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A new Ramesside tomb at Khôkha.

The tomb in question was discovered by the members of the Finnish Egyptological Society in connexion with a visit to Luxor in December 1971.

The tomb is situated at Khôkha, to the east from the Metropolitan Museum-house, in the immediate neighbourhood of the tomb of Roma (Nr. 208), above that Puyemre (Nr.39).

It was re-used for habitation and according to local information it was a man called Ali Taha, dead some 50 years ago, who converted the tomb into a house by adding to it mudbrick walls and who covered its walls with a 4 cms thick layer of clay mixed with dung, from which the original decoration very much suffered.

The central axis of the tomb runs almost exactly in the southnorth direction. The tomb consists of a forecourt in the north, a pillared hall and an inner room in the south(cf.Plan).

The eastern part of the forecourt is occupied by the remains of the habitation. The facade is much weathered and has not preserved any decorations. Its eastern part has tumbled down producing a secondary opening to the pillared hall. In the middle of the facade is a likewise weathered doorway leading to the pillared hall.

The pillared hall is rectangular measuring 5 X 22 mts. Its walls are uneven, giving the impression that this hall was left

unfinished. The ceiling consists of two parallel vaults running in the east-west direction supported by a row of 5 weathered, asymmetrically distributed pillars. The eastern part of this hall, supported by three pillars, is filled with secondary walls of mudbrick and stone slabs. Its north-eastern wall is only partly preserved. The western part of the pillared hall, supported by two pillars, has a large heap of rubble on the floor, coming from a fissure in the ceiling. In the western wall, partly visible near the floor are two openings leading to underground chambers. In the center of the southern wall of the hall is a doorway leading to the inner chamber.

The inner room is also rectangular and measures 2,5 X 5,5 mts. Its southern wall is rough and gives an impression of a weathered niche with two steps leading to it. The ceiling is vaulted and coated with the clay/dung mixture mentioned above. From the walls this coating has almost disappeared revealing on the eastern wall remains of polychrome paintings executed on a thin layer (4 mms) of white wash. The western wall has only the white wash preserved. In the southern part of this wall is an opening to the corridor leading to the burial chamber(?).

When first visited in 1971, the tomb was used as a shelter for the sheep. At this occasion only some photographs of the paintings were made. During a second visit in January 1973, the paintings were found to have suffered additional damages. The tomb was therefore measured and documented photographically by the author together with Dr. T. Hägg of the Uppsala University.

The paintings are in a very bad condition. Only few human figures are preserved. They seem to have formed a procession directed towards to niche in the southern wall. In the south are remains of something which could be a shrine with a man adoring it. The figure of the man (Fig.1) is fairly well preserved. He wears a wig and is dressed in a long robe and

carries a basket in one hand. His hands are raised in adoration. Behind his head is a partly preserved lotus flower or papyrus reed, perhaps indicating that the man was in the procession followed by a figure of a woman, now destroyed. In front of the shrine (?) are (a) three vertical, long lines (only tops preserved) of text. Above the man are (b) three vertical, short lines of text.

Behind the space, perhaps occupied by another shrine (?) is a figure of a man (Fig.2) of inferior preservation but most probably similar to the one already described. Behind him are two hands preserved indicating that he was followed by another figure in the procession. In front of the man are (c) three vertical, long lines of text. Above the human figures are at least (d) 5 vertical lines of text.

The rest of the scenes are in a very bad state of preservation, consisting of only a few fragments adhering to the wall. Here only another possible shrine (?) can be recognized. The rest is lost.

The texts are painted in black on a red background. The application of a moist clay/dung coating has soaked the paint and made the texts unreadable, a part from a small portion of text (a) whose third line starts with what seems to me as Imn. Encouraged by the late Dr. Ramadan Sa'd another visit was paid to this tomb in 1975, during which the texts were photographed by Mr. S. Rista on a special colour-sensitive film. This experiment is still under work and will perhaps later provide us with better readings of the texts.

This tomb is not mentioned in the Porter-Moss bibliography (I,1, map IV) having a ground plan different from that of tomb 208 (Ibid. pp. 292 and 306) and was not known to Dr. Sa'd.

The owner of the tomb remains unknown but the style of the decoration and the ground plan indicate Ramesside period as the most probable date.

Fig. 1. Unidentified tomb at Khôkha. Adoring man.



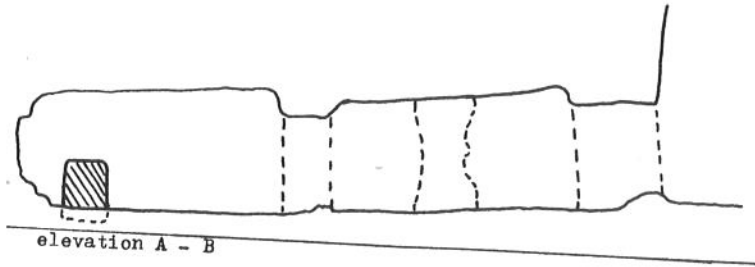
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Fig. 2. Unidentified tomb at Khokha. Adoring man.



Fig. 3. Elevation and plan of the unidentified tomb at Khôkha.  
Scale 1:100.

a.



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Fig. 3

b.

