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THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY: REPORT FOR 1914

By AYLWARD M. BLACKMAN, M.A.

[See Plates XXVII, XXVIII]

As has already been stated in the April number of the *Journal*, work was resumed at Meir on November 1, 1913 and continued till January 9, 1914.

Early in November, I received proofs of the plates for *Rock Tombs of Meir*, Vol. I, and so was able to revise them in front of the originals. This publication will shortly be issued to subscribers.

During the course of the season I made a catalogue of the decorated and inscribed tomb-chapels of the nomarchs of Cusae and their retainers. So far seventeen of these chapels have been discovered, fifteen at Meir, and two at Kūṣeir el-Amarna, a village on the east bank of the Nile opposite Nazāli Gânūb¹. Owing to the irregular formation of the ridge in which they are excavated, the tomb-chapels of Meir are divided up into five consecutive groups which I have labelled A, B, C, D and E, A being the northernmost. I herewith give a list of the chapels with the names of their owners, which, with many additional details, will appear in the introductory part of *Rock Tombs of Meir*, Vol. I.

<i>Chapels</i>	<i>Owner</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Reign</i>
Meir; A, no. 1.	Ni-ankh-Pepi (also called Ni-ankh-Merire) whose "good names" are Sebekhotp and Hēpi the Black; a nomarch. He will always be referred to as Sebekhotp.	VIth Dynasty	Pepi I
Meir; A, no. 2.	Pepiankh whose "good name" is Hēni the Black; a nomarch.	VIth Dynasty	Pepi II.
Meir; A, no. 3.	Iam's son Ukhhotp; a nomarch.	XIIth Dynasty	Sesostris I—Amenemhet II.
Meir; A, no. 4.	Hēpi the Black; probably a nomarch.	VIth Dynasty	Pepi II—Mernere II?
Meir; B, no. 1.	Ukhhotp's son Senbi; a nomarch.	XIIth Dynasty	Amenemhet I.
Meir; B, no. 2.	Senbi's son Ukhhotp; a nomarch.	XIIth Dynasty	Sesostris I.
Meir; B, no. 3.	Senbi son of Ukhhotp son of Senbi; a nomarch.	XIIth Dynasty	Sesostris I—Amenemhet II.
Meir; B, no. 4.	Ukhhotp son of Ukhhotp and Mersi; a nomarch.	XIIth Dynasty	Amenemhet II (dated by cartouches above statue-niche).
Meir; C, no. 1.	Ukhhotp son of Ukhhotp and Hēni the Middle; a nomarch.	XIIth Dynasty	Sesostris II.
Meir; D, no. 1.	Pepi; a "king's scribe" and "judge" (<i>s;b</i>).	VIth Dynasty?	
Meir; D, no. 2.	Pepiankh the Middle (also called Neferka) whose "good name" is Hēni; a nomarch.	VIth Dynasty	Pepi II.

¹ Nazāli Gânūb is the railway station for Meir and Kūṣiya (the ancient Cusae).

Fig. 1. The chapel of Senbi's son, Ukhhotp.

Fig. 2. The blind Harper and Singer in the chapel of Senbi's son, Ukhhotp.

<i>Chapels</i>	<i>Owner</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Reign</i>
Meir; E, no. 1.	Menia; a "first under the king" ( ) , VIth Dynasty ?		
	"royal relative" ( ) and .		
Meir; E, no. 2.	Nenki; a "confidential friend" and "lector." VIth Dynasty ?		
Meir; E, no. 3.	Pepiankh; a "confidential friend" and "lector." VIth Dynasty ?		
Meir; E, no. 4.	Thetu; a "friend," "first under the king," VIth Dynasty ?		
	and "instructor of the priests" ( ) .		
Kuseir el-Amarna ; no. 1.	Pepiankh the Eldest.	VIth Dynasty	Mernere I—Pepi II.
Kuseir el-Amarna ; no. 2.	Khu-en-ukh. Among his many titles are those of "confidential friend," "lector," "first under the king," and "instructor of the priests." It is he, apparently, who appears as "lector" several times in the chapel of Pepiankh the Middle, D, no. 2.	VIth Dynasty	Pepi II.

From the material at our disposal, all of which will be communicated in *Rock Tombs of Meir*, Vol. I, the following pedigrees of the VIth and XIIth Dynasty nomarchs of Cusae can be constructed.

PEDIGREE OF THE NOMARCHS OF CUSAE IN THE VIth DYNASTY

PEDIGREE OF THE NOMARCHS OF CUSAE IN THE XIIth DYNASTY

¹ Commemorated on a stela in B, no. 3.

² A daughter.

I completely recorded the chapel of Senbi's son Ukhhotp¹ (Meir; B, no. 2), and finished the work that still remained over from the previous season in the chapel of Ukhhotp son of Ukhhotp and Mersi² (Meir; B, no. 4). On the south wall of B, no. 2 is the naturalistic representation of what is probably a Beja herdsman³ leading cattle (*Archaeological Report*, 1911-12, Pl. VIII, 1). Many of the other reliefs also in this chapel are remarkable both for subject and style. Most noteworthy perhaps are the two blind musicians (Pl. XXVII, Fig. 2), a party of fowlers pulling at a rope, two boat-crews quarrelling, and peasants boat-building and carrying and binding great bundles of papyrus plants,—all on the north wall.

The painted plaster reliefs in B, no. 4 (*Archaeological Report*, p. 12; *Journal*, Vol. I, Part I, p. 41), albeit the technique is perfect, are executed in the ordinary, though finest, XIIth Dynasty style, resembling in this respect the sculptures at El-Bersheh. This is possibly indicative of court influence, of which the cartouches of Amenemhet II on the architrave of the statue(?)-niche in the outer room (*Arch. Report*, 1911-12, p. 10) are also a symptom. Perhaps this nomarch was allowed to employ court artists to decorate his chapel?

The art of Cusae is undoubtedly seen at its best in the two earliest Middle Kingdom chapels, B, nos. 1 and 2. The unusual features in C, no. 1, the chapel of Ukhhotp son of Ukhhotp and Heni the Middle (*Archaeological Report*, 1911-12, p. 11), are suggestive of the rise of the feudal lords to almost independent power, and of a return to local, though by this time considerably modified, traditions, before the final assertion of the central authority by Sesostri III.

Early in January I cleared of débris the chapels of Ukhhotp's son Senbi (B, no. 1), Senbi's son Ukhhotp (B, no. 2), and Ukhhotp son of Ukhhotp and Mersi (B, no. 4), whereupon interesting architectural features were revealed. The statue(?)-niche in the west wall of Senbi's chapel was found to stand at the end of a pathway sunk below the level of the rest of the floor and commencing with two steps (Pl. XXVIII, Fig. 1). In the chapel of Ukhhotp son of Ukhhotp and Mersi, this approach to the statue(?)-niche has developed into quite an elaborate construction (Pl. XXVIII, Fig. 2). In the chapel of Senbi's son Ukhhotp, we find the intermediate stage of development (Pl. XXVII, Fig. 1).

It was not found necessary to take more than half a dozen photographs, and so expedition expenses were substantially reduced.

Next season I hope to record chapel D, no. 2, the small chapels A, no. 3; B, no. 3; D, no. 1; E, nos. 1-4, and revise my tracings of the frescoes in C, no. 1 (the chapel of Ukhhotp son of Ukhhotp and Heni the Middle).

In April, Mr F. F. Ogilvie will again do some painting at Meir. He is going to make coloured facsimiles of some of the painted reliefs in B, no. 1, and of certain of the frescoes in C, no. 1.

¹ Spoken of as Ukhhotep I in *Archaeological Report*, 1911-12, pp. 9-11.

² Spoken of as Ukhhotep II in *op. cit.* p. 9.

³ See SELIGMANN, *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, pp. 593-704 and Plate XXX, 1.

Fig. 1. The chapel of Ukhhotp's son, Senbi.

Fig. 2. The chapel of Ukhhotp, son of Ukhhotp and Mersi.