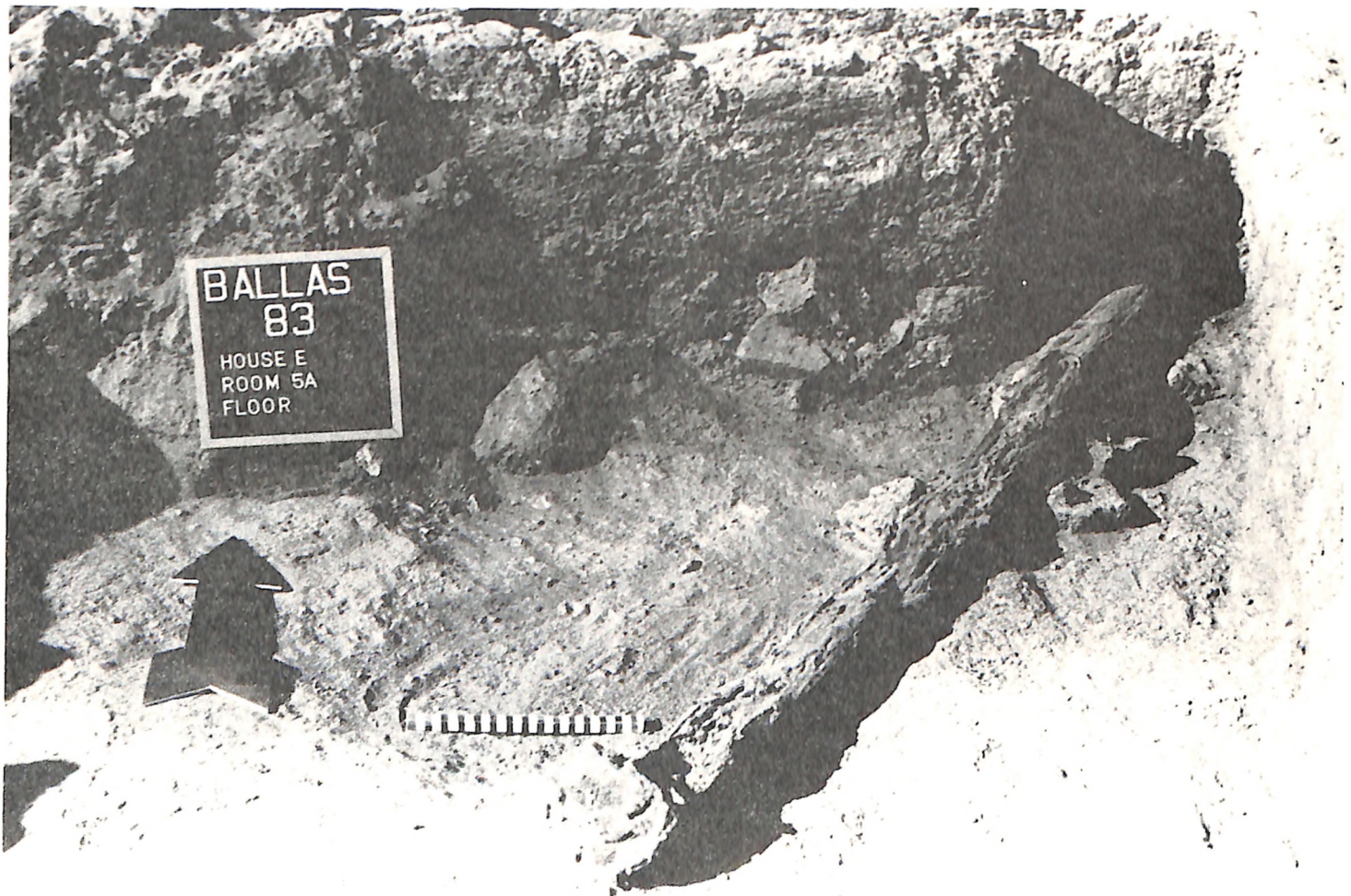


fig. 12 b

House 'E', Room 5 a, beam in situ.

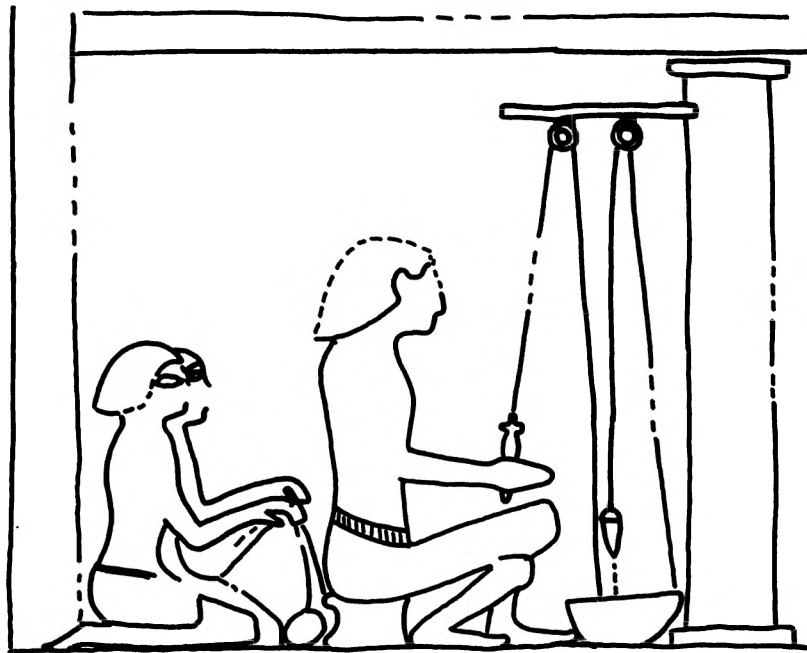


fig. 13 a

Weaver's shop from the tomb of Djehuty-nefer.

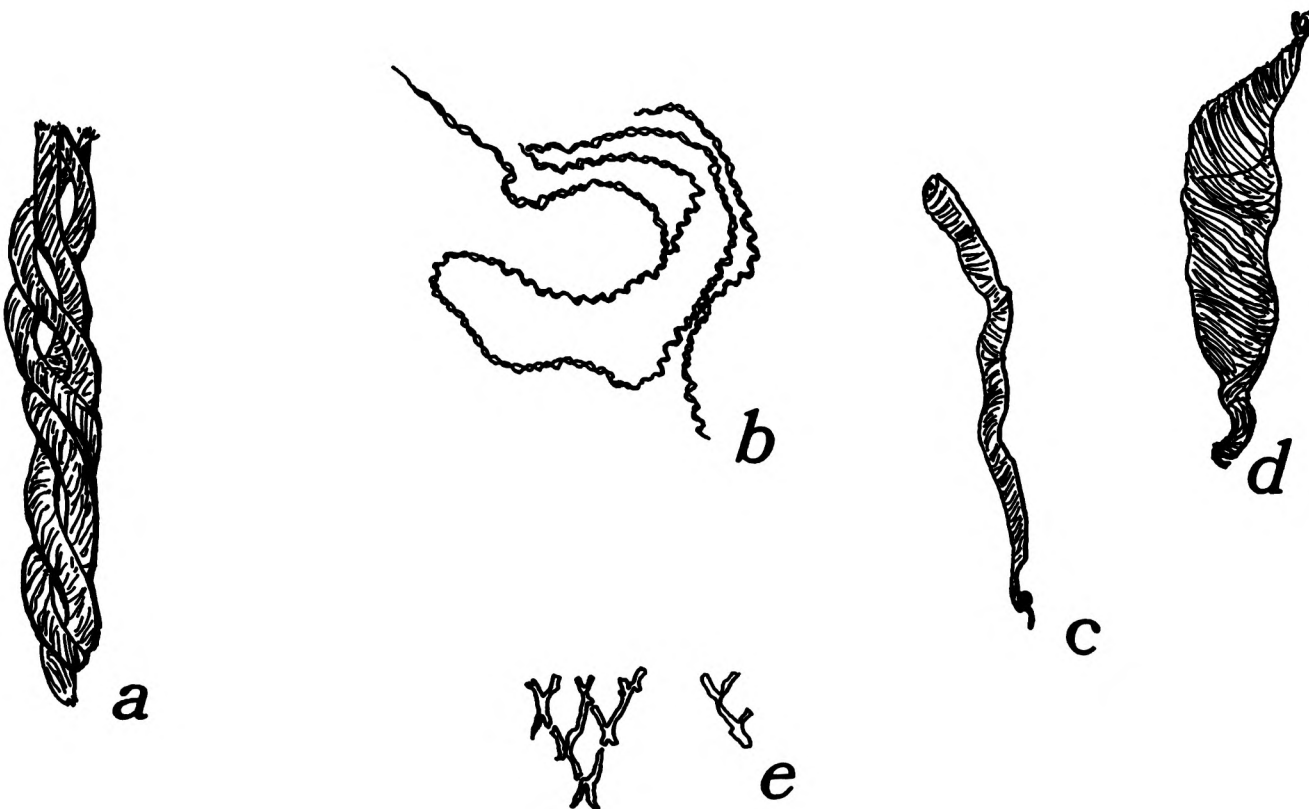


fig. 13 b

Textile fragments from House 'E',  
 a.) linen cord, b.) wool thread,  
 c - d.) wool rovings, e.) leather  
 openwork kilt fragments.



## THE WESTERN DESERT EXPEDITION: A PRELIMINARY SUMMARY REPORT

Between late December, 1982 and early January, 1983, archaeologists from the Museum of Anthropology at the University of Kansas conducted a survey north of el-Kharga in the Western Desert. We termed this project the Western Desert Expedition; funding was provided by AMOCO-Egypt through the Standard Foundation. The project was directed by the author. The crew consisted of two University of Kansas students, Ms. Marion Dyer and Mr. John Parisi. In addition, AMOCO-Egypt provided the project with Mr. Hanna Boulous Tadros, whose services were invaluable. Mr. Samy Farid Fathy was the Egyptian Antiquities Organization inspector, and Mr. Masoud Abdalla Abu Reeshan of el-Kharga served a key role as our guide. This report represents a preliminary summary of the project and is, of course, subject to modification as the final report is prepared.

Two principal objectives structured the project. The first was to systematically survey eight transects north of el-Kharga in the hopes of locating either Terminal Paleolithic or early Neolithic remains. We wished to document the presence of Terminal Paleolithic sites located in a marginal environment in the hopes of examining the range of adaptive variability that these peoples might have practiced. Such sites had previously been recorded in the Western Desert, but they are not well-documented in the area north of el-Kharga, near the junction of the Libyan Desert and the Kharga Depression. We wanted to establish whether or not such sites existed in this arid but ecotonal environment, and if they did, to determine what settlement and paleoeconomic data might be revealed from the surface remains.

The second objective of the project was broader in scope. Many Third World countries, including Egypt, are undergoing considerable economic development and this is leading to a rapid deterioration of cultural resources. Cultural Resource Management (or CRM) legislation is virtually non-existent or in its infancy, in many of these countries and we wished to apply modern CRM techniques to the project area as an experimental case study. It should be noted that the Kharga Oasis region, or "New Valley", is scheduled for extensive development, and that many cultural resources will be destroyed, especially those of less than spectacular proportions.

Of course, the Aswan Project of the 1960s represented one of the largest and most successful CRM projects ever undertaken anywhere, so in a sense there is a CRM precedent that already

has been set in Egypt. But one can safely say that the majority of projects in Egypt and elsewhere in the Near East are oriented towards "pure" rather than "applied" archaeology. We wished to use the Western Desert Expedition as a study of what would happen if an area were systematically surveyed and all cultural resources, no matter how unimportant, were recorded rather than just those pertinent to a specific research orientation. This, then, formed our second objective. I must, however, footnote this with a somewhat contradictory statement. Due to time and fiscal constraints, the project was restricted to recording only prehistoric sites, not "historic" ones. If we had attempted this, the sheer abundance of "historic" remains would have severely limited the area we were able to cover. While no effort was made to systematically record such sites, we should note that abundant "historic" remains were encountered. Particularly impressive was a large Roman community, including several "forts" and agricultural features, located in Transect 2, just a few km north of el-Kharga.

The Field aspect of the project was conducted from December 23, to January 7. The study area included eight transects of varying sizes located north of el-Kharga. We surveyed approximately 30 km<sup>2</sup> and recorded 63 prehistoric sites, not including isolated occurrences, which were ubiquitous. The 63 sites contained at least 79 components (Table 1). No collections were made. Depending upon terrain, the survey team was spread out as far as 200 meters or as close as 10 meters. Thus, our coverage was extensive rather than intensive. Owing to the experimental nature of this aspect of the project, this strategy proved the most optimal. We knew we could not record every site using this methodology; rather we wanted to demonstrate whether or not a relatively high site density was present, even in a situation where team members were, at times, spread out as far apart as 200 meters.

Once a site was located, it was recorded on previously prepared survey forms. Depending on the nature of the site, it was photographed and a lithic field analysis form was filled out. This level of detail was primarily restricted to Terminal Paleolithic and Neolithic sites, although some other sites that were in good condition were also recorded in such a manner. Pin flags were placed at the majority of sites to record their location. No collections were made at any of the sites. Diagnostic artifacts were skillfully sketched either by Mr. Fathy or Mr. Tadros.

With a coverage of 30 km<sup>2</sup>, and a total of 63 sites, the average site density is 2.1 sites/km<sup>2</sup>. This, however, can be a misleadingly low figure. The range of site density was from 0.3 sites/km<sup>2</sup> to 20.7 sites/km<sup>2</sup>. The latter end of this range was in a transect located on the edge of the Libyan Escarpment (Transect 4), where only 1.5 km<sup>2</sup> were covered, owing to the very high site density.



Sites from four prehistoric periods were recorded. These are tentatively identified as Mousterian, Aterian, Terminal Paleolithic, and Neolithic. In addition, 15 sites were recorded as undiagnostic lithic scatters. The most numerous diagnostic sites were Mousterian, followed by Terminal Paleolithic.

The Mousterian sites are located in virtually all areas investigated. Many of these were generally in poor condition, being both severely deflated and eroded, and containing heavily abraded artifacts. The Terminal Paleolithic sites, on the other hand, exhibit a much more restricted distribution, and were in a better state of preservation. They are located either at springs or spring vents or in ancient playas. The largest and best preserved Terminal Paleolithic sites occur in playas and appear to represent substantial occupations. They contain discrete artifactual patterning as well as features. In addition to abundant chipped stone materials, these sites contained ostrich eggshell, carved shell beads, and ground stone.

We may examine the relative success of both of our objectives. The first objective was achieved. Twenty-five Terminal Paleolithic or early Neolithic components were recognized out of 79, and, indeed, the best sites dated to the Terminal Paleolithic. The adaptive strategies practiced by the occupants of these sites are unclear and we hope further investigations will clarify these. We feel, though, that the economic strategies in operation at many of the Terminal Paleolithic sites were oriented towards exploitation of resources locally available at the playas, which must have represented favorable microhabitats within an overall marginal environment.

The success of the second objective is more difficult to evaluate, and certainly deserves more attention than can be devoted here. We can make several rather obvious observations, however. First, Egypt has a relatively efficient and comprehensive antiquities service that was well-established long before its American counterpart. However, the Egyptian Antiquities Organization is overworked, understaffed, and largely concerned with classical antiquity. Another observation associated with CRM-type work is logistical. Outside of the Nile Valley logistics and amenities become difficult, and projects are expensive and require careful organization. A third observation is simply that surveys, a crucial aspect of CRM archaeology, often are difficult to implement. Expense is yet another consideration. To do a comprehensive CRM study in virtually any area of Egypt would be expensive, especially if all cultural resources, both prehistoric and historic, were recorded.

Finally, there is the vexing question of significance. Archaeologists have enough trouble dealing with this in the United States, where perhaps 15,000 years of human occupation can be documented. When one is dealing with hundreds of thousands of



years, how is significance determined? Certainly of the 63 sites we recorded, most would not be considered significant in the strict "National Register" sense of the word. But several of the sites, especially the larger Terminal Paleolithic ones, probably contain important and intact data, and as such are significant.

Detailed recommendations for the sites recorded by the Western Desert Expedition will be made in the final report. We may, however, make preliminary observations here. Nearly all the sites are deflated. Erosion also has affected several, although many sites appear to be horizontally intact, or nearly so. Several sites also have been impacted by more modern cultural activities, although in most instances these do not appear to have been severe. A few sites, notably the larger Terminal Paleolithic ones, may contain in situ materials. The potential for future impacts varies by transect and clearly will be dependent upon additional development in the New Valley.

Several of the prehistoric sites recorded contain significant research potential. These primarily are Terminal Paleolithic occurrences, although a few Middle Paleolithic sites (both Mousterian and Aterian) also hold promise. Although recording "historic" sites was not an objective of the Western Desert Expedition, many of these were observed and several also hold significant research potential. This appears particularly true of Roman remains, which were abundant in most of the transects.

In conclusion, there should be no question as to whether or not a CRM approach is useful in countries such as Egypt. Sites are being destroyed daily, and in areas like the New Valley many valuable cultural resources will be lost. The problem is especially severe for prehistoric sites, which generally lack the visual impact of later remains but which are no less important. Implementing an efficient and successful strategy for protecting all levels of cultural resources is something with which all researchers working in Egypt should be concerned.

#### Acknowledgements

Various people, far too numerous to mention individually, contributed to the smooth operation of the Western Desert Expedition. Particular thanks must go to Dr. David Wilkie, president of AMOCO-Egypt, and his staff, for their enthusiastic support of the project at all stages. Dr. Ali el-Khouli and his staff at the Egyptian Antiquities Organization assisted us greatly, and we appreciate their help, which was given after very short notice by us. Dr. B. Issawi helped to make our stay in the field very comfortable. Drs. Robert Wenke and Nanette Pyne and the staff at the American Research Center in Egypt also were of great assistance in getting the project going. Our inspector, Mr. Samy Fathy, and Mr. Hanna Tadros both contributed immensely

to the success of the project. Marion Dyer and John Parisi of the University of Kansas worked long and hard to get everything done. Finally, our guide Mr. Abu Reeshah kept us from getting lost.

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## FELLOWS' REPORTS IN BRIEF

### THE EGYPTIAN LABOR MOVEMENT, 1919-1952

Thanks to my ARCE grant in 1980-81, I was able to complete research on the history of the Egyptian trade union movement in the 1930s and 1940s. I was looking for reasons as to why some patterns of union activity appeared in some industries and not in others, and I was able to gather enough information to make some tentative judgments about Egypt in the period before 1952.

Most of my work was carried out in the National Library where the staff was extremely friendly and made the arduous work of poring over newspapers and magazines fairly pleasant. The National Library has a fairly good collection of newspapers from the trade union circles active between 1930 and 1952, and I was able to see their entire collection as well as books, pamphlets, and some union constitutions they have preserved.

In general my work presumes that we must look at Egypt as she was then--a semi-colonial country in which British political authority and European capital played a disproportionate role in her internal life. Given this, what kinds of patterns of trade union organization do we find and where? I think the answer has been obvious for quite a while: we find the left in the textile industry; the Wafd fairly strongly entrenched in the state-owned sectors; and an Islamic current active in large-scale industries owned by European capital. One must pay homage to the fine work done by Egyptian historians, including Ra'uf Abbas, Sulaiman al-Nukhaili, Al-Ghazzali, and of course, Amin Izz Al-Din, without whom no coherent picture of the Egyptian working-class movement would exist.

What is interesting to speculate on, and what my research tends to indicate, is in some measure why we find these trends in industrial sectors in which they were located. When we compare the appeals of the different kinds of groups, study the different analyses they present of the then-contemporary Egyptian

situation, and place them in relation to the social basis of the workers in the industry as well as the patterns of work and authority in those industries it becomes clear that the workers chose leaders on a consistent and understandable basis.

The key variables seem to be point of origin--rural or urban--coupled with the nature of the industry--artisanal, industrial, or transitional--coupled with the nature of the ownership of the capital--Egyptian, non-Egyptian Arab, or colonial. When one fits these in with an understanding of the anti-colonial measures which nationalist political figures in the state were attempting to take, it is possible to find a "fit" between the politics which could win significant gains for a particular section of the working-class and those which would not.

Some of the information from this research will appear shortly in an article which now forms part of a book on Islam and social movements edited by Ira Lapidus and Edmund Burke, III. A more complete picture can be obtained from my dissertation.

*Funded by the United States  
Information Agency  
(formerly International  
Communication Agency)*

Ellis Goldberg  
1980-81 ARCE Fellow

#### WAR AND DISEASE: EGYPT IN THE 1940s

With a trip to Egypt in the Fall Quarter of 1982, I completed the last part of a fellowship I began in 1981. At that time I was unable to stay in Egypt a full year so I spent Winter, Spring, and Summer Quarters there.

On the 1981 trip I began research on the cholera epidemic that struck Egypt in 1947. I collected a few newspaper accounts at the Naval Medical Research Unit in Abbasia (NAMRU-3) and parliamentary records at the Maglis al-Sha<sup>C</sup>b. In summer, 1982, I obtained records of the Rockefeller Foundation and read through articles on cholera that appeared in Akhir al-Sa<sup>C</sup>a and Akhbar al-Yum, and Ruz al-Yusuf. I acquired these through Inter Library Loan from the Library of Congress.

On my way to Cairo in September, I stopped off in London to read in the Public Record Office at Kew Gardens. Many of the cholera records had been destroyed for reasons of space. I had learned earlier that the Rockefeller Foundation also had extensive records on the malaria epidemic of 1942-1945 and I found a complete set of archival records at the Public Record Office. About a third of British records have been destroyed, often indiscriminately. I left London with half of what I needed. The malaria records I utilized in full. I have subsequently located copies of about a third of the British cholera records.

In Cairo, I began at Dār al-Kutub where I found good organization and a friendly staff. I could call a newspaper at 9:00 a.m., order photocopies at 11:00 a.m., and be finished, with a complete set of articles on cholera or malaria, by 1:00 p.m. This was faster service than at most non-circulating libraries I have used. I worked at Dār al-Kutub at least three times a week throughout my stay.

I also obtained more parliamentary records at the American University in Cairo and at Dār al-Kutub. I learned subsequently that the University of Chicago has a complete set. This is an indispensable source and its existence in Chicago should be better known. I continued working at NAMRU, using their library and discussing the 1940s with persons who had participated in the struggle against the epidemics.

While reading the newspaper articles, I gradually obtained a list of persons who had played a critical political, journalistic, or medical role in the epidemics. I interviewed about twenty of these individuals. All were extremely helpful in sharing their memories and sometimes private records with me. I will list their names in an acknowledgement after I have checked the text with them.

In studying the political, social, and economic causes and consequences of the epidemics, I learned of the intense awareness of social inequalities generated during the 1940s. I think when I finish the study, a better understanding of the internal dynamics that led to the 1952 revolution will be possible.

Finally, when I submitted my Final Report for 1981 I noted that the Ministry of Health Library is being relocated on Roda Island. Somehow it came out Rhode Island when it was published in the ARCE Newsletter. Infatih hasn't gone that far yet.

*Funded by the United States  
Information Agency  
(formerly International  
Communication Agency)*

Nancy E. Gallagher  
1980-81 ARCE Fellow

#### THE POLITICS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, 1952-1980

This research project was started in 1978 and took several trips to Egypt, two of which were supported by ARCE in 1981 and 1982. It is basically an effort to assess the performance of economic policies in industry and agriculture since the beginning of the revolution. The method of inquiry consisted of interviews with Egyptian officials, professors and executives. Documents and scholarly studies written in Arabic and English were also examined. At this stage, I am writing the results up in a monograph in Arabic, and I may write articles in English.

The fifties witnessed a spectacular mobilization of financial resources for development in industry, irrigation and electricity and to a lesser extent in agriculture. Consequently, the first Five Year Plan showed a high rate of growth, though lower than the set targets. The growing tendency of the government to adopt import substitution policies in the early sixties led to an expansion in public enterprises to an extent that strained available capital. Failure to raise new sources of investment capital from national savings and other sources resulted in a serious crisis in foreign exchange by 1965, and inability to maintain an adequate growth level on all economic fronts. Low levels of growth persisted both in industry and agriculture until the middle seventies when new investment capital was beginning to flow in and some of the import substitution policies reconsidered. A moderate growth in agriculture resulted from relaxation of price controls on crops and other factors but industrial performance continued to lag behind. Governmental burdens caused by extensive subsidies and non-productive employment policies continue to deprive the economy from investment capital which partially explains the continuing low growth record.

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Iliya F. Harik  
1980-81 ARCE Fellow

#### THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE LAM-ALIF ALIF-LAM SEQUENCE

ARCE funded my three-month project to begin the investigation of how the letters, alif, lam, lam-alif and alif-lam came to be differentiated from all others and thus play a significant role in the visual arts of Islam. The investigation in its full form will concern itself with the special meanings attached to these signs, both decorated and undecorated and free-standing. It will also deal with what presences were intended when these letters were on the lips, in the eyes, ears, and the spirit of the pious, of those affected by profane love, and those lost in the spiritual abandon of sacred love, throughout almost 1400 years of Islamic history--throughout all language areas Islam reached--from Africa and Spain to Indonesia, even now.

In the three-month period of the ARCE grant I concentrated on the paleographic evidence that pinpointed the emergence of these forms in a highlighted or highly decorated form, differentiating them from all other letters in the inscription. Essentially I examined the holdings of the Museum of Islamic Art which bore inscriptions, noting the appearance, if any, of highlighted letters and the semantic content of the phrase in which they appeared, if it was whole enough to read. I then

began to do the same for the Islamic monuments, noting where the highlighted letters appeared, the kind of monument, the patron, use over time and other relevant data. The monument part of the study is not yet complete. In addition, of course, I used the libraries, mainly the Creswell Library at the American University, to consult texts on archaeological materials and the paleography of Arabic script.

What became clear was that alif, lam, lam-alif and alif-lam were all inherited from pre-Islamic Arabic and Nabatean. And, that these forms varied little over the centuries while other letters of the alphabet came over time to have a somewhat altered shape. In addition, the shape of the critical ligature, lam-alif, existed in both these languages and its semantic meaning was "no". The alif-lam sequence also existed and its semantic meaning was "the". The written evidence from these cultures, inscriptions in stone, graffiti, written texts is minimal in the case of pre-Islamic Arabic and almost non-existent in the case of Nabatean. But from the little that does remain, it is clear that visually none of these letters was highlighted in a line of script, none of the letters or combinations seems to have a disembodied or free-standing existence out of written context.

From the investigation of the holdings of the Museum of Islamic Art and from the inscriptions on the monuments now studied, it became clear that the first appearance of the highlighting of the lam-alif ligature anywhere in the Islamic world is on Egyptian tombstones that represent the merchant-ulema group. The appearance occurs in the mid-ninth century and remains until approximately 1200 C.E. I have found no surviving visual evidence to date of attention to these letters in this same period in manuscripts. The phrases in which this highlighting takes place on the tombstones are either direct Quranic quotations, or pious phrases from the Hadith, or general religious aphorisms. These letters in a person's name are never so highlighted, nor in the date, nor in information given about the occupation, city or family of the person. In addition, beginning with the later Fatimid period, these letters appear highlighted in the monumental scripts but only in specific areas, such as over the mihrab.

In order to conduct this investigation I needed the help of many people. Dr. Abdul Raouf Yussef, Director, Museum of Islamic Art, made the resources of the museum available to me. In addition, he listened patiently and offered suggestions to my inquiries about the many avenues of meaning attached to this sequence of letters. He made it possible to recheck information from published texts as questions arose. In this regard Mm. Na'amat, Assistant Director, also was very helpful to me. I would like to thank Muhammad Abbas, Curator of Textiles and Mme. Fatmah Yussef, assistant, both of whom were tireless in finding examples for me to examine. In fact, all of the curators with whom I worked were helpful and knowledgeable.

I was alerted to yet another avenue of visual significance of the lam-alif by Mme. Laila Ibrahim who gave generously of her time and expertise. It was she, from her knowledge of Mamluk waqf documents, who alerted me to the medicinal bowls from the Mamluk period that bore non-semantic writing and reductive inscriptions that displayed lam-alifs. Bowls of this type were allotted to patients in the Mamluk waqf hospitals. This is an attenuated although related use of the lam-alif sequence within society current today. My concern in analyzing the data gathered will be in the calligraphic history of the letters and the ligature. And, lastly I wish to thank ARCE, its Cairo and New York directors, for awarding me this grant and for facilitating my work in Cairo.

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Irene A. Bierman  
1981-82 ARCE Fellow



## AZARR--A SPIRIT OF WOMEN'S LIBERATION, RURAL EGYPTIAN STYLE

"Her hands must be stained red with henna at all times. She must be clean and nicely dressed--and wear rings on her fingers--and from the gold chain around her neck hangs the fish!" Then lowering his voice in conspiratorial tone my informant concluded, "she is possessed by Azarr".

This unexpected response came to my innocent query as to why the woman I just met seemed dressed for a celebration when I was aware of none in this village across the Nile River from Luxor. Immediately more questions flooded forth--the fish? Azarr? What was he talking about?

My companion was an Egyptian friend of four years whom I met when I was a volunteer for the University of California Theban Mapping Project. He had proved to be a reliable source of information regarding daily life in the villages and was willing to discuss subjects otherwise shunned with outsiders.

The devout Moslems of this area have incorporated into their beliefs aspects of ancient folk religion which predate the Arab Conquest. They absolutely accept the existence of Djinn, which may be helpful, and of Afreet which are always malicious spirits. I was about to learn about another bizarre form of spirit possession--Azarr.

We had been invited to this house for tea. The woman who was the object of my curiosity was one of the owner's two wives. Her festive appearance and demeanor were in marked contrast to the other wife and the neighboring women. She wore jewelry and pretty clothes and appeared exempt from the drudgery work of the village women. She owed it all to the Azarr which possessed her.

The Azarr is a rare and potentially malicious spirit with a clear-cut personality and name. It is always of a different nature than the women it possesses. It is never of the same religion and may be Christian or sometimes Jewish and of either sex. It is usually a Turk or Sudani and not Egyptian. Accordingly it is not bound by any of the religious or cultural restraints which control the lives of other village women.

The Azarr almost exclusively enters the body of an attractive young married woman. Very rarely an unmarried woman or male is possessed.

The initial presence of the spirit in the woman may be signalled by bizarre behavior. Driven by the Azarr, she may participate in dancing or some exclusively male activity. She may go into a trance and the spirit will speak with a strange voice to announce its presence. It will then make a series of demands. If these are not met the Azarr will hurt the woman or her family through its control of her activities. The Azarr may so completely control her that she cannot answer to her own name, but only responds to that of the spirit within her.

The Azarr despises misery and sadness and wants the body in which it dwells to be content and comfortable. Therefore, the woman must be clean, neat and prettily dressed at all times. Staining the hands red with henna is a mark of happiness, a practice of the villagers on festive occasions such as a wedding. The Azarr demands that its captive wear henna at all times. Curiously, one of the first and important demands in this region is that the husband buy his wife a golden fish to be worn on a chain around her neck at all times.

Often the Azarr requires a special ceremony in its honor. A midan, a sort of woman soothsayer who specializes in dealing with the Azarr, is called from the village at old Karnak. She conducts the midan ceremony (which literally means square) with the possessed woman in the center. The soothsayer sings accompanied by musicians playing drums, rababa and flute. The possessed woman goes into a wild dervish-like dance eventually swooning in convulsive shaking and enters a trance. At this time the spirit may make additional demands, especially for rings and jewelry. The midan serves as a sort of master of ceremonies and translator.

Fulfillment of the demands will generally placate the Azarr for many months and effectively excuses the woman from any activity she would find unpleasant. Disruption of her pleasant life-style will cause the Azarr to manifest itself again. Thus every few years an additional midan may be called for and usually the purchase of additional jewelry. Meanwhile, deviant behavior which would otherwise be condemned is legitimized by her possessed status.

Through other friends in the village I was able to obtain reluctant corroboration of this story and to further broaden my picture of the affected women. My best estimate would suggest that only three or four such women would exist in a village of about 10,000 people.

The possessed women are almost always the young wives of fairly wealthy older men and are physically attractive and vivacious. Their husbands can afford to dispense with their labor which in most families is an economic necessity. Even prior to being possessed they were rather self-centered and vain. They did not rank high as homemakers and mothers. A

couple were described to me as possibly psychopathic or schizoid in personality.

Apparently many had a fairly lengthy history as hypochondriacs with a wide variety of symptoms. Medical care predictably failed to cure them or merely shifted the symptoms from one part of the body to another. Once the Azarr manifested its presence as the source of her problems, and its demands were met, all complaints stopped. These women, thereafter, would no longer request or accept medical care. In particular they would refuse any injection as that might injure and provoke the spirit living within them.

When the villagers' dams of reticence broke, a flood of emotion showed that the possessed women could be a source of great stress to those around her. Other members of her extended family were forced to do her work, accept her deviant behavior and defer to her desires. Were it not for the intervention of the other women in her extended family, her children would be neglected. Fortunately in such families, womens' work is mostly interchangeable.

Generally, the husband seems to tolerate the situation well. If he does not, divorce is an easy and fast way out for him. He can terminate the marriage by simply stating "I divorce you" three times and returning her dowry to her. The threat of divorce is totally ineffective to the woman, however, because she would simply move back in with her old family. They are obligated to accept her by Islamic law. Since they dread the harm Azarr could bring the household, they readily accede to the demands necessary for appeasement.

There does exist one possible escape from dominance by the Azarr, but it must be pursued with vigor at the first sign of possession. If the husband soundly beats his wife, it shows the spirit that he cares so little about her and her body that he cannot be intimidated by the threats or acts of the Azarr to harm her. Therefore his wife's body will not make a good home for the spirit and it will do better to move on to another victim.

The significance of the golden fish suspended between her breasts is puzzling to me. The fish is a very uncommon symbol in this area. It is not used by Moslems or by local Coptic Christians for any purpose. I went to a dozen goldsmiths in the suq at Luxor and found only two examples. In discussion with numerous people, it was clear that they were totally unaware of the fish as an ancient Christian symbol and were mystified at the suggestion that it could be so. However, since the elements of folk religion which include belief in Azarr pre-date Islam and since the Azarr is always of a different religion, it is possible there was an association with Christianity in antiquity which has been lost. These villagers were Bedouins who only settled this area and became farmers in the past 200 years.

The possessed woman I met is one of two wives. The other wife apparently accepts with equanimity her lot. She is obligated to perform almost all the household work and tend the children of both. She had the option to refuse the marriage and entered the contract with full knowledge of the first wife's possession. The husband is very proud of his family. The villagers confirm how well they all get along together and regard them as quite remarkable. I can only agree.

In discussing my findings with several female Egyptology students the consistent reaction was that if they were women living in a rural village, they would welcome possession by Azarr. It seems that in rural Upper Egypt the spirit of women's liberation has an unusual form--Azarr.

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The above list was submitted by Professor Hans Goedicke, Book Review Editor, JARCE, Department of Near Eastern Studies, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland 21218.

DISSERTATIONS IN EGYPTOLOGY NOW IN PROGRESS

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Title</u>
Peter Lacovara University of Chicago	State and Settlement in New Kingdom Egypt
Del Nord University of Chicago	Women in the Old Kingdom in Ancient Egypt and Their Posi- tion in Society

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THE EGYPTIAN COLLECTIONS OF THE KELSEY MUSEUM  
OF  
ARCHAEOLOGY: AN ADDENDUM

The author wishes to call the reader's attention to an omission from her article on the Egyptian collections of the Kelsey Museum which appeared in the Spring, 1983, issue of this Newsletter. In addition to the collections noted, the Kelsey Museum houses nearly 1000 objects from the 1964-68 and 1971 seasons of the ARCE Fustat Expedition. These objects, which include a wide range of glazed ceramic fragments, water jar filters, glass bangles, bone figurines, amulets and items of bronze, wood and plaster, entered the Museums collections courtesy of Professor George T. Scanlon of the American University in Cairo, director of the Fustat Expedition. Professor Scanlon also donated a number of pieces of lustre ware to the Museum.

Elaine K. Gazda  
Associate Director  
Kelsey Museum of  
Archaeology



## ANNOUNCEMENTS.....

The American Research Center in Egypt, Inc. is seeking applicants for the position of director of its Cairo office beginning August 1984.

Applicants should have extensive work experience in Egypt and/or the Middle East and be familiar with the local living and work conditions in Cairo. A background in academic administration and scholarly interest in the Middle East are highly desirable. Because of the ARCE's Protocol with the Egyptian government establishing its Cairo office, the director must be an American. Applications with appropriate supporting documents should reach the New York office postmarked no later than January 1, 1984.

The appointment will be normally for two years. Salary is negotiable depending on qualifications and is payable partly in Egyptian pounds. The current director receives an annual salary in the range of about \$25,000.

The ARCE maintains its office in Cairo year-round to focus and facilitate a wide variety of projects in archaeology, museum and archival research, and social and humanistic studies. To this end the Center operates a business, reception, and library office in downtown Cairo, an equipment storage facility, a small motor pool, and a houseboat which serves in part as the director's living quarters.

The Cairo director administers grants to individuals and expeditions awarded by or through ARCE, assists grantees, other scholars and expeditions in obtaining permits and authorizations and liaison with Egyptian, U.S., and foreign agencies in Cairo concerned with the areas of scholarly and scientific activity with which ARCE deals, administers the Cairo office of ARCE and supervises its employees, sees to the maintenance and proper utilization of the premises and the equipment belonging to ARCE in Egypt, including storage and loan to qualified users, and performs other duties as may be assigned by ARCE officers and Board.

The ARCE is an Equal Opportunity employer.

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AMERICAN RESEARCH CENTER IN EGYPT  
INCORPORATED  
1117 INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS BUILDING  
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10027

MEMORANDUM

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We are pleased to announce the creation of a special fund for grants-in-aid to ARCE projects involving work on the conservation and restoration of Egyptian monuments and antiquities.

This fund is available courtesy of the Chase National Bank of Egypt and future efforts undertaken must duly credit this source in all public reports and records.

The ARCE New York office will be happy to receive applications starting immediately. Requests should be for support of work which is a part of an ongoing, previously reviewed ARCE project. However, only the specifically conservation, preservation or restoration component of such projects are eligible for funding at this time.

For additional information contact either Paul Walker in New York or Robert Wenke in Cairo.

PRELIMINARY  
ANNOUNCEMENT

1984 ANNUAL MEETING

The meeting will take place in Cleveland, Ohio at the kind invitation of the Cleveland Museum of Art. The dates are April 27, 28, and 29 (Friday, Saturday and Sunday).

We have an agreement with Stouffer's Inn on the Square for rooms and meeting facilities including the annual banquet. It is easily reached from the airport by public transportation.

The sessions of Friday, April 27, will be held in the Museum and the balance of our program for Saturday and Sunday occur in the hotel.

The 1984 Program Committee consists of the following members. Please contact them if you plan to participate:

Arielle P. Kozloff  
Cleveland Museum of Art  
11150 East Boulevard at  
University Circle  
Cleveland, OH 44106

Earl L. Ertman  
Department of Art  
University of Akron  
Akron, OH 44325

Arthur Goldschmidt, Jr.  
Department of History  
The Pennsylvania State University  
601 Liberal Arts Tower  
University Park, PA 16802

\* \* \* \*

## **THE AMERICAN RESEARCH CENTER IN EGYPT**

**will award funds for**

### **FELLOWSHIPS IN EGYPT, 1984-85**

- Fields of Study** Egyptology, archaeology, art history, the humanities, social sciences, Islamic studies, and related disciplines.
- Eligibility** Ph.D. dissertation students, having successfully completed preliminary exams; postdoctoral scholars.
- Duration** Three to twelve months, during the period June 1, 1984-September 30, 1985.
- Allowances** Most ARCE Fellows receive a monthly stipend commensurate with academic status and number of accompanying dependents, plus round-trip air transportation for recipients only.
- Application Deadline** November 30, 1983, for receipt of applications, letters of recommendation, and filing fees.

The ARCE Fellowship Program is made possible by grants from the Smithsonian Institution's Foreign Currency Program, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the United States Information Agency.

For Further Information, Applications, and Brochures  
Please Contact:

#### **THE AMERICAN RESEARCH CENTER IN EGYPT, INC.**

1117 International Affairs Building  
Columbia University  
New York, New York 10027  
Phone: (212) 280-2045

AMERICAN SCHOOLS OF ORIENTAL RESEARCH

1984-85

Fellowships, Scholarships, Professorships  
and  
Travel Grants

The American Schools of Oriental Research is offering over \$143,000 in research, study and travel grants for the academic year 1984-85 and the summer 1985. Awards are available to undergraduates, graduate students, seminarians, and post-doctoral scholars, and qualified persons are urged to apply.

Awards offer opportunities for humanistic study of the Middle East from prehistoric through Islamic times. Recipients participate in the stimulating scholarly community of the Albright Institute for Archaeological Research in Jerusalem, the American Center of Oriental Research in Amman, or the Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute in Nicosia.

Available awards include:

- National Endowment for the Humanities Post-Doctoral Research Fellowships in Jerusalem and Amman, with stipends up to \$22,000. 6 months or 12 months.
- Annual Professorships in Jerusalem, Amman, and Nicosia, with room-and-board benefits, for post-doctoral scholars. 6 months or 12 months.
- Fulbright Research Fellowships in Nicosia: pre-doctoral, junior post-doctoral, and senior post-doctoral, with varying stipends. 6 to 10 months.
- Samuel H. Kress Foundation Fellowship in Jerusalem, with stipend up to \$8,500; dissertation year fellowship for students of art history or architecture. 9 to 12 months.
- George A. Barton Fellowship in Jerusalem, with room-and-board benefits plus stipend up to \$2,000; for seminarians, pre-doctoral students, or recent post-doctoral scholars. 3 or 4 months.
- Shell Companies Foundation Fellowship in Amman, with stipend up to \$6,000; for seminarians, pre-doctoral or recent post-doctoral scholars. 6 to 9 months.
- Mesopotamian Fellowship, for seminarians, pre-doctoral students, or recent post-doctoral scholars, having a project dealing with ancient Mesopotamian civilization; stipend up to \$5,000. 3 to 6 months.



- W. F. Albright Fellowship, for seminarians, pre-doctoral students or recent post-doctoral scholars, for use anywhere in the Middle East; stipend of \$5,000. 4 to 9 months.
- Zion Research Foundation summer study and travel grants, with stipends of \$1,500 and \$1,000; for undergraduate, graduate and seminary students and recent post-doctoral scholars to travel, excavate, or do research designed to further understanding of the Biblical world. 1 to 3 months.
- Honorary awards in Jerusalem, Amman, and Nicosia.

Application for most awards is November 1983.

For details and application information, write or telephone the ASOR Administrative Office, 4243 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104; telephone: 215-222-4643/4644.

\* \* \* \*

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, BOSTON

Internship in the Department of Egyptian  
and Ancient Near Eastern Art  
1984

Several gifts from members of the Visiting Committee of the Department of Egyptian and Ancient Near Eastern Art will provide an internship in this department for Egyptian art and archaeology for a single year. It has been designated the George A. Reisner Internship in Egyptology.

The department is engaged in virtually every kind of work that might add to a young professional's experience: studying and evaluating a collection of approximately 40,000 objects, planning a selective renovation of gallery space and storage space, participating in the organization of exhibitions here and elsewhere, making acquisitions, working on the publication of the department's excavations in Egypt and the Sudan, and producing fascicles of the Corpus Antiquitatum Aegyptiacarum (Loose Leaf Catalogue of Egyptian Antiquities) and other scholarly publications. Interns will be expected to participate fully in the work of the department and to undertake at least one substantial project that can be completed during the internship. Interns will be supervised by William Kelly Simpson, Curator of Egyptian and Ancient Near Eastern Art, and the staff of the Egyptian Department. They will also consult with Lambertus van Zelst, Director of the Research Laboratory, and members of the staff of the Research Laboratory. The internship involves clerical work, answering correspondence, gallery installation, organization of storerooms, department errands, and other usual duties of staff members. It is not research oriented, and the intern is expected to perform the chores which are shared by the other members of the curatorial staff.

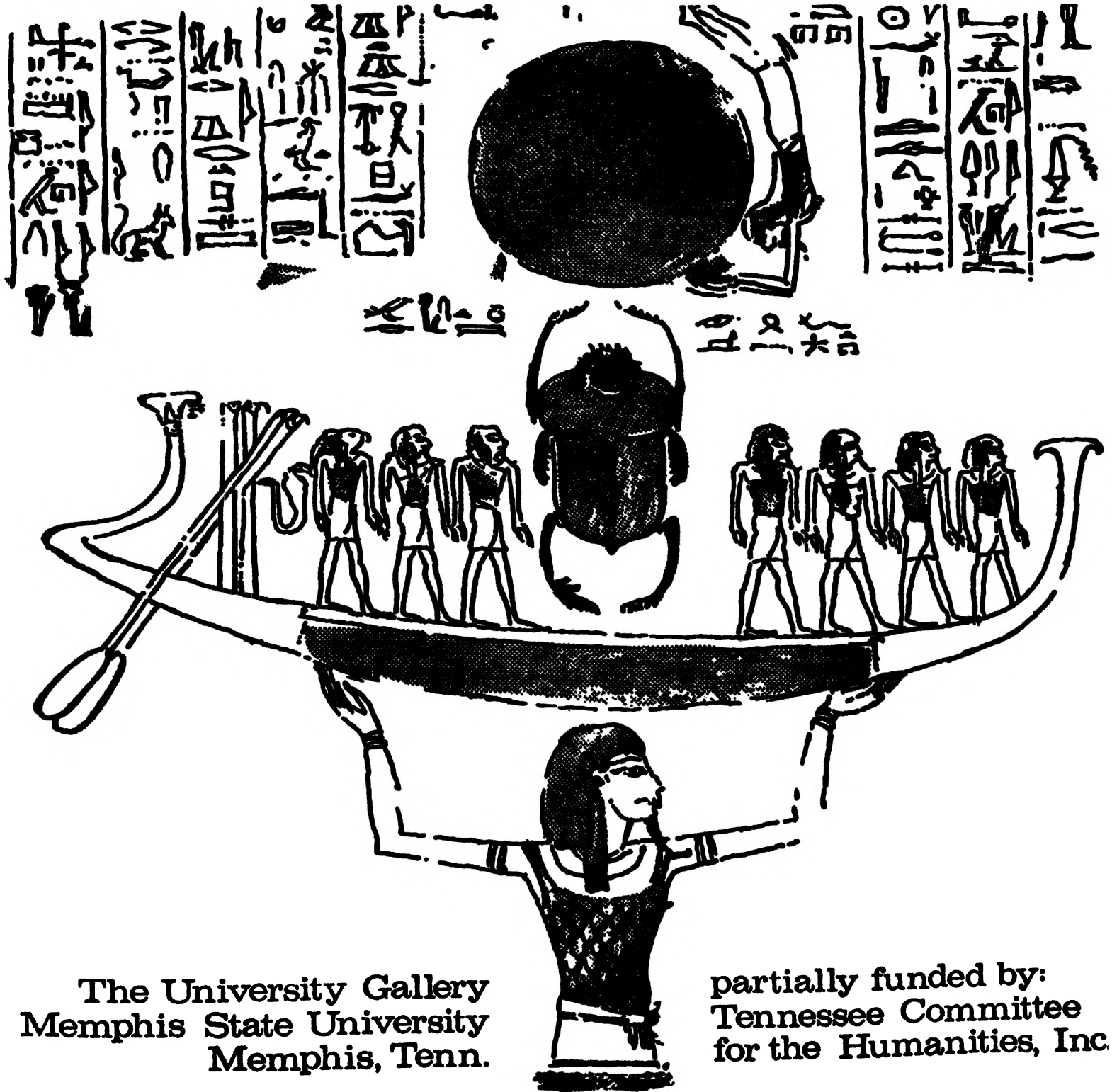
Tenure, stipend. Interns will receive a stipend of \$11,700. They will not normally be eligible for fringe benefits, except to the extent possible through the funding of the program. The individual selected may start at any time after January 1, 1984, and should begin no later than July 1, 1984. The period of the internship is twelve months.

Eligibility. Candidates with the highest promise as museum curators are sought. Strong academic qualifications are required, normally at least a master's degree in Egyptology, and equally important, demonstrated talent for dealing with works of art in the original. Experience on one or more excavations in Egypt and/or the Middle East is desired. The museum is an equal opportunity employer.

Application. Candidates are asked to apply by addressing a letter to Dr. William Kelly Simpson, Curator, Department of Egyptian and Ancient Near Eastern Art, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Massachusetts 02115, describing their interest in museum work, training and experience, goals, and expectations of a museum internship. A listing of undergraduate and graduate courses in Egyptology and archaeology taken, and grades received, should be included. Three letters of recommendation, at least one academic, should be provided by people who know the candidate well. All letters must be received by November 30, 1983, and the applicant must indicate his or her proposed starting date. The most promising applicants may be asked to come to Boston for an interview with travel expenses paid by the department.

\* \* \* \*

# A DIVINE TOUR OF ANCIENT EGYPT



The University Gallery  
Memphis State University  
Memphis, Tenn.

partially funded by:  
Tennessee Committee  
for the Humanities, Inc.

Oct. 6 - Dec. 8, 1983

Raising of the solar barque, from the papyrus of Anhai. Courtesy British Museum

## NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### ANNUAL MEETING

Our meeting this year in Ann Arbor drew about one hundred and ten participants. Almost ninety were present at the annual banquet. While most members attended the sessions of papers on Islamic and ancient topics, there were long separate meetings of the officers, directors, executive committee and board of governors. Most of the business discussed and agreed there concerned details of fund raising (particularly how to complete the NEH \$600,000 matching requirement), budgets for Cairo and the U.S., the state of the publications program (including a report from JARCE editor Gerald E. Kadish), and a new policy of fees for the services of the Cairo Center.

It is this last decision which we need to clarify here in the form of a general announcement to all members.

### FEES

Commencing January 1, 1984, the ARCE will provide support services for expeditions and affiliated fellows according to the following schedule of fees:

- A) Individual scholars wishing to affiliate will pay the Center \$30 per month or \$300 per year (minimum three months). This rule remains as it has been.
- B) Expeditions will pay \$650 per field season unless they represent Institutional Members in which case they will pay \$150 only.

N.B. Research Supporting Member institutions may request services under A or B free of charge for their own projects. This must be specifically designated in writing naming the official representative of the institution who is to be helped.

- C) For properly approved ARCE projects the Center can receive, bank and disburse funds raised specifically for such projects either by the Center or the project staff. The fee for this is 5% of money raised.
- D) For ordinary members who need special help in Cairo beyond library, use of telephone and mailing address, seminars and advice, there will be fees for assistance in the following: antiquities pass (when possible) LE 10; each visa



extension LE 15; services requiring a trip by the staff outside the office LE 10; each letter or translation of documents LE 10.

The purpose of this new policy is to encourage clients of the Center to shoulder some of the burden of its cost. With the decline and demise of PL 480, the ARCE must rely more and more on the willingness of its members to contribute a fair share of expenses involved in providing these services.

#### NEW GOVERNORS

In addition to members of the board of governors elected at large by the general membership, four additional members were selected by the president and confirmed by the board itself. This year John Slocum and John Dorman were reelected and two new governors were added. We are pleased, therefore, to welcome George DeBakey of Rockwell International and R. Bayly Winder of New York University and East-West Ltd. Mr. DeBakey is a former resident of Cairo where he proved extremely helpful as a friend of the Center. When he returned to the States he expressed a strong desire to continue his support. Professor Winder is not new to ARCE. He is a former board member and treasurer. We are certainly happy to have him rejoin the board.

#### PUBLICATIONS

Please note the announcement on page of our two latest Undena volumes. All ARCE monographs except for out-of-print Arabic Writing Today: Vol. I, The Short Story can be obtained from Undena. These include all volumes issued in Cairo including A Catalogue of the Scientific Manuscripts in the Egyptian National Library, Part I (edited by D. King) and Averroes' Middle Commentaries on Aristotle's Organon (4 issued to date; ed. by C. Butterworth and A. Haridi).

In press now we have a preliminary report on work at el-Hibeh and the first volume of the final report on Fustat which covers filters.

#### FUND RAISING AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Of particular, perhaps extraordinary, significance for us is the 1983 contribution from the Chase National Bank (see page 1). It provides both a substantial gain in our goal of raising the NEH "match" and in strengthening our ability to support work in archaeology and antiquities restoration.

Meanwhile, it is also a pleasure to welcome several new corporate members. Northrup Corporation has contributed \$3,000, Warner Bros. Inc. \$2,500, and McDermott International Inc. \$500. In addition, we gratefully acknowledge a recent donation of LE 1,000 from The Women's Association (U.S. Embassy).

ANNUAL MEETING FOR 1984

In this issue we offer our first announcement of the 1984 meeting in Cleveland. Please take note and plan accordingly (see page 45).

SEARCH FOR A NEW DIRECTOR FOR CAIRO

Here we also open a search for a new director in Cairo (see page 43). Robert Wenke and Nanette Pyne signed on with us for only two years. As you receive this they will have completed the first. We recognize our luck in finding two such dedicated, hard working administrators and scholars. It is unfortunate to lose them but it is also understandable that they need to return to the University of Washington and regular positions of teaching and research.

TELL BASTA

During this past spring, Dr. Shafiq Farid, excavator of Tell Basta from 1961 to 1966, died while in the middle of preparing his work for publication. Fortunately, ARCE fellow Charles Van Siclen, III, who was already collaborating with Dr. Farid, is available to continue the project. A formal memorandum recognizing this was signed on July 5th in the ARCE office by all parties.

Paul E. Walker

## NEW ARCE TITLES FROM UNDNA

**CITIES OF THE DELTA, PART III: TELL EL-MASKHUTA**  
**PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE WADI TUMILAT PROJECT 1978-1979**  
*by John S. Holladay, Jr. Contributions by Donald B. Redford, Phyllis G. Holladay, Jonathan B. Brookner.* Malibu: Undena Publications, 1982. pp. x-160, 3 folds, 46 plates.

Until 1977, Tell el-Maskhuṭa was considered, on the basis of archaeological investigations in 1883, to be either the store city of Pithom, mentioned in the Exodus account, or Succoth, one of the cities along the Route of the Exodus. Although the original excavator, Edouard Naville, knew and discussed the classical evidence for an ancient canal built through this region to provide a sea-level route between the Nile and the Red Sea, most subsequent interest in the area has focused on its presumed biblical connections.

Since 1977, a major University of Toronto expedition has been in the field, surveying the Wadi Tumilat and excavating at Tell el-Maskhuṭa, with revolutionary results. Naville's "Storehouses built by the Children of Israel" date from the second/third centuries B.C., rather than the thirteenth. In fact, the major settlement at the site dates from the late seventh century B.C. and seems to be directly connected with the first canal built through the area to carry the goods of India and Southern Arabia to Mediterranean markets. Evidence developed by the excavations makes it probable that the canal was once as important in world economics and as great a cause of international conflict as the Suez Canal. For the early period, new evidence has emerged concerning the origins of the fabled "Hyksos". We now know that Syro-Palestinians were resident in the Wadi for some 100-200 years prior to their taking power in Lower Egypt.

ISBN 0-89003-085 (cloth) \$26.25  
0-89003-084-7 (paper) 21.25

**MATHEMATICAL ASTRONOMY IN MEDIEVAL YEMEN: A BIOBIBLIOGRAPHICAL SURVEY**, *by David A. King.* Malibu: Undena Publications, 1983. pp. xiv-98; 10 plates

This work surveys over one hundred Yemeni astronomical manuscripts preserved in the libraries of Europe and the Near East. These sources attest to an active interest in mathematical astronomy in the Yemen from the tenth century to the early twentieth century, and the writings of various Yemeni astronomers of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries are particularly impressive. To the historian of Islamic

science some of these works are of interest because they preserve earlier Iraqi and Egyptian astronomical sources which are no longer extant in their original form, and to the historian of Islamic institutions others are of interest because they cast new light on the astronomical orientation of the Ka'ba and on the early history of the institution of prayer in Islam.

The work is divided into two parts, the first including a survey of the history of Yemeni astronomy and classification of the sources, and the second a list of over fifty Yemeni astronomers and the available manuscripts of their works. A brief analysis of the contents of each extant work is included.

ISBN 0-89003-099-5 (cloth)	\$23.00
0-89003-098-7 (paper)	16.00

Please order from Undena Publications, P.O. Box 97, Malibu, CA 90265.

AMERICAN RESEARCH CENTER IN EGYPT, INC.

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