

**LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY**  
**DELTA SURVEY**

**SIX ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES**  
**IN SHARQIYEH PROVINCE**

BY

**S.R. SNAPE**



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Steven Snape  
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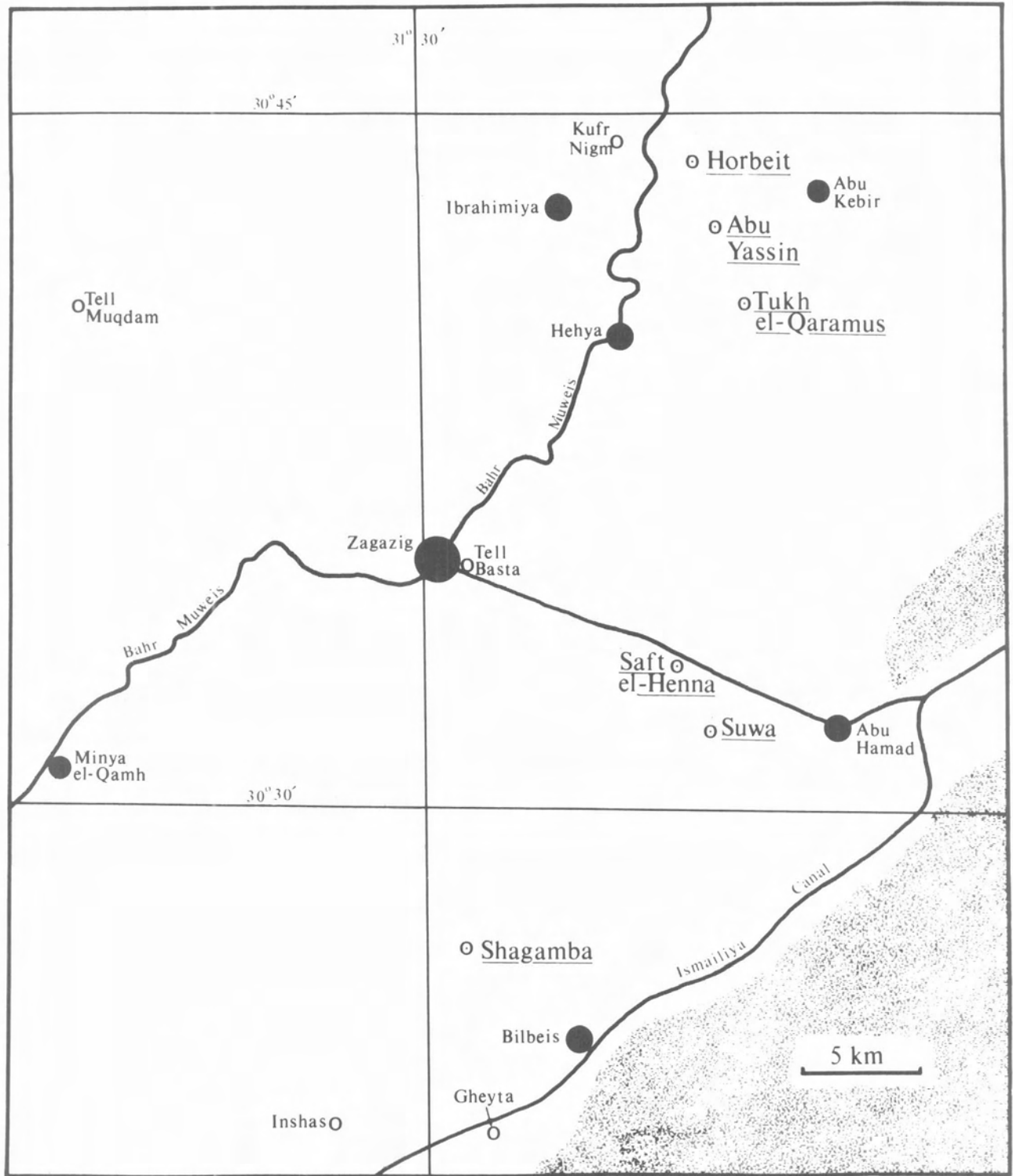


Figure 1 : The South-Eastern Nile Delta

## INTRODUCTION

In 1945 the late H.W. Fairman visited a number of ancient sites in the Nile Delta. The extremely poor condition of many of these sites led him to the opinion that, "the continuous rise of the water and the unchecked activities of robbers will mean the almost total loss of practically every Delta site." (quoted in Cottrell 1950: 236). The growing awareness of the threat to those archaeological sites which are situated in the cultivated lands of Egypt (e.g. the references cited by Zivie 1975: 15 n.2; Daszewski 1981) has often been coupled with urgent calls for an increased commitment to fieldwork in these 'wetlands'. The situation is especially acute in the Nile Delta, not only because it is by far the largest area of agricultural land in Egypt, but also because of its relative under-exploitation, in archaeological terms, when compared to the Valley.

The attrition of ancient town-mounds, *tells*, has always been a problem for the archaeologist. Not only have they been attacked by robbers looking for antiquities to sell, but also by *sebakhin*, peasant farmers who remove the nitrogen/phosphate-rich decayed mud-brick and organic debris to use as a fertiliser on their fields (although the value of *sebakh* as a fertiliser may often be over-estimated, see Holz 1969: 262 n.2). The rapid expansion of the population of modern Egypt (Holz 1969: 258, estimates that the population density may be as high as 5,000 persons per square mile in parts of the Delta) has led to even greater pressure being put upon areas of archaeological interest. Building space to accommodate the burgeoning populace is at a premium, and, even when not actually built upon, the *tell* may be used as a source of building material. This is especially true of sites founded on the sand-islands known as *geziras* or "turtle-backs" (for this geological feature and its role in the location of settlements see Griffith 1890: 58-59; Sandford and Arkell 1939: 74; Abu al-Izz 1971: 143-146), from which sand is often removed for constructional purposes such as concrete manufacture. As far as agricultural use is concerned not only is *sebakh* removal still prevalent but, increasingly, *tells* are being converted into irrigated fields, sometimes after being summarily excavated. Examples of all these different pressures on archaeological sites can be seen in the descriptions of our six sites. Moreover, modern technology plays its part in the work of destruction, both in improvements to the infrastructure of Egypt, such as new roads, canals, electricity/telegraph pylons, and the use of *tells* for military purposes. The application of machinery to agriculture affects the landscape much more profoundly than has been possible before, with such practices as deep-ploughing, mound-levelling, and the irrigation of previously unworkable land.

In 1983 the Liverpool University Delta Survey was founded, partly in response to the calls for "rescue archaeology" to be undertaken in the Delta. The Survey, although operating in an approximately contiguous area to the east of the modern city of Zagazig in the South-Eastern Nile Delta (see fig.1), is deliberately site-orientated, concentrating on the recording of individual sites at which survey-work is deemed to be valuable or necessary, rather than on a more generalised regional survey. Six sites were selected for examination, and the individual descriptions of each of these are intended to be reports on their current condition. Previously published plans of the sites have been reproduced, where applicable, in order to provide a comparison with their past condition, but there has been no attempt to provide an exhaustive list of material to have come from

them. Although our primary intention is to provide a record of extant remains while they still exist, a secondary function of the Survey is to highlight the potential of sites which may be worthy of future investigation.

The description of each site includes a general map, with detailed plans of areas of particular interest. On these plans the symbol + designates the railway-line survey points which were set in place by the 'Survey of Egypt' (Spencer 1983: 4). These are included since they are probably the most permanent features available and they also served as local datum-points for spot-heights. Although it has been possible to reproduce only a small proportion of the photographs taken during the survey-work, the remainder of the photographic record has been deposited in the archives of the School of Archaeology and Oriental Studies at the University of Liverpool. The ranging-pole which appears on the site photographs is divided into 500 mm sections. A limited amount of sherd-sampling was carried out at Saft el-Henna and Shagamba.

The present volume is a report of fieldwork carried out during the winters of 1983-4 and 1984-5. The survey team consisted of Mr. S.R.Snape and Ms. Joyce Tyldesley. During the 1983-4 season the Egyptian Antiquities Organisation was represented by Mr. Mohammed Abdallah Mohammed, and in 1984-5 by Mr. Louis Labib Boulos, whose active assistance greatly facilitated the work of the Survey.

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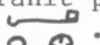
## 1. - HORBEIT

The village of Horbeit is situated 20 kilometres to the north-east of Zagazig in Sharqiyeh Province, some 1.5 kilometres to the east of the Bahr Muweis waterway. It has long been recognised as the site of the Pharaonic city of Šdnw and the Classical Pharbaethos, the present village ultimately deriving its name from the latter. However, although the site has provided a not-inconsiderable number of antiquities, (see Kees 1938; Eggebrecht 1977; Porter & Moss 1934: 26-27; for the stela Berlin 8438, which seems to refer to various localities within Horbeit, see the references cited by Gourlay 1979: 364 n.2; Porter & Moss 1934: 33) largely through the activities of *sebakh*-diggers, little archaeological work has been carried out there, apart from some soundings made by Labib Habachi (Habachi 1954: 514-516). One must turn to the reports of early archaeologists and travellers for information about Horbeit, especially regarding the state of its antiquities during the last century.

The site is described in the following terms in the 'Description de l'Egypte':-

M.Malus, dans le cours de son voyage sur la branche Tanitique y rencontra des fragmens de colonnes, des debris de granit, un tronc de statue et le pied d'un colosse. (Jomard 1829: 360)

On the 'Description' map of the area (Plle.30) the village is very small and to the west of the *tell*. However, by the time Nestor L'Hôte visited the site in 1838-9 most of these antiquities had already disappeared, although much of the ancient site was still in evidence:-

L'étendue des ruines est considérable, quoique moindre que celle de Bubaste. Je ny'ai d'ailleurs trouvé que trois ou quatre tronçons de colonnes en granit et des restes de constructions en briques certains appartenant selon toute apparence à l'époque romaine. Contre la mosquée (gamah el-Kaddim) on voit une pierre carrée longue, en granit portant quelques traces d'hiéroglyphes, j'ai distingué ceci .

Horbeyth est un village presque abandonné. Les ruines de la ville ancienne sont, on peut dire vierges, et mériteraient d'être explorées par des fouilles. Les maisons y sont moins ruinées qu'a Bubaste; un grand nombre des maisons, presque entières, m'ont paru appartenir à l'époque ancienne; je n'ai pas retrouvé le colosse et les autres objets annoncés dans la Description de l'Egypte.

Je ne doute pas d'ailleurs que la construction et la disposition intérieures des maisons, ne fussent dans l'antiquité ce qu'elles sont aujourd'hui. Les mêmes traditions ont du le conserver, je pense seulement que la misère étant moins grande alors, les gens d'un fortune médiocre, même chétive bâtisaient leurs maisons avec plus de goût et de soin que ne le font aujourd'hui. Les fellahs qui habitent réellement les huttes où l'on ne peut pas se tenir debout. (L'Hôte MSS)

In the winter of 1885 Edouard Naville, working on behalf of the Egypt Exploration Fund, carried out a survey of that part of the Eastern Delta which he regarded as the Biblical 'Land of Goshen'. In the course of this survey he visited Horbeit, and his account of this site can be found in the E.E.F.'s excavation memoir which resulted from this work:-

Near the station of Abu Kebir, N.E. of Zagazig, is the locality called Horbeit, generally regarded as the site of Pharaohs. I visited the extensive area covered with the ruins of the ancient city; and in the village itself, in a small courtyard between two houses, I saw three enormous granite blocks, such as are seldom met with in Egypt. They are fragments of a ceiling; one of them is sunk in the soil, making an acute angle with the ground; and the part which is buried must evidently go down to a great depth, so as to support the enormous weight of that which is above the soil, and which is some 24 feet in length. We thus gain some idea of the proportions of the temple. Here also Nekhthorheb is the author of these gigantic monuments, and here again I saw the name of Rameses II on a cornice built into a wall. (Neville 1887: 4)

During the years 1893-4 Georges Foucart, Inspector of Antiquities in Lower Egypt, prepared a series of reports on the current condition of various archaeological sites in his inspectorate. Extracts from some of these reports were later published, including that which refers to Horbeit:-

Horbeit est la troisième des localités réellement importantes, que j'aie eu à inspecter depuis mon départ du Caire. A partir du point A, la route d'Abou Kebir à Horbeit entre sur le sol ancien. Il y a peu d'années encore, de ce point jusqu'au village, s'élevaient une série de buttes. Aujourd'hui il ne reste plus que la colline du Sheick Heissé, le cimetière à gauche, et le tell Essouid à droite. La reste a été enlevé par l'exploitation du sébakh. La permission, donnée il y a trois ans par l'inspecteur Shahin Pacha, d'enlever le sébakh par grandes quantités pour les villages environnants a amené l'arasement total. Toute cette partie, au niveau du sol de la campagne, est couverte de débris de briques romaines et de poteries de basse époque.

On remarque les linteaux colossaux, actuellement en cinq morceaux, qui se trouvent à gauche en venant d'Abou Kebir. Cet endroit a déjà été fouillé, et je ne pense pas qu'il y ait lieu d'y opérer des sondages. L'endroit où l'on pourrait faire des trouvailles serait la butte de la tombe de Sheick (environ 6 mètres de haut), au pied de laquelle gisent trois fûts de granit, fûts lisses et de basse époque. Malheureusement une partie de la butte est un cimetière, et l'autre moitié, étant le seul endroit pour le sébakh à présent, est si rigoureusement attaquée qu'elle disparaîtra à bref délai. C'est seulement près du cimetière et près de la tombe du Sheick Heissé qu'on distingue des pans de murs en briques égyptiennes. (Foucart 1901: 54-55)

A plan of Horbeit at the end of the last century, based on Foucart's miniscule map (Foucart 1901: fig.5), is reproduced as figure 2.

Horbeit has greatly increased in size since Foucart carried out his investigations. Broadly speaking, the village has spread southwards to a natural limit along the Bahr el-Balad (labelled "Eterra el-Horbeit" on Foucart's map, fig.2). This increase in size can be seen on the general plan of the site, figure 3.

The whole of the ancient town-mound which used to stand to the east of Horbeit has been overbuilt by modern houses. Exceptions to this are the two large, open areas marked A and D on the main plan of Horbeit. Many of the features recorded by Foucart have now disappeared. The northern cemetery mound, the lake ("Birket") and the western mound have all been removed and

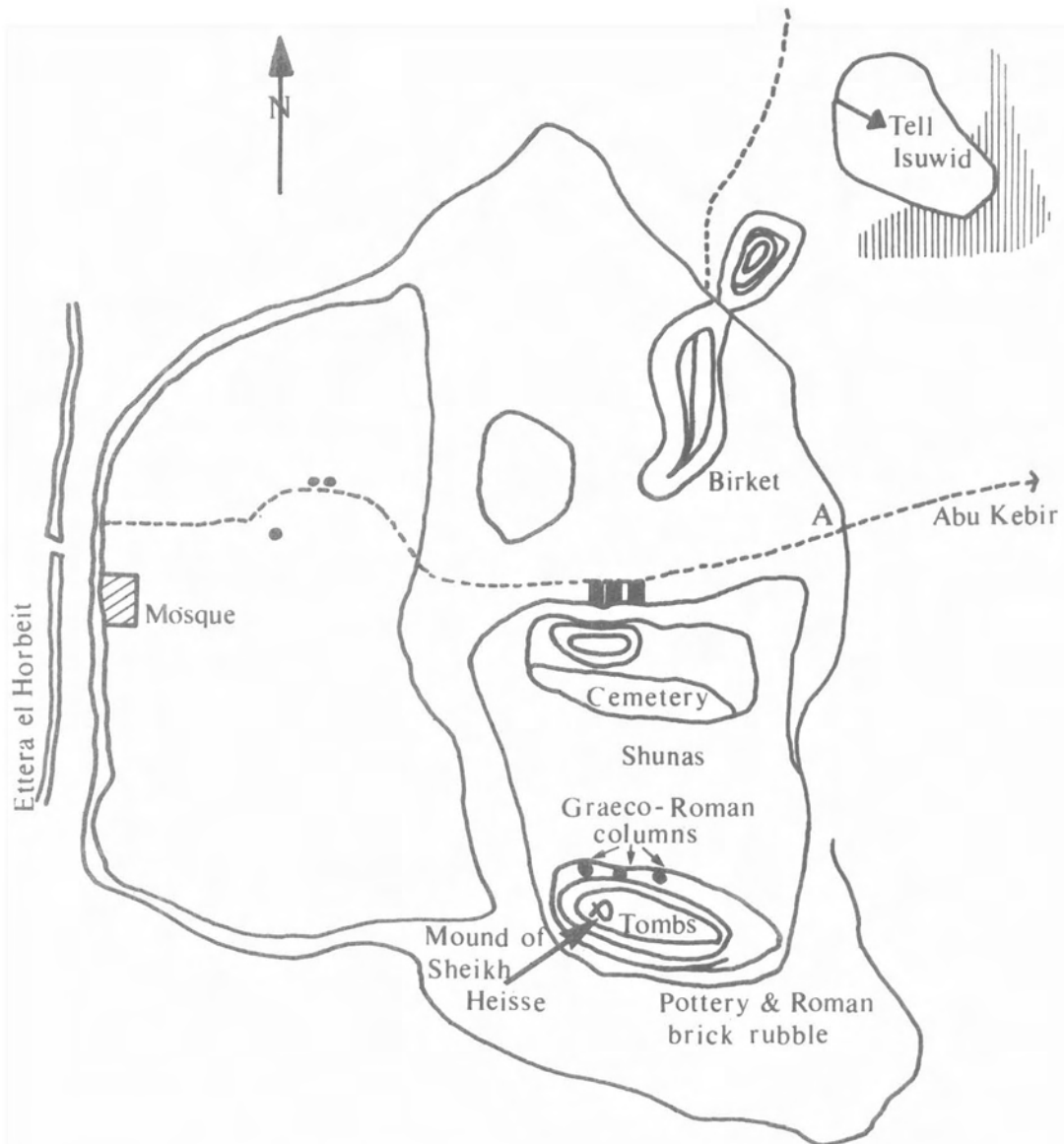


Figure 2 : Horbeit at the end of the 19th century  
(after Foucart 1901: fig.5).

built over, while Tell Isuwid survives as the village cemetery (area E, see below). The mound of Sheikh Heisse has been much denuded since Foucart's day and a large proportion has been removed and built over, notably to the south where a large school was constructed in 1979. Apparently this part of the mound had already been much disturbed during the past 50 years by *sebakhin*. Only part of one granite base from the row of Graeco-Roman columns has survived and even this is at least partly out of position (pl.1). Neither pottery nor brick debris was to be seen in the area south-east of the mound, nor "Shunas" to the north of it, and even the tomb of Sheikh Heisse has been partially demolished.



Figure 3 shows the present extent of the village of Horbeit (December 1983). It is bounded to the south and west by canals, while to the north and east the limits of the village are determined by the conflicting priorities of building space and agricultural land, both of which are needed by the expanding population. This competition between the varying needs of the community has led to a confusing of the archaeological situation when defining the remains of the original town-mound, for in trying to trace the limits of the ancient site one is faced not only with erosion due to agricultural encroachment, but also with the spread of the modern settlement on ground-raising rubble. A case in point is the rectangular patch of land which protrudes northwards from the village on the far western side of its northern boundary. Here the foundation debris for a large modern house has overlapped the boundary separating the village (i.e. the surviving town-mound) from the agricultural land. It seems likely that the village will continue to expand in the future, both outwards and internally, two examples of this being presented in the descriptions of areas A (fig.4, below) and D (fig.5, below).

Within the village are a number of vestiges of ancient buildings which have remained either in or near their original positions, or have been moved to serve as buttresses or architectural features in modern houses. Examples in the latter category are:-

a - Two fragments of Graeco-Roman architectural elements (probably entablatures) of fine, creamy limestone. They lie, face upwards, and are both 1.2 metres long and 50 cm tall. Their thicknesses are unknown as they are now being used as door-steps for a houses (pl.2).

c - Black granite block with a horizontal moulding below a cavetto cornice. The block is 53 cm long by 40 cm tall by 34.5 cm thick.

e - i) Limestone block with a large torus-roll, possibly from a pylon (pl.3). In the position in which it lies, this block is 58 cm long by 46 cm tall by 39 cm wide.

ii) Limestone column-drum with traces of vertical fluting, 50 cm in diameter and 26 cm tall (pl.4). Traces of green paint can be seen in the fluting.

Building elements which have retained their original position include the structure at b. This is a double-vaulted building made of red-brick, dating from the Roman Period. It is now being used as a combined house/stable. The vault is completely surrounded by other houses and difficulties were encountered in trying to photograph the interior. However, details of its dimensions were obtained. Both chambers are 12.7 metres long by 3.2 metres wide. In each case the doorways are 1.2 metres wide and are situated immediately on either side of the central wall, which is 1.1 metres thick. In some places the walling (red brick, bonded with white mortar) has been broken through or otherwise altered to fit in with its modern utilisation. It has an interior height of 3 metres, from the top of the vaulted ceiling to the present floor level.

The base of a red granite column at d (pl.1) has already been mentioned. It is 69 cm tall with a diameter of 73 cm. A recessed groove in its top measures 9 cm deep by 32 cm wide.

In the courtyard immediately to the north-west of the main Mosque of the village (B) is evidence of destroyed, earlier buildings. This consists of a



column of white/purple porphyritic stone measuring 1.18 metres long by 43 cm in diameter, several large red granite fragments (apparently varying between 1-2 metres in length although they are only just discernable on the surface of the ground) and a large amount of red-brick rubble.

More, larger, red granite blocks are to be found in two small courtyards, surrounded by domestic dwellings, and located at C. The more westerly of these courtyards contains a very large roofing slab (pl.5). The slab is provided with two dovetail recesses on the upper surface of the extremity which projects from the ground. It is 1.7 metres wide and 60 cm deep with a visible length of 4.5 metres, although Naville mentions that it was at least 24 feet long when he visited the site. A smaller fragment of red granite is to be found in the wall of a house near this enormous block. The easterly courtyard also contains a large red granite block, according to information obtained locally, although it is currently covered by earth to a depth of about one metre. This block is spoken of as being inscribed and decorated with human figures. It seems likely that this is the source of Naville's ascription of these blocks to the reign of Nectanebo II. These roofing slabs are the only examples we were able to locate of the temple masonry referred to by Fairman, who visited Horbeit in 1945:-

Most of the ancient town has been swept away in recent times but the temple appears to be intact and its roofing blocks are the floors or just under the floors of the modern village. (Cottrell 1950: 237)

A situation echoed by Montet:-

Les maison des fellahs reposent sur de beaux blocs de granit et le cimetière, comme cela est arrivé très souvent dans le Delta, recouvre les murs d'enceinte. (Montet 1942: 17)

We were unable to find anyone who would admit to having such blocks as the floor of their house.

The block with the cartouche of Rameses II, which Naville mentions as being built into a house in this area, could not be located.

Area E represents the modern cemetery serving the village of Horbeit (pl.6). It rises to a height of 1.7 metres above the surrounding cultivation and has a thick covering of *halfa*-grass. The square building in its north-eastern corner is the delapidated tomb of Sheikh Abu Drias. That this mound was originally part of the ancient town-mound is suggested by the presence of body-sherds of Roman amphorae on its surface.

#### Area A (fig.4)

The large open area in the centre of this plan designates an unoccupied, raised area of *tell*. At its highest point this mound stands 2.6 metres above the cultivation, as represented by the railway-line at the point marked +. The dotted line running along the northern and eastern sides of this area shows the foot of a definite ridge which slopes sharply down from a raised plateau. To the south and west there is a more gradual slope, which runs under the village houses which are themselves raised above the cultivation level and stand on the *tell*. On its eastern side the mound is currently being encroached upon by modern building development. This is especially evident at the north-eastern corner where the mound is actually being cut away to build new shops and houses.

The area is dominated by the Sheikh Sadat Mosque (A). The other venerable, though not particularly venerated, building in the area is the

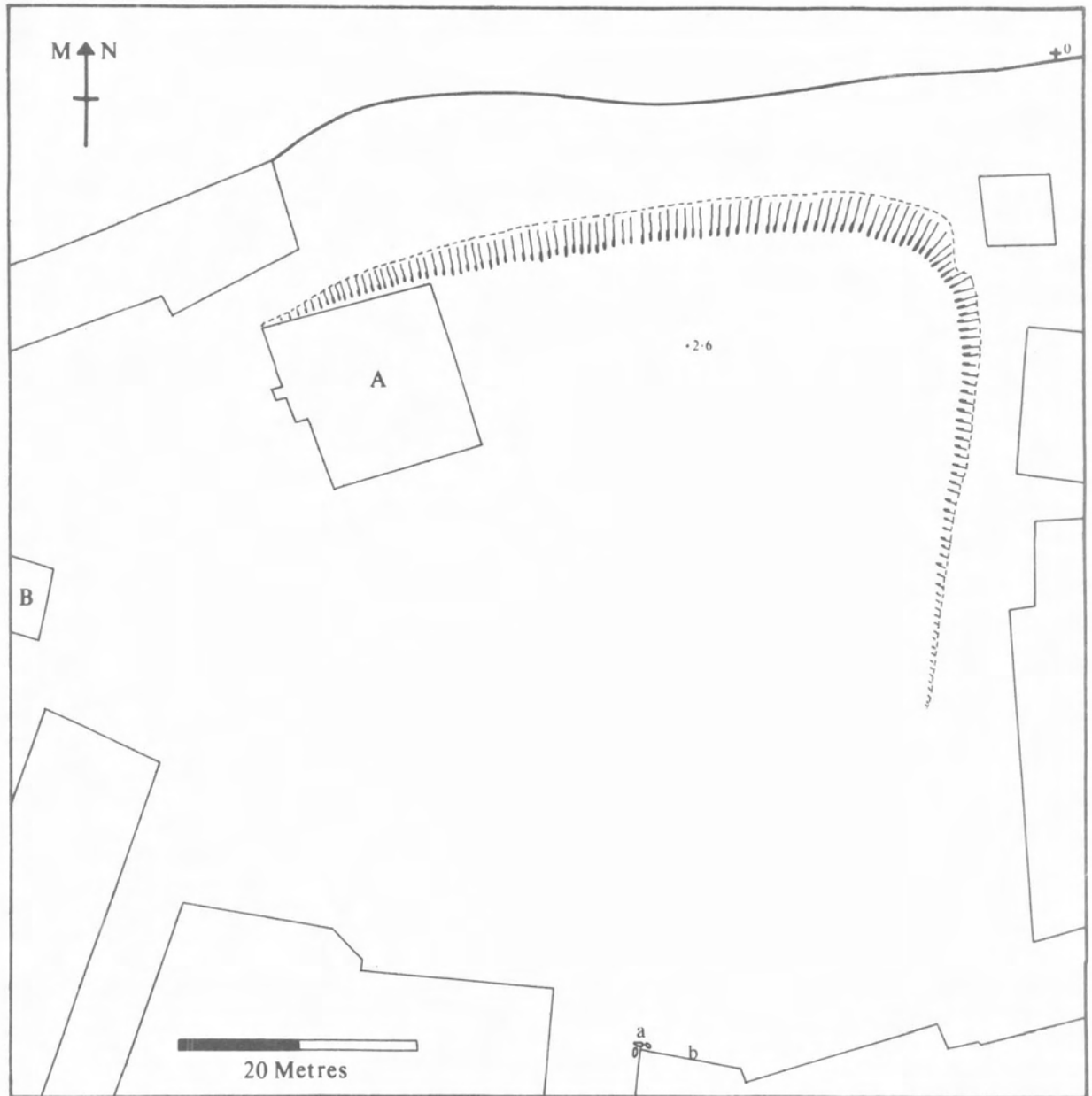


Figure 4 : Horbeit. Area A.

partially destroyed Tomb of Sheikh Abu Zeilun (B). The re-use of ancient blocks is practiced in this part of the village; two upturned alabaster column bases (53 cm tall by 52 cm wide) sit on either side of a house which faces the Sheikh Sadat Mosque (b, see pl.7; for a comparable example from the Monastery of Apa Jeremias see Quibell 1909: pl.29,5). Three limestone blocks, two of them inscribed (see pls.8, 12 & 13), are to be found at the corner of the same building (a).

The unscripted block is 84 cm long by 47 cm tall by 49 cm wide. It is provided with dovetail recesses in the middle of three of the four shortest edges, the fourth not having survived intact. The recesses are 6 cm wide at the edge of the block, but 9 cm wide at the back, and are 11 cm long by 2.5 cm deep. The block is worn and broken, and there are traces of

mortar and red-brick on the south face.

The second block (pl.8, for facsimile copy see pl.12) is 1.11 metres wide and 46 cm tall on its inscribed face. The two shorter sides of the block are 30 cm and 69 cm wide, and the back of the block is 1.15 metres wide. On the top edge of the shortest side is a dovetail recess, starting 14 cm from the edge of the inscribed face, and although broken it has a width (at the 'tail-end') of 9.5 cm and is 3 cm deep. The face is inscribed in sunk relief. To the left is part of the leg and hand of a figure. Two vertical register lines isolate the central text which seems to read "...h3swt...", "...foreign lands...". To the right of the text is the hand of another figure, this time holding an elaborate rnj sign, and part of a leg.

The most interesting of the three blocks is 89.5 cm wide on the inscribed face and 77 cm wide at the back. The two shorter sides are 58 cm and 52 cm wide. The whole block is 32 cm tall. Most of the scenes on this block are too abraded to be clearly visible on a photograph, but a facsimile copy of the block is given in plate 13. The left side (facing) of the block is recessed back 3.5 cm and is inscribed with large hieroglyphs in sunk relief; "...nb Šd...", presumably for nb Šdnw, "Lord of Horbeit".

The scene on the right is carved in raised relief, but is now rather badly worn, especially towards its right edge. To the left of this scene the field is taken up by a sinuous river, upon which are depicted three barques. The Mskt-barque and the (M)rndt-barque, are shown horizontally, filling up the gaps between the bends in the river. The third barque is depicted vertically, on the outside of one of the bends. This is a double-barque, and its hieroglyphic label seems to refer to 'two goddesses', possibly referring to Isis and Nephthys, who are themselves respectively associated with the Mskt and (M)rndt-barques (Goyon 1972: 66). To the right of this riverine scene is a kneeling male figure. He is depicted holding an object which is, due to the condition of the relief at this point, unrecognisable. At the bottom of this scene is a broad horizontal register line, and below that the top of another scene. A night sky, fitted with now-broken stars, is clear enough, but it is uncertain whether the traces below (a bird's head and the tops of two elliptical objects) are the top parts of a figured scene or, perhaps, large hieroglyphs.

In the same area, though just off the central southern edge of figure 4, on the street going south, is another red granite column-base, again acting as a support for the doorway of a modern house (pl.9).

#### Area D (fig.5)

This mound represents the highest portion of *tell* still surviving within the village of Horbeit. The summit is crowned by the half-demolished Tomb of Sheikh Heisse. The rubble from the destroyed eastern part of the tomb covers the peak upon which it stands. Line b marks the extent of this rubble - to the east it gradually falls away down the deeper slope. The dotted line c shows the extremities of the higher part of the mound, while the outer, solid line marks its limit at ground level.

On its western, southern and most of its northern side the mound slopes gradually down to the floor level of the surrounding houses (pl.10). To the east, however, a fairly high, perpendicular face reveals the presence of mud-brick walling (see pl.11). For the rest of the mound it is impossible to delimit any particular features due to its worn and abraded condition, and its use as a general rubbish-dump and latrine for this part of the village.



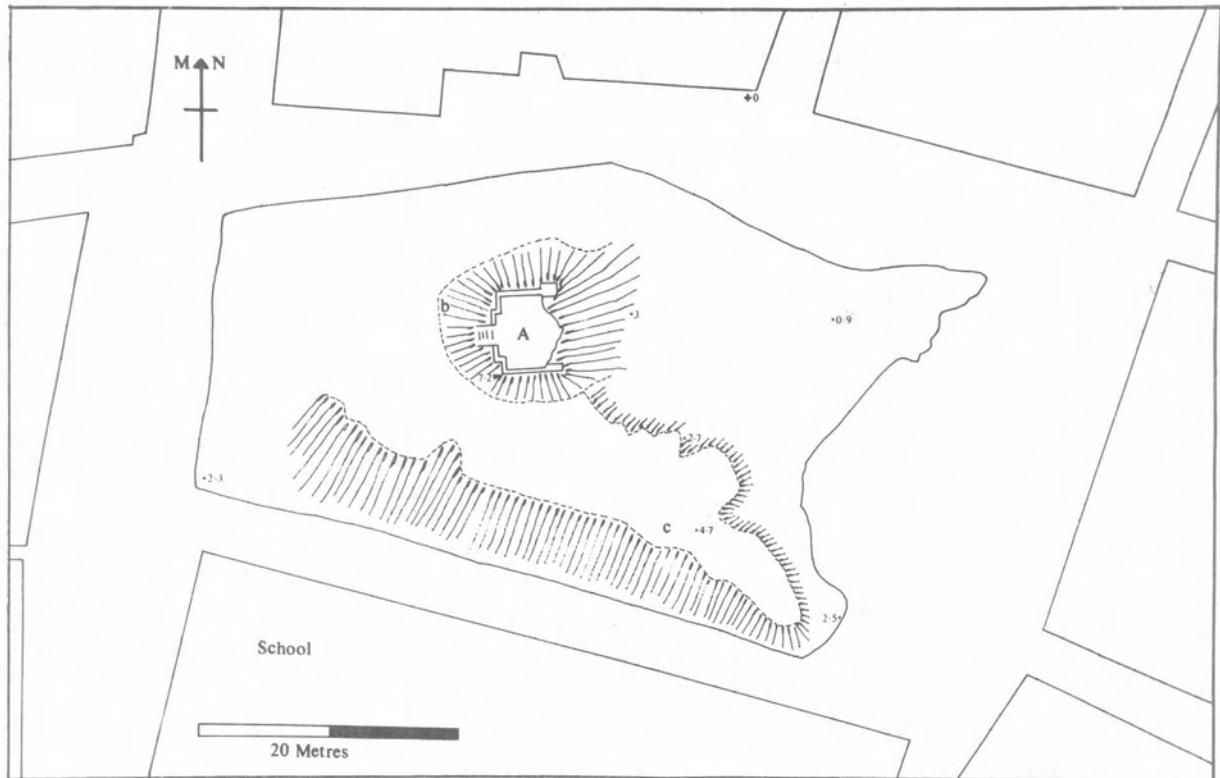


Figure 5 : Horbeit. Area D.

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## 2. - ABU YASSIN

As an extension to the work at Horbeit a concise survey was carried out at the village of Abu Yassin. A map of the village was prepared (fig.6) and extant antiquities were recorded.

Abu Yassin is situated 3 kilometres south-east of Horbeit. It was connected with Sdnw/Pharbaethos, being the necropolis of the latter's bull-cult (Otto 1938: 33-35; Vernus 1978: 413). Until comparatively recently there were no visible signs of any antiquities at Abu Yassin. In 1906, when Kamal visited the site, he reported that no material traces of occupation were to be seen on a "Kom sablonneux" (Kamal 1906: 25-26), although Griffith records that in 1887 "a few graves and traces of building" (Griffith 1890: 56) were to be seen at Abu Yassin. An account of the excavations carried out at Abu Yassin between 1937 and the present day is currently in progress (see Gourlay 1979: 366 n.1).

Like Horbeit, Abu Yassin is a village which has extended out to and beyond the boundaries of the ancient *tell* and, also as at Horbeit, the land which has not been built on has been cultivated. An exception to this rule is area B, the village cemetery and the highest patch of land in the village, which rises to a height of 3.45 metres above the surrounding cultivation and represents the area of least erosion of the *tell*. The square in the southern corner of the cemetery is the Tomb of Sheikh Woneim, while the shaded area on the western edge is the site of excavations carried out by the Antiquities Service some years ago which, reportedly, produced nothing of significance.

The chief area of interest in Abu Yassin is the Bull Mausoleum which was excavated in 1937 by A. Abdel Salam (Abdel Salam 1938). Most of the large granite sarcophagi unearthed by him have remained in place (pls.14 & 15). Figure 7 shows the current state of the Bull Mausoleum as contrasted with that drawn by the excavators. The solid-shaded sarcophagi still remain *in situ*, but the other features on this plan have either been removed or built over by the modern village houses. Some of the large broken fragments of sarcophagi were transferred to various museums. The preparation of the publication of the inscribed sarcophagi from Abu Yassin is in progress (see Gourlay 1979: 366ff). Other fragments of the sarcophagi were, apparently, dragged away by the villagers but abandoned. The latter are marked as x on figure 6.

Another bull-sized sarcophagus, though made of limestone in this instance, was located at b between the modern cemetery and the cultivation on the south side of the village (pl.16). Its dimensions were 2.4 metres long by 70 cm high by 79 cm wide. It had been pushed over onto one side and was being used as a work-table in the courtyard of a house. Abdel Salam (Abdel Salam 1938: 611) discovered fragments of limestone concentrated near the granite sarcophagi, which he assumed to be the remains of a destroyed limestone sarcophagus.

Abu Yassin was also used as a necropolis for the human population of the area, as demonstrated by the evidence from the excavations of the Egyptian Antiquities Organisation in 1970 which included "quelques tombeaux de personnages tardifs" (Leclant 1970: 325) and also soundings made in 1973 which produced three 'slipper'-coffins, two undecorated sarcophagi and a group of mud-brick tombs of the Graeco-Roman Period (Leclant 1973: 395). Much of this excavated area has since been turned over to citrus groves, to

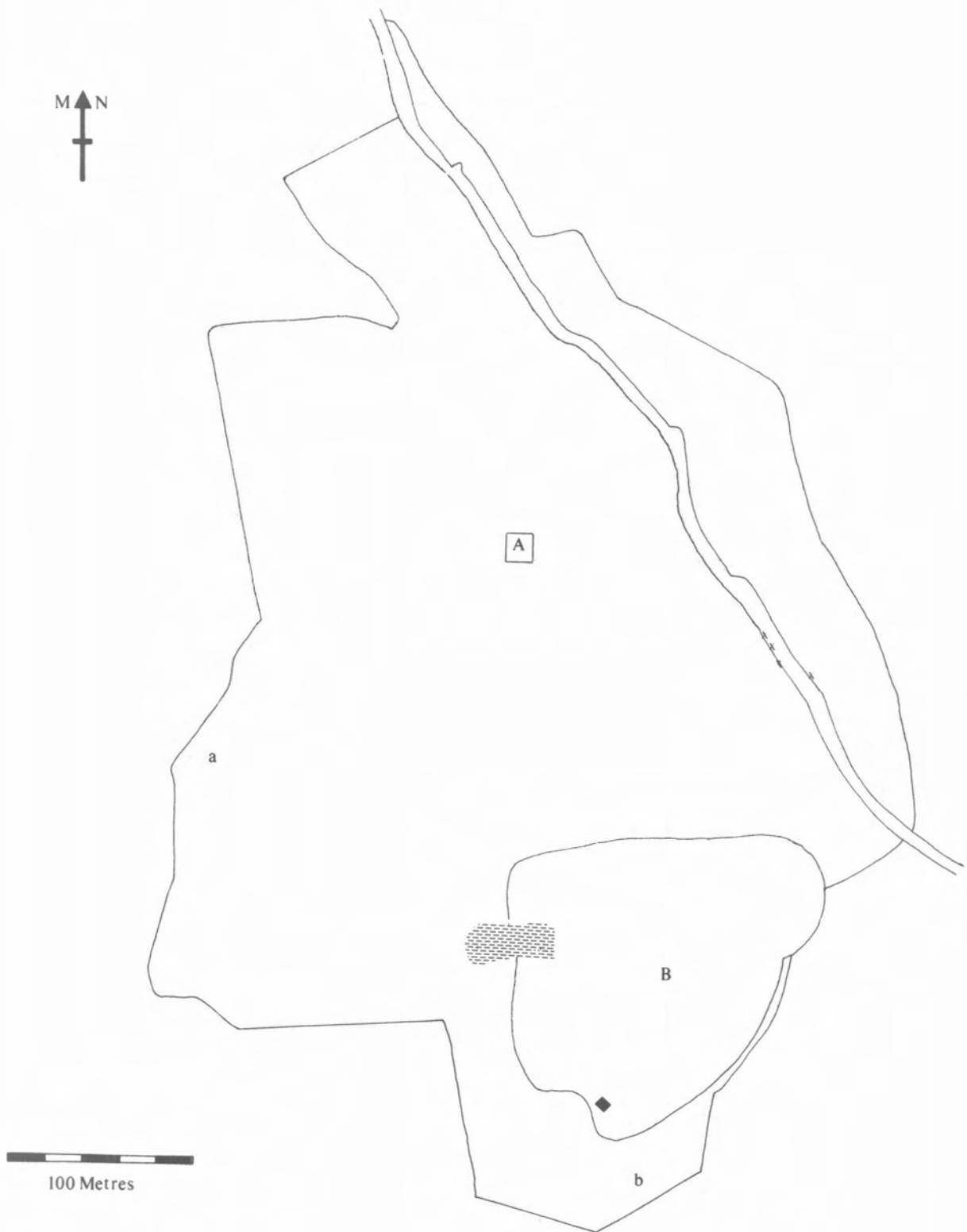


Figure 6 : Abu Yassin. Main Plan.

the north of the village. We were able to locate further evidence of human interments of the Late-Graeco-Roman Period at Abu Yassin – part of a limestone coffin, currently being used to shore-up the red-brick wall of a modern house (pl.17). This coffin had a surviving length of 1.43 metres and was 38 cm wide; it protruded 19 cm above the ground surface.

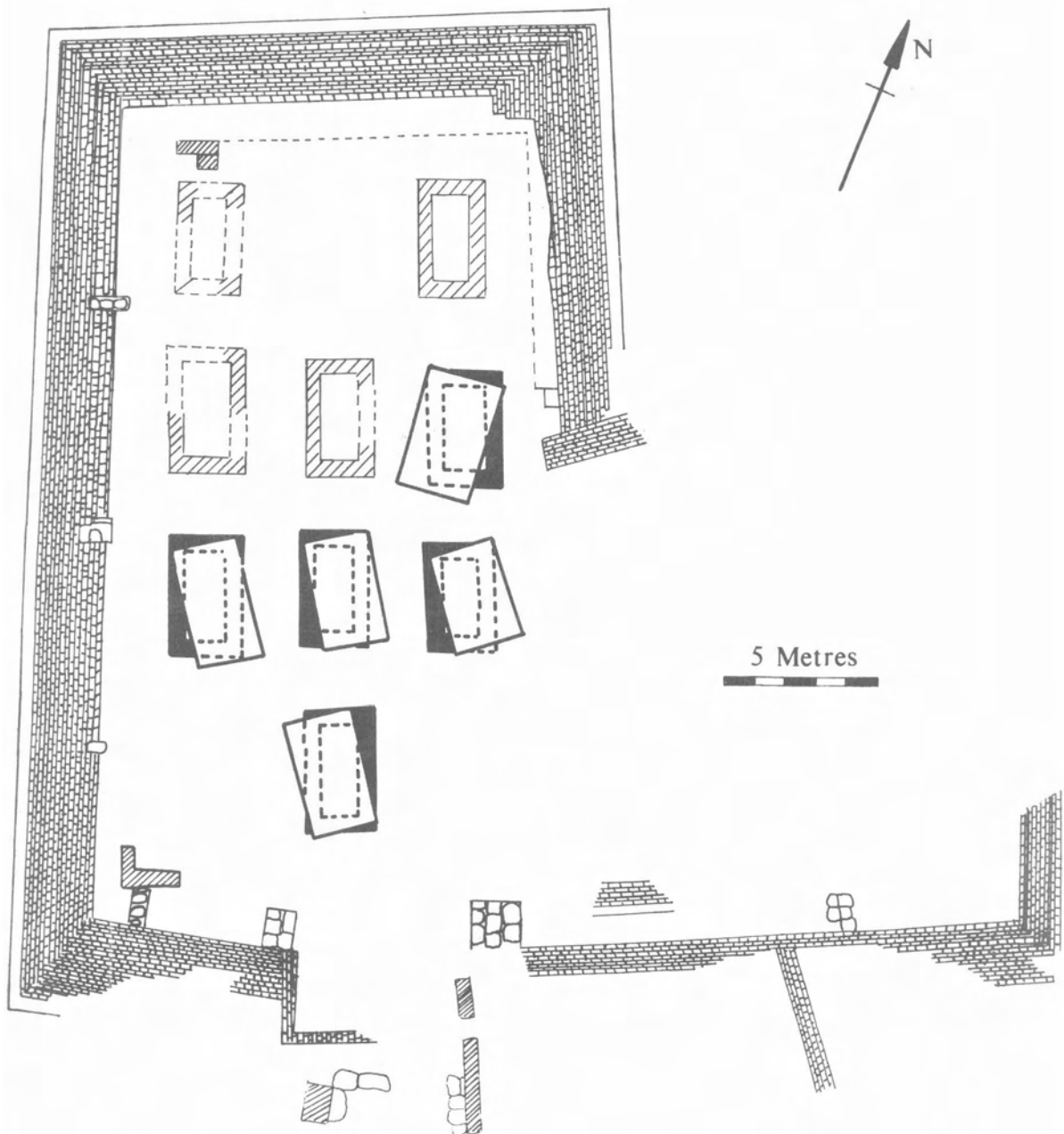


Figure 7 : Abu Yassin. Bull Mausoleum (after Abdel Salam 1938: fig.84).

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### 3. - TUKH EL-QARAMUS

Tukh el-Qaramus (Tell Tukh) is a deserted town-mound of considerable size, 7 metres tall at its highest point and 33.6 hectares in area. Tukh lies some 15 kilometres to the north-east of Zagazig, the *tell* itself (labelled Tell el-Ahmar on some maps) is 2 kilometres to the south-west of the actual village of Tukh el-Qaramus, just to the south of the village of Kafr Shobak. Ancient toponyms referring to the *tell* as *Bḥnw* (Gauthier 1925: 29) and *Dkyt* (Gauthier 1929: 101) are mentioned on a stela of Sheshonq III which was found there. The occupation of this site may date back to the Eighteenth Dynasty, for Edgar mentions that tombs of this date were found under the rampart walls (Edgar 1907: 30) and this hypothesis may be supported by discoveries made by the E.A.O. excavations in area O. Certainly there is possible evidence for activity at the site during the Nineteenth Dynasty in the shape of blocks bearing the cartouche of Rameses II (Edgar 1906: 211).

The size of the mound attracted the attention of early excavators to Tukh. Naville and Griffith excavated there in 1887 (Naville and Griffith 1890), followed by Edgar in the spring of 1906 (Edgar 1906). Excavations made in 1892 are mentioned by Foucart in his report on the site (see fig.8):-

Les fouilles de 1892 ont eu lieu principalement à l'endroit marqué A. Les endroits marqués B seraient à mon avis les meilleurs à fouiller. On distingue encore assez nettement le plan de deux rues allant du N.O. à l'Est, une autre rue les coupe verticalement N.S., comme à Tell Moqdam. Ça et là, des pans de murailles en briques crues, tassés ou affaissés horizontalement, comme à Benhâ. (Foucart 1901: 53)

However, it may be noted that the plan provided by Foucart (fig.8) has a rather odd orientation when compared to our plan (fig.10) and that of Naville and Griffith (fig.9).

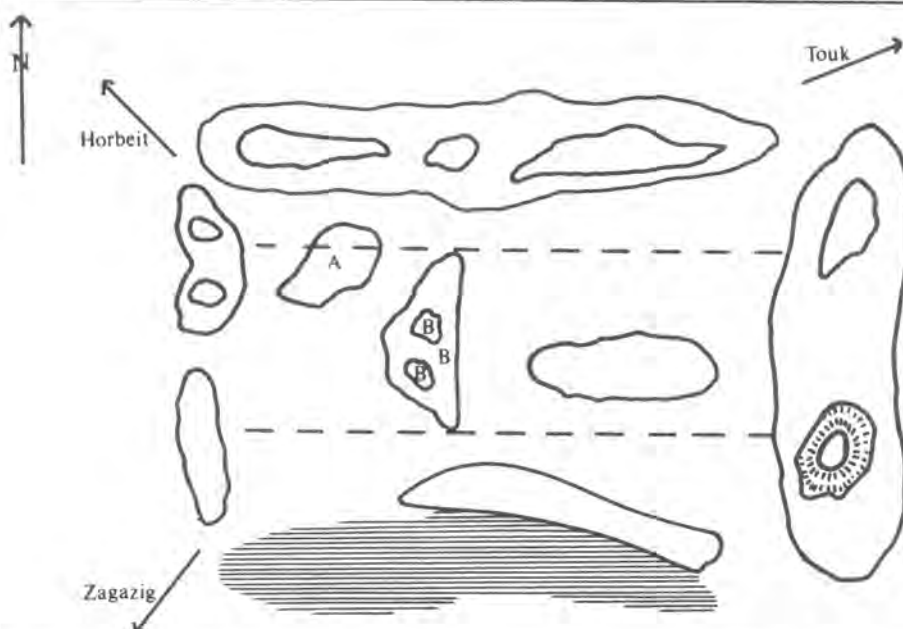


Figure 8 : Tukh el-Qaramus in 1892 (after Foucart 1901: fig.4).

Many of the features recorded by Naville and Griffith have since disappeared. The process of destruction had already begun by the time that Edgar started to work at the site. In particular, the north-western side of the *tell* has been very badly denuded, the sand rampart having disappeared as the ground gradually slopes down to the village. In the early years of this century the activities of *sebakhin* resulted not only in the gradual destruction of surviving structures on the *tell* but also in the discovery of caches of material, such as the 'Treasure of Tukh el-Qaramus' (Edgar 1907b).

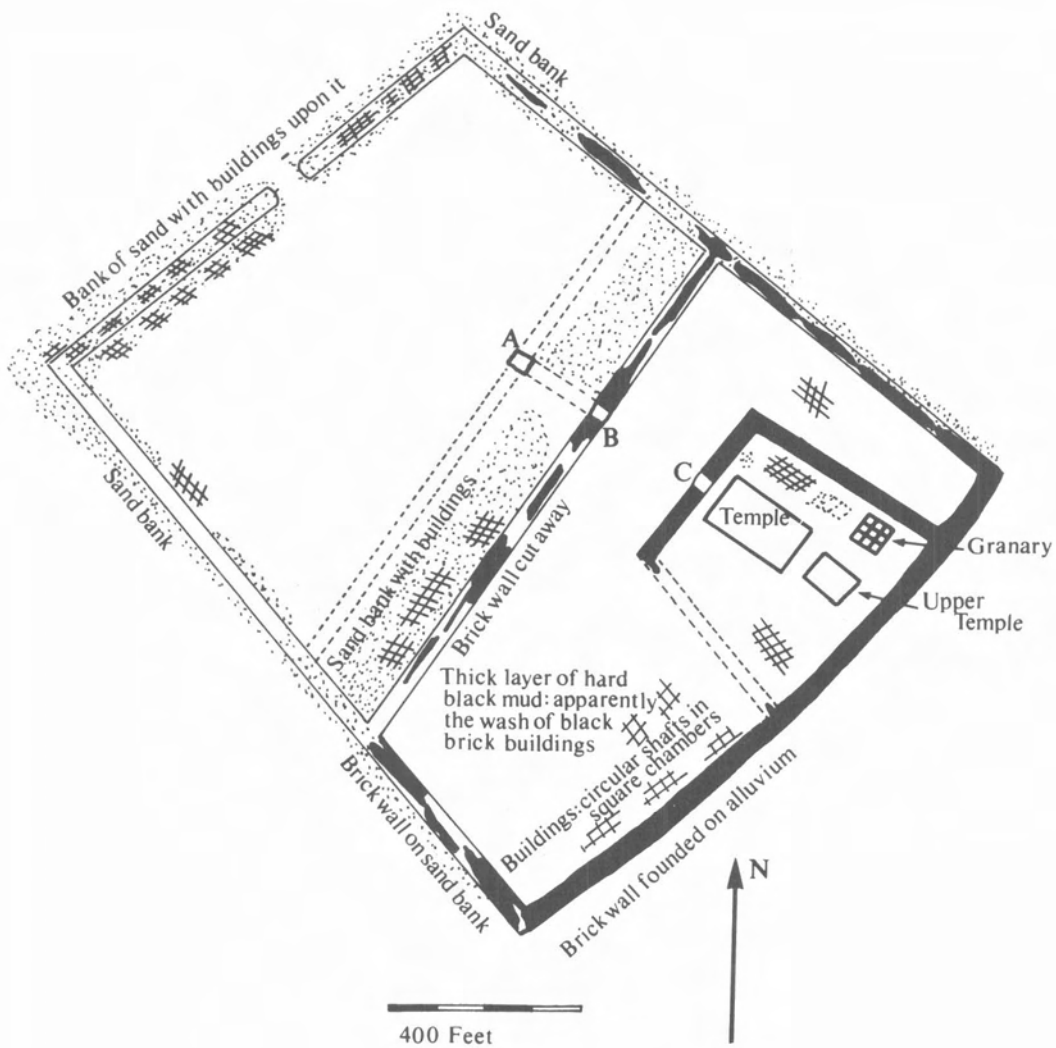


Figure 9 : Tikh el-Qaramus. Naville-Griffith excavations (after Naville and Griffith 1890: pl.9b).



For the purposes of description the *tell* has been divided into four unequal quadrants by the two main tracks which cross over the mound from north-west to south-east and from north-east to south-west.

The heavy black lines near the edges of the *tell* represent the outer faces of the rampart wall. Where these lines are dotted the wall is traceable, but badly denuded or covered over by sand; only the outer faces of these walls are visible in the outer slope of the rampart (cf. pls.23 & 24). Even when these walls have remained comparatively unscathed by the attentions of *sebakhin* they appear erratic in line, having been constructed of separate blocks of brickwork (Griffith 1890: 54).

The western quadrant is dominated by the large sand-hill A which rises to a height of 7 metres above the cultivation. At the foot of this hill, on its north-western side, are the remains of mud-brick walling of considerable thickness (see pl.18). More traces of mud-brick wall are to be seen on the southern slope of this hill, and the outer face of this wall continues to be sporadically visible in the face of the ridge which runs to the south-east towards the limit of this quadrant near the trackway. Apart from the large dune, the surface of the western quadrant is generally low-lying, flat and with little vegetation or material remains. The surface soil is largely composed of dried mud. The shaded areas at B designate depressions in the ground surface, the remains of large trenches which were dug into this part of the *tell* at some period.

The southern quadrant is the largest of the four. It too has a large sand-hill in its north-western corner (again 7 metres above the cultivation at its summit), which seems to correspond with the cross-bank on the Naville-Griffith plan. Elements of mud-brick structures are visible in the slope and at the foot of its eastern side (the features south of D, see pl.20). This may be part of the south-eastern cross-wall. Towards the top of the slope at its northern end is a large mud-brick construction (the feature north of D, see pl.21), perhaps corresponding with the structures associated with the entrances at A and B on the Naville-Griffith plan. This building contains a structure which seems to be the top of a domed chamber (see pl.22). The southern extremity of the sand-mound is marked by a precipitous edge, to the south of which is area C, described separately below.

Area E is distinguished by a long stretch of mud-brick walling which is clearly visible in the face of the edge of the rampart (pls.23 & 24). There is considerable deviation in the line of this wall, partly because its north-western portion seems to have been built to form a ramp leading up to area C, and partly because of the cutting away of part of its central section by *sebakhin*. The latter situation is attested by the presence of rich earth, supporting thick growths of camel-thorn, at cultivation level in the area surrounded by the present walling, presumably where the nitrogenous mud-bricks have been cut away and the debris moistened by ground water (see pl.25).

The large shaded area marked X appears very much as it is described on the Naville-Griffith map, an area of mud-brick buildings which are so denuded that no structural details could be traced (see pl.19).

The three solid patches at F are tall, thick piles of solid mud-brick, the largest of which is illustrated in plate 28.

Area G is a large area of mud-brick houses, described separately below. Stretches of rampart-wall can be located on the eastern side of this slope

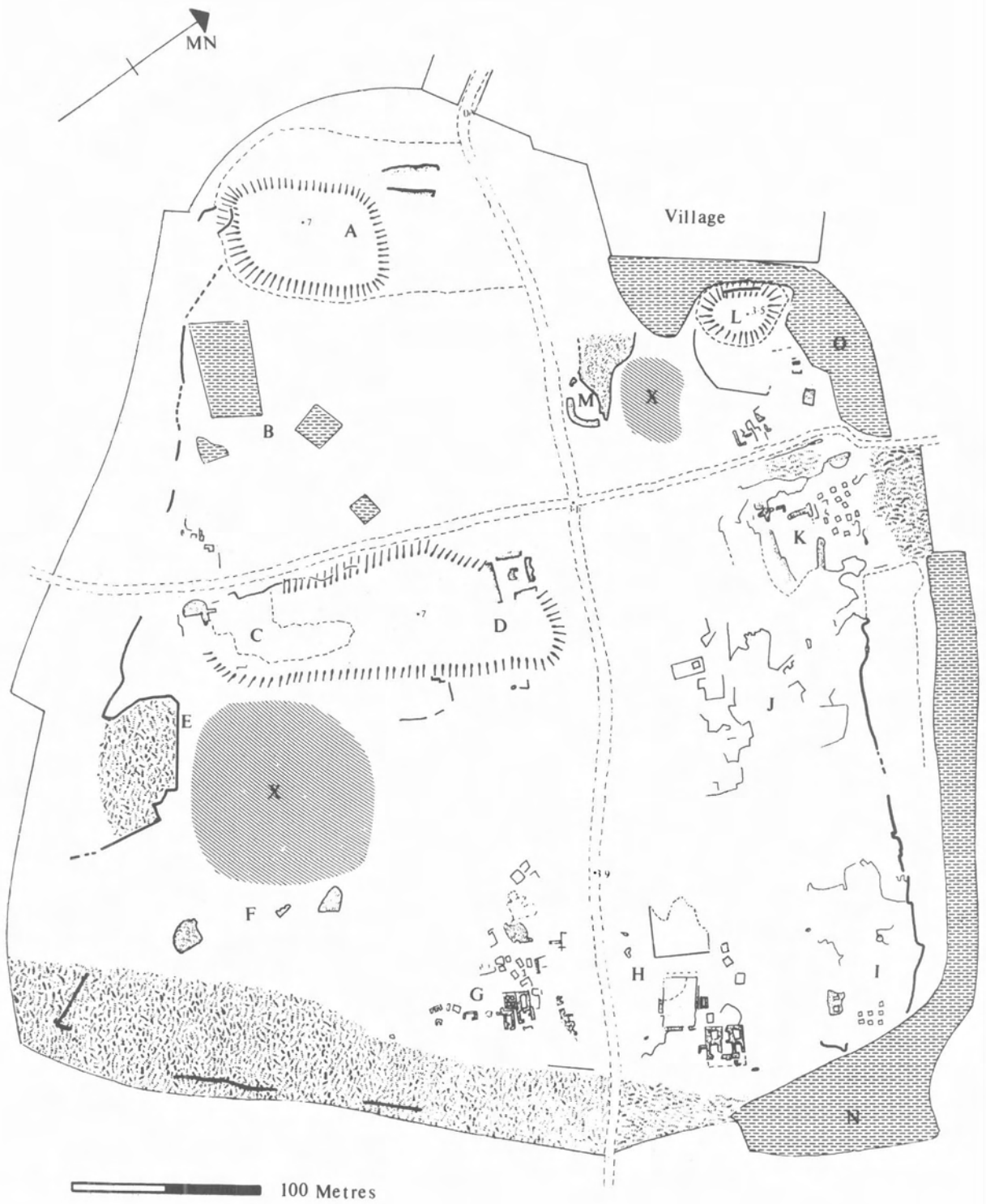


Figure 10 : Tikh el-Qaramus. Main Plan.

but are now by no means as substantial as Griffith's implies. In fact the destruction of this wall was already mentioned by Edgar in his report on the site in 1906.

All along the south-east side of this quadrant, and running into the eastern quadrant, are thick growths of camel-thorn. Presumably they flourish here because of the amount of decayed mud-brick in this part of the *tell*.

The most conspicuous feature of the eastern quadrant is the Temple area, H. This area contains three major structures, with associated features, which are described separately below.

To the north-east of the Temple area are three regions (I, J and K) which contain the remnants of various mud-brick structures. The lines on this part of the map represent the surviving outer walls of those buildings which have a relatively recognisable shape. An exception to this rule is the most easterly set of remains in area I which indicate the seven surviving chambers of a cellular structure, the inside walls of which are clearly visible just above ground level. While I and J have obviously been areas of intensive development, the buildings here have been very badly destroyed and semi-buried by drifting sand (see pl.35). Area K, though of the same general character, has survived the ravages of time slightly better and a more detailed plan of this area is given below. The greater part of the outer perimeter of this quadrant (area N) is surrounded by a large series of pits (c. 1-1.5 metres square) which are the remains of previous excavations carried out at the foot of the rampart, and are therefore outside the *tell* proper.

The northern quadrant, though the smallest in area, is by no means without interest. In addition to the vestiges of mud-brick buildings (the outer walls of which are, as far as is possible, marked on the plan with a solid line) it contains another area X of mud-brick buildings whose structures are too badly denuded to trace adequately. To the south-west of area X is structure M, constructed of solid mud-brick and surviving to a height of 1.5 metres. Although the southern and eastern sides of M are clear enough, the rest of its perimeter is less definite as it gradually slopes into, and blends with, the ground surface.

L designates a high mound at the northern corner of the *tell*, part of the north-western face of which is formed by the rampart wall (see pl.37).

In recent years excavations have been carried out in area O by the Egyptian Antiquities Organisation, directed by Mr. Abdel Fatah, Chief Inspector for Sharqiyeh Province.

Area C is situated in the centre of the south-western side of the *tell*. The position of structure B (pl.26) seems to suggest that it may originally have been a buttress at the meeting point of the main rampart wall and the north-western cross-wall, which flanked one side of the cross-bank. Further traces of this cross wall are marked e, and consist of north-westerly facing stretches of mud-brick in the slope of the sand-hill (or cross-bank). A large ravine at the south-western end of this sandhill is marked D.

The piles of mud-brick marked A are probably merely the broken section of the rampart wall, cut by the path at this point. Structure C (see pl.27) is the quite considerable remnant of a high level (i.e. on top of the cross-bank) mud-brick building of unidentified function.

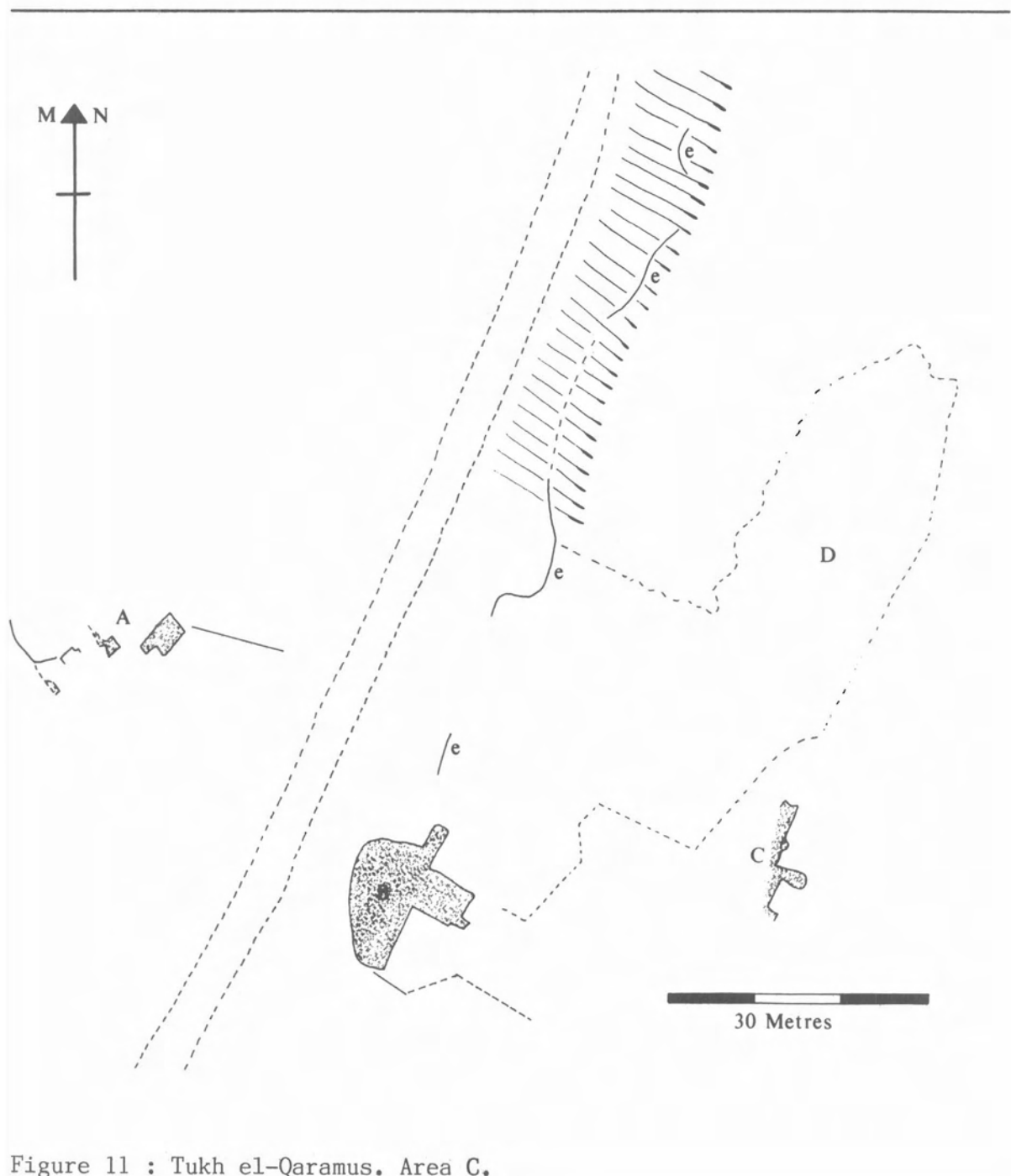


Figure 11 : Tikh el-Qaramus. Area C.

Area G is one of the few places at Tikh el-Qaramus where the forms of domestic-sized buildings may be traced. It was marked as an area of undifferentiated buildings on the Naville-Griffith plan. On our plan, as in the others of various localities on the *tell*, solid mud-brick walls have been shaded-in, while solid lines mark the traceable faces of walls, the other edges of which cannot be located without excavation. Dotted lines represent walls which are barely traceable or whose presence is strongly inferred.

Most of these buildings survive only to a height of a few centimetres of worn mud-brick, although those on the south-east side tend to be the better preserved of the series (see pl.29). The group in the north-west corner is particularly confused with ephemeral structures clustering around a central sand-hill and what appears to be a large mass of mud-brick, although the latter is probably the result of the 'washing-out' of a number of densely packed buildings.

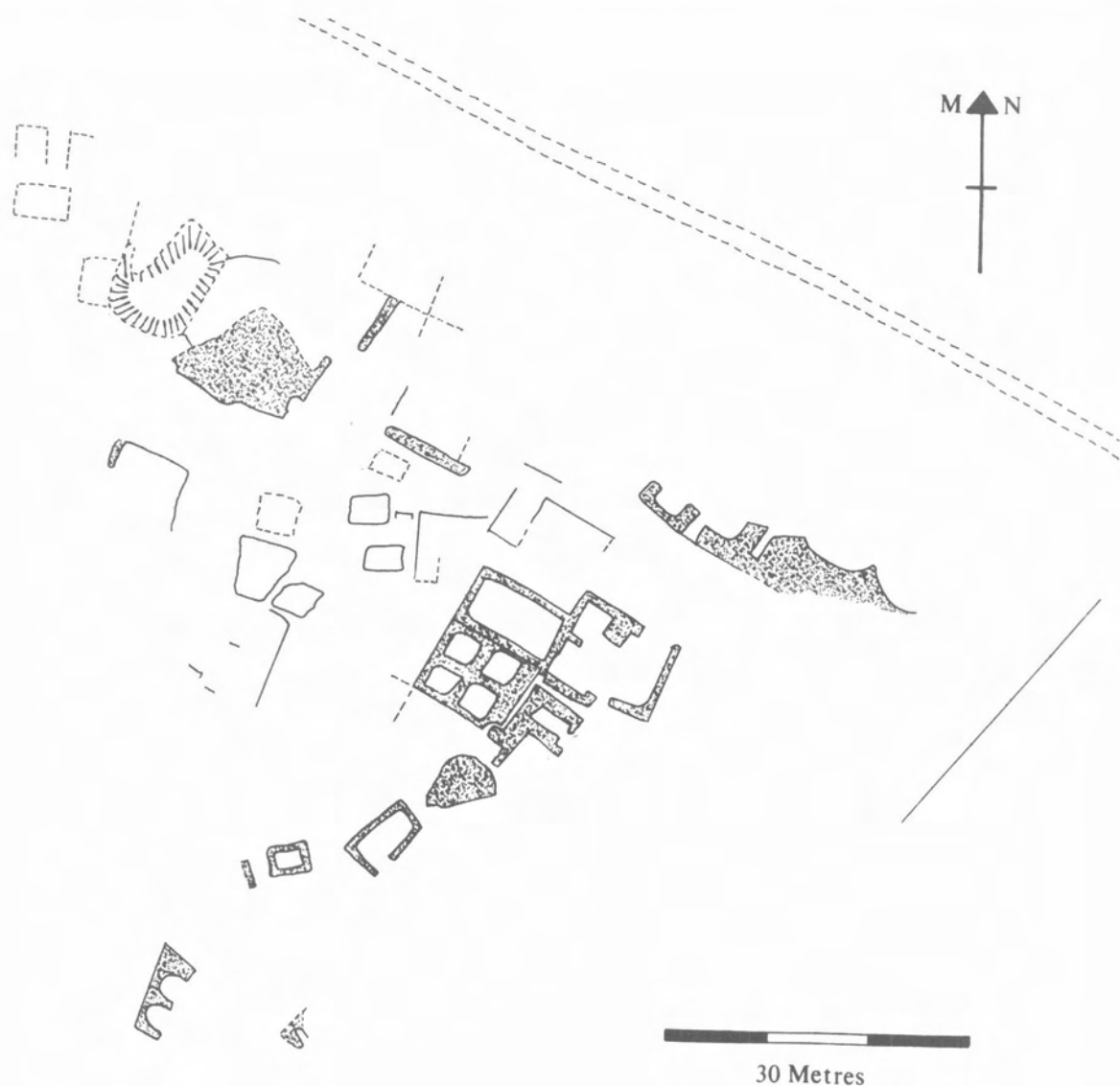


Figure 12 : Tikh el-Qaramus. Area G.

It should be noted that the substantial structure on the eastern side of this group (see pl.30) may be part of the temenos wall of the Temple area, its inner (north-eastern) face containing the remains of vaulted chambers. If this were the case, then this would be the only surviving remnant of the temenos wall still above the present ground level, although it is shown as being complete on the Naville-Griffith plan. However, one argument against this suggestion is the absence of the south-western side of the Temenos wall on the plan which Edgar used and which he had adapted from the Naville-Griffith plan (Edgar 1906: 206, fig.1).

### The Temple Area

This area of the mound was the main location of the Naville-Griffith excavations of 1887. Their most informative find on what they considered to be a disappointing site was a foundation deposit of Phillip Arrhidaeus. This was discovered below the limestone rubble which was all that remained of the Temple (some chips of which are still visible today on the floor of the foundation platform), and within the "foundation wall" (structure A). The solid, meandering line at the north-western edge of the temple platform indicates the precipice of a mass of very compact sand, which has its top surface on the same level as the tops of the walls (i.e. the surrounding ground level) and which falls vertically to the bottom of the excavated area (see pl.32). The other three solid lines mark the interior faces of mud-brick walls. Griffith's measurement of the walls of this structure extend them another 28 metres to the north-west, but today these limits are untraceable using ground survey alone. The walls are at their tallest (or rather deepest) on the south-western side, where the mud-bricks stand to a height of 2.4 metres. These bricks are themselves remarkably large (38-40 cm long by 13 cm tall by 20 cm broad) and are laid in alternate courses of stretchers and headers. In the places where the face of the wall has been damaged or cut away the internal structure seems to be completely composed of headers. On the south-eastern side the wall has either been rebuilt at some stage, or the original work finished off, using bricks with a much higher proportion of sand. These bricks are also much smaller - 17 cm long by 7 cm tall by 10 cm broad (see pl.33).

To the south-east of this building is a dotted line which marks a division between the sandy earth to the north-west and the harder, dried-mud earth to the south-east. This may represent the line of the outer face of the back wall of the Naville-Griffith "Upper Temple" (structure B). The inner faces of the walls of this building are clear enough (see pl.34), except in the western corner where they are obscured by the inspill of loose sand from ground level. The south-eastern wall is the most poorly preserved of the four, much of it being missing. On the north-eastern side the face of the wall has been somewhat cut away, but at ground level the thickness of the wall can be delimited at several points around its perimeter. This wall survives to its greatest height in the northern corner where it is 3.1 metres tall, above the interior floor level. The bricks of these walls are composed of a similar muddy fabric to those of structure A, although they are much smaller (18-21 cm long by 8 cm tall by 12 cm broad). They are laid in courses of stretchers.

Building C was excavated by Edgar in 1906 (Edgar 1906) - his plan of this building is reproduced as figure 14. During the intervening years it has been much denuded. The plan of the extant remains may be compared with





Figure 13 : Tukh el-Qaramus. Area H (Temple remains).

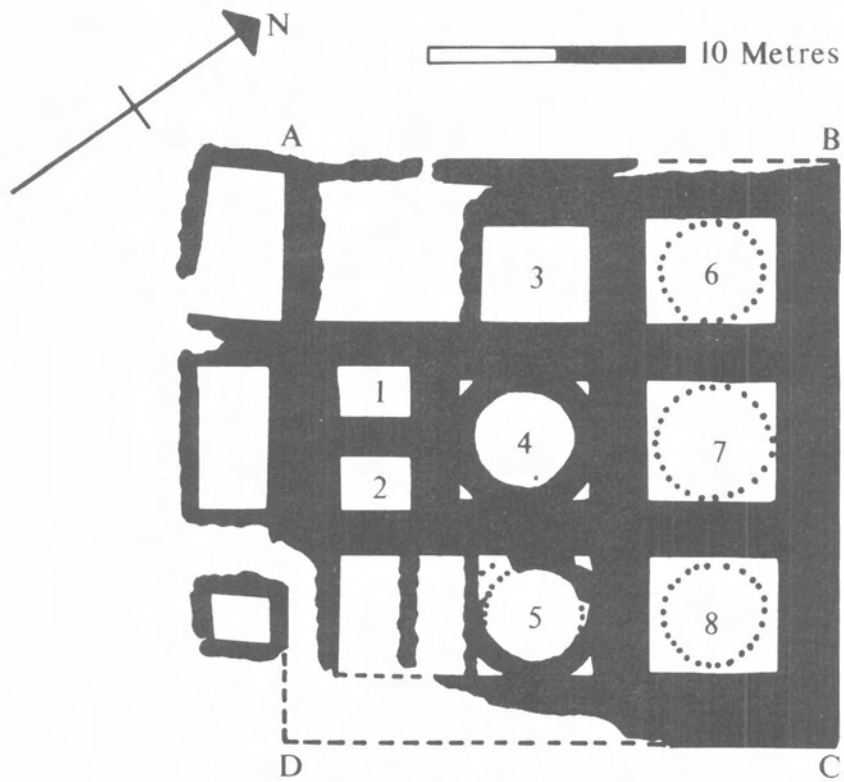


Figure 14 : Tukh el-Qaramus. Edgar excavations (after Edgar 1906: fig.2).

Edgar's description of the building. However, due to the badly worn condition of the surface of the walls, no constructional details could be recovered.

Nothing now remains of the "Granary", except the hollows in the ground marked at D. Only one of these is clearly traceable, but the other two can be approximately distinguished by their filling of reeds. It may be that this construction was not in fact a granary but part of a platform of cellular brickwork upon which buildings were then erected, a practice not uncommon on Delta sites (Lloyd 1983; Spencer 1979). It was, reportedly, slightly to the north of this area that Edgar discovered a series of tombs of uncertain date (Edgar 1906: 210-211).

Area K is the part of the *tell* with the most substantial remains of mud-brick buildings. In some cases the walls of parts of these buildings stand to a considerable proportion of their original height. The sharp variations in height at this part of the *tell* (see pls.38 & 39) make the provision of spot-heights on the plan more useful here than in the other, flatter parts of the mound, with their low-lying structures.

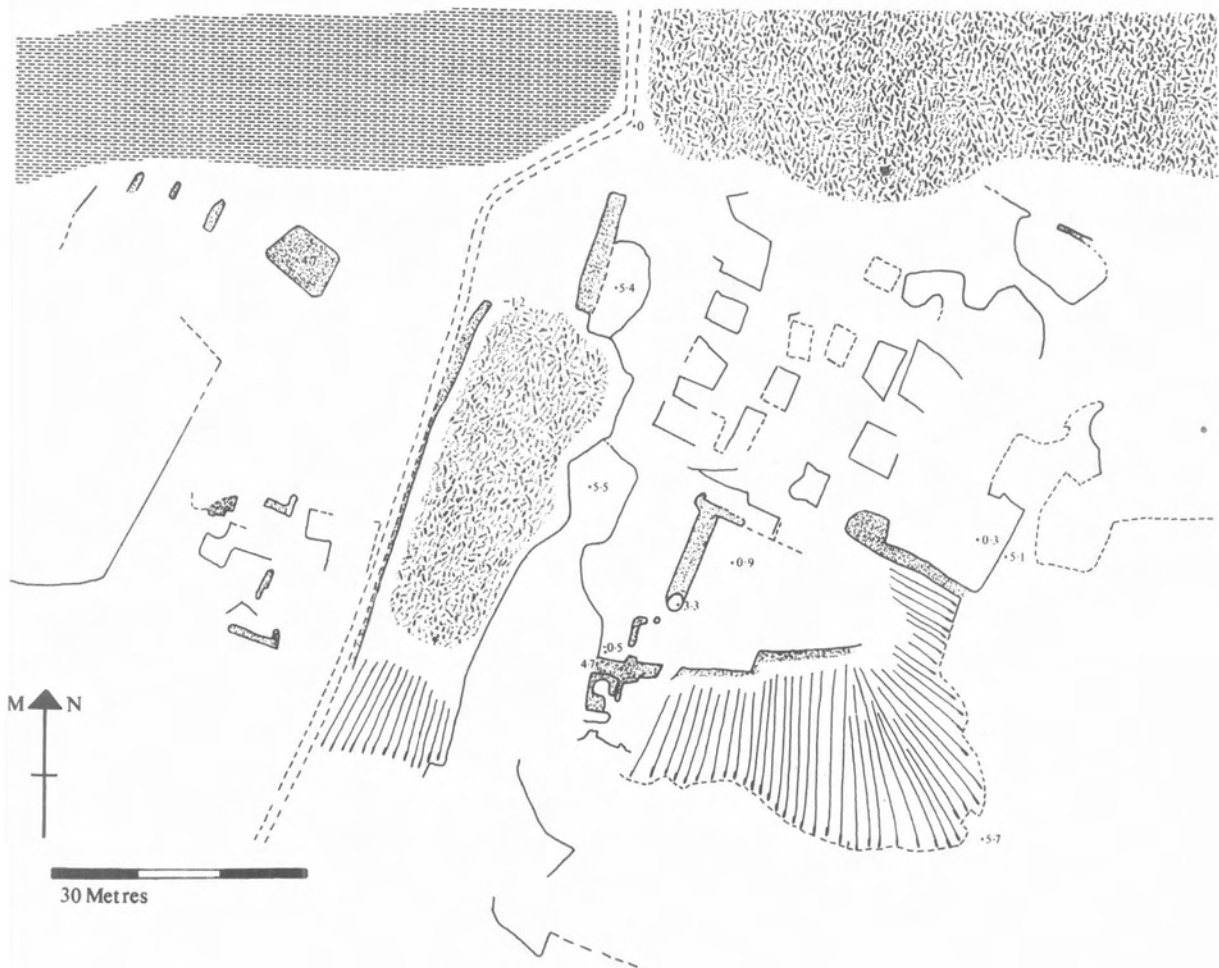


Figure 15 : Tikh el-Qaramus. Area K.



In the centre of this plan is a tract of land which slopes away fairly steeply to a marshy area. On either side of this gorge are the remains of large mud-brick walls (possibly to be identified as cross-walling), the westernmost example of which has a modern trackway running along the top of it for a distance. Further to the west are more traces of mud-brick structures: the four patches to the north being remnants of rampart wall.

To the east of the gorge a precipitous face, mostly composed of mud-brick walling, is backed by a mass of solidly packed sand and rubble. East of this promontory the ground falls sharply away again, to the floor level of another set of buildings. This area is surrounded by high ground not only to the west, but also to the south and east. While some of the chambers in the northern part of this 'bay' are easily traced (see pl.38), those which back onto the encircling slopes and cliffs tend to have survived to an even greater height (see pl.39). In this context one may particularly cite the vaulted chamber in the south-west corner of the 'bay'. However, the relationship of the structures in this area is still unclear and could probably only be resolved by excavation.

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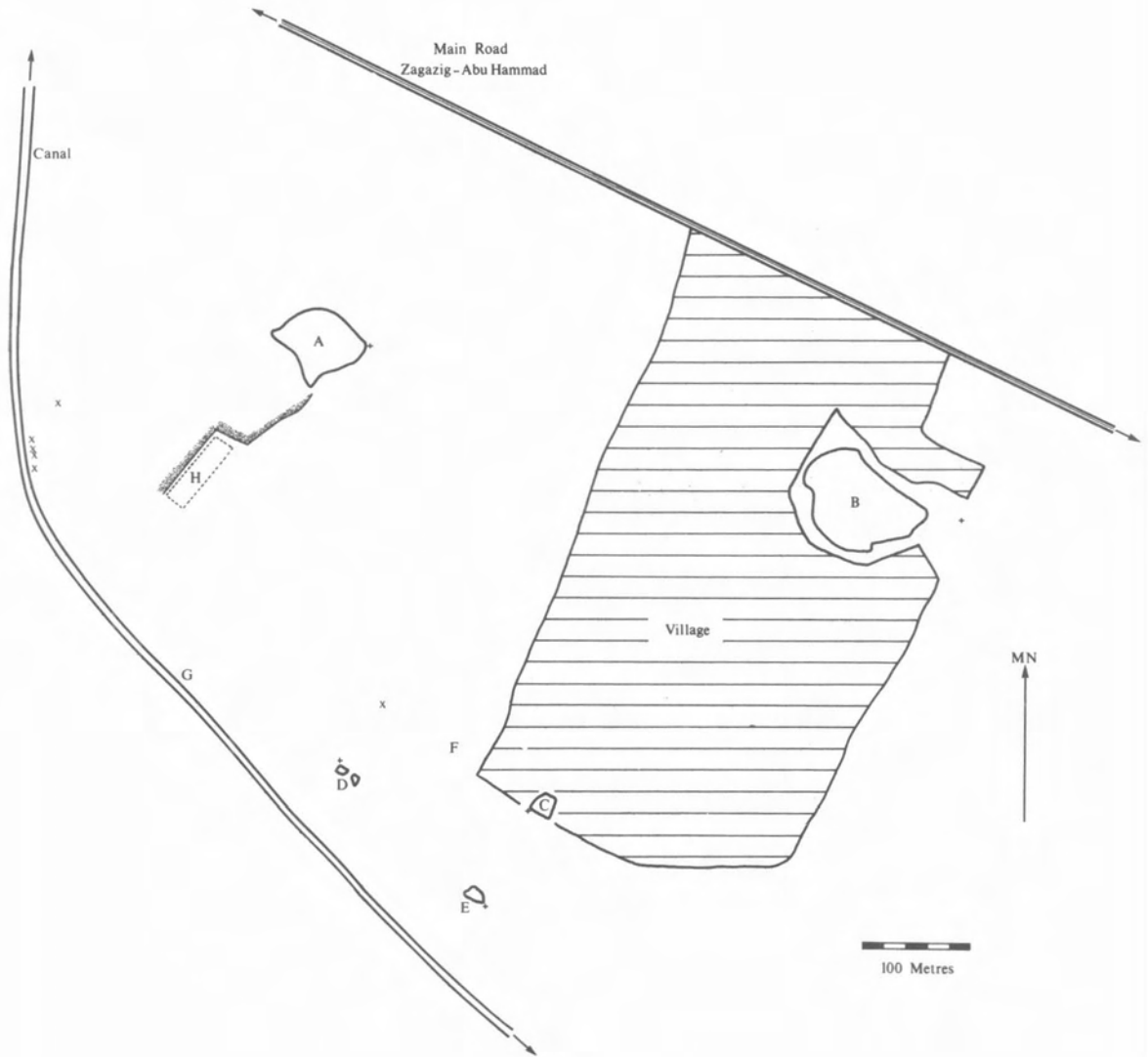


Figure 16 : Saft el-Henna. General Plan.

#### 4. - SAFT EL-HENNA

Saft el-Henna is situated 7 kilometres to the south-east of Zagazig on the main road to Abu Hamad. The remains of the ancient city of Pr-Sopedu are to be found within the modern village, and in the fields to the south and west of it. Saft is best known for the granite shrine of Nectanebo II, most of which was recovered by Naville during his work at the site in 1885. Naville described Saft as being:-

...on the site of an ancient city of considerable extent. Close to the canal, a large space is covered with mounds of decayed bricks and broken pottery, indicating a Roman settlement, where the direction of the streets is still discernible. This space is bounded on the south side by the remains of a wall made of large, crude bricks, and about 36 feet in width. The area of the old city does not end there. Farther to the east, beyond a brackish pond, is a high mound of ancient date, now used as a cemetery. The whole village is constructed on the ruins of old houses, many of which are still to be seen on the south side. It is probable that some years ago, the mounds covered a much larger space of ground than now; but as in the case of all these old Egyptian cities, the mounds have been worked for *sebakh* and thus have disappeared by degrees. (Naville 1887: 1)

The western boundary of the site is a canal which was once part of the old Pelusiac Branch of the Nile (Variant A/2, see Bietak 1975: 79 and fig.14). Immediately to the east of this canal was the site of the Temple, the main focus of Naville's activities at Saft:-

The most interesting place at Saft el-Henneh is a declivity which, starting from the large brick wall, slopes down towards the fields. It is partly occupied by a garden and a field of henneh. When I went there first, I saw at a distance of about a hundred and twenty yards from the wall, a large hollow half full of water, in which lay several blocks of basalt, and a block of black granite inscribed with hieroglyphs. (Naville 1887: 1)

These were fragments of the famous shrine. Apart from this major find Naville says that:-

I soon found the walls of the temple which contained the monolith; but beyond two more fragments of the naos, I discovered no inscribed stones in the temple itself, but only 142 basalt stones worked on one side, and prepared either for a wall or pavement. I cleared the area of the temple down to sand. The enclosure is made of brick walls from 15 to 18 feet thick. (Naville 1887: 2)

This area to the west of the village was illustrated in the form of a sketch-plan (Naville 1887: pl.10), reproduced as figure 17. However, Naville did not plan the large mound attached to the village, and only mentions it in passing in his publication of the site. More information on this part of the site is given in his report to the Egypt Exploration Fund:-

I followed the bank of the canal from Tell el-Kebir to Zagazig, and I arrived at Saft el-Henneh. At a short distance from the canal is the large tell of the market, which is limited on the south side by an old Pharaonic brick wall, about eleven metres wide; beyond the wall the tell slopes towards the fields, and there, in a hollow in which there was a good deal of water, I saw

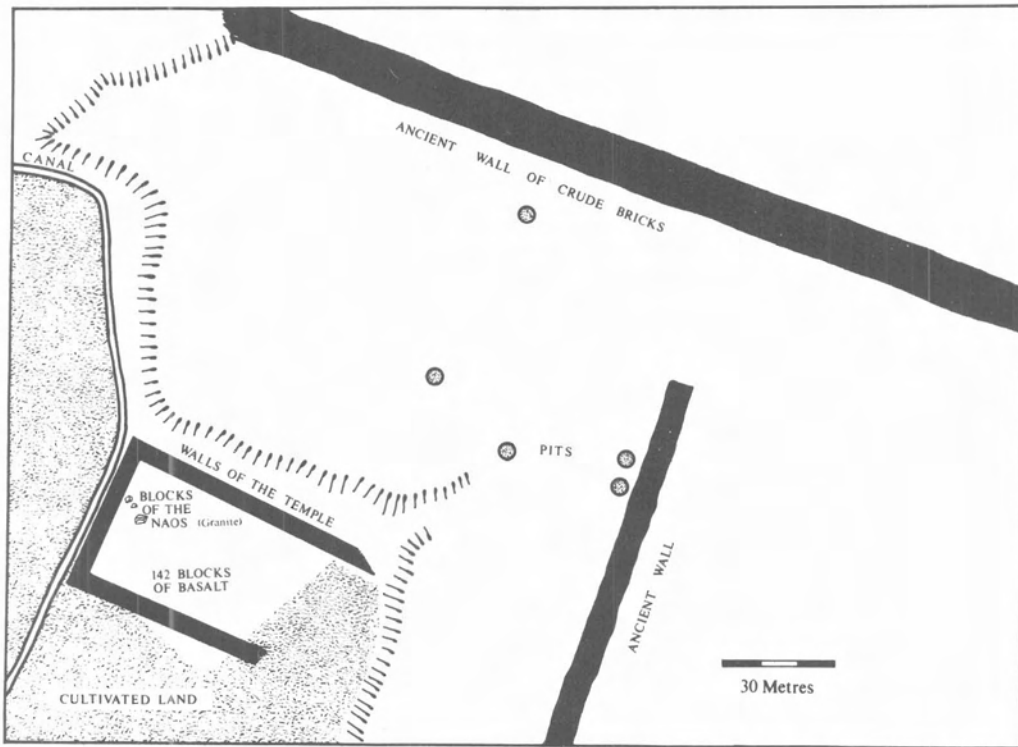


Figure 17 : Saft el-Henna in 1885 (after Naville 1887: pl.10).

blocks of black basalt, and a large piece of black granite, with inscriptions upon it...(Naville 1885: 39)

He goes on to mention that he recovered "nearly two hundred blocks of black basalt".

There is now very little to be seen of the remains described by Naville, for by far the greatest part of the area shown on figure 16 has been brought under the plough. Of the 142 basalt blocks only a few remain. The greatest concentrations of these blocks are two small, closely adjacent mounds to the south of the village and which are impregnated with basalt blocks (D on fig.16, see fig.18). Other loose blocks (marked as x on fig.16) are to be found in the environs of the village, notably five which are currently lying on or near the eastern bank of the canal (see pls.40 & 41). One detail which was noted about this latter set of basalt blocks was that one of them had dovetail joints with traces of plaster and corroded copper in them, probably the remains of the fitting of dovetail cramps which joined this block to another.

Further to the south, but still on the eastern bank of the canal, was found the limestone block illustrated in plate 42 (G on fig.16). The dimensions of this block are 122 cm wide by 44 cm tall and 70 cm thick. It

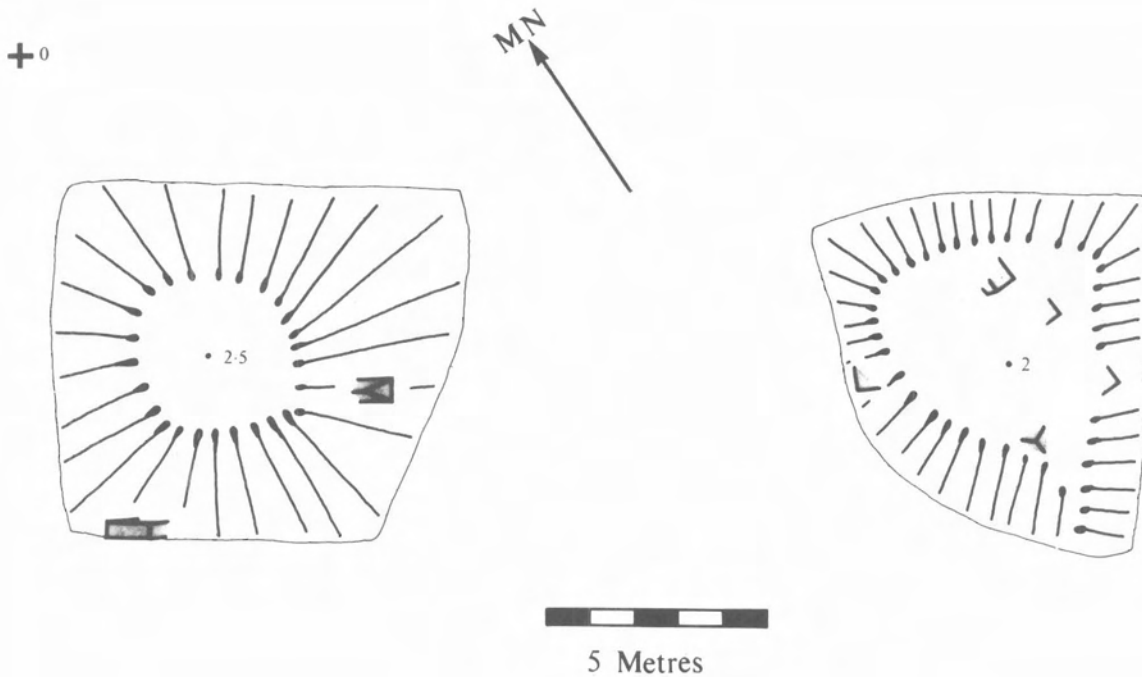


Figure 18 : Saft el-Henna. "Basalt Mounds".

is rather worn and in a poor state, but some elements of an incised scene and text could be discerned and copied (for facsimile copy see pl.48). Other evidence for limestone buildings in this area includes the very common use of fragments of limestone for agricultural puposes (e.g. as reinforcements in smaller canals and culverts ) and also the five rough but substantial blocks at F on figure 16 (see pl.43). These had been ploughed up during the cultivation of this area and were then dragged to a gap between two adjoining fields. The same process of removal of inconvenient masonry from agricultural land may account for the presence of the blocks alongside the canal, where they are least in the way. Another possible explanation is that some of these blocks were retrieved from the canal itself during its annual dredging, for Naville mentions that he dragged one block from the canal using tackles (Naville 1885, 39). This would seem to imply that the present course of the canal runs through the ancient temple precincts.

The most striking archaeological feature to be seen at Saft el-Henna is the large mound (B on fig.16, see pl.44), referred to hereafter by the tomb of the Sheikh which is situated at its far western side, Sheikh Abu Sidr. We were informed that the E.A.O. had carried out excavations on this mound during the early 1970's. Although the Survey of Egypt map shows this mound as standing outside, and just to the north of, Saft, it is in fact now

completely enclosed by the village. The mound (see fig.19) stretches from the tomb of Sheikh Abu Sidr (a) on the west, across a wide, flat plateau (currently used as a football pitch), featureless apart from a recently erected electricity sub-station (b). To the east of this plateau is a higher ridge which is probably to be identified with Navilles's "old Pharaonic brick wall, about eleven metres wide" and also mentioned by Petrie ("we pitched our tents on top of the broad brick wall on the eastern side of the ancient town of Goshen", Petrie 1906, 35) and by Montet ("le cimetière moderne est installé, comme il arrive souvent, sur un ancien mur d'enceinte", Montet 1942, 13). This ridge/wall runs north-east to south-west, and has smaller walls running off it at right-angles to the south-east. The south-eastern walls of these chambers are missing and the compartments formed by the three remaining walls are now used by the villagers as pens for animals or storage-bins for fodder (pl.45).

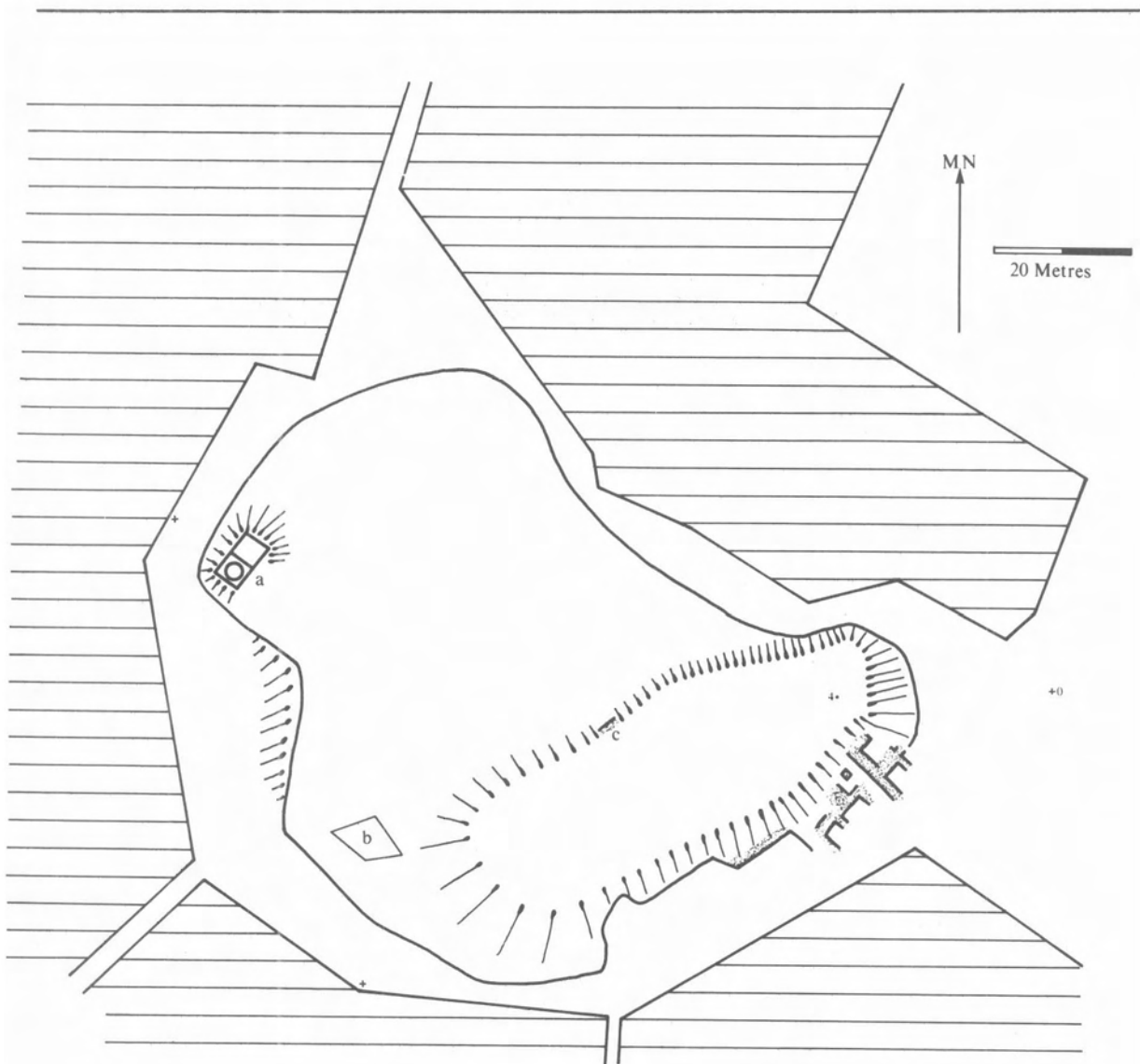


Figure 19 : Saft el-Henna. Abu Sidr Mound.



At a higher level, at the north-eastern end of the ridge, are the remains of two mud-brick tombs of vaulted construction; these are probably the sole remains of a Muslim cemetery which used to occupy this part of the mound. In the north-western face of this high ridge are traces of mud-brick walling (c), while most of the remainder of this higher portion of *tell* is covered by village refuse of every kind. So it seems that while the greater part of the mound is gradually being eroded away through human action, this part at least is still subject to the process of *tell*-formation through the deposition of domestic rubbish.

As when Naville visited Saft, many of the buildings within the village have fragments of ancient stone blocks built into them, although none were found with inscribed or decorated surfaces showing. The largest block to be located at Saft is in the centre of the village, where the ground-level is relatively high (some 2 metres above cultivation level). At least some of the modern houses here are built upon *tell* reflecting the survival of the ancient town-mound within the village.

One the southern edge of the village (and marked as C on fig.16) is a small mound which is, nevertheless, quite high - its summit is 2.5 metres above the cultivation, measured from the railway-line at its south-west corner. This hillock is protected by the Tomb of Sheikh Suliman, and a loose basalt block also lies atop it. This mound is also an indication of the original size of the ancient town-mound at Saft el-Henneh, before the activities of *sebakhin* and, especially, the expansion of the village at a lower level.

The only substantial remnant of the great expanse of ancient ruins shown on the Naville map of the area to the west of the village is, typically, a small mound (A on fig.16, see fig.20) protected by a tomb, that of Sheikh el-Ghamri (a on fig.20). On the south-east flank of the mound is a large modern house (b). Although in a very worn condition, this sandy hillock, 3 metres high, preserves part of the course of a large mud-brick wall (c) in its north-west corner. In the south-east corner, just south of the house, is part of a black granite statue of Ramses II, comprising the waist of the statue from just above the navel, the belt and part of the pleated kilt (pl.47). The dimensions of this large fragment are 72 cm wide x 39 cm tall x 57 cm thick. All the faces of the piece are broken, except for the front. The belt-buckle bears the cartouche of the king. This fragment was illustrated by Naville (Naville 1887: pl.8a) but, curiously, in reverse. A facsimile copy of the piece is given as plate 49.

Area d is a slope on the north-west side of the mound which was selected for the sampling of potsherd material. Diagnostic sherds were collected and these are illustrated in plates 50-52. More sherds were collected in area H, an uncultivated strip to the south-west of the el-Ghamri mound. These sherds are illustrated in plates 53-54. Running north-east to south-west immediately to the north and north-west of H is an edge, one metre high, which delimits a break between the generally low-lying fields around Saft, and a small portion of raised land which may correspond with the large mud-brick wall seen in this area by Naville and which may not have been completely levelled - certainly the face of this edge has the appearance of being composed of denuded mud-brick. To the north and west this raised area gradually slopes down to the level of the other fields.

To the south of the village a further remnant of *tell* was located. This is a small mound, 1.5 metres high and marked as E on figure 16. There is a railway-line survey marker near its south-east corner and the mound is surmounted by the Tomb of Sheikh Garas.

No other antiquities were located in this area although part of a basalt

statue of Ramses II was seen here by the German Expedition of 1930:-

Bei Saft el-Henna, etwa 300 m südlich des Dorfes, liegen am Rand eines Feldes zwei Stücke einer Basaltstatue Ramses II. Der eine Block von etwa 63 cm Länge und 56 cm Dicke mit dem Schurz und einem Teil des Rückenpfeilers der Statue trägt auf dem Rückenpfeiler unter dem Zeichen des Himmels in zwei senkrechten Zeilen die Inschrift. (Neuffer *et al* 1932: 57, pl.XI.c)

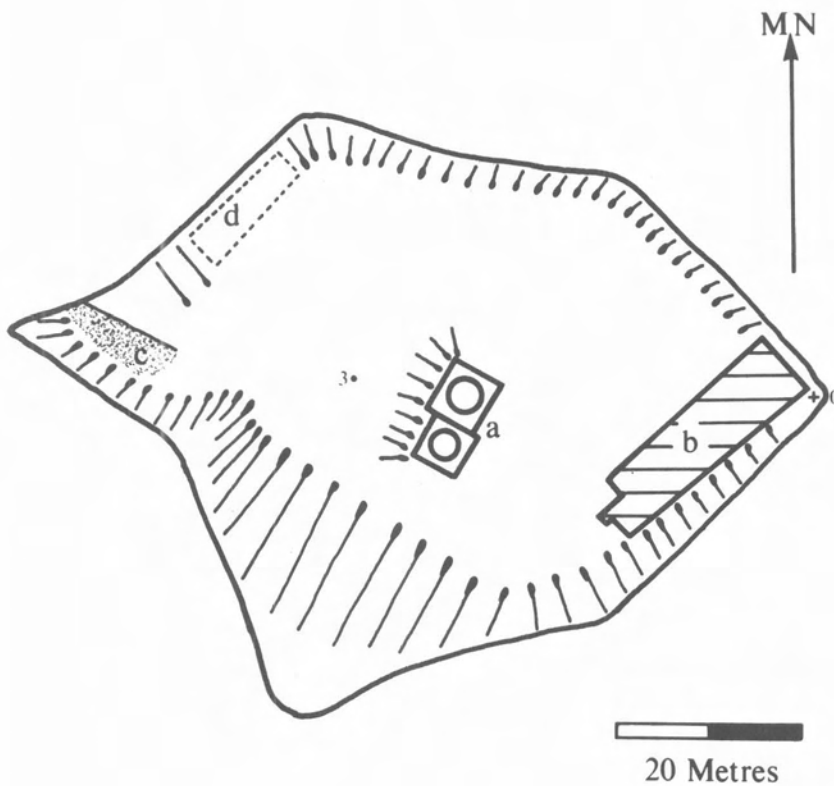


Figure 20 : Saft el-Henna. El-Ghamri Mound.



It may be noted that the excavations of Petrie at Saft el-Henna (Petrie 1906: 35-47) were not at Saft proper, but on a *gezira* about one kilometre to the south-east of the village, which seems to have served as a cemetery area for the ancient community at Saft. The north part of this barren mound is known as Kafr Sheikh Zikr, and was the main location of Petrie's work at "Saft el-Henna". Here, even today, there are occasional stray finds of antiquities. The south side of this mound is called Abu Qawuq where the excavations of the Egyptian Antiquities Service, "a mis au jour un cimetière d'époque gréco-romaine. Il comportait treize tombes de briques crues et une sépulture cylindrique en poterie. Le matériel recueilli se compose de céramiques et de verres." (Leclant 1973: 396)

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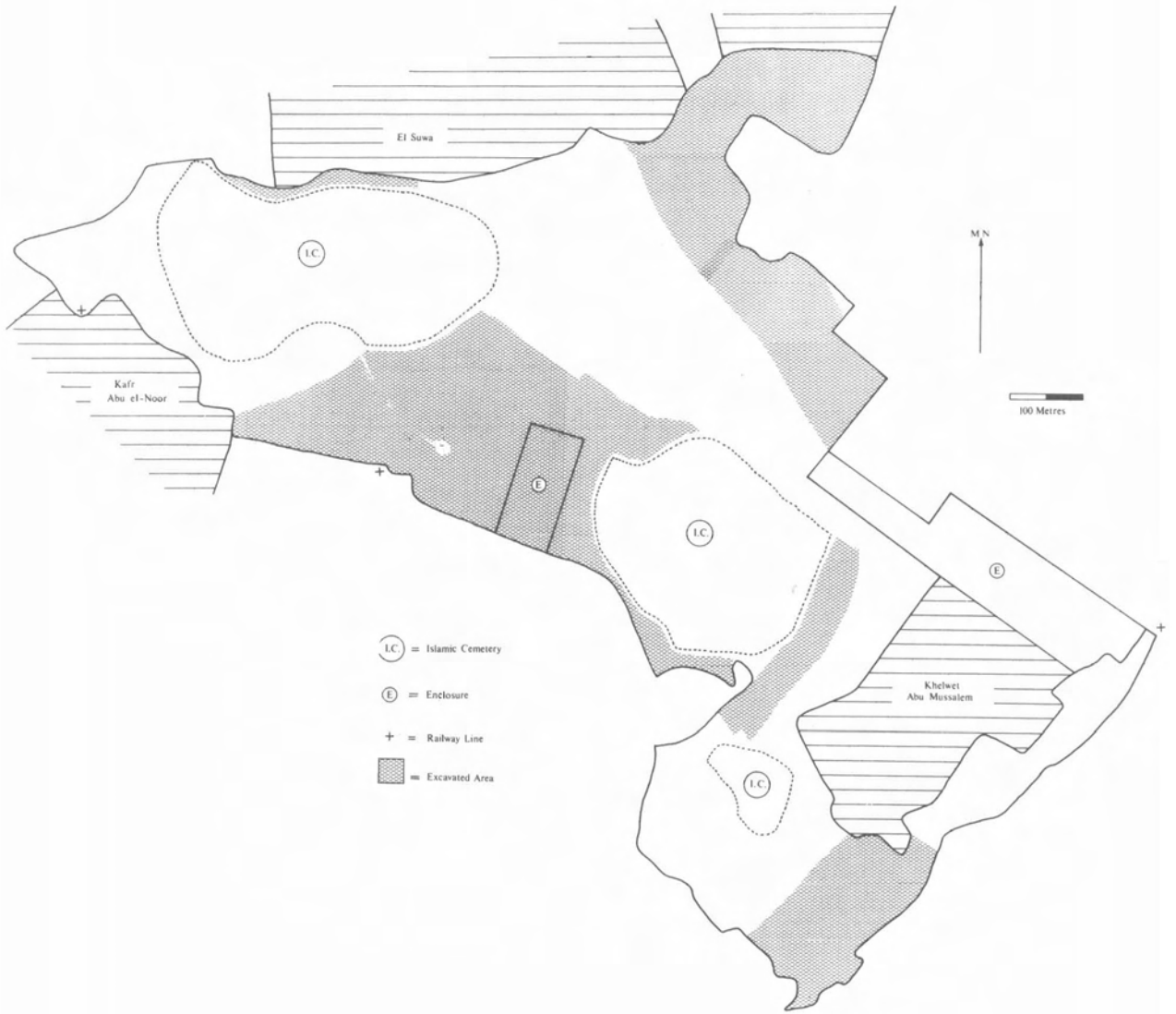


Figure 21 : Suwa. General Plan.

## 5. - GEZIRET EL-SUWA

The site generally referred to as Geziret el-Suwa is a large *gezira* located 3 kilometres south-south-east of Saft el-Henna, and is named after el-Suwa, one of the villages which situated on the fringes of the mound and on the cultivation adjoining it (fig.21). Because of the height of the *gezira* and its subsequent exemption from flooding during the inundation, it has been in continual use since at least as early as the New Kingdom as a cemetery for adjacent communities. The present landscape of the *gezira* is one of large empty stretches of sand/gravel and equally large Islamic cemeteries. The latter include several which are in current use (the central and north-western cemeteries on fig.21) as well as an older series of somewhat delapidated Muslim tombs to the south-east (pl.55).

Although the site has been extensively dug for antiquities (see pl.56), there has been little published matter on the material from Suwa. Petrie carried out part of a season of excavation there, the excavations at Suwa being directed for him by J. Garrow Duncan (see Garrow Duncan 1906). The Egyptian Antiquities Organisation has spent several seasons digging at Suwa during the 1960's (excavations directed by Mr. M.Mohsen and Mr. M.Basta) and early 1970's (Leclant 1964: 341; Leclant 1966: 133; Nibbi 1979; Leclant 1982, 57). According to Leclant (Leclant 1973: 396) Mr.M.A.Musallami carried out excavations near Suwa village which resulted in the discovery of "tombes contenant vases et amulettes en pierres et en faïence", and also further south near Khelwet Abu Musallam where "deux sépultures ont été trouvées dans le sable.... Dans un cas le défunt était en position contractée et dans l'autre il était accompagné d'un grand vase". In 1980-81 Mr. M.S.Salib also dug near Khelwet Abu Musallam and found tombs, including 'slipper' coffins and pot-burials of children. Since 1983 Mr. H.Abd el-Tariq has continued excavating at Suwa for the E.A.O., towards the south of the mound. The extent of the visible signs of all these excavations may be seen on our Main Plan for the site, figure 21.

The *gezira* was previously even larger than it appears today; it is being steadily dismantled for agricultural and building purposes, a process which had already begun while Garrow Duncan was working there:-

On the western side of Suwa, the *gezireh* has been so much denuded by *sebakh* diggers, that most of the graves here were utterly destroyed, fragments of bones being visible all over the surface. One small part, however, remained, close on the edge of the hennah fields; and this, as will be seen later, was sufficient to show that the burials in this denuded part had all been of Ptolemaic and Roman dates. A much greater part, and probably the more important and valuable, has been put under cultivation for the growth of hennah. When taking in a piece of *gebel* for cultivation, the natives begin by removing two or three feet of the surface sand, with a kind of flat-bottomed drag, drawn by oxen, and they pile the sand in heaps, using it up gradually for various purposes. In this way, they sometimes begin cultivating at a level only a few inches above the graves, that probably contain valuable information, which is thus lost to the world, at least for the present, if not forever. (Garrow Duncan 1906: 47).

Today the mound is not a particularly rich source of fertiliser but sand and gravel are constantly being removed for building materials. Moreover, there is a programme of taking those parts of the mound which have been

excavated by the E.A.O. and turning it into land suitable for cultivation. This process consists of the building of a low enclosure wall around the area to be cultivated, and the construction of a water-pumping station on the side nearest to the centre of the mound so that it can be properly irrigated. The most obvious example of this is the large rectangular feature on the centre of the south-western side of the mound, while many of the fields which are immediately next to the *gezira* (especially on the north-eastern and south-western edges), and which are now covered by orchards, are successful examples of this.

Some of the excavated area is used for building - for example, the western part of the village of el-Suwa, which is gradually creeping up to the edge of the northern Islamic Cemetery. Occupying the diminishing area between village and modern cemetery are a series of mud-brick tombs (pls.57 & 58) which seem to be those excavated by Garrow Duncan (Garrow Duncan 1906: 47) and include the remains of "four-chambered square pits" which he dated to the Third Intermediate and Late Periods (Garrow Duncan 1906: 49-50).

No ancient domestic or sacral buildings were located at Suwa - the only structures to be seen were other, previously excavated, mud-brick chambered tombs. Those unearthed by the E.A.O. are in the central-northern part of the mound at the northern edge of the large excavated area which stretches from the south-western edge of the *gezira* up to the northern Islamic Cemetery. The largest of the chambered tombs here (pl.59) was some 12 metres square and consisted of 9 (3x3) square chambers, provided with now-destroyed domed roofs. The walls of this tomb were 3 metres tall and had connecting doors between the chambers. But most tombs to be seen at Suwa were much smaller than this; some being composed of 4 (2x2) chambers (like the ones near Suwa village) or of a single vaulted chamber (pl.60).

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## 6. - SHAGAMBA

The site of Shagamba (also known as Tell Miniet el-Habib) is situated 6 kilometres to the north-west of Bilbeis, and 14 kilometres to the south of Zagazig. Like Suwa, Shagamba was partially excavated by Petrie's team (the work at Shagamba was also directed by J. Garrow Duncan) in 1906 (Garrow Duncan 1906). At this time the ruins of the ancient settlement were relatively well-preserved; the village of Shagamba and its two associated cemeteries only covered about one third of the total extent of the remains of the site. Petrie's plan of Shagamba is reproduced as figure 23, but since no directional indicator was given on this map the north arrow is only approximate, based on a comparison of his map with our plan of the site. Today, the same processes of urban and agricultural development which have decimated so many other sites in the Delta have been at work at Shagamba and the only areas which preserve any *in-situ* remnants of the Pharaonic settlement are those which are protected by the two cemeteries (fig.22).

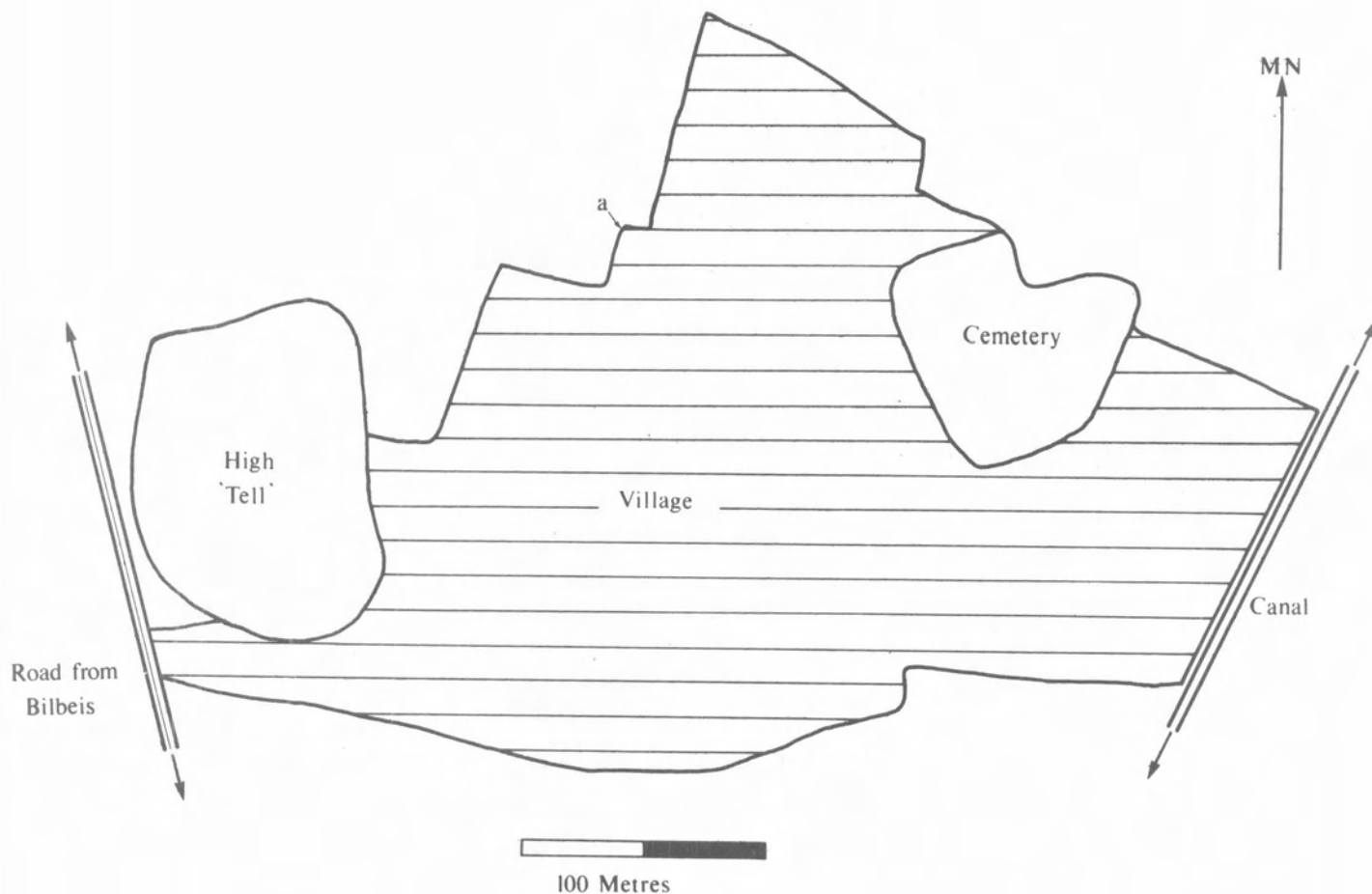


Figure 22 : Shagamba. Main Plan.

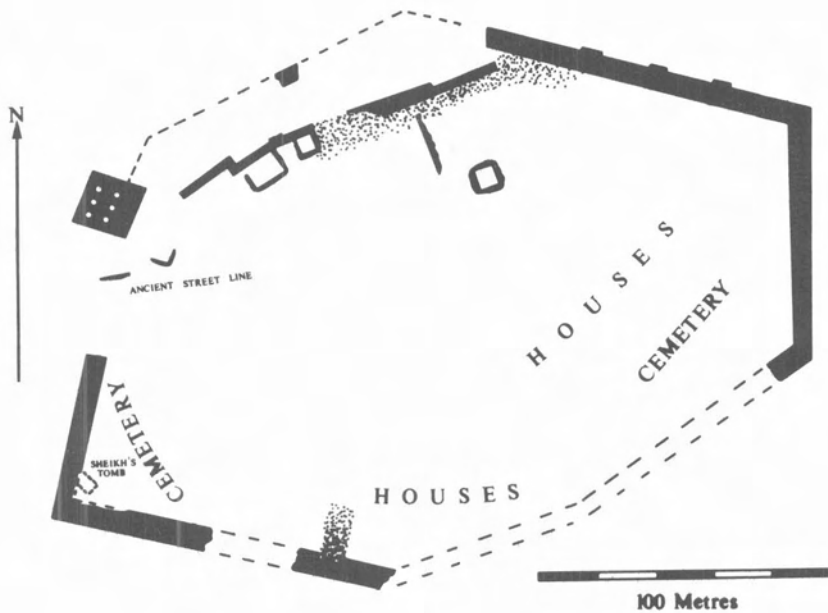


Figure 23 : Shagamba in 1906 (after Petrie 1906: pl.xxxix.M).

As one approaches Shagamba on the new tarmac road from Bilbeis, the first sight of the village is of a tall, steep-sided mound of a dark-grey muddy hue, topped by a whitewashed tomb (pl.61). This mound is 10 metres tall (measured from the local datum point, the railway-line which is just to the south-east of the high mound) and was one of the two points where the ancient walls stood to their greatest height when Petrie visited the site.

Most of this high mound (fig.24) has been taken over for cemetery usage, including even parts of the steep slope on its western side, where the slope of the mound has been cut into to build tombs. The whole of the flat top is covered with tombs, as it slopes down to the north until the mound is only a few feet above ground level - it then falls straight down (bounded by a wall) to the surrounding fields. Scattered upon the southern, eastern and what is not built on of the western slope is the rubble of old, and not so old, delapidated tombs. We were told that the Egyptian Antiquities Organisation intended to excavate on this mound, but were prevent from doing so for health reasons. Certainly the high mound at Shagamba is a most unsavoury and unhealthy place to be as new tombs are constantly being dug into older ones.

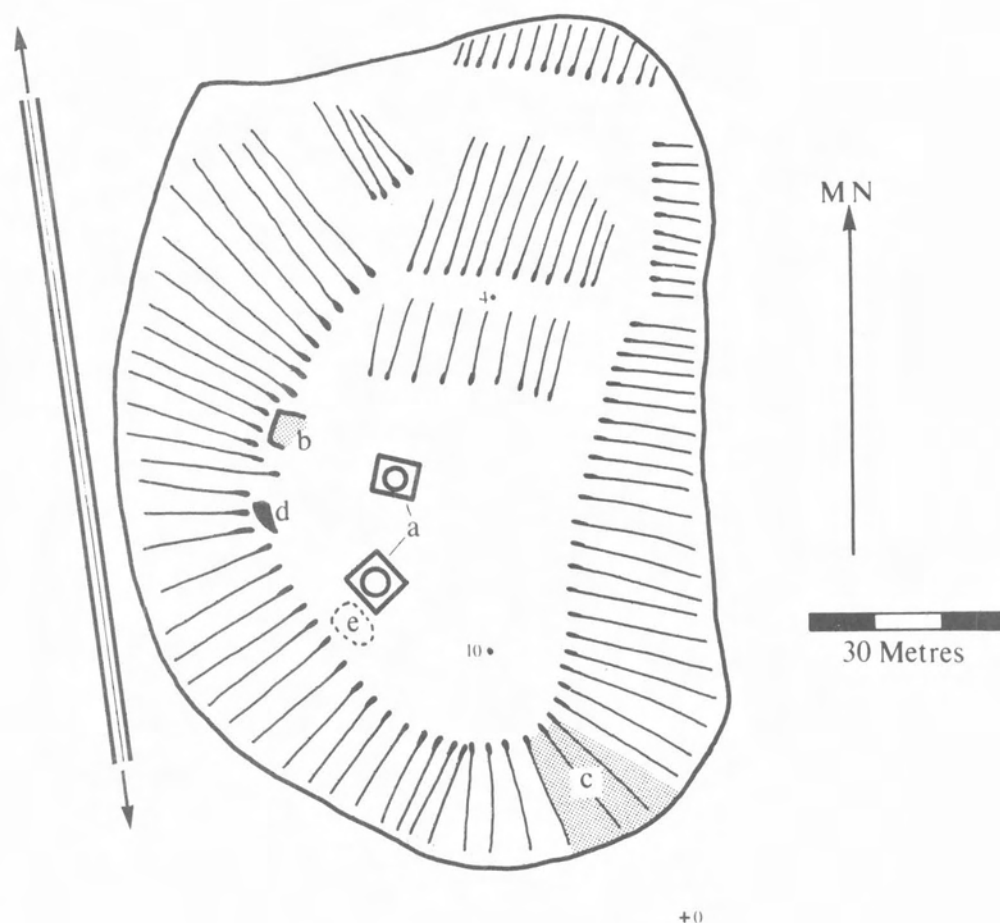


Figure 24 : Shagamba. High Mound.

Our observations seemed to confirm that this mound is indeed largely composed of solid brickwork. The whole of the mound has the appearance of crumbled mud-brick, especially on the south-east slope where the surface dust seemed to only slightly overlie the layers of brickwork (pl.62). On the western side of the high mound is a jutting portion of brickwork (pl.63) 7 metres above the local datum. Just to the south of this mud-brick walling, but on a slightly higher level (8 metres above local datum) a small portion of 'sand-wall' was visible in the slope - the only remnant of such a wall which we were able to locate. Garrow Duncan (Garrow Duncan 1906: 52-53) writes of this 'sand-wall' as representing the latest phase of fortification at Shagamba, overlying the earlier mud-brick wall, but the paucity of remains of both sets of walls was such that we were unable to further confirm or refute Garrow Duncan's opinion of the site without further excavation.



Garrow Duncan records that Shagamba was also referred to by the villagers as "Burru el-Yussef", 'the Pits of Joseph', recalling the Biblical tradition of grain storage against times of famine. This arose from the discovery of ancient granaries by the inhabitants of Shagamba before the arrival of European archaeologists. Petrie's excavations in the north-west corner of the site produced a solid, square platform of mud-brick in which were set six dome-roofed chambers. This structure seems to have been situated at the north/north-east end of the high mound as it stands today, although no trace of it is now visible. It was reported, however, that while digging new graves on top of the high mound, the villagers occasionally still come across mud-brick chambers containing grain, although the exact location of such chambers was unclear.

While we were surveying the high mound it was noticed that a pit had recently been dug next to the large white tomb. This is marked as e on figure 24. On examination this pit yielded a number of diagnostic sherds, which are illustrated in plates 65-69.

Apart from the high mound there is little remaining of archaeological interest at Shagamba. The eastern cemetery also preserves part of the ancient ruins, but at a much lower level than the high mound, being only 2 metres above the cultivation level. No particular features can be distinguished on this low mound. Moreover, the practice of re-using ancient masonry seems not to be as common at Shagamba as at many other East Delta sites which are now modern villages, at least as far as detecting such re-uses on the exterior of modern buildings is concerned. One exception is the threshold of the large white tomb on the High Mound, which was composed of part of a marble pillar (cf. the same practice noted at Herakleopolis in Naville 1894: 23). Our only other 'stray finds' of ancient masonry were two very large fragments of limestone at a on figure 22. The first of these fragments was a roughly cube-shaped block which is mostly sunk into the ground at the boundary of the fields and the village, but seems to be about 1.75 metres square. The second fragment is illustrated in plate 64.

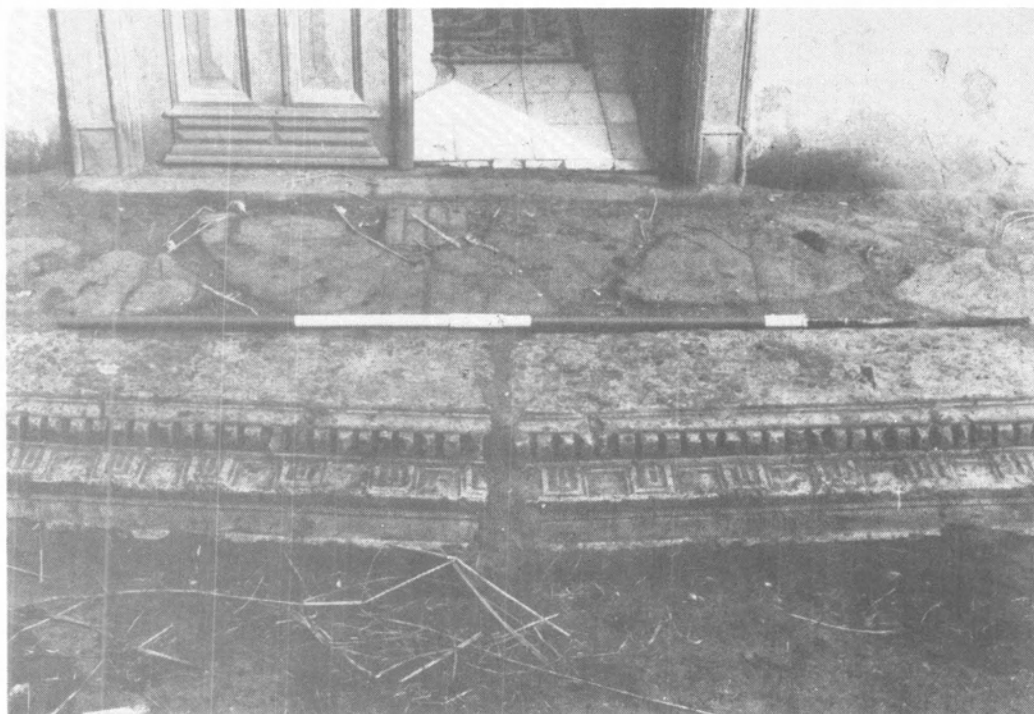
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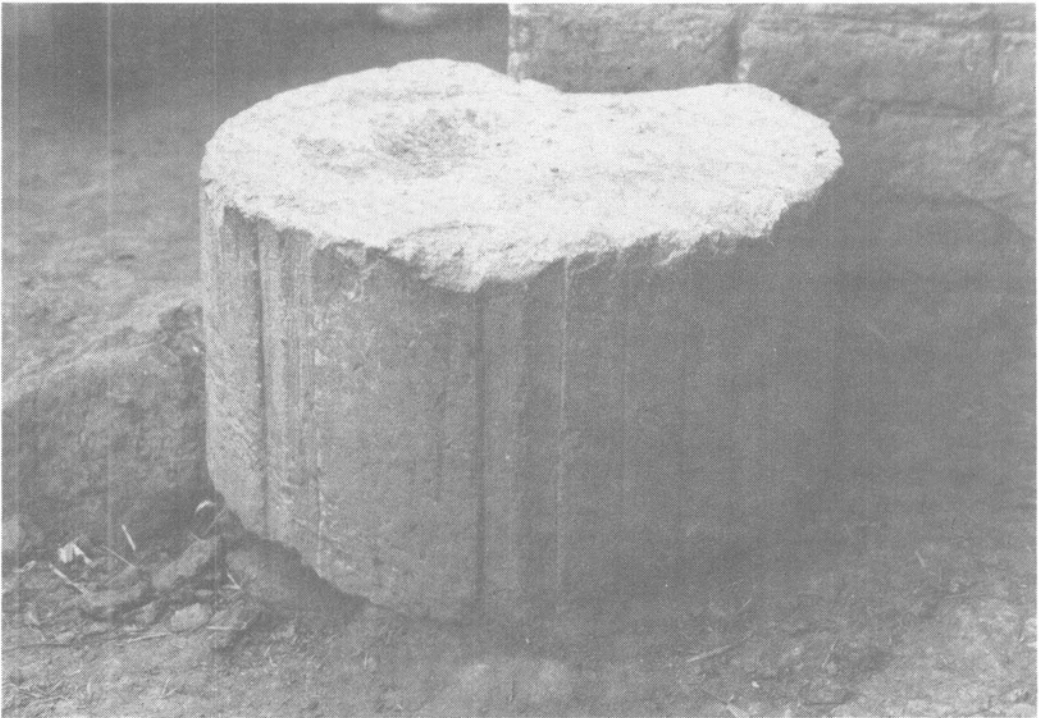
1 : Horbeit. Granite column-base (d on fig.3).



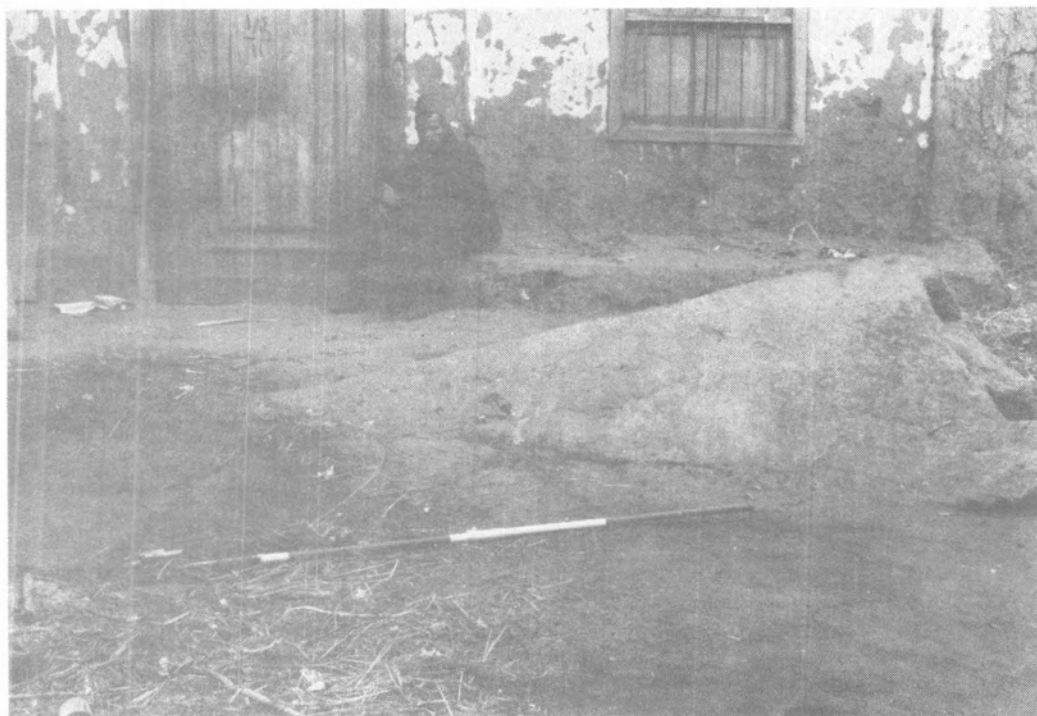
2 : Horbeit. Architectural elements (a on fig.3).



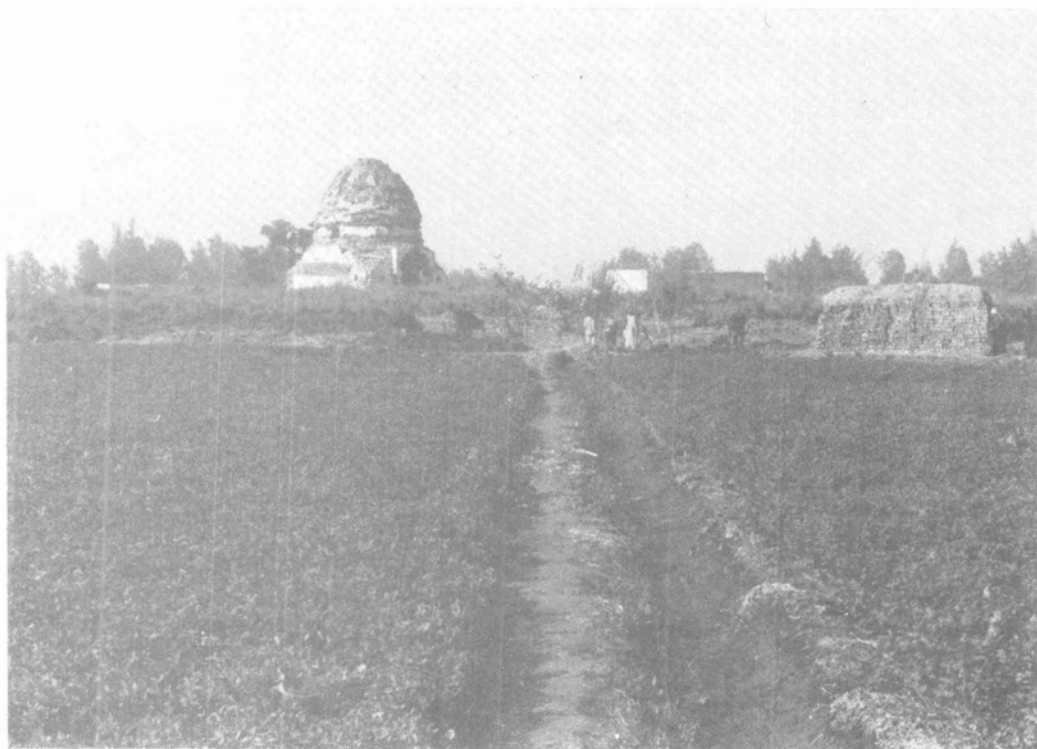
3 : Horbeit. Limestone torus-roll (e on fig.3).



4 : Horbeit. Limestone column-drum (e on fig.3).



5 : Horbeit. Granite block in the western courtyard (C on fig.3).



6 : Horbeit. Cemetery mound (E on fig.3).





7 : Horbeit. Alabaster column-base (b on fig.4).



8 : Horbeit. Limestone block (a on fig.4).



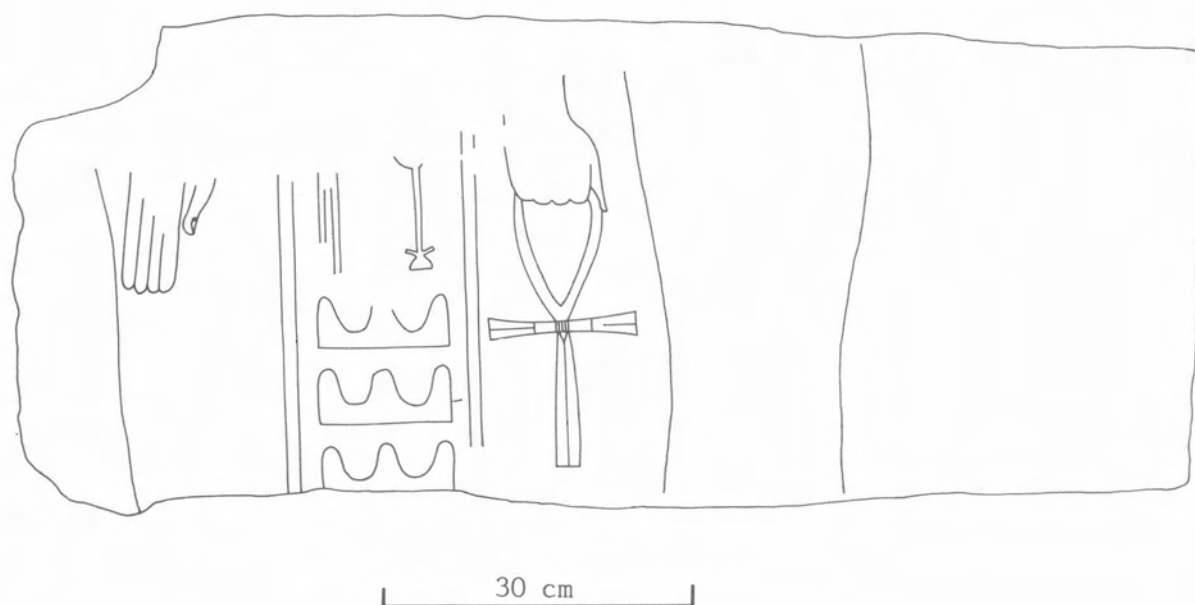
9 : Horbeit. Granite column-drum to the south of area A.



10 : Horbeit. Southern slope of the mound in area D.

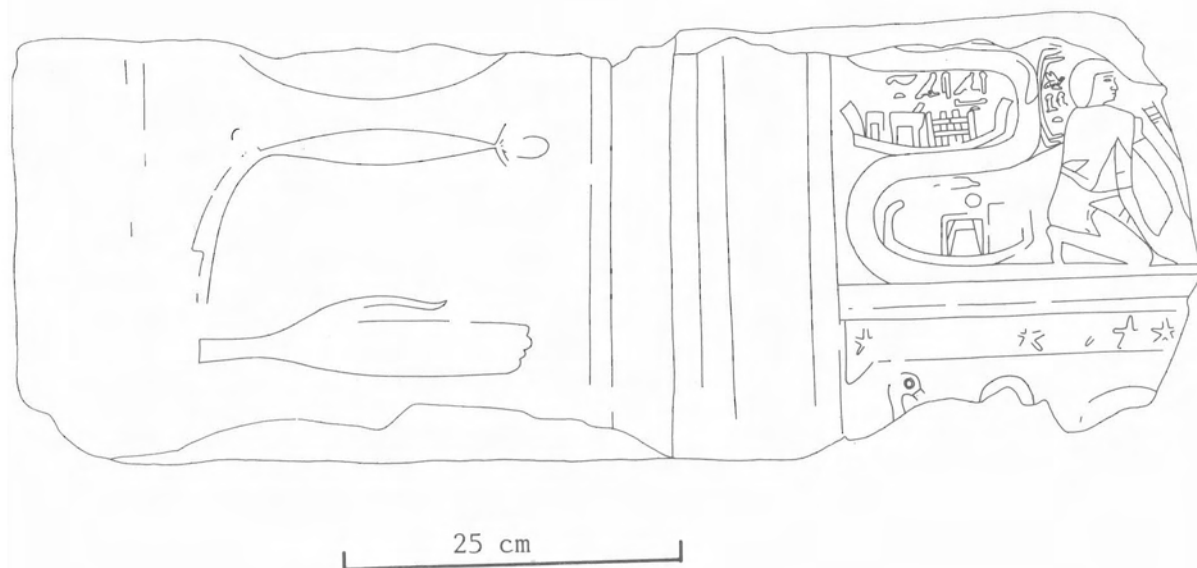


11 : Horbeit. Eastern face of the mound in area D.

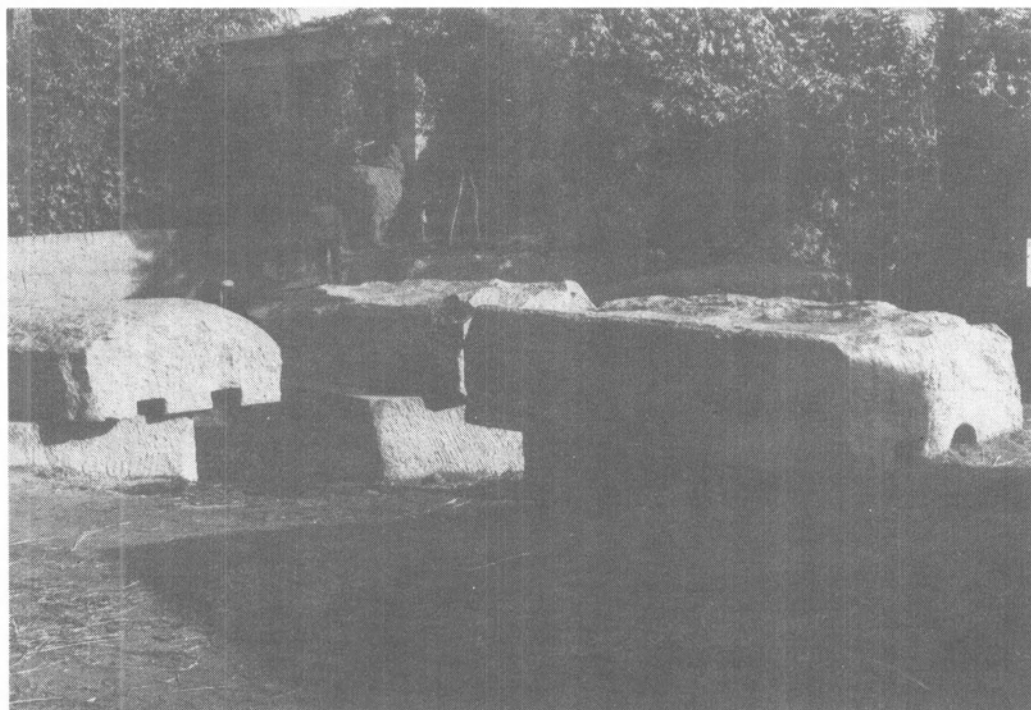


12 : Horbeit. Facsimile copy of inscribed block at a in area A.

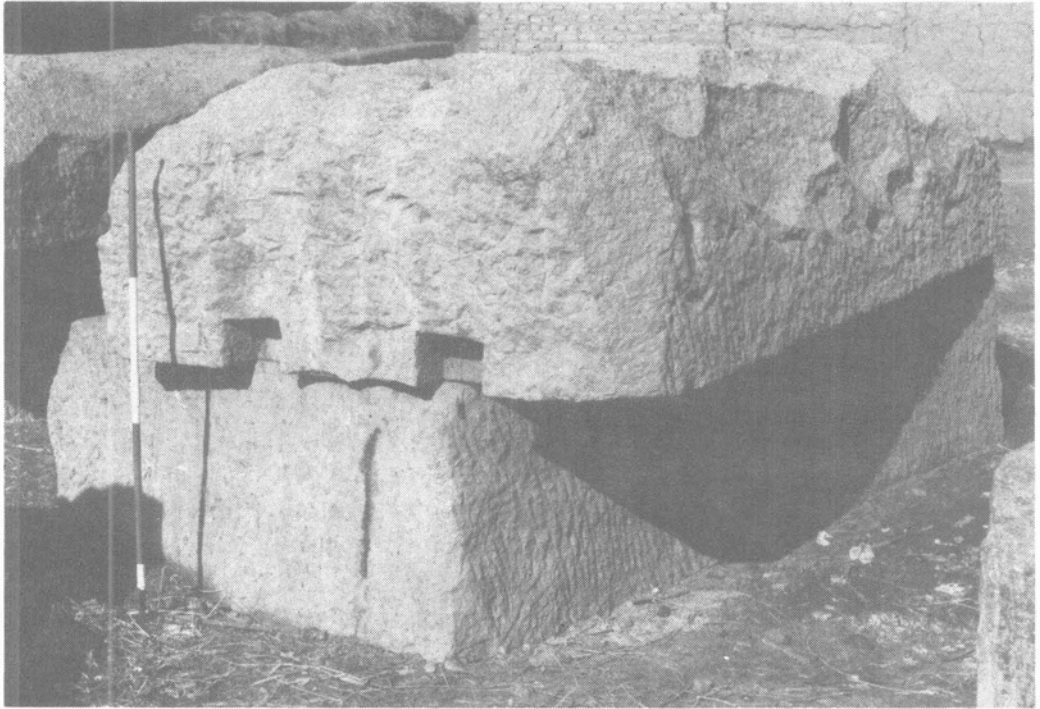




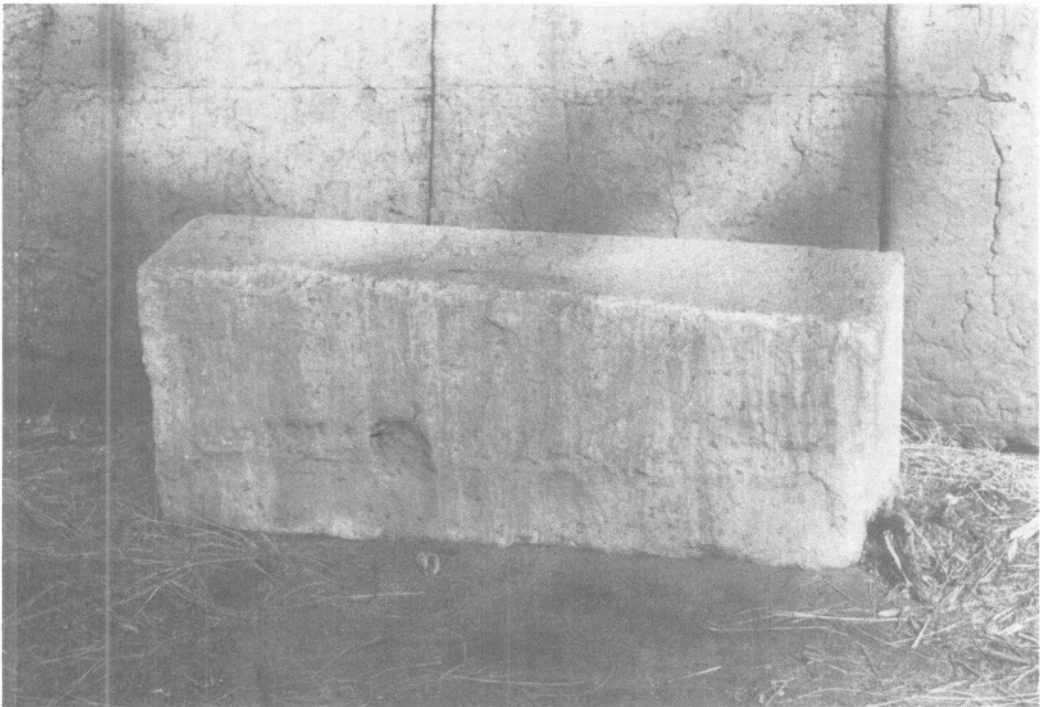
13 : Horbeit. Facsimile copy of inscribed block at a in area A.



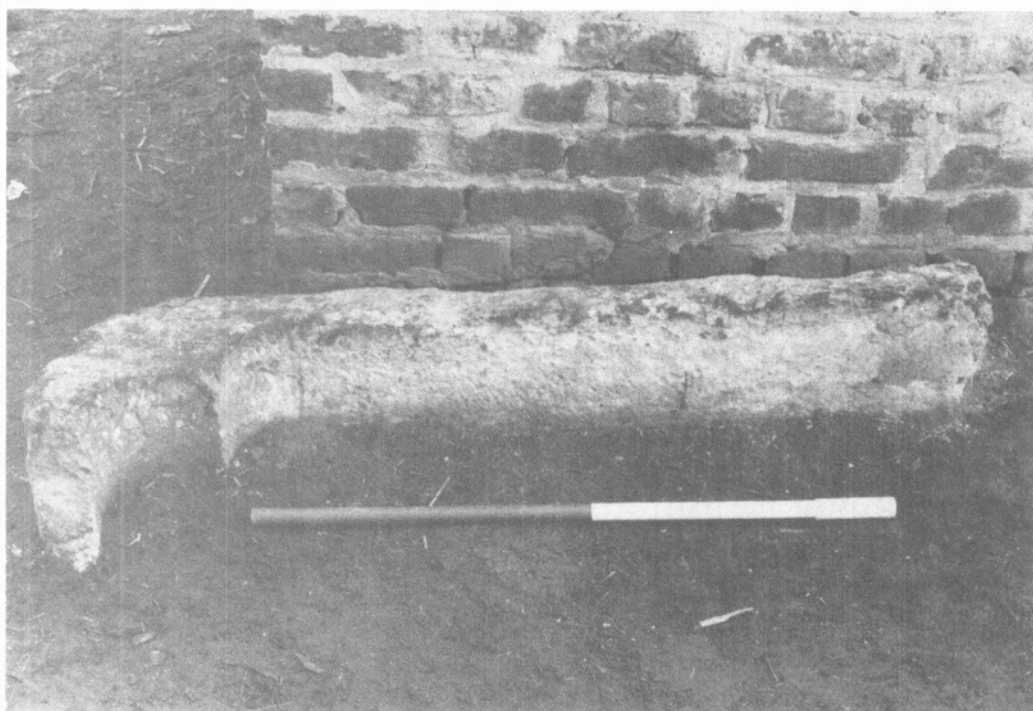
14 : Abu Yassin. Granite Bull sarcophagi (A on fig.6).



15 : Abu Yassin. Granite Bull sarcophagus.



16 : Abu Yassin. Limestone Bull sarcophagus (b on fig.6).



17 : Abu Yassin. Broken limestone sarcophagus (a on fig.6).



18 : Tukh el-Qaramus. Rampart wall to the north of area A (see fig.10).



19 : Tukh el-Qaramus. Areas D and X.

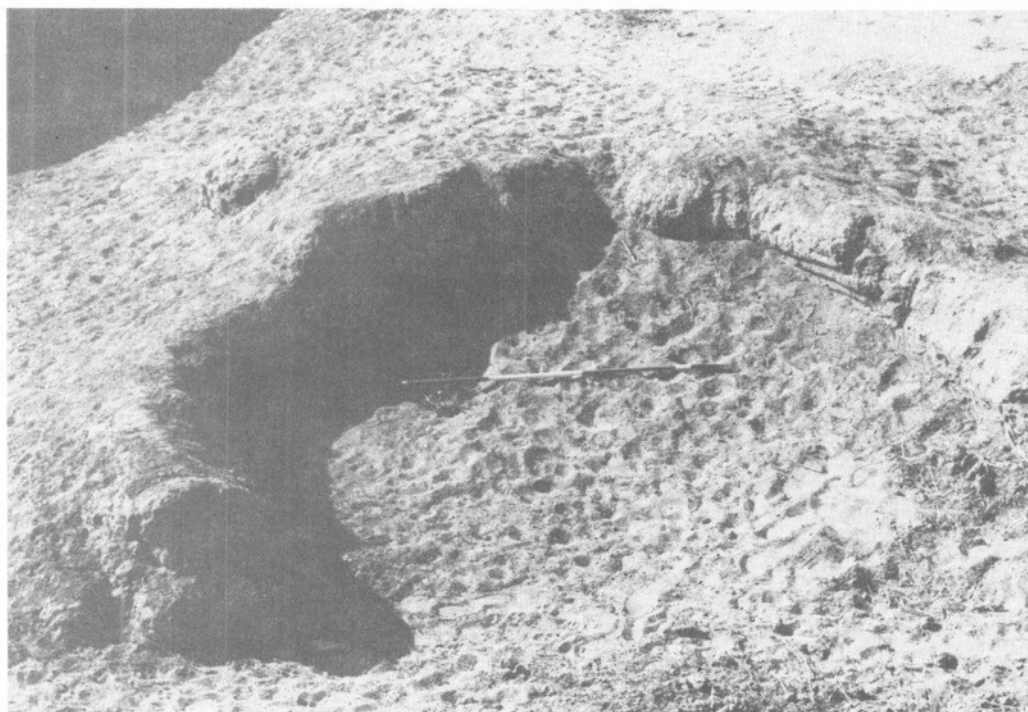


20 : Tukh el-Qaramus. Mud-brick structure on the north-eastern edge of area D.

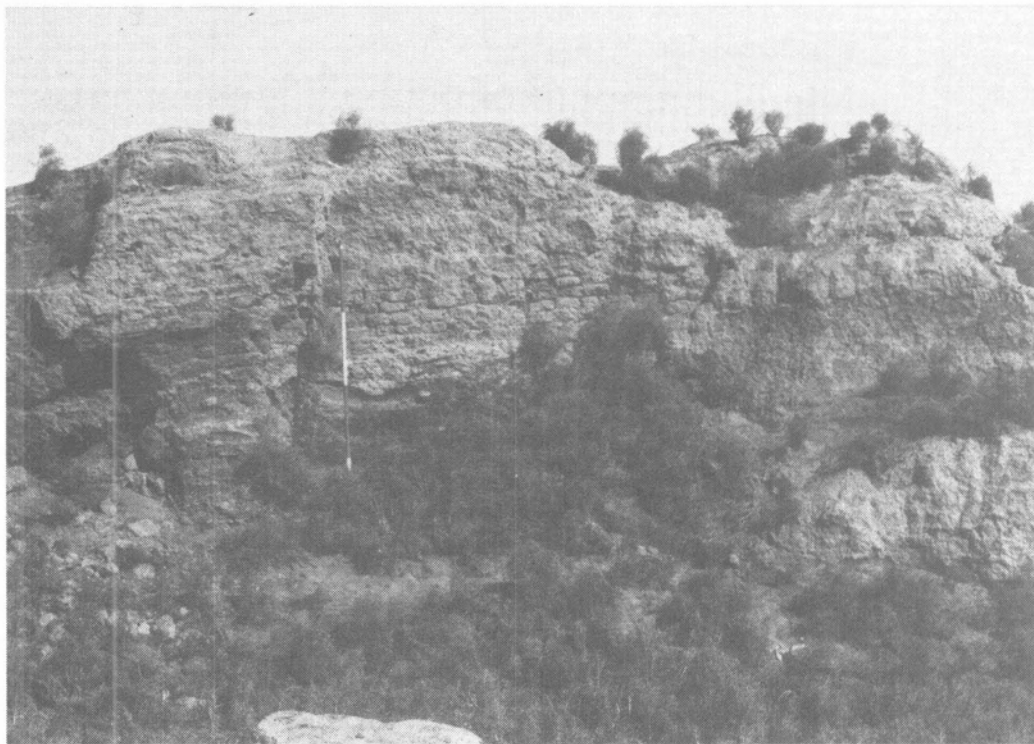




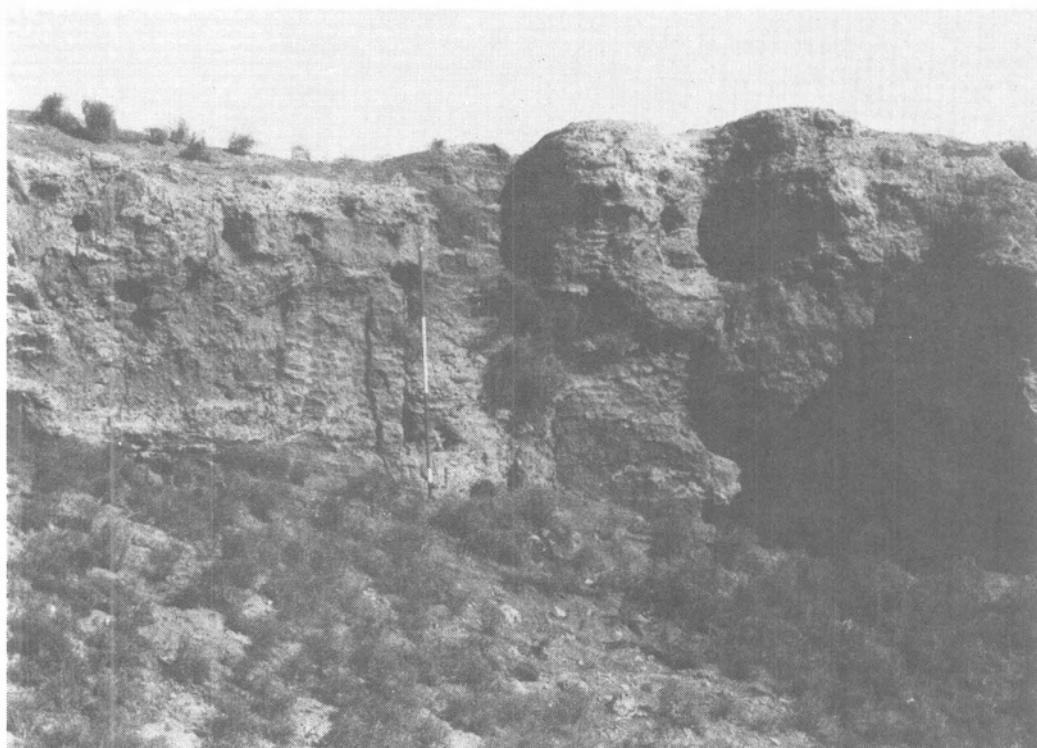
21 : Tukh el-Qaramus. Building on the northern slope of area D.



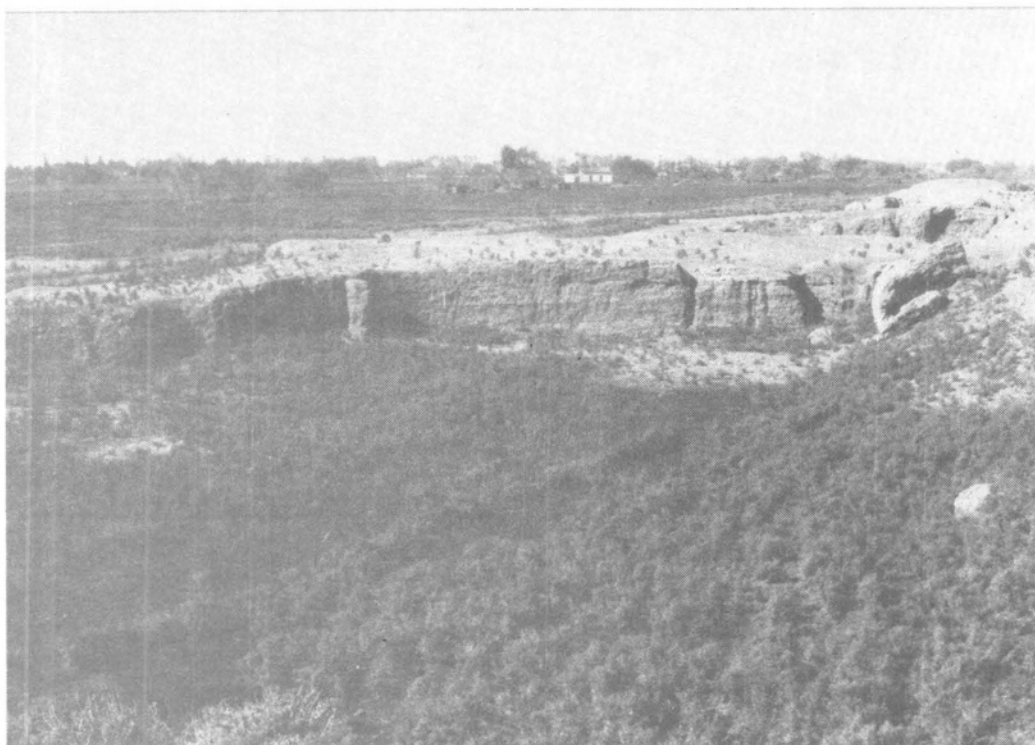
22 : Tukh el-Qaramus. Interior of the building on the north-western slope of area D.



23 : Tikh el-Qaramus. Vestiges of rampart wall in area E.



24 : Tikh el-Qaramus. Vestiges of rampart wall in area E.

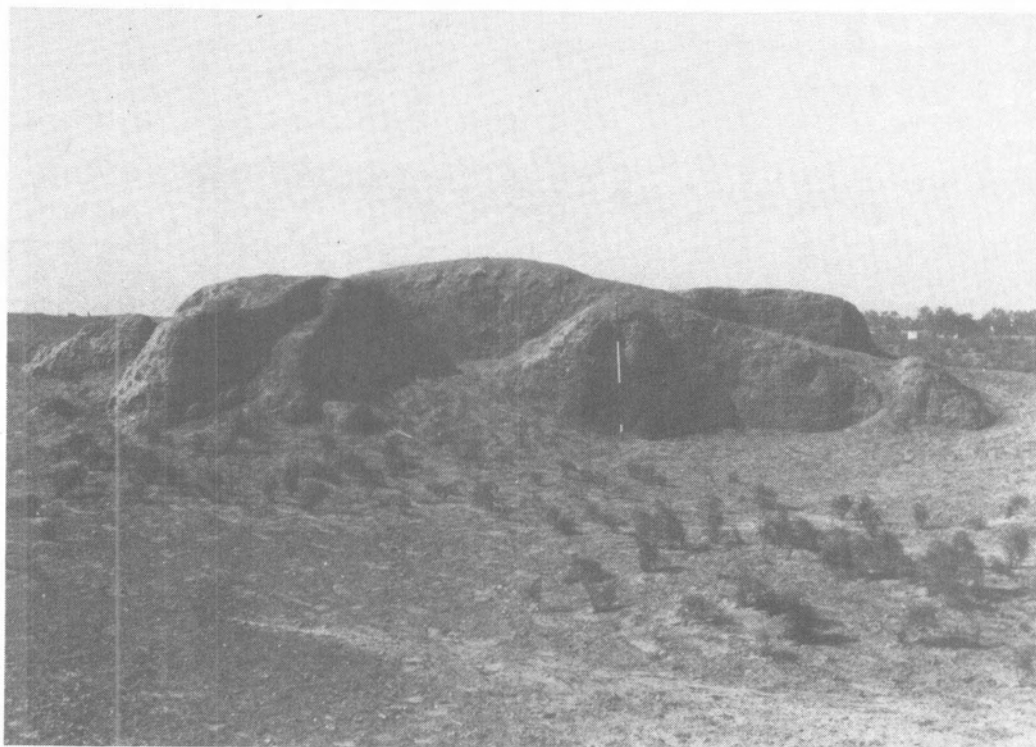


25 : Tikh el-Qaramus. Area E.

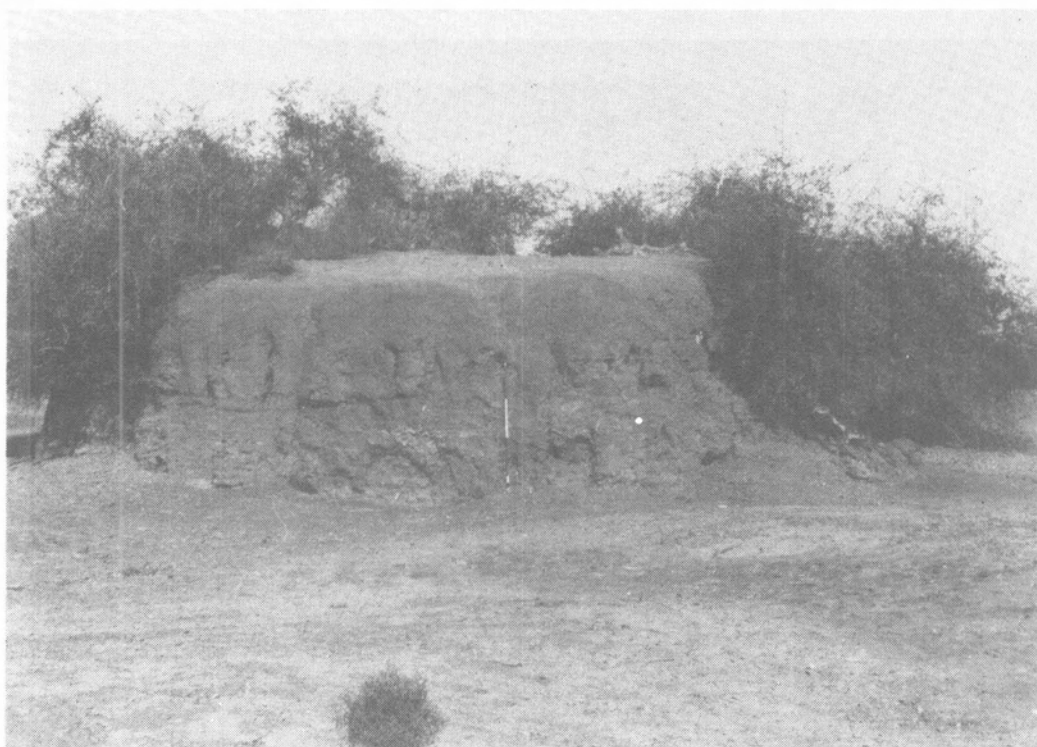


26 : Tikh el-Qaramus. Structure B in area C (see fig.11).





27 : Tikh el-Qaramus, Structure C in area C.



28 : Tikh el-Qaramus. Mud-brick pile in area F.



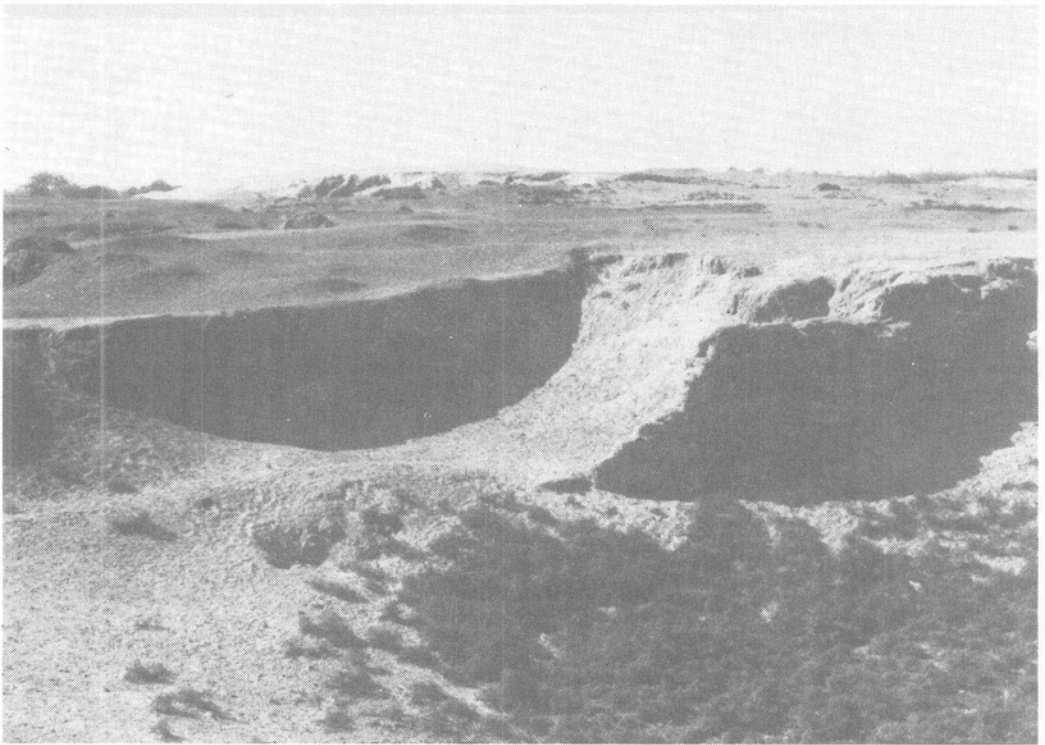
29 : Tukh el-Qaramus. Part of area G (see fig.12).



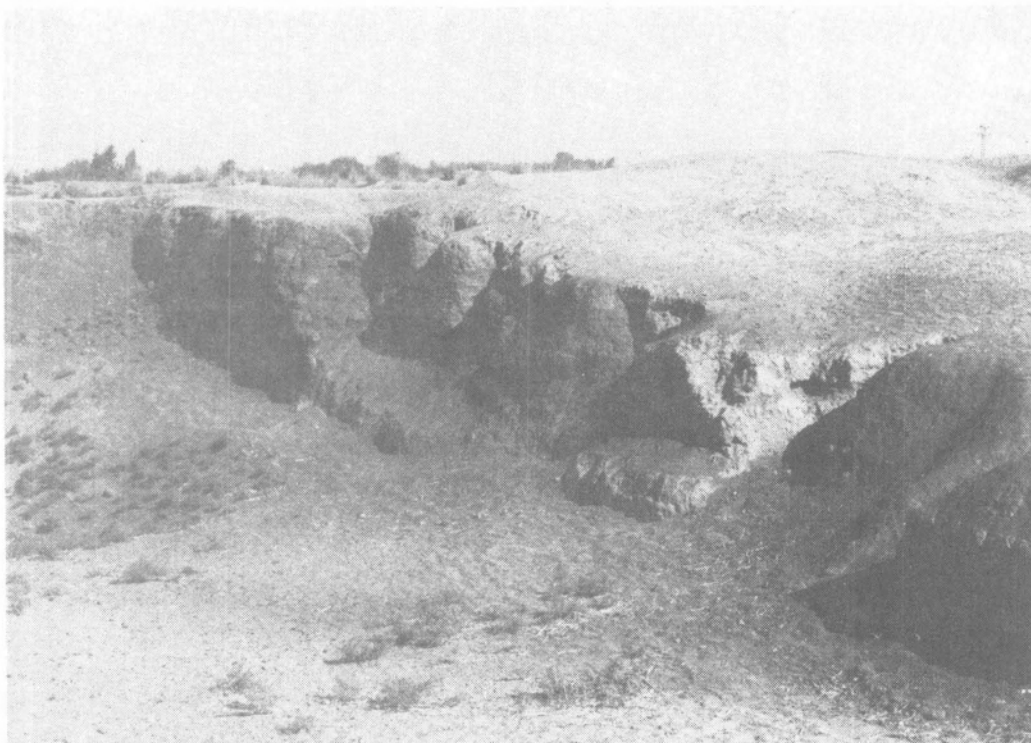
30 : Tukh el-Qaramus. Part of area G (see fig.12).



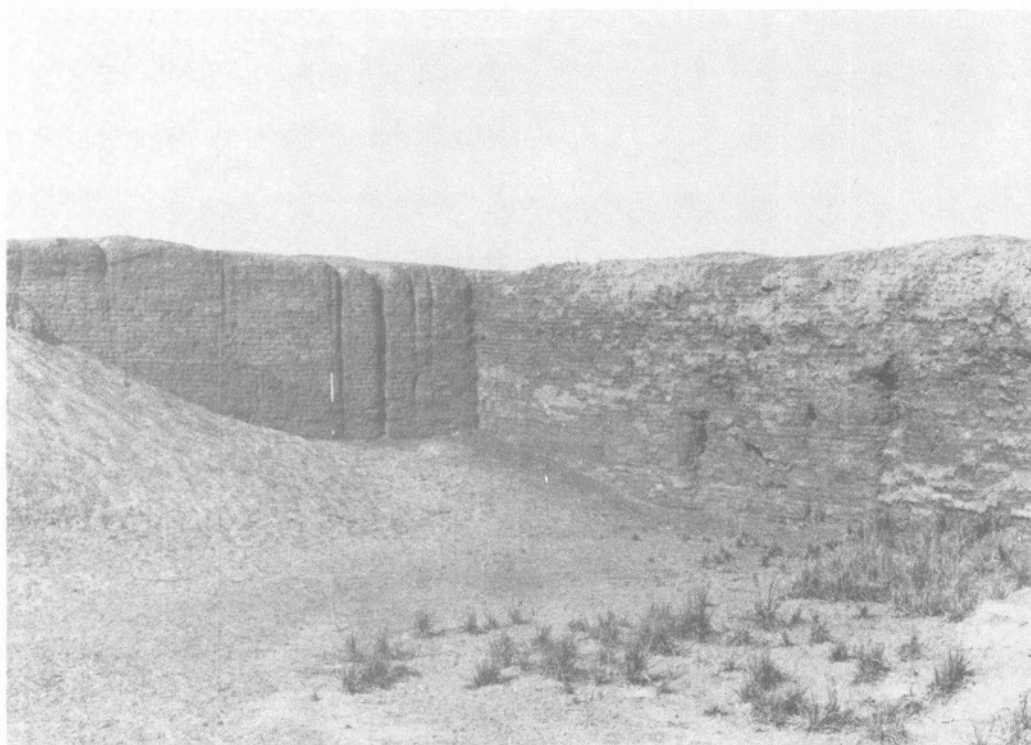
31 : Tukh el-Qaramus. Area H (see fig.12).



32 : Tukh el-Qaramus. Building A in area H (see fig.12).



33 : Tukh el-Qaramus. Building A in area H (see fig.13).



34 : Tukh el-Qaramus. Building B in area H (see fig.13).





35 : Tukh el-Qaramus. Area J.



36 : Tukh el-Qaramus. Area J.



37 : Tukh el-Qaramus. Mound L.



38 : Tukh el-Qaramus. Part of area K (see fig.15).



39 : Tukh el-Qaramus. Part of area K (see fig.15).

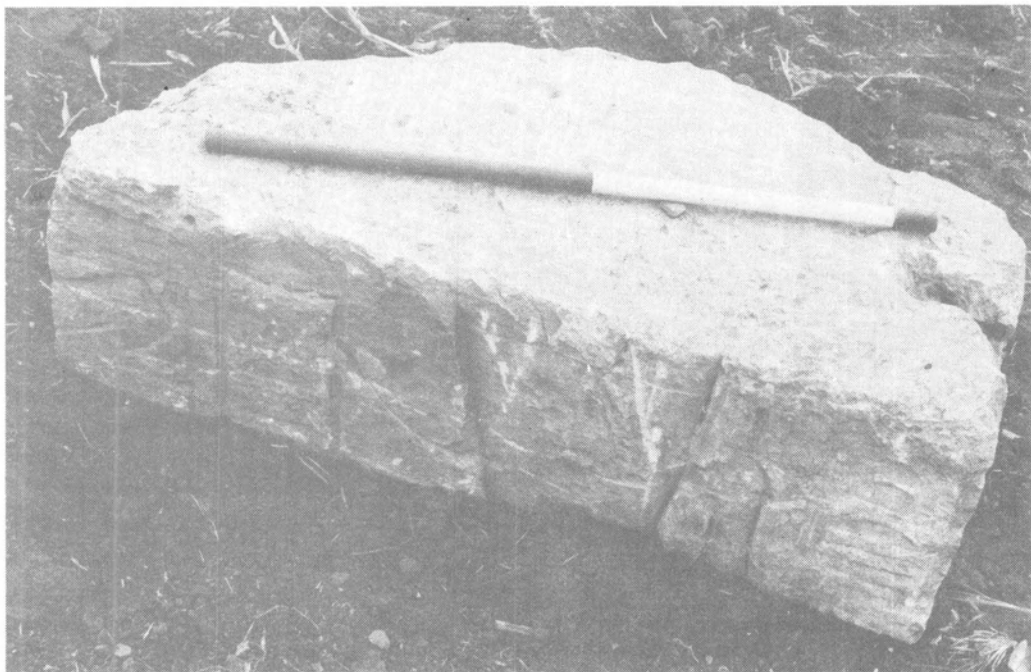


40 : Saft el-Henna. Basalt block, near the canal.

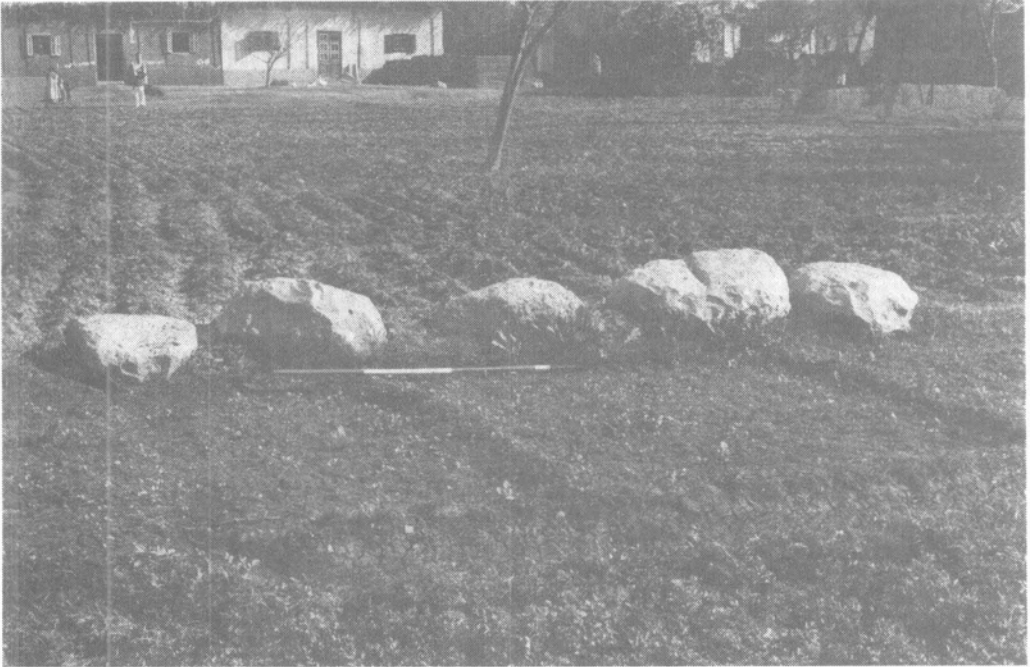




41 : Saft el-Henna. Basalt block, near the canal.



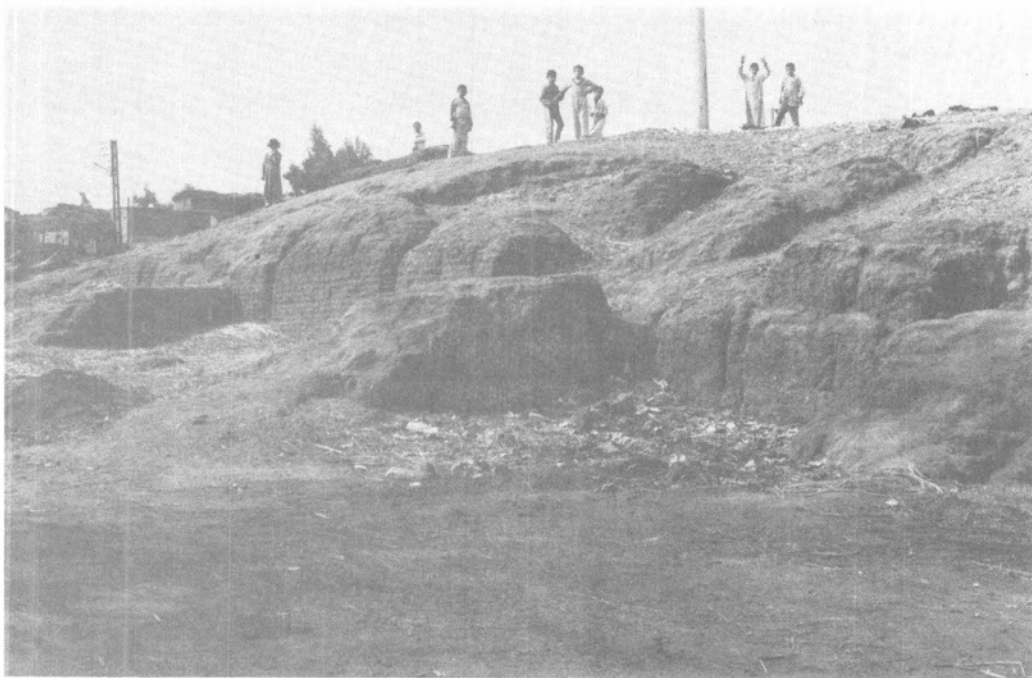
42 : Saft el-Henna. Inscribed limestone block (G on fig.16).



43 : Saft el-Henna. Limestone fragments (F on fig.17).



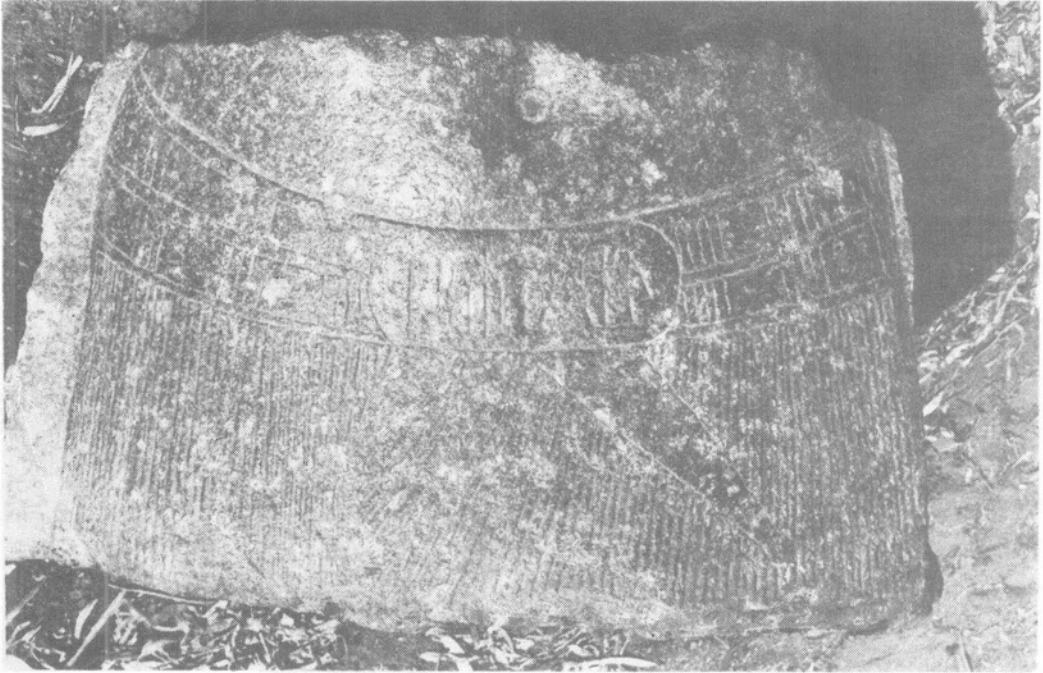
44 : Saft el-Henna. Abu Sidr mound from the east.



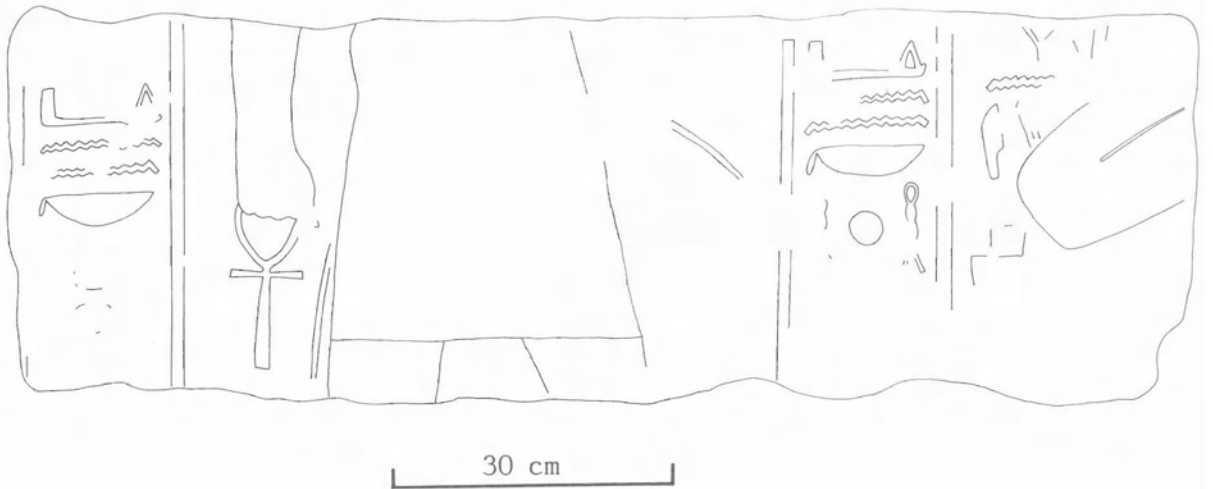
45 : Saft el-Henna. Mud-brick buildings on the south-east of the Abu Sidr mound.



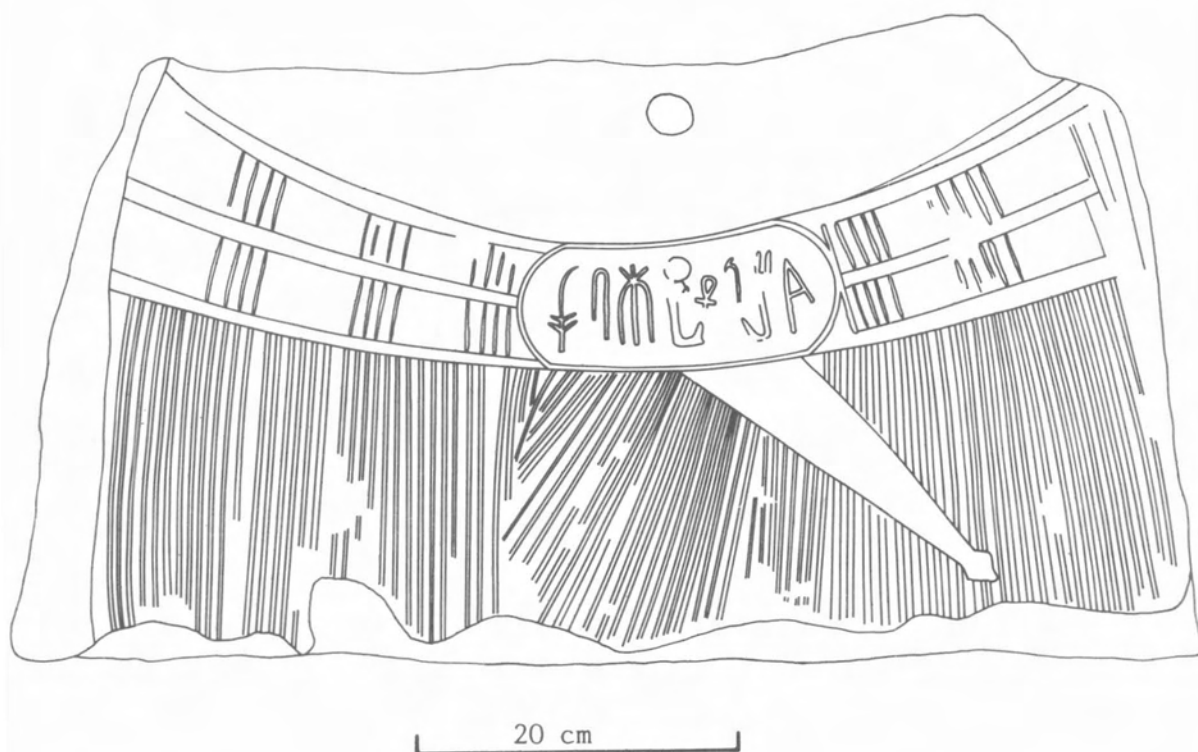
46 : Saft el-Henna. El-Ghamri mound from the south-west.



47 : Saft el-Henna. Fragment of a statue of Rameses II.



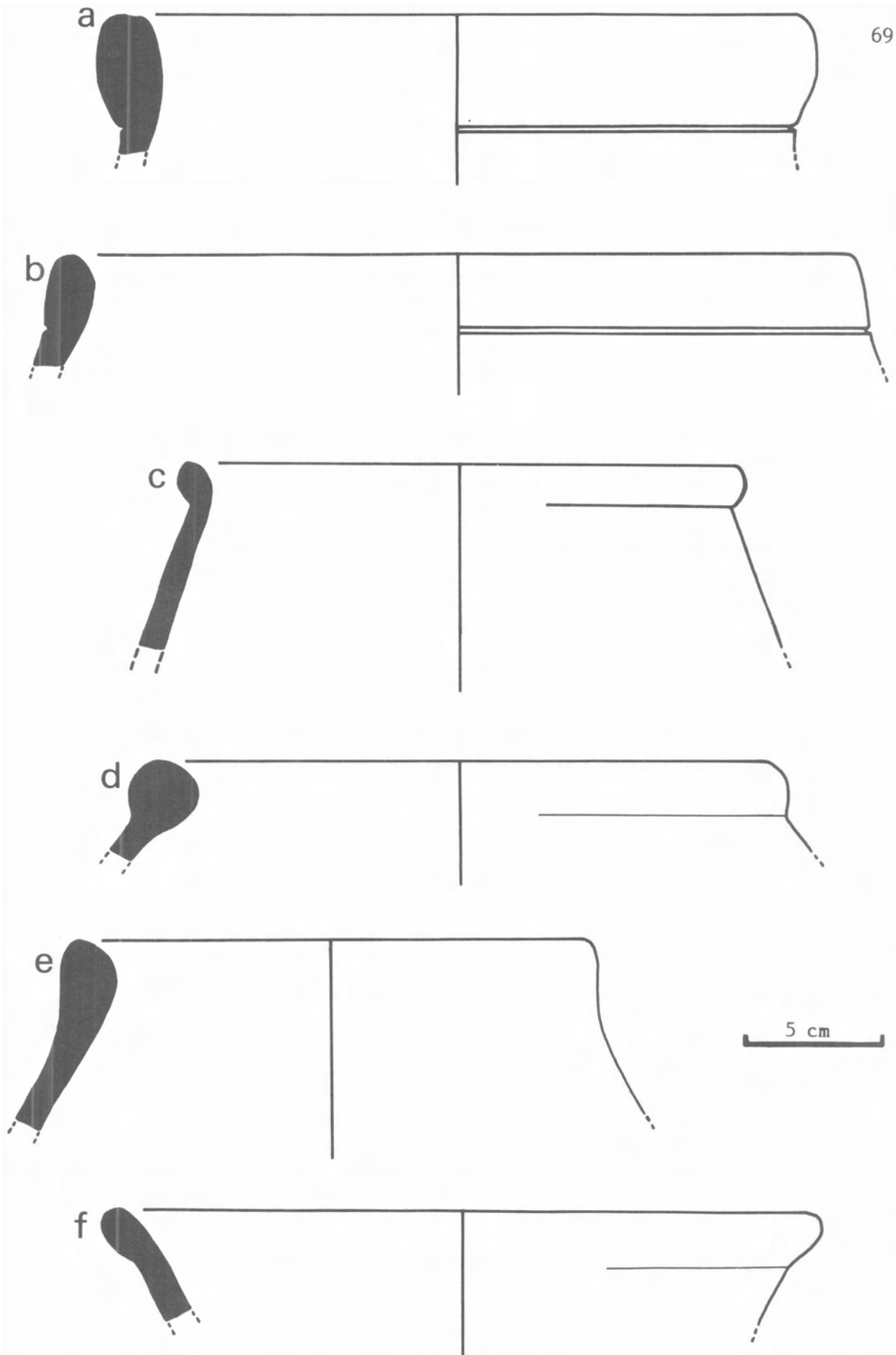
48 : Saft el-Henna. Facsimile copy of the inscribed limestone block G on figure 16.



49 : Saft el-Henna. Facsimile copy of the Rameses II statue fragment.

Plate 50 : Saft el-Henna. Potsherds from the el-Ghamri mound

- (a) Diameter at rim = 24.8 cm  
Coarse unslipped silt; Red (10R-5YR 5/8).
- (b) Diameter at rim = 28 cm  
Coarse unslipped silt; Reddish-Yellow (7.5YR 6/6).
- (c) Diameter at rim = 20 cm  
Unslipped silt with surface chaff; Red (2.5YR 5/6).
- (d) Diameter at rim = 22 cm  
Coarse unslipped silt; dappled Light Reddish Brown (5YR 6/4) to Very Pale Brown (10YR 7/3).
- (e) Diameter at rim = 22 cm  
Coarse unslipped silt; dappled Pink (5YR 7/4) to Light Brown (7.5YR 6/4).
- (f) Diameter at rim = 25.6 cm  
Unslipped silt; Light Red (2.5YR 6/6).

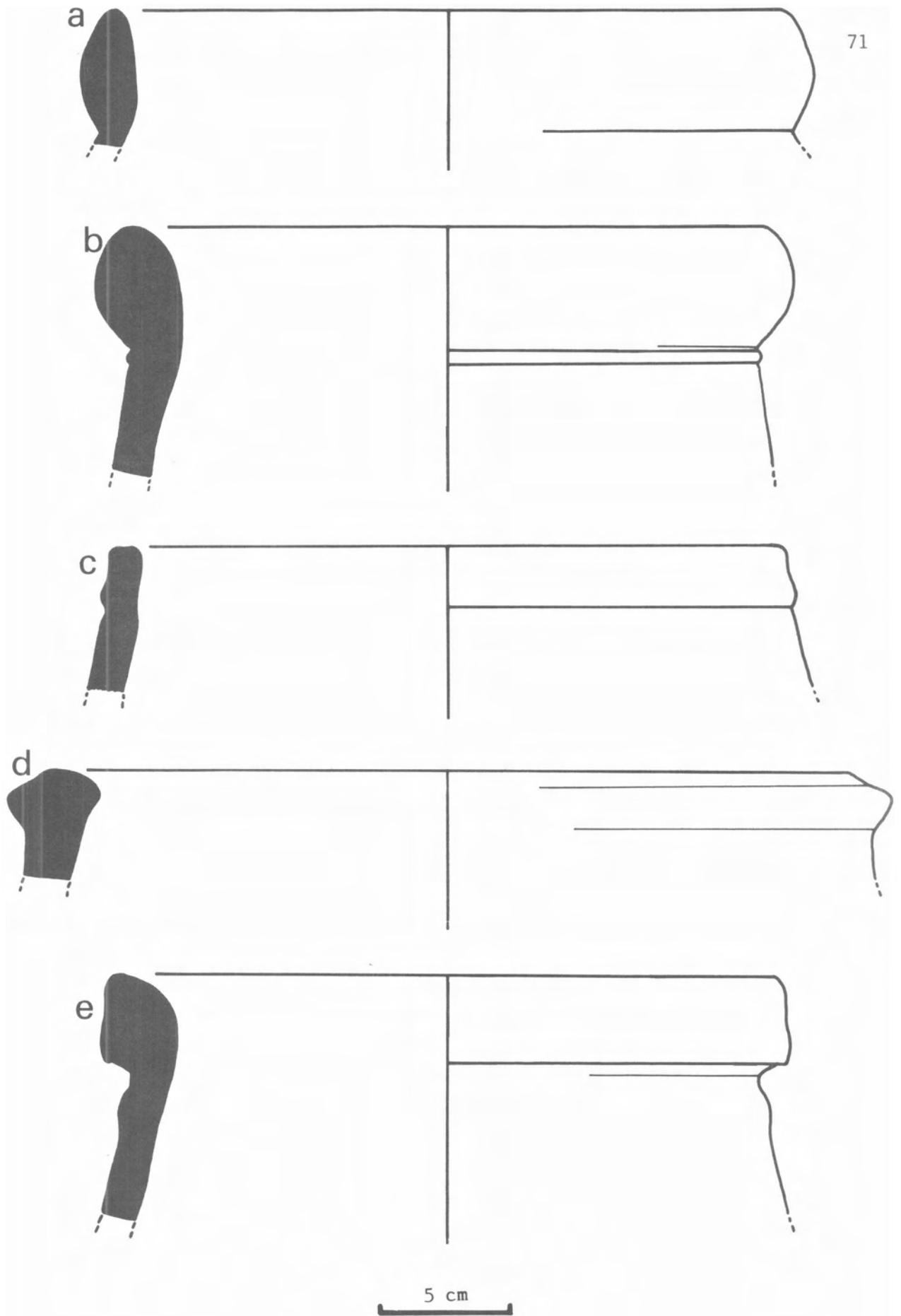


50 : Saft el-Henna. Potsherds from the el-Ghamri mound.



Plate 51 : Saft el-Henna. Potsherds from the el-Ghamri mound

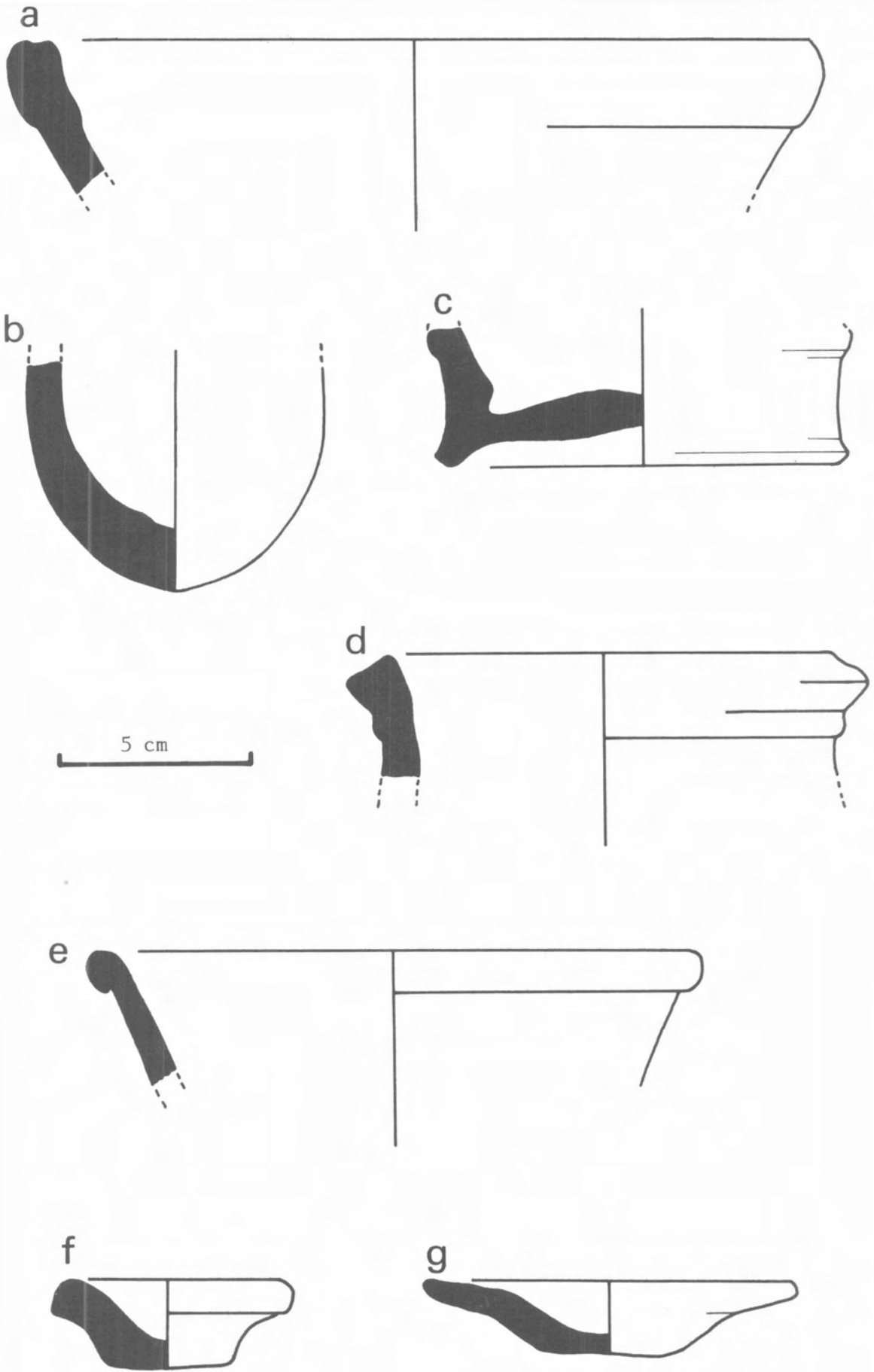
- (a) Diameter at rim = 25.2 cm  
Coarse unslipped silt; Light Red (10R 6/8).
- (b) Diameter at rim = 24 cm  
Coarse unslipped silt; Red (10R 5/8).
- (c) Diameter at rim = 24 cm  
Coarse silt; Red (2.5YR 5/6), slipped Weak Red (2.5YR 5/2).
- (d) Diameter at rim = 33.5 cm  
Coarse unslipped silt; dappled Red (2.5YR 5/8),  
to Reddish Yellow (5YR 6/6).
- (e) Diameter at rim = 22 cm  
Coarse unslipped silt; Red (10R 5/8).



51 : Saft el-Henna. Potsherds from the el-Ghamri mound.

Plate 52 : Saft el-Henna. Potsherds from the el-Ghamri mound

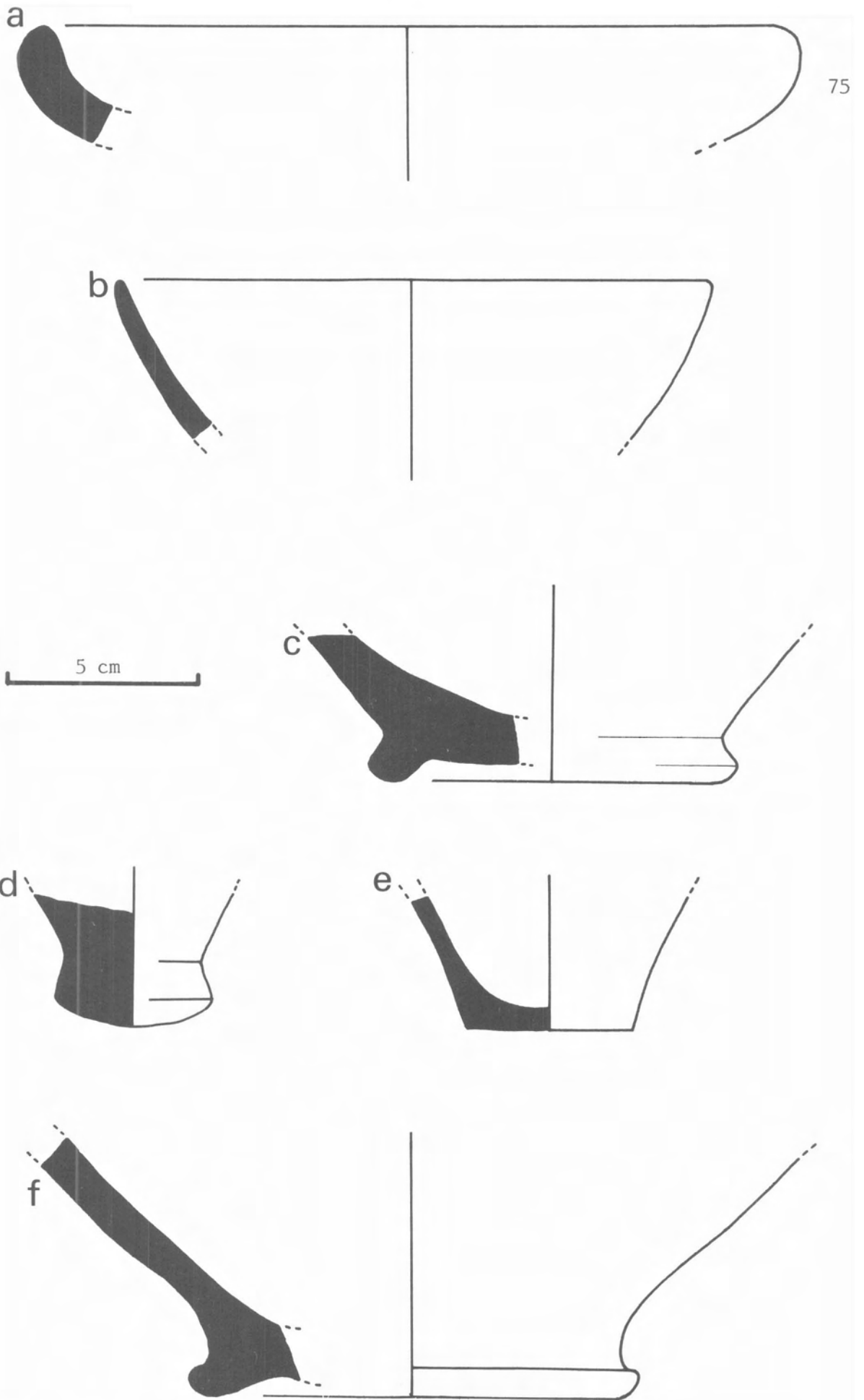
- (a) Diameter at rim = 20 cm  
Unslipped silt; Light Red (2.5YR 6/6).
- (b) Widest diameter = 7.4 cm  
Silt; Red (2.5YR 5/8), slipped Light Reddish Brown (2.5YR 6/4).
- (c) Widest diameter = 10.6 cm  
Unslipped marl; Light Grey (2.5Y 7/2).
- (d) Diameter at rim = 11 cm  
Unslipped silt; Reddish yellow (5YR 6/6).
- (e) Diameter at rim = 15 cm  
Unslipped silt; Light Red 2.5YR 6/6).
- (f) Widest diameter = 6.4 cm  
Unslipped silt, with mat-impressed base; Reddish Yellow (7.5YR 7/6).
- (g) Widest diameter = 9.6 cm  
Self-slipped silt, with very small white grits;  
Light Red (2.5YR 6/8).



52 : Saft el-Henna. Potsherds from the el-Ghamri mound.

Plate 53 : Saft el-Henna. Potsherds from Area H

- (a) Diameter at rim = 18.5 cm  
Unslipped silt; Light Reddish Brown (5YR 6/4).
- (b) Diameter at rim = 15 cm  
Unslipped silt; Reddish Yellow (5YR 6/8).
- (c) Diameter at base = 7 cm  
Unslipped silt; Reddish Brown (2.5YR 5/4).
- (d) Widest diameter = 4.6 cm  
Unslipped silt; Light Reddish Brown (5YR 6/4).  
Solid base of *qadus*.
- (e) Diameter at base = 5 cm  
Silt; Light Red (2.5YR 6/6), slipped Reddish Yellow (5YR 6/6).  
Sliced-off base.
- (f) Diameter at base = 10 cm  
Unslipped silt; Pinkish Grey (5YR 7/2).

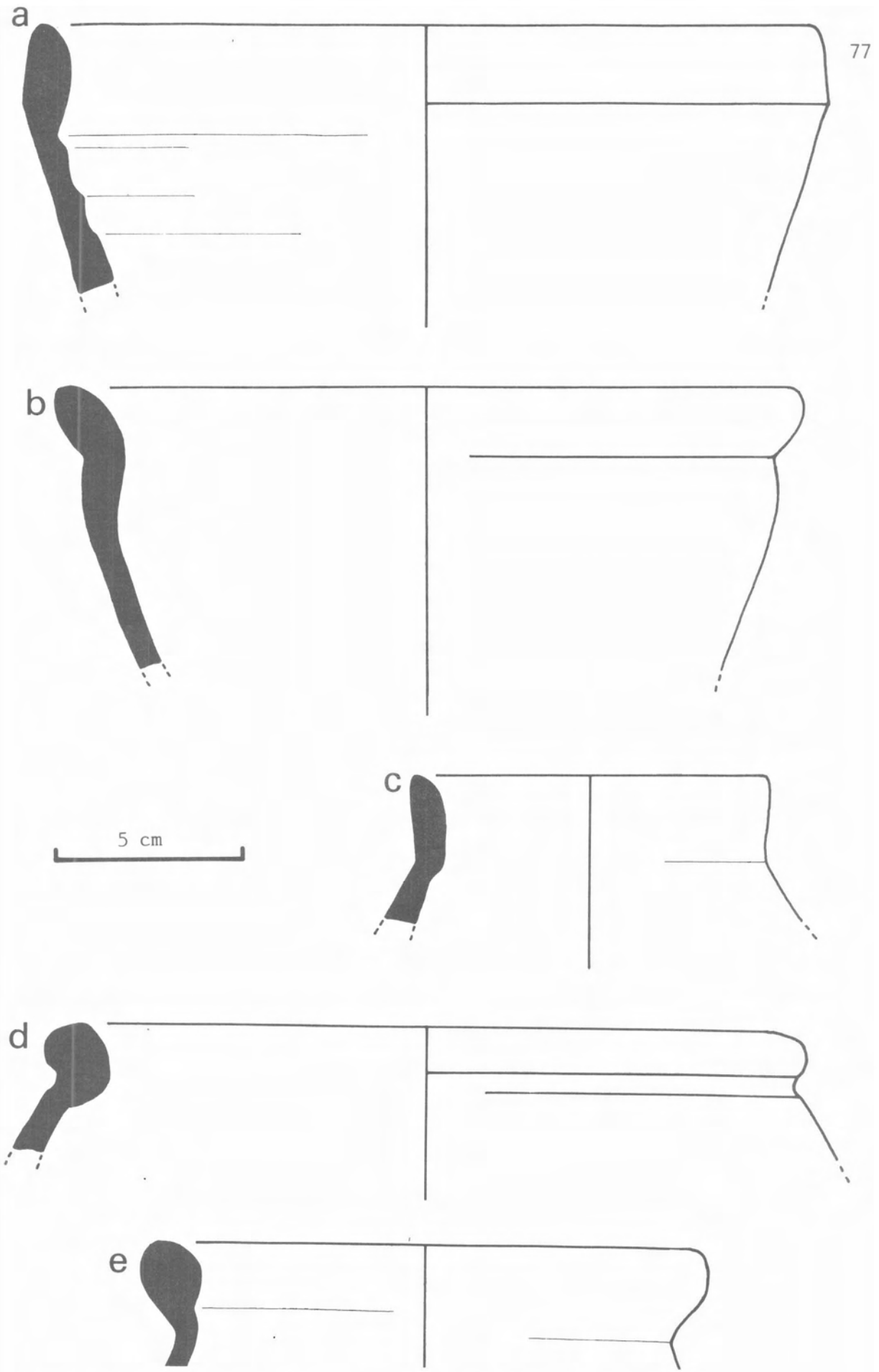


53 : Saft el-Henna. Potsherds from Area H (see fig.16).



Plate 54 : Saft el-Henna. Potsherds from Area H

- (a) Diameter at rim = 20 cm  
Coarse silt; Red (2.5YR 5/6), slipped Pale Red (2.5Y 6/2).
- (b) Diameter at rim = 19 cm  
Coarse unslipped silt; Light Reddish Brown (5YR 6/4).
- (c) Diameter at rim = 9 cm  
Unslipped silt; Weak Red (10R 4/3).
- (d) Diameter at rim = 18 cm  
Coarse unslipped silt; Light Reddish Brown (5YR 6/4).
- (e) Diameter at rim = 14 cm  
Unslipped silt; Reddish Yellow (5YR 6/6).



54 : Saft el-Henna. Potsherds from Area H (see fig.16).



55 : Suwa. General view, looking north from the southern Islamic cemetery.



56 : Suwa. General view of the excavated area on the west of the *Tell*.



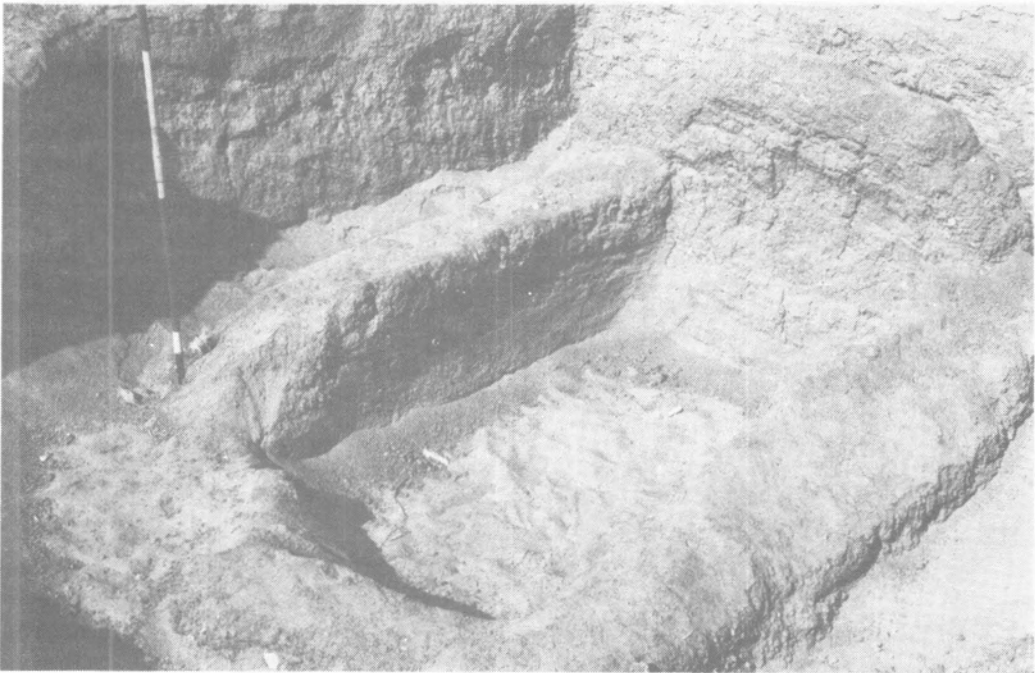
57 : Suwa. Chambered tomb in the excavated area immediately south of el-Suwa Village.



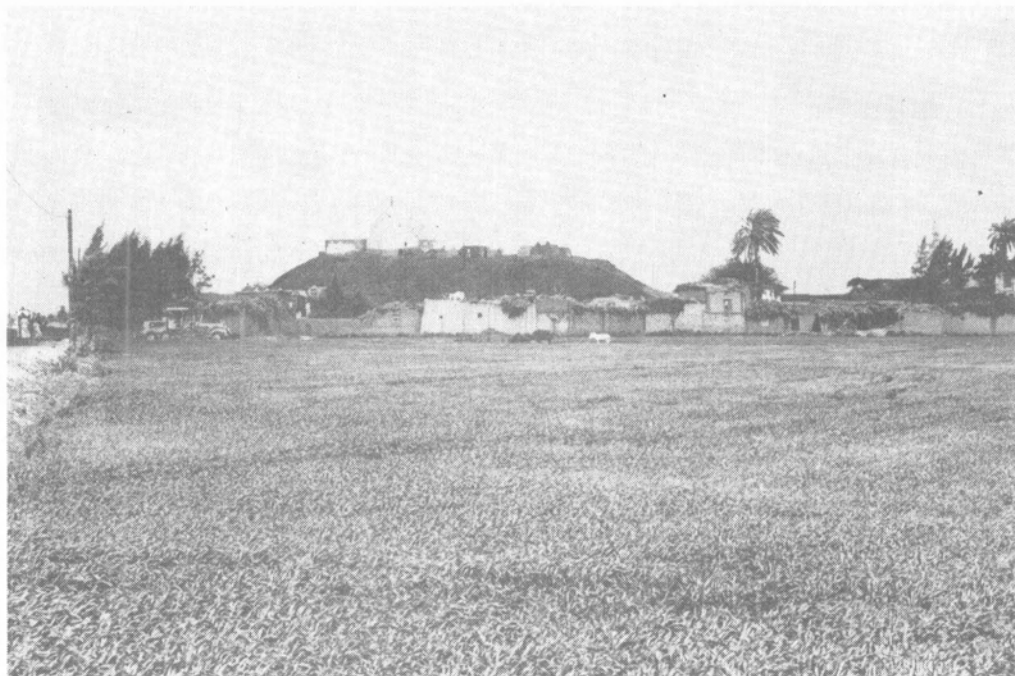
58 : Suwa. Chambered tomb in the excavated area immediately south of el-Suwa Village.



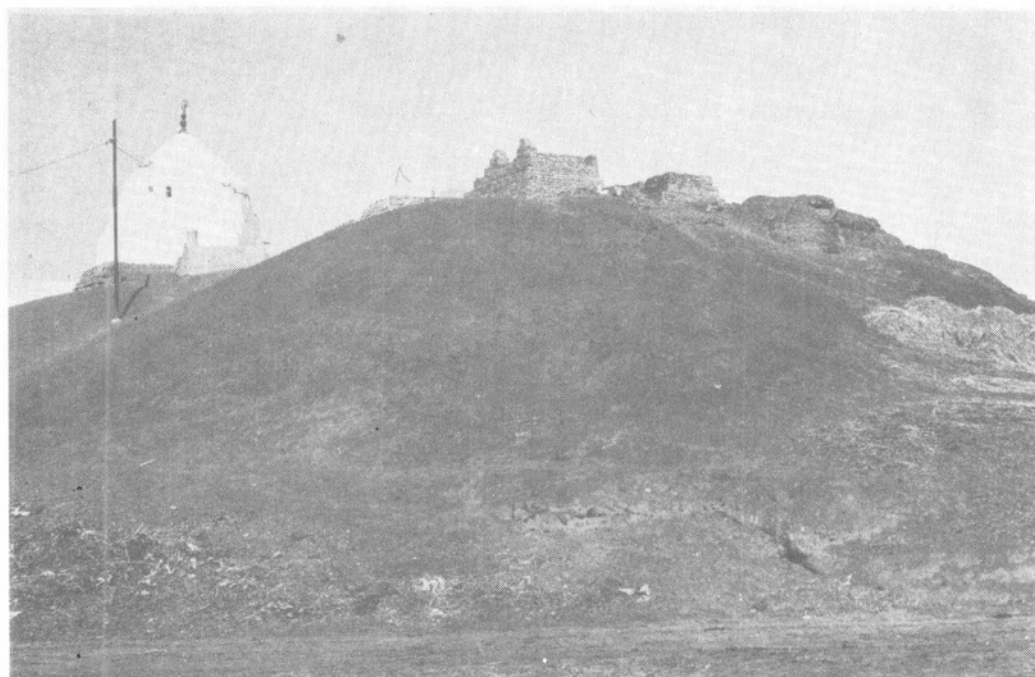
59 : Suwa. Multichambered tomb in the centre of the mound.



60 : Suwa. Single-chambered tomb in the centre of the mound.

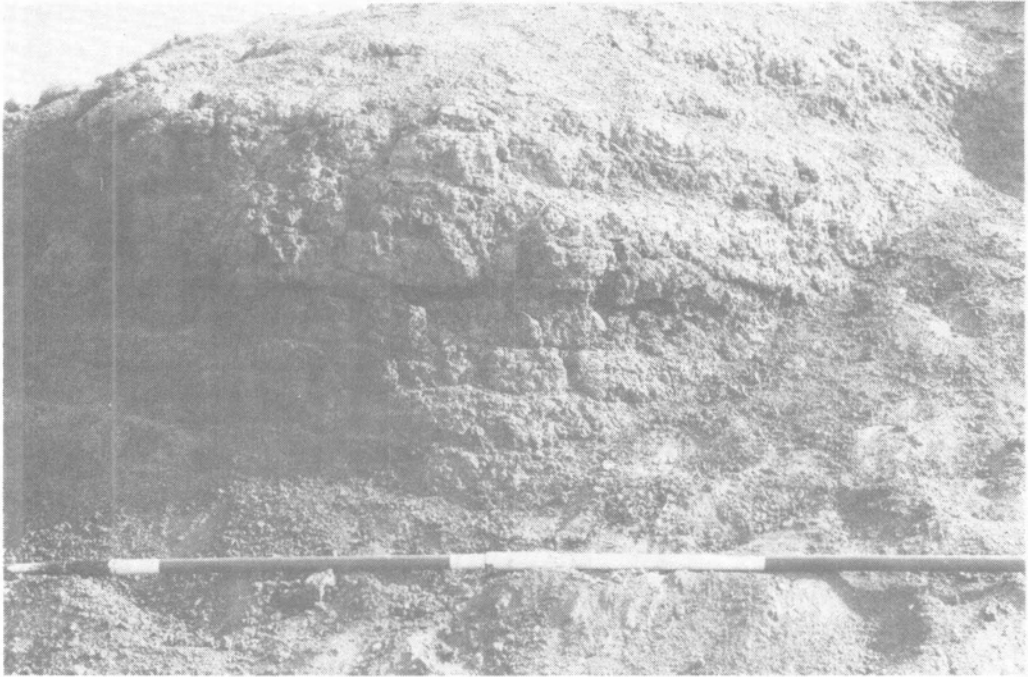


61 : Shagamba. General view from the south.

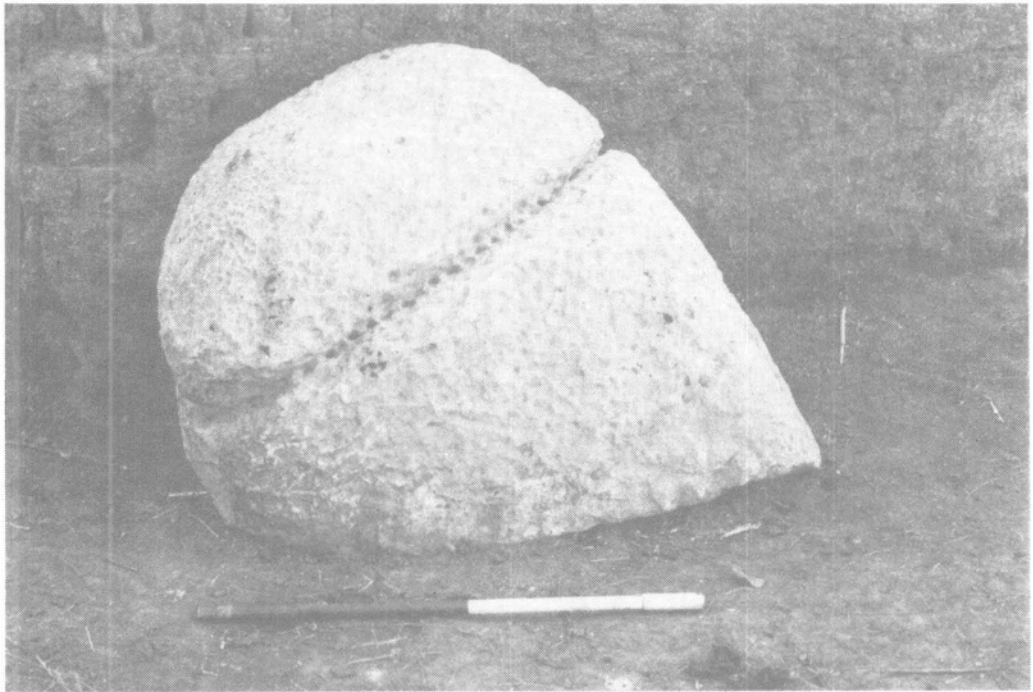


62 : Shagamba. High Mound from the south-east.





63 : Shagamba. Mud-brick walling on the west of the High Mound.



64 : Shagamba. Loose limestone block at a on figure 22.



Plate 65 : Shagamba. Potsherds from e (see fig.24)

(a) Diameter at rim = 25.2 cm

Unslipped silt; Red (10R 5/6),  
core fabric Weak Red (10R 4/3), with small white grits and mica.

(b) Diameter at rim = 28.4 cm

Coarse unslipped silt; Red (10R 5/6),  
with small white grits and mica.

(c) Diameter at rim = 18.4 cm

Unslipped silt; Red (10R 5/8),  
with small white grits and mica.

(d) Diameter at rim = 20.2 cm

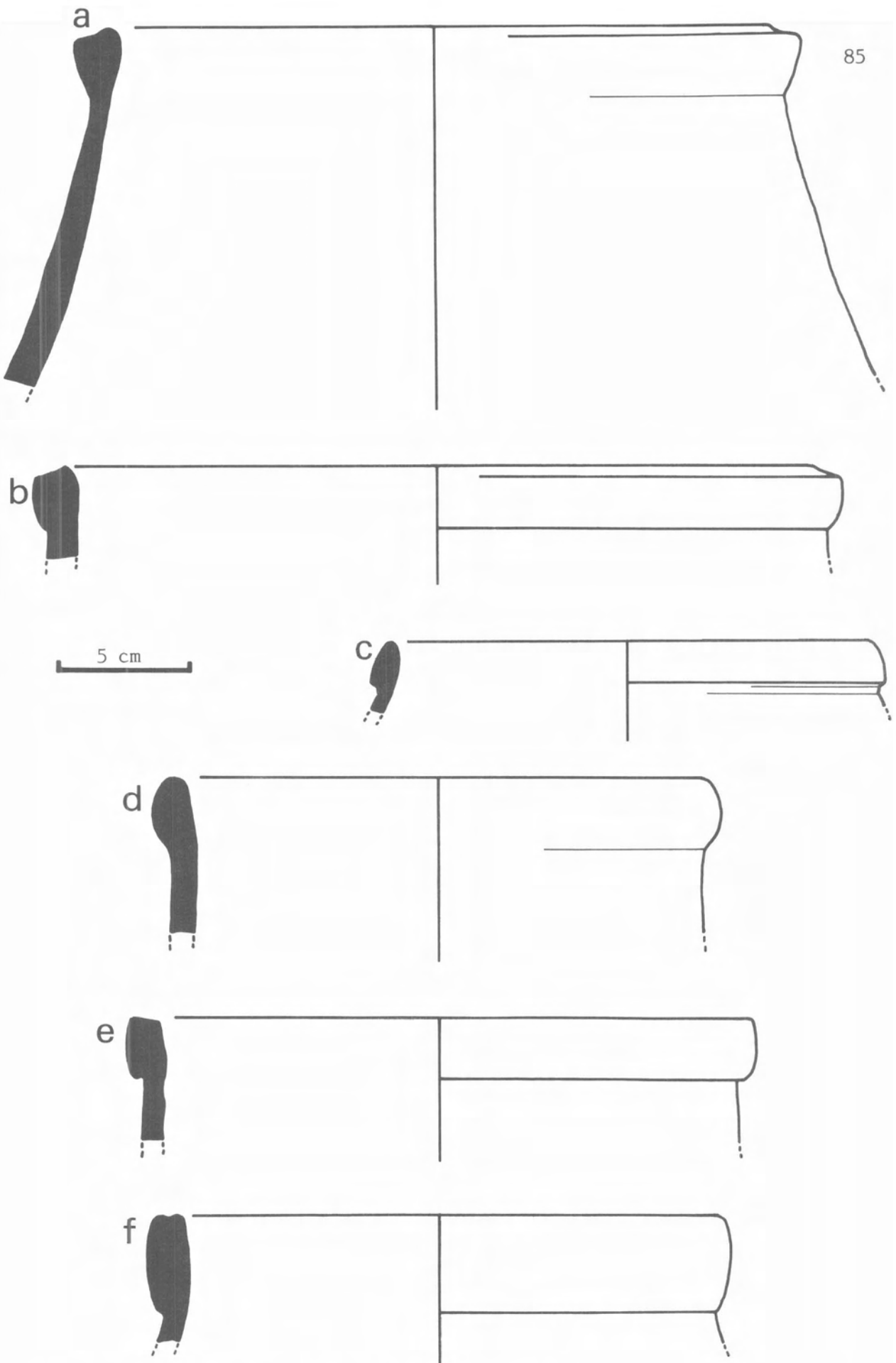
Silt; Red (10R 5/6) slipped Light Grey (10YR 7/2),  
with small white grits and mica.

(e) Diameter at rim = 23.8 cm

Unslipped silt; Red (2.5YR 5/6),  
with small white grits and mica.

(f) Diameter at rim = 21.6 cm

Unslipped silt; Red (10R 4/6),  
with small white grits and mica.



65 : Shagamba. Potsherds from e (see fig.24).

Plate 66 : Shagamba. Potsherds from e (see fig.24)

(a) Diameter at rim = 28.4 cm

Coarse unslipped silt; Red (10R 5/8),  
core fabric Weak Red (10R 5/3),  
with comparatively many small white grits and mica.

(b) Diameter at rim = 27.8 cm

Coarse unslipped silt; Red (10R 5/6),  
with small white grits and mica.

(c) Diameter at rim = 23.4 cm

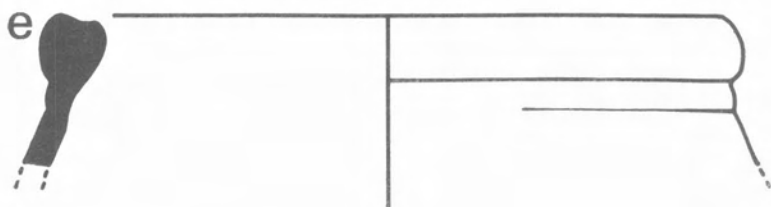
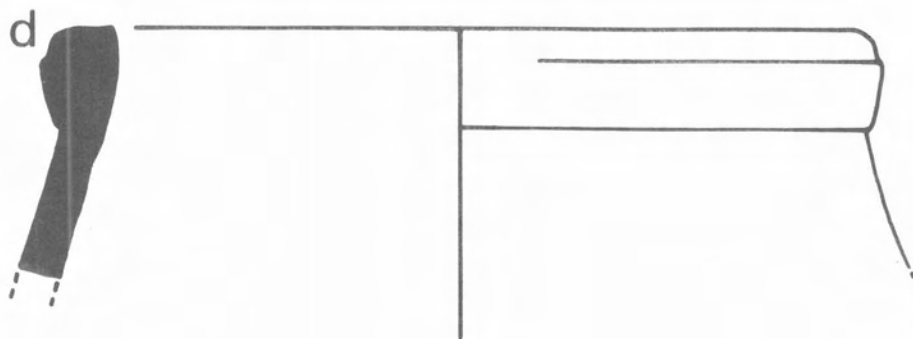
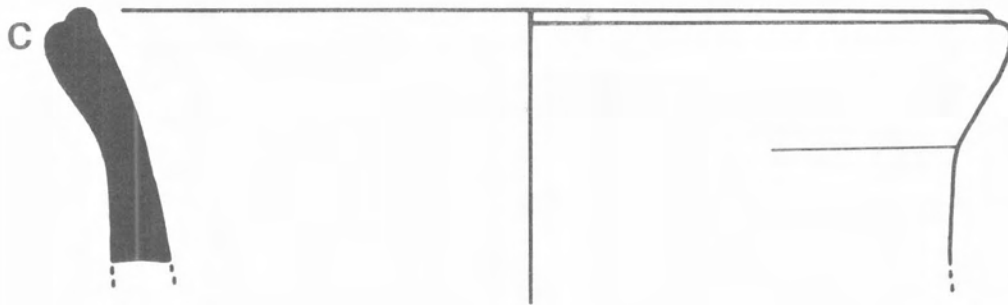
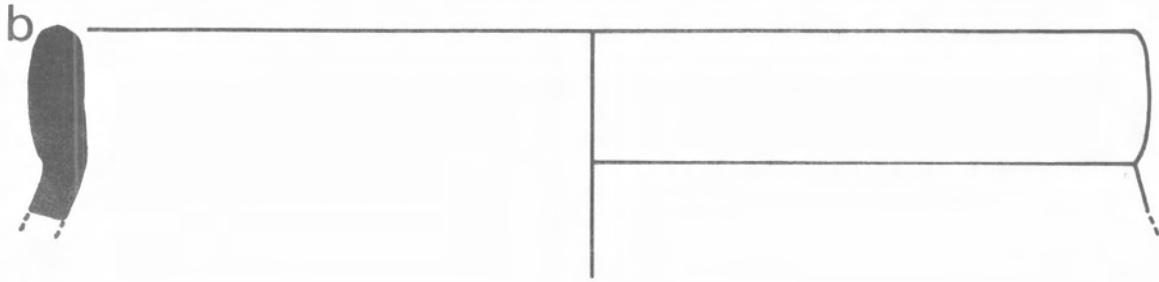
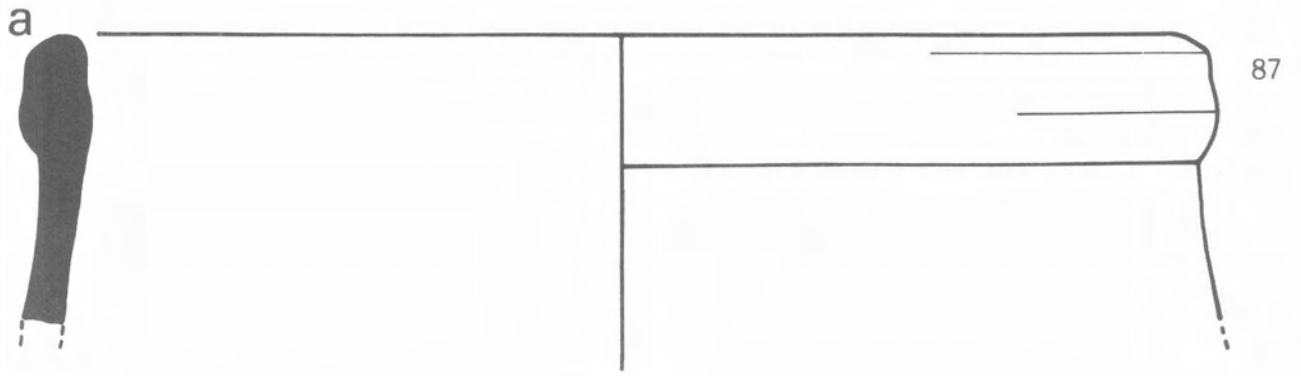
Coarse unslipped silt; Red (10R 5/6),  
with small white grits and mica.

(d) Diameter at rim = 21 cm

Coarse unslipped silt; Red (10R 4/6),  
with small white grits and mica.

(e) Diameter at rim = 17 cm

Unslipped silt; Red (2.5YR 5/6),  
with small white grits and mica.



5 cm

66 : Shagamba. Potsherds from e (see fig.24).



Plate 67 : Shagamba. Potsherds from e (see fig.24)

(a) Diameter at rim = 11.2 cm

Unslipped silt; Red (2.5YR 5/6),  
with small white grits and mica.

(b) Diameter at rim = 8.4 cm

Unslipped silt; Red (10R 5/8),  
with very small white grits and mica.

(c) Diameter at rim = 8.2 cm

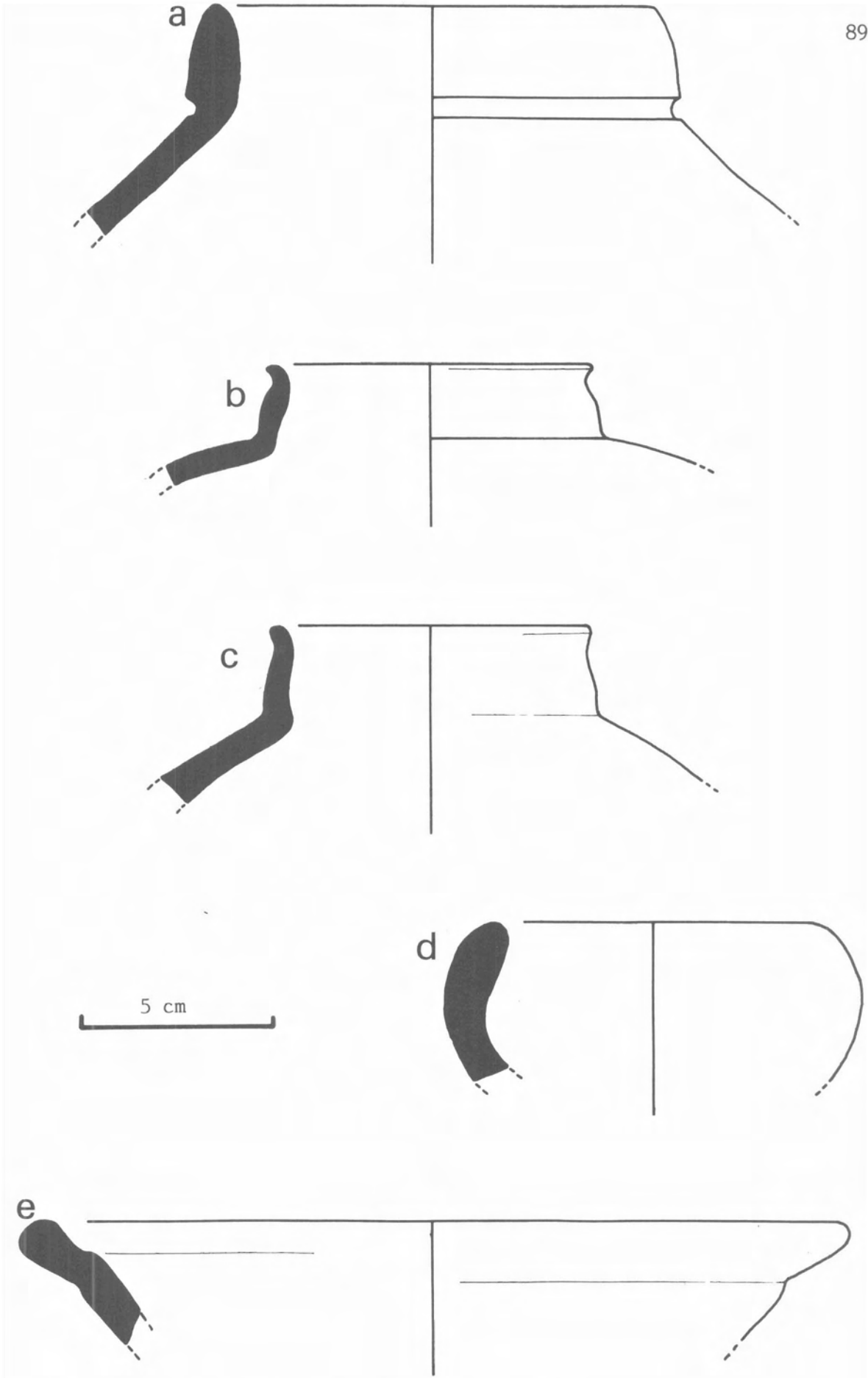
Unslipped silt; Red (2.5YR 5/6),  
with small white grits and mica.

(d) Diameter at rim = 10.8 cm

Unslipped silt; Red (10R 5/6),  
with small white grits and mica.

(e) Diameter at rim = 21.4 cm

Unslipped silt; Red (10R 4/6),  
with mica and some small white grits.



67 : Shagamba. Potsherds from e (see fig.24).

Plate 68 : Shagamba. Potsherds from e (see fig.24)

(a) Diameter at rim = 29.4 cm

Coarse unslipped silt; Red (10R 5/8),  
core fabric Reddish Black (10R 4/1),  
with large and small white grits, and mica.

Sherd with one handle and incised 'tickings' below collar.

(b) Diameter at rim = 29 cm

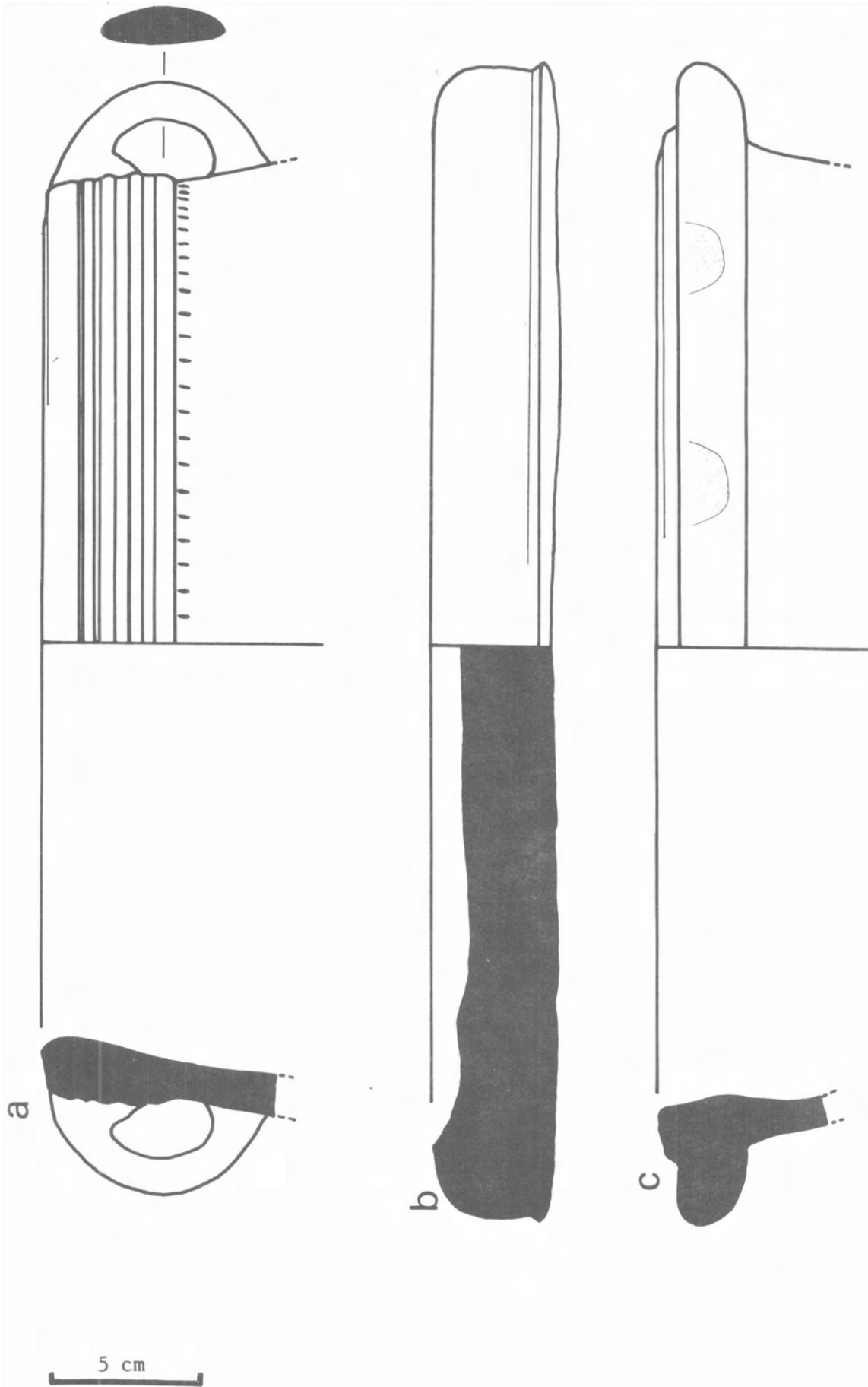
Very coarse unslipped silt; Red (10R 5/6),  
with much chaff temper.

Many smaller fragments of similar platters were also found in e.

(c) Diameter at rim = 36 cm

Coarse unslipped silt; Red (10R 5/8),  
with much surface chaff and white grits.

Finger impressions round the rim.



68 : Shagamba. Potsherds from e (see fig.24).

Plate 69 : Shagamba. Potsherds from e (see fig.24)

(a) Diameter at rim = 28.4 cm

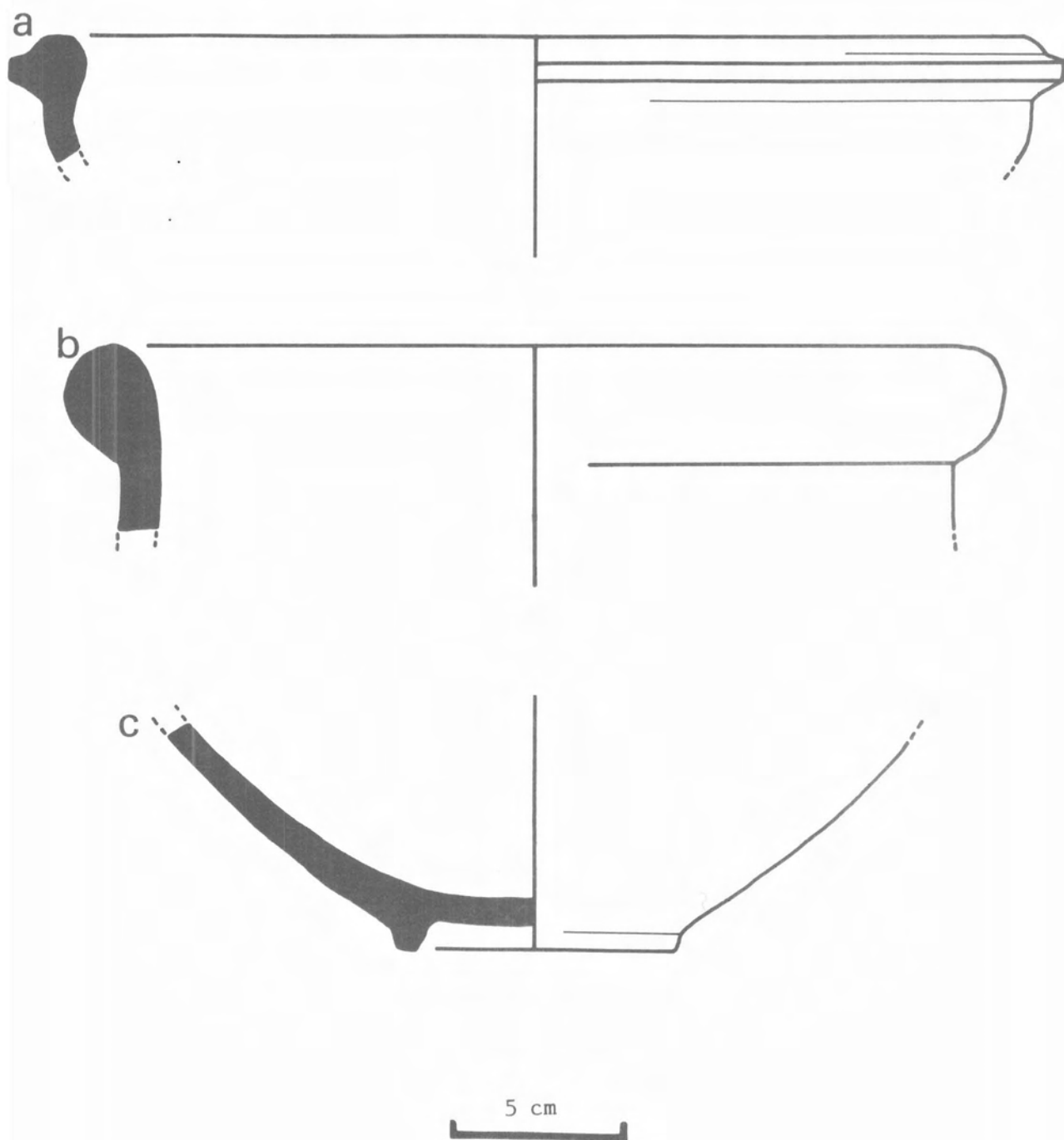
Unslipped silt; Red (10R 4/6),  
with mica and some white grits.

(b) Diameter at rim = 25 cm

Unslipped silt; Red (10R 5/6),  
with small white grits and mica.

(c) Diameter at rim = 8.2 cm

Unslipped silt; Red (10R 4/6),  
with some small white grits and mica.



69 : Shagamba. Potsherds from e (see fig.24).



