

## The Asyut Project: Seventh Season of Fieldwork (2009)

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(Taf. 14-19)

### Abstract

This report first refers to the international conference of The Asyut Project at Sohag in October 2009, and focuses then on the cleaning of an unfinished shaft in Tomb V (M11.1), and the archaeological remains on the mountain plateau from the early Middle Kingdom onwards. The recent documentation of the hieratic graffiti in N13.1 brings up more details for the wisdom texts and proves the title of a „scribe of the estate of jackals in the temple of Wepwawet“ in the visitors' texts. The area of O11 with the „Tomb of the Dogs“ was cleaned opening a gallery with huge amounts of carcasses of canids and other animals, also several hundred hammerstones were found in its entrance area. Late antique and medieval remains were examined in the region of the monastery Deir el-Azzam and five rock-cut tombs nearby on top of the Gebel as well as in the monastery of Deir el-Meitin lying downhill. A painting on the ceiling of Tomb IV probably represents John of Lycopolis.

From 18<sup>th</sup> August to 15<sup>th</sup> October 2009 the Egyptian-German joint mission of Sohag University, Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz and the Freie Universität Berlin conducted its seventh season of fieldwork<sup>1</sup> in the ancient necropolis of Asyut situated in the western mountains.<sup>2</sup>

Fieldwork focused on Level 7 including Tomb N13.1, Tomb V, Tomb N11.1, the Northern Soldiers-Tomb (H11.1), the Tomb of the Dogs, surveying Deir el-Azzam and Kom el-Shuqafa on the mountain plateau, documenting the architecture of Tomb I and Tomb IV as well as mapping the necropolis. In addition, objects were studied in the magazine at Shutb.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> During the fieldwork we received full cooperation and encouragement from the Supreme Council of Antiquities. Thanks are due in particular to the Chairman, Dr. Zahi Hawass, to the Head of the Archaeology Sector, Mr. Sabry Abdel-Aziz, to the Director General of Antiquities for Middle Egypt, Dr. Abdel-Rahman El-Aidi, to the Director General of Asyut, Mr. Abd El-Satar Ahmed Mohamed, and to the Head of the Foreign and Egyptian Missions Affairs and Permanent Committee, Dr. Mohamed Ismail. We also thank Emma Dowley and Svenja A. Gilden for correcting our English and Svenja A. Gilden for textediting as well as digital image editing.

<sup>2</sup> For previous work cf. J. Kahl et al., The Asyut Project: Sixth Season of Fieldwork (2008), in: SAK 38, 2009, 113-130 with further literature in n. 2.

<sup>3</sup> Members of the mission were: Mahmoud El-Khadragy, Sohag University: field director; Jochem Kahl, the Freie Universität Berlin: field director; Ursula Verhoeven, Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz: project director; Ahmed Ali El-Khatib, Sohag University: botanist; Mohamed Abdelrahim, Sohag University: Egyptologist; Abd el-Naser Yasin, Sohag University: Islamic studies; Ina Eichner, Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum Mainz: Byzantine archaeologist; Hesham Faheed Ahmed, Sohag University: Egyptologist; Silvia Prell, JGU Mainz: Egyptologist; Sameh Shafik, SCA: epigrapher; Thomas Beckh, Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum Mainz: Egyptologist; Corinna Garbert, Fachhochschule Wiesbaden: architect; Mohamed Helmi, Sohag University: Egyptologist; Andrea Kilian, JGU Mainz: Egyptologist; Josephine Malur, FU Berlin: Egyptologist; Magdalena Patolla, JGU Mainz: anthropologist; Josuah Pinke, FU Berlin, Egyptologist; Mohamed Al-Shafey, SCA: Egyptologist; Ammar Abu Bakr, Faculty of Arts Luxor: draughtsman; Eva Gervers, JGU Mainz: student of Egyptology and anthropology; Cornelia Goerlich, Fachhochschule Wiesbaden: student of architecture; Barbara Reichenbächer, JGU Mainz: student of Egyptology.

The accompanying inspectors were: Mr. Adly Garas Matta, Mme. Nadia Naguib and Mr. Ahmed Abd-Alrahim Abd-Almagid. Accompanying restorers were Mr. Ahmed Abd el-Dayem and Mr. Helal Qeli Attalaa.

### *International Conference in Sohag*

At the end of this season Mahmoud El-Khadragy and the Department of Egyptology organized a conference at the University of Sohag with the title „Seven Seasons of Egyptian-German Cooperation in Archaeological Fieldwork (2003-2009)“ on the 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> of October 2009, being sponsored by the Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz.

Under perfectly organized conditions and in a very friendly atmosphere the members of the mission could present their methods and results to a broad audience of international and local guests and students: Jochem Kahl gave an overview of the project in general, Mahmoud El-Khadragy of the nomarchs of the First Intermediate Period and the Middle Kingdom. Sameh Shafik presented his methods of epigraphic work, Ursula Verhoeven the New Kingdom graffiti in Tomb N13.1, and Meike Becker her reconstruction of Tomb II from the beginning of the 12<sup>th</sup> dynasty. Special groups of findings were subject of the other lectures: wooden models (Monika Zöller-Engelhardt), offering plates (Andrea Kilian), human bones from the Old Kingdom (Magda Patolla), historic plant records (Ahmed El-Khatib), and Islamic pottery (Abdel Nasser Yasin). The contributions will be published in the series of „The Asyut Project“.

Functioning as a frame of the program, Ammar Abu Bakr presented two documentary films about the interdisciplinary and international work in the field, about the findings and tomb decorations. The second day, the guests could visit the necropolis of Asyut itself being guided by the project and field directors. We would like to thank the responsible persons at Sohag University and the team of The Asyut Project for the organization and cooperation, and the guests for their interest and response.

M.Kh., U.V.

### *Tomb V (M11.1)*

In the rear part of the irregularly shaped inner hall of Tomb V (Khety I, First Intermediate Period),<sup>4</sup> the surface was cleaned from the southern wall to the central part (directly in front of the false door). A several metres high layer of limestone debris (caused by the collapsed ceiling which broke down because of quarrying activities in the 19<sup>th</sup> century) and about a 1 m high layer of burnt bones covered the original floor. While cleaning, a hitherto unknown unfinished and empty shaft (Fig. 1; Taf. 14a) came to light in front of the false door (western wall). The southern wall of the shaft was left sloping probably to facilitate the transport of the ancient excavation. Thus the rocky debris could be lifted up via the slope probably by means of ropes and baskets. About three quarters of the area of the inner hall of Tomb V are still covered with debris

A reconstruction (Fig. 1) shows the discovered unfinished shaft as well as the two pillars, which were seen by the French Expedition in 1799,<sup>5</sup> before they were covered by quarrying in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

<sup>4</sup> Cf. M. El-Khadragy/J. Kahl, *The First Intermediate Period Tombs at Asyut Revisited*, in: SAK 32, 2004, 241-243; J. Kahl, *Ancient Asyut. The First Synthesis after 300 Years of Research*, TAP 1, Wiesbaden 2007, 74.

<sup>5</sup> *Descr. de l'Égypte* IV, 144, pls. 47.8-9, 49.6-7.

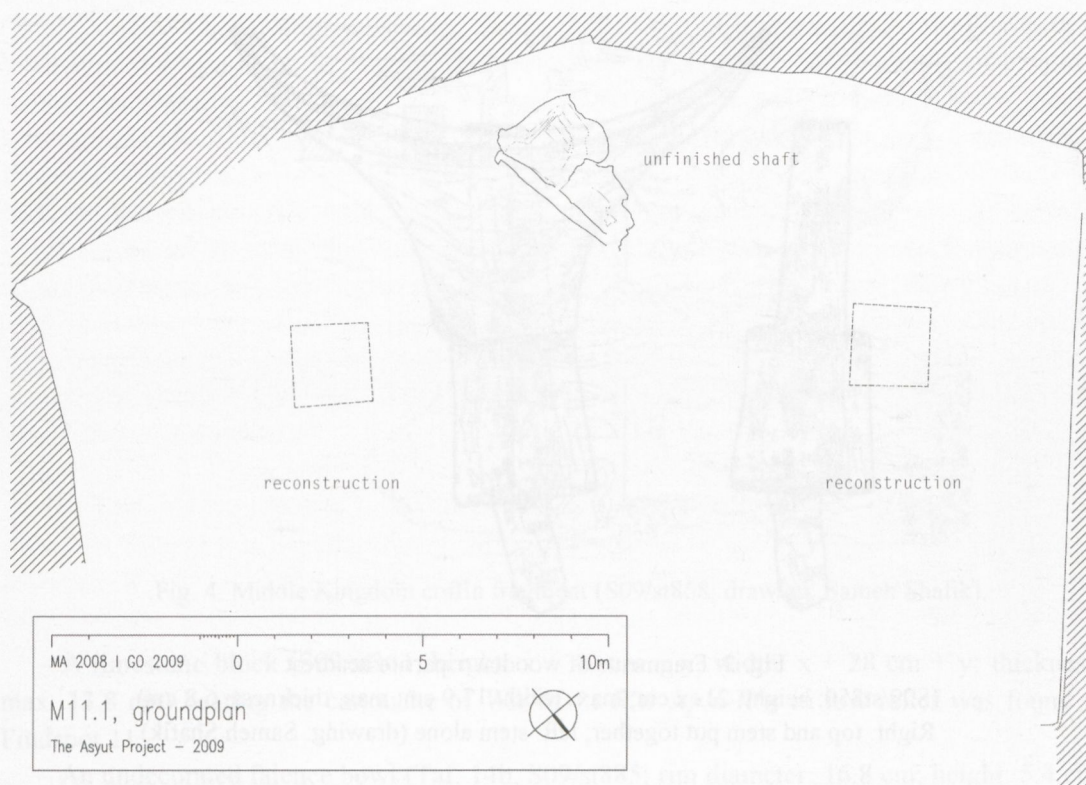


Fig. 1: Tomb V, inner hall, unfinished shaft (plan: Cornelia Goerlich).  
Reconstruction of the pillars based on 2009 fieldwork season of The Asyut Project  
and 1799 survey of the French Expedition (© The Asyut Project).

*The mountain plateau: the area of Deir el-Azzam and Kom el-Shuqafa*

Survey at the mountain plateau (cf. the contribution by Ina Eichner and Thomas Beckh) brought more evidence for a relatively early use of this part of Gebel Asyut al-gharbi as a cemetery during Pharaonic Period. Tomb shafts – according to the chisel marks dating to the New Kingdom or the Late Period – were already known from earlier seasons. In addition, some objects from Pharaonic Period were observed during the survey in 2009 by Ina Eichner and Thomas Beckh, amongst others:

– Two fragments (Fig. 2) of an originally tripartite wooden headrest (S09/st850) from Tomb 106 (preliminary number). Its top and stem are preserved and show the typical Middle Kingdom form with a short stem.<sup>6</sup> Such headrests are also known from Schiaparelli's excavations at Asyut.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Cf. H.G. Fischer, in: LÄ III, 1980, 686-693, s.v. Kopfstütze.

<sup>7</sup> Cf. E. D'Amicone/M. Pozzi Battaglia (eds.), *Egitto mai visto. La montagna dei morti: Assiut quattromila anni fa*, Trento 2009, 247-249 (8.15a, 8.15d, 8.15e).

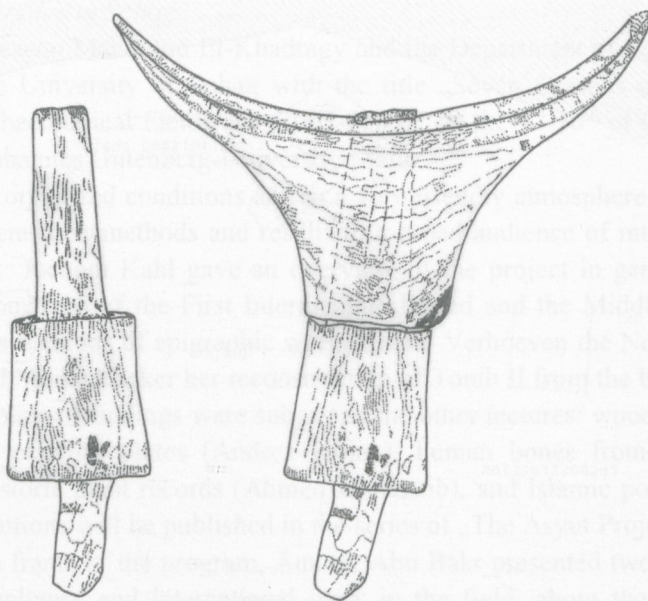


Fig. 2: Fragments of wooden tripartite headrest  
(S09/st850; height: 21+x cm; max. width: 17.9 cm; max. thickness: 6.8 cm).  
Right: top and stem put together; left: stem alone (drawing: Sameh Shafik).

– A drop shaped vessel (Fig. 3) made of alluvial clay Nile C (S09/st858). This vessel from Findspot B resembles such ones from the Qau-Matmar-region which are dated to the early Middle Kingdom.<sup>8</sup>

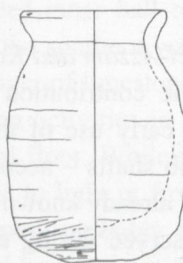


Fig. 3: Drop shaped vessel  
(S09/st858: height 4.9 cm; rim diameter: 8.5 cm; drawing: Andrea Kilian/Chiori Kitagawa).

– Middle Kingdom coffin fragments (S09/st868) with parts of an inscription mentioning Anubis, Lord of Ra-qereret (Fig. 4), were found in Findspot A. The palaeographic features resemble closely the Asyuti coffin S24C.<sup>9</sup> The stool of reed matting, Gardiner sign-number Q 3 (*p*), shows vertical lines in its inner part, the ripple of water, Gardiner sign-number N 35 (*n*), shows a horizontal stroke over the zigzag lines.

<sup>8</sup> Cf. S.J. Seidlmayer, *Gräberfelder aus dem Übergang vom Alten zum Mittleren Reich. Studien zur Archäologie der Ersten Zwischenzeit*, SAGA 1, Heidelberg 1990, 198, 395.

<sup>9</sup> R. Hannig, *Zur Paläographie der Särge aus Assiut*, HÄB 47, Hildesheim 2006, 229 (*i, p, n*). Cf. also S2Hil: op.cit., 246 (*i, n*), 248 (*inpw*). However, Gardiner sign-number Q 3 (*p*) shows a different feature.

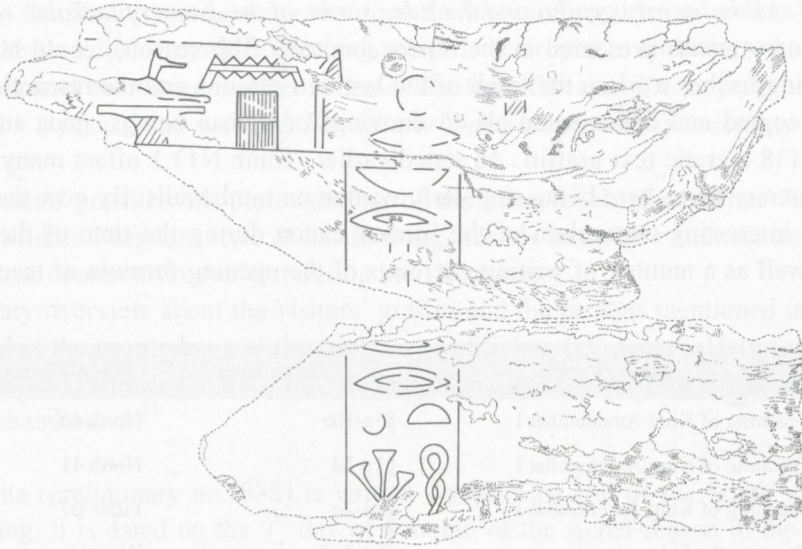


Fig. 4: Middle Kingdom coffin fragment (S09/st868; drawing: Sameh Shafik).

– A limestone block (S09/st864; height:  $x + 40$  cm +  $y$ ; width:  $x + 28$  cm +  $y$ ; thickness: max. 13.8 cm) bearing the cartouche of *Wsr-Mꜣt-Rꜥw štp.n-Rꜥw* in low relief was found in Findspot 11.

– An undecorated faience bowl (Taf. 14b; S09/st885; rim diameter: 16.8 cm; height: 5.4 cm; base diameter: 11 cm) stems from Findspot A.

– A carapace of the African softshell turtle *Trionyx triunguis* (Taf. 15; S09/st801) was found on the surface at Findspot 11. This turtle was still common in the Nile in Lower and Upper Egypt in the 19<sup>th</sup> century CE, but became scarce at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century CE. Since the construction of the High Dam there are only rare records about *Trionyx triunguis* in the Nile downstream from Aswan.<sup>10</sup> Whether the carapace at Findspot 11 belonged to the leftovers of Coptic monks or to an earlier period is open to debate. The use of this Nile turtle as human food has already been known from Pharaonic settlements.<sup>11</sup> But an original use of *Trionyx triunguis* as grave good seems also to be possible.<sup>12</sup>

Pieces of the carapace of *Trionyx triunguis* (S06/st848; S07/st1073; S07/st1125) are already attested from previous fieldwork seasons at Asyut. They were found on Level 7 in small disturbed shaft tombs from the late Old Kingdom. However, the exact purpose and function of such pieces of the turtle's carapace have still to be discussed.

J.K.

<sup>10</sup> S. Baha El Din, *A Guide to the Reptiles and Amphibians of Egypt*, Cairo/New York 2006, 317.


<sup>11</sup> J. Boessneck, *Die Tierwelt des Alten Ägypten*, München 1988, 111; H.G. Fischer, in: *The Metropolitan Museum of Art Bulletin*, New Series 24, no. 6, 1966, 193-200.

<sup>12</sup> Cf. the find of parts of *Trionyx triunguis* carapaces in Deir al-Barsha (M. De Meyer, in: H. Willems et al., *Preliminary Report of the 2003 Campaign of the Belgian Mission to Deir al-Barsha*, in: *MDAIK* 62, 2006, 323, pl. 57b).

*Tomb N13.1: More literary graffiti and the title „scribe of the estate of jackals“*

The preliminary results presented in the report about the fifth season<sup>13</sup> could be enlarged and verified during further work in the tomb of the last two seasons and the research in between.<sup>14</sup> E. Gervers copied and documented all 45 drawings of human beings, gods and animals, U. Verhoeven 138 hieratic text graffiti. As stated earlier, Tomb N13.1 offers many partial copies of famous literary texts, here being singularly written on tomb walls. By now the list increased showing an interesting curriculum of the literary canon during the time of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> dynasty as well as a number of writing exercises of the opening formula of teachings *ḥꜣtj-ꜥ m sbꜣ.yt*:

No.	Literary opus	Paragraphs	Preliminary graffiti no.
1a	Teaching of King Amenemhat I	§3a-10c	North 40
1b	Teaching of King Amenemhat I	§1a-3d	North 41
1c	Teaching of King Amenemhat I	§1a-2e	Pillar B7
2	Hymn to the Nile	§1,1-V,8	West 10
3	Teaching of Khety, Son of Duauf	ch. 1-6	West 7
4a	Teaching of a Man to His Son	§1,1-1,5	South 9
4b	Teaching of a Man to His Son	§1,1sq. (fragm.)	West 37
4c	Teaching of a Man to His Son	§1,1sq. (fragm.)	West 39
5a	‘Loyalist’ Teaching	§1,1-4,9	South 2 and 4
5b	‘Loyalist’ Teaching „of the Vizier Kairsu“	§1,1-2,7 and fragm.	Pillar A2
5c	‘Loyalist’ Teaching	§5,1-10,9 (11,1 fragm.)	West 16a
6a	Prophecy of Neferty	§1a-IIIe, fragm.	Pillar A7
6b	Prophecy of Neferty	§6a sqq., fragm.	Pillar A8a (b-c?)
7a	Schoolbook Kemyt	Introduction and §1,1	North 34a
7b	Schoolbook Kemyt	§1,1	North 34b
8	„Beginning of the teaching“		South 36, West 30, North 19 (7-8x), North 25 (?)

In text no. 3 the writing of the often discussed author’s name in the title of the teaching shows the word order  *Htj* [sꜣ Dwꜣ]wꜣf mꜣf which proves the reading „named Khety, son of Duauf“ instead of „Dua-Khety“.<sup>15</sup>

<sup>13</sup> U. Verhoeven, Tomb N13.1: graffiti, in: J. Kahl et al., The Asyut Project: Fifth Season of Fieldwork (2007), in: SAK 37, 2008, 201-204 (cf. also the „Korrekturzusatz“ in: Kahl et al., in: SAK 38, 2009, 130).

<sup>14</sup> Beside the publications cited in the next two notes cf. also U. Verhoeven, Die wie Kraniche balzen: Männerphantasien zur Zeit Amenhoteps III. in Assiut, in: D. Kessler et al. (eds.), Texte – Theben – Tonfragmente, Festschrift für G. Burkard, ÄAT 76, Wiesbaden 2009, 434-441 (figs. 4-5 are to be reversed).

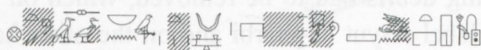
<sup>15</sup> Cf. U. Verhoeven, Literarische Graffiti in Grab N13.1 in Assiut/Mittelägypten, in: P. Kousoulis (ed.), Proceedings of the Tenth International Congress of Egyptologists, Rhodes 22-29 May 2008, OLA, Leuven (in print).

The graffito no. 5b preserved for the first time the last missing titles as well as the name of the author of the so-called ‘Loyalist’ Teaching which is destroyed in all hitherto known copies: It is the vizier Kairsu mentioned in other sources. The full titles are by now: *jry-p<sup>c</sup>.t ḥ3tj-<sup>c</sup> jt-ntr mry-ntr ḥry-sšt3 n pr-nsw ḥnh wd3 snb ḥry-dp n t3 r-dr=f sm ḥrp šnd.yt nb.t jmy-r3 nw.t t3ty K3-jr-s*.<sup>16</sup>

Two very small graffiti with the beginning of the schoolbook Kemyt (no. 7a and b) are written in the Middle Kingdom style of handwriting, namely in archaic Hieratic and in vertical columns as it was common for that text during the 18<sup>th</sup> dynasty.

A preliminary overview about the visitors’ graffiti and the persons mentioned in the texts is to be published in the proceedings of the conference of Sohag (cf. above). Here I would like to present an interesting title concerned with the cult of the jackals in Asyut found in two graffiti being otherwise unknown.<sup>17</sup>

The first one (preliminary no. S38) is written on the East end of the South wall, 132 cm under the ceiling. It is dated on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of a month of the Achet-season in the 26<sup>th</sup> year of Ramesses II. The text mentions only the date, the royal titulary and the name and titles of a man called Iahmes. The special title is made out like this:



(line 2) ... *sh ḥw.t [wn]š.w [n or m] pr Wp-w3.wt nb n S3w.ty* ...

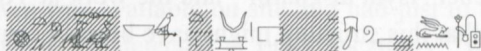
„... scribe of the estate of jackals [of or in] the temple of Wepwawet, Lord of Asyut ...“

The second one (preliminary no. S3) is located a little bit further to the East and only 118 cm under the ceiling. This text uses the formula „*jr nfr jr nfr* God X *jr nfr jr nfr* (n) person Y“ which is well known from visitors’ graffiti in other places mainly to be dated into the 19<sup>th</sup> dynasty.<sup>18</sup> Here the afore mentioned title occurs twice and reads as follows:



(line 1) ... *sh ḥw.t wnš[.w n or m] pr Wp-w3[.wt nb S3w].yt*<sup>19</sup> ...

„... scribe of the estate of jackals [of or in] the temple of Wep[wawet, Lord of Asy]ut ...“



(line 2) ... *sh wnš[.w n or m] pr Wp-w3.wt nb [S3w.ty]*


„... scribe of the jackals [of or in] the temple of Wep[wawet, Lord of Asyut]“.

<sup>16</sup> Cf. U. Verhoeven, Von der „Loyalistischen Lehre“ zur „Lehre des Kairsu“ – Eine neue Textquelle in Assiut und deren Auswirkungen, in: ZÄS 136/1, 2009, 87-98 with pl. XII.

<sup>17</sup> I would like to thank Terence DuQuesne for checking his material concerning relevant titles from Asyut.

<sup>18</sup> M. Marciniak, Quelques remarques sur la formule „*ir nfr, ir nfr*“ in: Etudes et Travaux 2, 1968, 26-31, cf. A.J. Peden, The Graffiti of Pharaonic Egypt, PÄ 17, Leiden/Boston/Köln 2002, 97; H. Navrátilová, The Visitors’ Graffiti of Dynasties XVIII and XIX in Abusir and North Saqqara, Prague 2007, 116-119. 133 (called „author-oriented pious set“, and „often to be found in the 19<sup>th</sup> dynasty“).

<sup>19</sup> The spelling of the town S3w.ty with two reed-leaves occurs in the corpus of the Salakhana stelae: T. DuQuesne, The Salakhana Trove, London 2009, CM146 (p. 111 with further literature in the note a), CM029 (p. 127), CM487 (p. 165), and CM206 (p. 188).

The term *wnš* is mostly translated with ‘jackal, golden jackal (*Canis aureus*)’, the species of Anubis respectively Wepwawet is hardly to define.<sup>20</sup> But the animal bones in the area of the necropolis coming from the Late Period and/or Graeco-Roman Period were to be identified mostly as „dog/golden jackal“.<sup>21</sup> The connection between the jackals and the temples of Asyut is almost suggesting itself, but the local use of the term *wnš* ‘jackal (*Canis lupaster*)’ in a religious context is becoming completely evident on a stela from Asyut (end of 18<sup>th</sup> or beginning of 19<sup>th</sup> dynasty) where two couchant jackals are called *wnš*, determined with a squatting god with the head of a jackal ().<sup>22</sup>

The new title is able to demonstrate that holy jackals were kept in a special estate, quarter or building belonging to the temple of Wepwawet in Asyut<sup>23</sup> during or since the 19<sup>th</sup> dynasty. The management of the *hw.t-wnš.w* was controlled by scribes, who in all cited instances also bear the title of a wab-priest.

U.V.

### *Tomb of the Dogs*

After the relocation of the Tomb of the Dogs last season,<sup>24</sup> The Asyut Project continued cleaning area O11. The several meters high standing debris had to be removed, which on the one hand had fallen down from a higher level in Gebel Asyut al-gharbi and on the other hand was caused by tomb raiders. Examination of the debris brought several finds to light, some of them originally belonging to the Tomb of the Dogs: animal mummies and animal bones as well as fragmented vessels (pottery and gypsum). Hundreds of mudbricks were found in the debris also which might have been originally part of a wall or a building belonging to the monastery Deir el-Meitin.

The tomb’s original entrance area has not yet been located however a subterranean rock cut gallery was opened, consisting of a corridor running in north-south direction, of which several chambers branch off to the west. The corridor and the chambers are filled with large amounts of carcasses of canids and other animals. Corridor and chambers are greatly disturbed by tomb raiders’ activities. The ground floor has not yet been reached (thus the height of the rooms has not yet been determined). The animal bones are partly mouldy.

Even if canid burials are widely spread over Gebel Asyut al-gharbi<sup>25</sup> and the work at Tomb of the Dogs is still at its beginnings, one could say that this structure might have been of central importance for the Asyuti canid cult. Quantity and quality of the finds promise new information about animal cult in Asyut as well as in Egypt. In the debris dozens of demotic ostraca dating to the Ptolemaic Period were found. In addition, a fragmentarily preserved canid snout made of clay came to light (Fig. 5) as well as some painted fragments of vessels (Taf. 16a and b) representing a jackal-headed deity. These and other vessel fragments show that the dead animals were wrapped in linen before wet gypsum was put around them. This, still wet, gypsum was

<sup>20</sup> Ch. Kitagawa, in: Kahl et al., The Asyut Project: Sixth Season of Fieldwork (2008), in: SAK 38, 2009, 122.

<sup>21</sup> Kitagawa, in: Kahl et al., in: SAK 38, 2009, 128.

<sup>22</sup> DuQuesne, The Salakhana Trove, 2009, 190 (PA1), cf. note a. Interesting are also personal names from Asyut like *Wnš* or *P3-wnš*, cf. op.cit., 609 (index).

<sup>23</sup> For the location of the temple cf. Kahl, Ancient Asyut, 2007, TAP 1, 45.

<sup>24</sup> Kahl/Kitagawa, in: Kahl et al., in: SAK 38, 2009, 117-129.

<sup>25</sup> This season’s work brought also many canid bones to light at the Northern Soldiers-Tomb (H11.1).

formed into the shape of vessels, which one can see on the interior side of the gypsum sherds, that show offprints of the linen fibres.

Besides animals, human beings were also buried in the Tomb of the Dogs, as parts of mummy wrappings and coffins show. In front of the entrance to the subterranean gallery a wooden funerary mask was found showing a well preserved painting on a gypsum plaster (Taf. 17).<sup>26</sup> It can roughly be dated to the Late Period or Ptolemaic Period.

J.K.

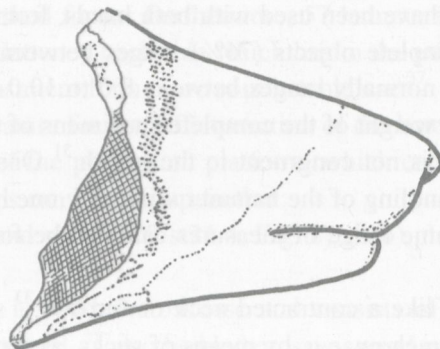


Fig. 5: Canid's snout made of gypsum

(S09/st1156.3: length: 7.9+x cm; width: 4.7 cm; height: 5.2 cm; drawing: Sameh Shafik).

#### *The hammerstones at the site of the Tomb of the Dogs*

This season, during further cleaning of the entrance area to the Tomb of the Dogs all in all 312 hammerstones have been found.<sup>27</sup> From this number the author was able to describe, measure and weigh 185 specimens in detail, while the rest could only be sorted and classified into the main established types. These 185 hammerstones provide the basis for further description in the following contribution.

The hammerstones are all made from boulders of hard, silicified limestone, the rock which the Gebel Asyut al-gharbi is riddled with.<sup>28</sup> This means that the material for the tools themselves was available on site and had just to be collected according to fitting size. This practice can also be detected at other locations<sup>29</sup> where the limestone of the Gebel itself is, like in Asyut, of bad quality and can be penetrated by means of a tool of harder limestone while the use of tools from hard rock, like dolerite, is not required.<sup>30</sup>

The hammerstones found at the site of the Tomb of the Dogs are made of simple boulders which can be seen by the remains of the brownish-blackish, sometimes reddish original surface

<sup>26</sup> Cf. for similar funerary masks: De Meyer, in: Willems et al., in: MDAIK 62, 2006, 327, pl. 58.

<sup>27</sup> Hammerstones were found already while starting the work at the site in 2008, which couldn't be processed from the author this season, their quantity is uncertain for now.

<sup>28</sup> See for example Tomb N11.1, where big specimens of such boulders can be found in the walls.

<sup>29</sup> E.g. at Thebes and Gebel Zeit, see C. Simon-Boidot, in: J.C. Goyon/J.C. Golvin et al., *La construction pharaonique du Moyen Empire à l'époque gréco-romaine*, 2004, 391. For Gebel Zeit compare also G. Castel/G. Soukiassian, *Gebel el-Zeit I: Les mines de galène (Égypte, II<sup>e</sup> millénaire av. J.-C.)*, FIFAO 35, Cairo 1989, 115. For other sites see F. Debono, *Pics en pierre de Sérabit el-Khadim (Sinai) et d'Égypte* in: ASAE 46, 1947, 271sq.

<sup>30</sup> One single piece, made from diorite (S05/110), is known from Tomb IV.

of the boulders, which can still be found at 78 of the 185 closer inspected objects (43%). The leftovers of the original surface circumstantiate, that at least those specimens were made from a boulder, which was chosen according to size and maybe because its natural form accommodated the future use as a hammerstone. After the boulders were chosen, they were shaped into form by means of a chisel, from which marks with a width from 1.4–2.6 cm reveal. This can be observed in 41 examples (22.2%).

Only a very few small objects are to be mentioned (compare S09/st64.5, Fig. 6) – the size of the complete hammerstones varies only slightly and is, except for a few very small and some very big pieces which might have been used with both hands, from between 17.0 and 21.0 cm. The size of 47 of the 62 complete objects (76%) ranges between these measures. The width does not extend 11.0 cm but normally ranges between 8.0 to 10.0 cm and the thickness ranges between 6.0 and 8.0 cm. The weight of the complete specimens of this size ranges between 900 and 2200 g while the weight is not congruent to the length.<sup>31</sup> One thing becomes clear – size and weight allow the easy handling of the hammer with only one hand, but with the maximum extension of the tool. The same range of measures can also be found for hammerstones from other sites.<sup>32</sup>

There are no indications, like a contracted neck or furrows,<sup>33</sup> suggesting that the hammerstones have been socketed somehow, e.g. by means of sticks, as some original examples show<sup>34</sup> and as it is also depicted in tomb drawings.<sup>35</sup> As will be shown below, the treatment of the handle part of the specimens furthermore indicates usage only by hand without any external handhold made of another material.

The hammerstones can be divided into different groups according to the shape of the handle and the shape of the percussion platform. Even if the forms of the handles turned out to be quite similar, three different types can be established:

1. the transition from handle to the body of the tool is fluent and without any interruptions (e.g. S09/st44.5, Fig. 7);
2. the handle is clearly constricted and formed concave at the sides (S09/st21.4, see Fig. 8);
3. the handle is curved to one side (S09/st21.3, Fig. 9 or S09/st125.2, Fig. 10).

From the 168 specimens, where the form of the handle can be determined, the most common form is type 1 with 139 examples (83.3%), followed by type 3 with 15 (9.0%) and type 2 with 13 examples (7.7%).

The handles are worked thinner than the head and body of the hammer, by reducing the thickness equally from at least two but also possibly from all sides of the object.<sup>36</sup>

Many examples show an ergonomic finishing that augments the grip for the workman. On one side an intentionally applied depression for the thumb can be found while on the opposite side depressions for the fingers can be added. The number of the depressions for the fingers varies from one to four, while there might be one big mould for all fingers, only a small one for

<sup>31</sup> For example S09/st1003.3 with a length of 20.1 cm weighs 1300g, while S09/st1191.1 with a length of 19.6 cm weighs 2200g, but the first specimen is thicker than the second.

<sup>32</sup> Compare Castel/Soukiassian, *Gebel el-Zeit I*, FIFAO 35, 1989, 121sq. or G. Castel/B. Mathieu *et al.*, *Les mines de cuivre du Ouadi Dara. Rapport préliminaire sur les travaux de la saison 1991*, in: BIFAO 92, 1992, 59, fig. 9.

<sup>33</sup> Compare Castel/Soukiassian, *Gebel el-Zeit I*, FIFAO 35, 1989, 116 for hammerstones with furrows.

<sup>34</sup> Compare Di. Arnold, *Building in Egypt*, New York/Oxford 1991, 261, fig. 6.14.

<sup>35</sup> E.g. in the Tomb of Ti in Saqqara, see Arnold, *Building in Egypt*, 1991, 261, fig. 6.13.

<sup>36</sup> The thinning out from all four sides is especially common for handle type 2.

the middle finger and up to four for each finger, which are then positioned according to the way of gripping the handle with the hand. Concerning the thumb depressions can also be found which are clearly positioned as a bedding for the metacarpal. In addition, the upper part of the handle might be worked plane; from time to time also tilted to one side. The thumb can be put on top of this area to steady the grip allowing intensive pressure to the tool.

105 of the 168 objects with preserved handle part show such a treatment (62.5%). 45 have depressions for thumb and fingers (42.9%), 37 only for the thumb (35.3%) and 23 only for the fingers (21.8%). The treatment described above is not reserved for one single handle type and can be detected in all established forms. Furthermore, 57 hammerstones show modifications in the form of an intentionally flattened back side which lies in the palm of the workman. This can also be considered as an adjustment for a more comfortable use.<sup>37</sup>

But the most important feature for the differentiation of the hammerstones, also according to their function, is the shape of the percussion platform, which can be divided in four different forms, from which two groups can be split up further:

1. a) platform is convex and wide (S09/st21.4, Fig. 8); 1. b) platform is convex and slender (S09/st64.5, Fig. 6);
2. a) platform runs even, is bedded crosswise and consists of a narrow ridge (S09/st44.5, Fig. 7.); 2. b) platform runs curved, is also bedded crosswise and consists of a narrow ridge;<sup>38</sup>
3. platform is pointed (S09/21.6, Fig. 11);
4. platform runs even, is bedded lengthwise and consists of a narrow ridge.<sup>39</sup>

For 132 objects the percussion platform is preserved well enough to make the allocation to a special form possible. Most common is type 2 with 50 (37.9%), followed by type 3 with 40 (30.3%), type 1 with 37 (28.0%) and type 4 with only 5 examples (3.8%).<sup>40</sup>

For 117 hammerstones both percussion platform and handle are preserved to an extent that both forms can be determined. Unfortunately it is not possible to exclusively attribute a particular handle form to a particular implementation of the percussion platform; exceptions are always to be observed. The 34 objects with a type 1 platform, regardless if belonging to 1. a) or 1. b), occur with all established handle forms. Form 1 of the handle, with 20 specimens, is the most common type but is altogether the most common possibility for the shape. Type 2 appears eight times, type 3 six times, which is according to their frequency of occurrence in general.

The same is true for the 29 hammerstones with a platform type 3. They are known to be accompanied 20 times by type 1, four times by type 2 and five times by type 3 handles.

Differing are specimens with platform type 2, of which there are 50 examples. Here also all handle types appear, even if handle type 2 and 3, each existent only with two examples, are

<sup>37</sup> In Gebel Zeit a flat back side seems to indicate the usage of the hammer with an external handle, see Castel/Soukiassian, *Gebel el-Zeit I*, FIFAO 35, 1989, 116 and 122sq., cat.-n° 8-15. This is not the case for the objects found at the Tomb of the Dogs, which are similar to the hammerstones named by Castel/Soukiassian „pic à face abbahtues“, see Castel/Soukiassian, *Gebel el-Zeit I*, FIFAO 35, 1989, 121, cat.-n° 1-2. In addition their cat.-n° 1 is also furnished with a flat back side.

<sup>38</sup> Type 2. b) was, like type 4 established in the very last days of the campaign for which reasons still drawings have to be made of correspondent pieces.

<sup>39</sup> See note above concerning type 2. b).

<sup>40</sup> As the processing of the data is still in progress, the differentiation in the secondary groups of type 1 and 2 is to be disregarded for the preliminary report.

clearly underrepresented. Obviously percussion platform type 2 is connected mainly to handles of form 1.

Platform type 4, with four examples, is not very common – three pieces show handle type 1, one handle type 3.

It must be added, that for 29 objects a both-sided use can be established, which means, the upper part of the hammerstone opposite the percussion platform is shaped into a narrow ridge, which is always much smaller than the percussion platform itself and shows signs of usage (S09/st125.2, Fig. 10). The hammerstone is then also easy to handle on both sides, that is, that the part of the percussion platform also provides a firm grip when the specimen is used the other way round.

This leads to the question, why so many hammerstones have been produced at this site and what might have been their purpose. Because of their massive appearance, it doesn't seem likely that their function is connected exclusively to the making of the rock-cut tombs, although they might also have been used for this purpose. For example the smaller, later tombs in the facade above the entrance to the Tomb of the Dogs might be the place of original use for cutting them out of the rock. But we know, that during the First Intermediate Period and the Middle Kingdom huge gallery quarries already existed (e.g. O17.1), whose purpose was presumably the gathering of stones for buildings in the town itself.<sup>41</sup> During the New Kingdom, stones were already quarried in the FIP/MK necropolis (O15.1) and even in the nomarchs' tombs themselves (N12.2 = Tomb IV, N13.2 and O14.5 = extension of Tomb II),<sup>42</sup> actions which seem to originate in the Amarna Period.<sup>43</sup>

So the hammerstones might derive from this quarrying in the nomarchs' tombs. As the Tomb of Dogs is situated in layer 4 more or less directly under Tomb N12.2 = Tomb IV in layer 6, where quarrying was carried out in an extensive manner, a connection seems to be the most probable explanation.

A chronological classification of the hammerstones is not possible, as forms are more or less constant since the OK,<sup>44</sup> so the shape cannot tell when the tool was manufactured. That similar tools are very common in the NK provides nevertheless a connection to the NK quarrying activities at Gebel Asyut al-gharbi.

The hammerstones, with pointed platforms, are the quarrying tools par excellence and were mainly used for the first rough grinding while shaping the blocks, whereas the ones with the convex platform were used maybe to flatten bigger portions of the surface.

What seems to be a speciality for Gebel Asyut al-gharbi is the percussion platform type 2 and 4 with cross- and lengthwise ridge, which can not be found e.g. in Gebel Zeit<sup>45</sup> or in Serabit el-Khadim,<sup>46</sup> where only flat, rounded or pointed platforms are known.<sup>47</sup> Simon-Boidot, who specializes in quarrying, builders and sculptors tools, describes hammerstones with

<sup>41</sup> Kahl, *Ancient Asyut*, 2007, TAP I, 61sq. with figs. 34-35.

<sup>42</sup> Kahl, *Ancient Asyut*, 2007, TAP I, 61sq.

<sup>43</sup> Kahl, *Ancient Asyut*, 2007, TAP I, 61sq.

<sup>44</sup> Compare R. Klemm/D. Klemm, *Chronologischer Abriss der antiken Goldgewinnung in der Ostwüste Ägyptens*, in: MDAIK 50, 1994, 197 and pl. 30c and Debono, in: ASAE 46, 1947, 285.

<sup>45</sup> Castel/Soukiassian, *Gebel el-Zeit I*, FIFAO 35, 1989, 115sq.

<sup>46</sup> Debono, in: ASAE 46, 1947, 265sqq. For similar tools from Wadi Magharah compare W.M.F. Petrie, *Researches in Sinai*, London 1906, fig. 58.

<sup>47</sup> Also Klemm/Klemm, in: MDAIK 50, 1994, 197 only know these two types in connection with mining activities.

crosswise ridge as typical for construction sites. According to her they are never found in connection with quarrying or mining.<sup>48</sup> She also points out that these hammerstones are always made from hard stone and never from silicified limestone and that they disappear during the MK. That similar hammerstones, made of silicified limestone, are found at Gebel Asyut al-gharbi makes possible, that the forms are not, as Simon-Boidot points out, restricted to building activity only.

According to her these tools are used for shaping the stones – this was maybe done already at the quarry. But the ones with length- and crosswise bedded percussion platform can be used also to groove the body of the block out of the rock. It's understandable that such hammerstones are not to be found at mines where the shaping of blocks of stone is needless. To a lesser extend the same is true for cutting out rock tombs. But obviously they have been used in the later quarries at Gebel Asyut al-gharbi, as several specimens with this kind of percussion platform, which have been directly found in N12.2 = Tomb IV, show clear traces of usage.<sup>49</sup>

Especially remarkable for the hammerstones found at the Tomb of the Dogs is that the complete specimens show only faint traces of use. From 62 complete hammerstones 24 show no signs of utilization at all. The other objects are also only slightly worn. There's no tool which has been extensively used like e.g. the hammerstones found in N12.2 = Tomb IV itself. Having also been inspected by the author, those examples<sup>50</sup> showing similar forms to the ones discussed above, are peppered with percussion marks as signs of extensive use. A possible explanation might be that the hammerstones from the site of the Tomb of the Dogs represent somehow the spoilage of a workshop producing exclusively hammerstones for the quarries. That there must have been specialized workmen, who fabricated hammerstones exclusively, can be observed because of the careful finishing of shape and surface with most specific conditioning, to make the grip easy and the handle ergonomic. In addition the chisel marks point clearly to a shaping of the objects with the help of metal chisels. This workshop might have been situated directly in front of Tomb N12.2 = Tomb IV from where misshaped or broken tools, which might have already partly broken during fabrication, just were dropped down to the next layer. The little use of the objects makes their function for cutting out rock tombs also less probable.

S.P.

<sup>48</sup> C. Simon-Boidot, in: J.C. Goyon/J.C. Golvin et al., *La construction pharaonique du Moyen Empire à l'époque gréco-romaine*, Paris 2004, 390sq. Same observation made by Klemm/Klemm, in: *MDAIK* 50, 1994, 197.

<sup>49</sup> E.g. S04/st82 h, l, n, q and y.

<sup>50</sup> Altogether 26 specimens, S04/st82 a-z.

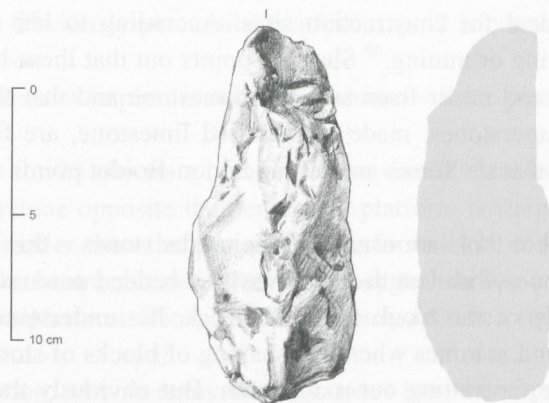


Fig. 6: Hammerstone S09/st64.5  
(drawing: Ammar Abu Bakr)

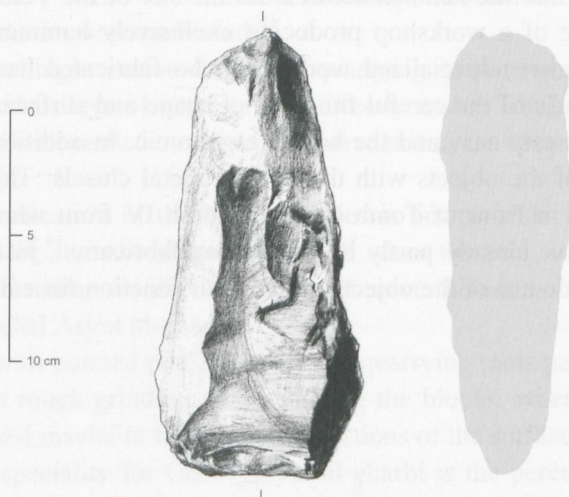


Fig. 7: Hammerstone S09/st44.5  
(drawing: Ammar Abu Bakr)

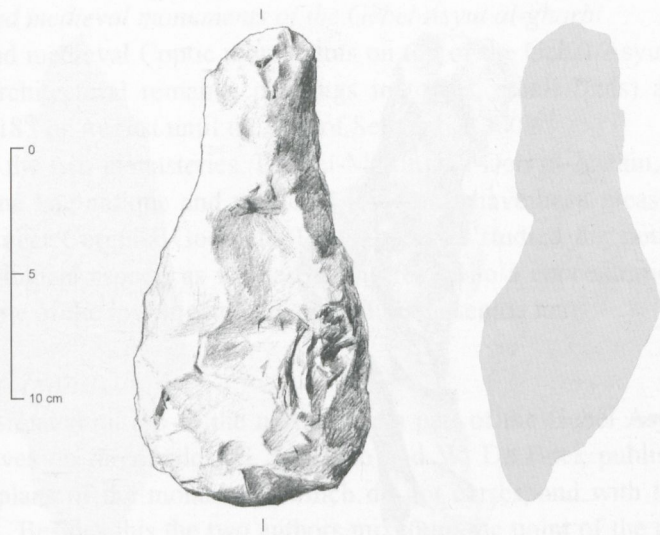


Fig. 8: Hammerstone S09/st21.4  
(drawing: Ammar Abu Bakr)

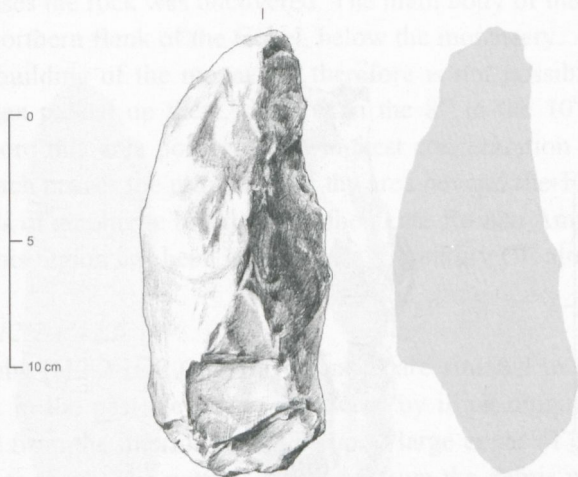


Fig. 9: Hammerstone S09/st21.3  
(drawing: Ammar Abu Bakr)



Fig. 10: Hammerstone S09/st125.2  
(drawing: Ammar Abu Bakr)

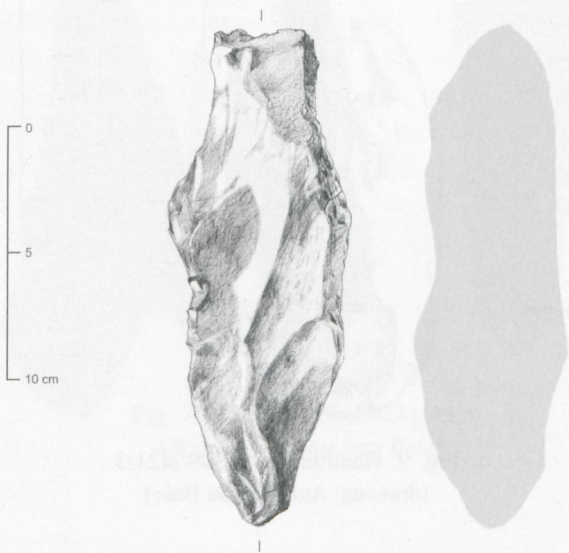


Fig. 11: Hammerstone S09/st21.6  
(drawing: Ammar Abu Bakr)

*The late antique and medieval monuments of the Gebel Asyut al-gharbi*

The late antique and medieval Coptic monuments on top of the Gebel Asyut have been studied by Ina Eichner (architectural remains, paintings in tombs, small finds) and Thomas Beckh (pottery) from the 18<sup>th</sup> of August until the 16<sup>th</sup> of September 2009<sup>51</sup>.

The remains of the two monasteries, Deir el-Meitin and Deir el-Azzam, the so-called mud-brick building, some late antique and medieval find spots have been measured. The map was drawn by the architect Cornelia Goerlich. Thomas Beckh studied the pottery with particular attention to chronological aspects as well as having regard to a concentration of pottery in the different areas. Some of the investigated areas shall be presented here.

*Deir el-Azzam (Taf. 18a)*

The monastery is situated on top of the northwestern part of the Gebel Asyut al-gharbi and is surrounded by graves on three sides. G. Maspero and W. De Bock published schematic and imprecise ground plans of the monastery, which do not correspond with the remains that are still visible today<sup>52</sup>. Besides this the two authors mixed up the point of the compass (North and South) in their plans. This makes the comparison with the still visible remains of the monastery much more complicated. A small apse, oriented to the east, could belong to the remains of the church, which has been described by Maspero and De Bock. But of all the other buildings described by these two authors, especially the tower and the surrounding walls, no remains are identifiable.

Only a few sherds have been recovered directly from the strongly eroded area of the monastery. In some cases the rock was uncovered. The main body of the material comes from a cone of debris at the northern flank of the Gebel, below the monastery. An accurate assignment to a special room or building of the monastery therefore is not possible. The fine-ware from Assuan, which has been picked up there, dates from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup>, maybe even the 11<sup>th</sup> century CE. Furthermore this area possesses the highest concentration of glazed pottery from the Islamic period, which proves the utilization of the area beyond the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> century CE. Due to scattered sherds of amphorae belonging to the „Late Roman Amphora 1“-type (LR-1) it may be possible that this region has been in use in the 5<sup>th</sup> century CE already.

*The rock-cut tombs H12.2-H12.6*

The five rock-cut tombs H12.2-H12.6 we investigated are situated to the north and northeast below Deir el-Azzam. In the past they were plundered by illicit digging activities. In front of the tombs the material from the interior was piled up to large cones of debris and therefore can definitely be assigned to them. The pottery picked up from the debris was carefully examined. Apart from the designated use of the tombs in Pharaonic times the pottery – dating from the 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> century CE – therefore gives evidence for the secondary use in late antiquity.

*Find spots 10-17*

The find spots 10-17 are situated on a rocky terrace to the southeast of Deir el-Azzam. In front of some of the rock-cut tombs dating from the Pharaonic Period, the remains of some

<sup>51</sup> The study of the late antique and medieval remains was financed by The Asyut Project (DFG) and the Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum (RGZM), Mainz.

<sup>52</sup> G. Maspero/M. Chabân, *Les fouilles de Deir el Aizam*, in: ASAE 1, 1900, 111, fig. 1; W. De Bock, *Matériaux pour servir à l'archéologie de l'Égypte chrétienne*, St. Petersburg 1901, 88, fig. 100.

architectural structures (Fig. 12) are preserved. The examination of the site shows clearly, that in late antiquity, this area was more likely settled than used as necropolis and the ceramic material found here was mainly used for cooking and storage. In addition to this several sherds of an amphora of the „Egyptian type A“ were picked up, a type which was in use from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> century CE<sup>53</sup>. Some of the rare samples of fine-ware though date to the 5<sup>th</sup> until the 8<sup>th</sup> century CE, maybe a little earlier<sup>54</sup>.

#### *The so-called mudbrick building*

The building measures 13.90 x 8.60 m and is situated on the western flank of the Gebel, separated from Deir el-Azzam by a wadi. The entrance to the building can be located at the eastern side. Not far away, in a distance of approximately 5 metres from the northeastern corner of the building, there are a lot of burnt bricks which may belong to a paved floor. To the south and to the southeast of the mudbrick building some floors are found, consisting of lime mortar, as well as the remains of a wall confirming the assumption that the surrounding of the building was at one time covered by some rooms or buildings.

A striking feature of this area is not only the very high concentration of fine-ware, especially in comparison to the other areas which have been examined, but also the complete absence of ceramic material of the Islamic tradition. The fine-ware appertains without any exception to the so-called Aswan fine ware, and Egyptian red-slip and white-slip ware respectively and dates from the 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> until the 8<sup>th</sup> century CE.

#### *Deir el-Meitin (Taf. 18b):*

This monastery is situated on the eastern slope of the Gebel, approximately at the same level with the huge Pharaonic tombs II, III and IV. The visible remains are limited mainly to a formerly two storeyed building where a staircase with two courses had been installed. The ground floor was divided into small rooms. A few joints in the walls show that the edifice was constructed in different building phases. The area is completely disturbed by high rising cones of debris, consisting of limestone chips. Further investigation is impossible without an excavation of this area.

These aggravating circumstances made it impossible to pick up any convincing ceramic material directly from the area of the monastery. The late antique and medieval strata are not available. The ceramic material was picked up within a radius of 10-15 metres around the monastery but it cannot be assigned with certainty to a specific room. Some scattered pieces prove that the area was already inhabited between the 5<sup>th</sup> and the 7<sup>th</sup> century CE.

<sup>53</sup> D. Bailey, *Pottery, Lamps and Glass of the Late Roman and Early Arab Periods*, Excavations at el-Aswamein V, London 1998, 125-129.

<sup>54</sup> Interesting is the stamp of a lion on the bottom of a bowl. Similar in style is the representation of a lion on a „Tonpunze“ from Elephantine, see: R. Gempeler, *Die Keramik römischer bis früharabischer Zeit, Elephantine X*, AV 43, Mainz 1992, pl. 3,11.



Fig. 12: Find spot 11 with architectural remains

*Further evidence for the cult of John of Lycopolis*

The place of residence of John of Lycopolis at the Gebel Asyut al-gharbi was described by some late antique authors. These descriptions correspond very well to the layout of the three rock-cut tombs II, III and IV (Tombs N13.2, N12.1 and N12.2). In late antiquity these tombs were connected through corridors. Therefore the identification of the three tombs, being the former residence of John of Lycopolis, is very plausible<sup>55</sup>. This can be confirmed by a strongly destroyed wall painting at the ceiling situated exactly above the entrance of Tomb IV. The representation shows the bust of a (male) figure in a medaillon (Taf. 19). In his left hand the upper part of a book is visible. The abbreviated inscription Ιω next to his shoulder can be completed to Ιω[άννης]. Therefore it seems to be obvious, that this is the representation of John of Lycopolis, which was attached to the ceiling at a time when the tombs have been developed into a place of commemoration and veneration of John.

I.E./T.B.

<sup>55</sup> See J. Kahl, in: J. Kahl et al., *The Asyut Project: Fourth Season of Fieldwork (2006)*, in: SAK 36, 2007, 82-83; Kahl, *Ancient Asyut. TAP 1*, 2007, 138-140; in general see Biographisch-Bibliographisches Kirchenlexikon: <[http://www.bautz.de/bbkl/j/Johannes\\_v\\_lyk.shtml](http://www.bautz.de/bbkl/j/Johannes_v_lyk.shtml)> (6.1.2010).



a: Tomb V, inner hall, southwestern part; max. depth 1.57m  
(© Jochem Kahl).



b: Undecorated faience bowl (S09/st885);  
rim diameter: 16.8 cm; height: 5.4 cm; base diameter: 11 cm  
(© Jochem Kahl).



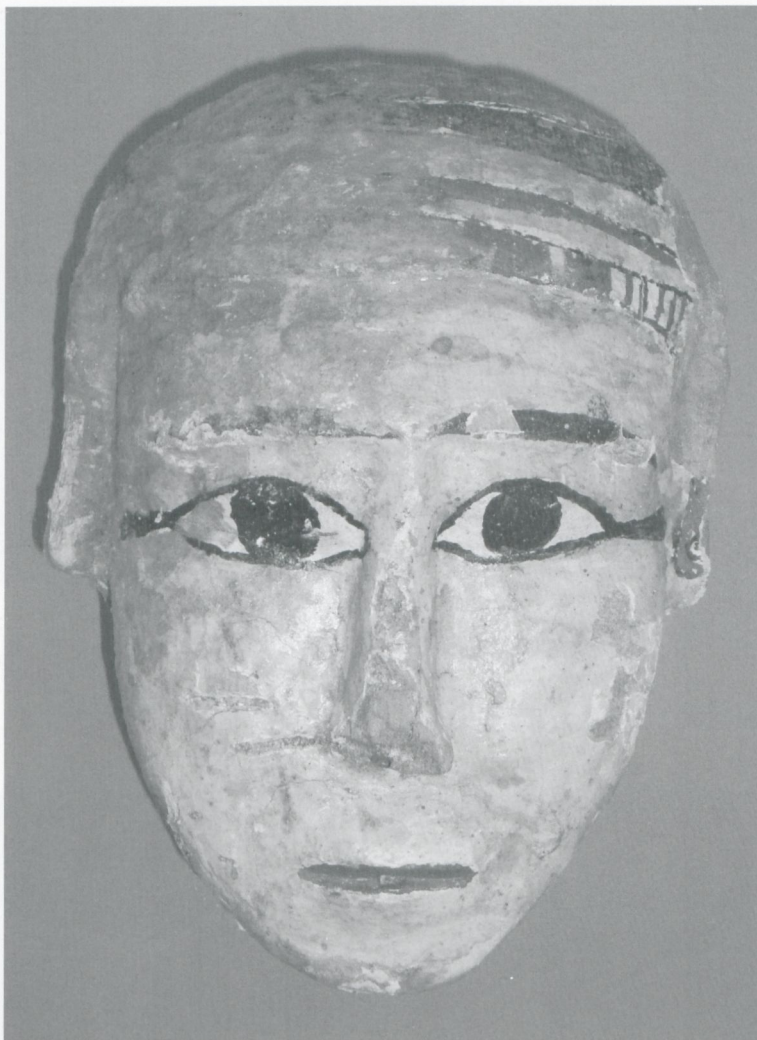
Carapace of the African softshell turtle *Trionyx triunguis* (S09/st801)  
(© Jochem Kahl).



a: Fragment of a painted gypsum vessel (S09/st1156.2)  
(© Jochem Kahl).



b: Fragment of a painted gypsum vessel (S09/st1156.1)  
(© Jochem Kahl).



Tomb of Dogs, wooden funerary mask (S09/st946; SCA 186);  
height: 24 cm; width: 17 cm; thickness: 11 cm  
(© Ursula Verhoeven).



a: Deir el-Azzam. View from the East.

On the right side the remains of the monastery, on the left side the rocky plateau of the Gebel;  
photo: Ina Eichner/Thomas Beckh (© The Asyut Project).



b: Deir el-Meitin. View to the southwestern side of the architectural remains.

On the left side the high heaps of debris;  
photo: Ina Eichner/Thomas Beckh (© The Asyut Project).



The medaillon with the remains of a bust of John of Lycopolis  
with the abbreviated inscription of his name above his left shoulder;  
photo: Ina Eichner/Thomas Beckh (© The Asyut Project).