

## Gang der Grabung: Auszüge aus Zaki Y. Saad's „Diary on the excavation of the Department of Antiquities at Helwan“

1 October 1948: Workmen delegated from Saqqara, arrived in the afternoon.

2 October 1948: Started removing the rails and decaville from the I Dynasty site to the site intended for the excavations to the west of Helwan Les Bain, as the Department of Antiquities wants, to decide either to keep the ground or deliver it to the man who purchased it from the government. The camp was built by the tents borrowed from Charles Bachatly Effendi, General Secretary of the Society of Coptic Archaeology.

3 October 1948: Rails were laid down and preparations finished.

4 October 1948: A patch of the site was cleared. A corner of mud-brick building was revealed<sup>8</sup>. Two rooms were partly located<sup>9</sup>.

5 October 1948: The two rooms were nearly entirely excavated. The outer walls in the north and west are about 200 cms thick. The rooms from inside are plastered with coloured gypsum. The colour is faded pink. A third room to the east of the room (north-west) was located<sup>10</sup>. To the south of it a fourth room was located<sup>11</sup>. Fragments of glass and pottery have been found. The walls between the chambers are with closed windows (niches).

6 October 1948: The clearance of this part yielded a group of two chambers to the north (**Fig. 1**), probably a small passage? And to the south a big hall.

10 October 1948: More rooms have been discovered in one line to the east of the first room. To the south of this line is a big hall (?)<sup>12</sup>. The rooms have closed windows in the walls (niches). Room 1 has two, one in the west wall and another in the north wall. A door in the east wall from the south as a communication with the rooms to the east. Room 3 has two niches on the west wall and one niche in each of the north and south walls. To the west is a wide entrance with two jambs on each side decorated with semi-columns (**Fig. 2**)<sup>13</sup>.

17 October 1948: Work on the big building yielded more rooms.

18 October 1948: Plenty of glass fragments and pottery have been found. A piece of white limestone was found in the hall. It is not yet cleaned to be properly examined.

19 October 1948: The number of rooms discovered is twelve. All in one line, some have doors opening to the north while others open to the hall (court).

20 October 1948: The buildings are one line of chambers differ in size and all on the north.

21 October 1948: We cleared the east-north part which contains some chambers<sup>14</sup>.

24 October 1948: We are clearing the east part.

27 October 1948: We are clearing the part to the south of the chambers on the north and to the west of the chambers on the east. It is a court.

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8 Nordwestecke der Bauanlage B.

9 Hier die Räume 14 und 15 der Bauanlage B (**Faltpl. 3**).

10 Hier Raum 13.

11 Hier Raum 12.

12 Später als Hof erkannt, s. Eintragung unter dem 27. Oktober.

13 Maße nach M. A. M. RASLAN.

14 Hier die Räume 32–33.



Fig. 1. Group of rooms at the south-west corner

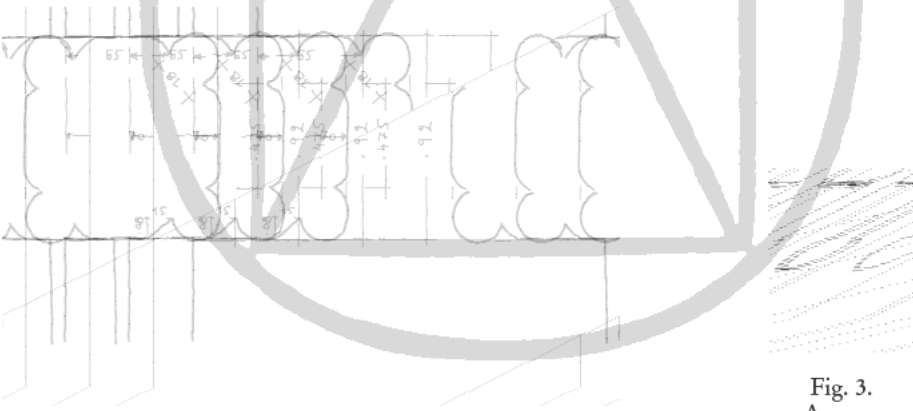


Fig. 2. Jambs with columns on the sides

Fig. 3. A cross of copper

28 October 1948: A photograph was taken for some of the buildings. The clearance of the court going on.

30 October 1948: The sand filling the court is huge and we are working with shovels to remove it.

1 November 1948: The Director General Mr. Drioton and the General Secretary of the Department visited the site in the morning.

4 November 1948: About twelve coin pieces of copper were cleaned and found to be of Arabic character.

5 November 1948: Dr. Mustapha of the Arabic Museum of Cairo gave me a note about the coins. He says that they were in the name of Mohammed ibn Saïd who governed Egypt about 152 H. (= 769 n. Chr.)<sup>15</sup> in the time of the Abassides under the Khalif El-Mansur ben Allah 775).

6 November 1948: Work going on. I carried twelve of the coins to be presented to H. M. the king Farouk and H. M. kept two pieces and send back the rest.

10 November 1948: In the debris was found a piece of the plaster of the wall on which a cross is designed including some Coptic letters. It was photographed (Photo no. 368). A pottery lamp was found in the debris. It shows some designs of Coptic feature: Christ and below two birds.

11 November 1948: Clearance of the chambers to the west going on. In the debris was found a piece of plaster with Coptic inscriptions (photo 369).

14 November 1948: The entrance to the building was situated on the west<sup>16</sup>. The two pieces of plaster (see above 10 and 11 November) came from this place.

16 November 1948: The court is cleared except a small part.

17 November 1948: Clearance of the chambers and court going on.

20 November 1948: In the floor of some of the chambers some late burials were found.

22 November 1948: We have arrived to the end of the west line of the chambers<sup>17</sup>.

24 November 1948: In the debris some pieces of copper (to be cleaned) and a cross were found (**Fig. 3**).

27 November 1948: Cleaning the court in the middle. The two coins (see above Nov. 6.) were send to me from the office of Pulley Bey after H. M. has seen them. These two coin pieces were examined by Professor M. Jungfleisch the expert and a report was enclosed<sup>18</sup>.

28 November 1948: The cross was cleaned and a coin was cleaned and found of silver. (photographed).

30 November 1948: A drain was found in the court. It ends with a head of a lion made of limestone<sup>19</sup>. It was photographed (photo no. 257).

15 Muḥammad ibn Saïd, der Sekretär, war als Gouverneur von Ägypten von 768–774 n. Chr. im Amt, s. Al-Tabari, *The early 'Abbasid Empire*, vol. I, transl. by J. A. WILLIAMS (Cambridge 1988) 218–230.

16 Hier die Räume 1 und 2.

17 Hier die Räume 55 und 56.

18 Dieser Report ist nicht mehr auffindbar.

19 Es handelt sich hierbei offensichtlich um eine voreilige, später nicht richtiggestellte Deutung eines zunächst unvollständig freigelegten Befundes, denn der genannte Löwenkopfspeier gehört zu den Ausflüssen des großen Beckens auf der Westseite des Hofes (s. die folgende Notiz vom 4. Dezember 1948), während die genannte „*drain*“ nur zufällig in Richtung zu diesem Becken verläuft; jedoch kann sie gut eine Abflußleitung aus diesem Becken sein, nicht ein Zufluß, wie Z. SAAD unter dem 4.

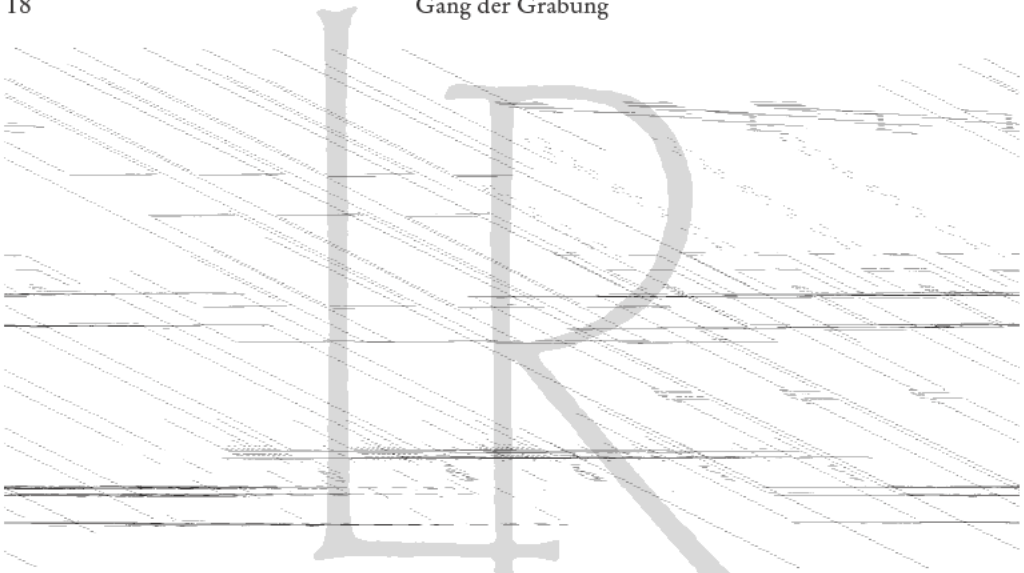


Fig. 4. Cistern with two lion's head water spouts and rectangular building to the south-east

4 December 1948: A small basin, probably a bath, was cleared. The bottom was made higher in a later time. It has two draining pipes one in the north and another in the east (Fig. 4). Both of them end from outside by a mouth in form of a stylized lion's head and the mouth is just the opening out of which the water passes. The basin in which these two draining pipes are placed takes its water from a small canal coming from the southern outside of the whole building<sup>20</sup>.

6 December 1948: A building to the south-east of the basin has been located (Fig. 4).

7 December 1948: The building (mentioned under Dec. 6.) is rectangular in form and the walls are very carefully plastered from inside.

8 December 1948: Clearing the part of the buildings on the south side. This place seemed to have been furnished with pillars erected along the north and south sides. The north wall contains some paintings (Mme Bachatly was so kind to come and draw the paintings yesterday). In the debris some copper coins were found (to be cleaned)<sup>21</sup>.

Dez. 1948 irrtümlich annimmt, denn das ist schon durch die vorliegenden Niveauperhältnisse auszuschließen.

20 s. hierzu die vorige Anm.; auf einer Skizze im Tagebuch (hier Fig. 4) ist freilich eine sich nach Osten fortsetzende Abflußrinne ergänzt. Richtig gestellt wurde diese irriqe Ansicht am 19.12. 1948.

21 Die Eintragung setzt sich dann folgendermaßen fort: „While examining the west wall of the basin I found the following inscription:“ und schließt mit einer Skizze der damals beobachteten Zeichen. Es handelt sich hierbei um die angeblich demotischen Graffiti, die auch von LECLANT, *Fouilles et travaux 1948-1950*, 345, und DESROCHES-NOBLECOURT 13 erwähnt und von letzterer als *Pa Neb* oder *Pa bak* gelesen werden. Frau DESROCHES-NOBLECOURT steuert auch den Hinweis bei, daß dieses Graffito bei 1,20 m über dem Boden in den Wandverputz geschrieben wurde. Nach erneuter sorgfältiger Prüfung der damals hergestellten und auch heute noch vorliegenden Photographie möchten wir jedoch dieses Graffito als mit einem Kohlestift ausgeführte rezente Kritzeleien ansehen, die sich offenbar auch über die Schadstellen der Putzoberfläche erstrecken. Entsprechend urteilte K.-Th.

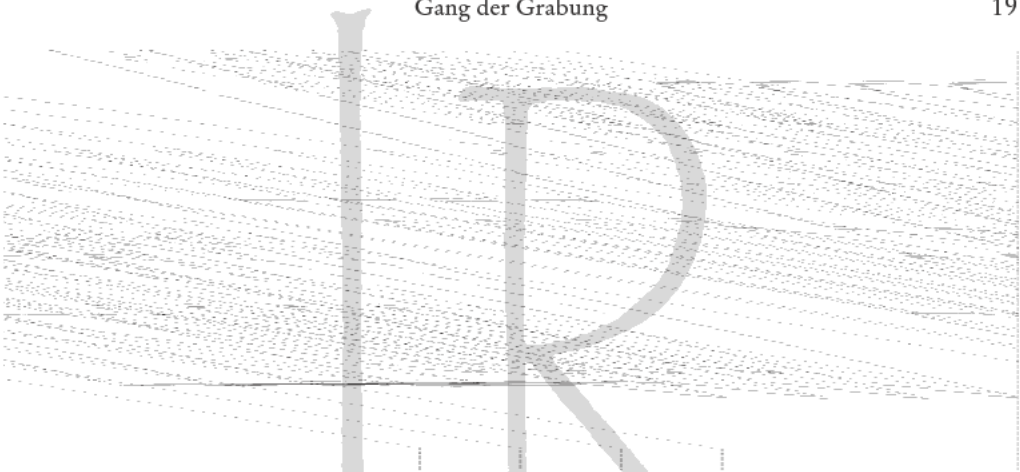


Fig. 5. Basin divided into three parts with two partitions in the middle

To the north of the basin from the west (mentioned under Dec. 6 and 7) is a sunk in pit, in which pour two pipes in the north wall of the basin. The basin was vaulted.

9 December 1948: Mme Bachatly came in the morning and completed the painting of the decorated part.

11 December 1948: Cleared the basin. It is divided into three parts with two partitions, in the middle of which are two vaulted doors (Fig. 5). The vault was plastered and painted with coloured designs. In some of the pieces were found holes, some of them still have glass as small lightning holes?? What was the purpose of this basin??

12 December 1948: To the east of the basin was a rectangular place, built of burnt bricks. The wall on the north and west have holes fitted with pottery jars like pigeon holes.

13 December 1948: The four walls of the larger basin are cleared. They all are fitted with pottery jars in the holes. The four corners have a kind of semicircular buttresses formed in two steps, of which only the first one is fitted as well with holes.

14 December 1948: To the east of the chambers in the floor a built pit was cleared<sup>22</sup>. Water stopped us from getting any further down after the depth of about 1,50 m.

15 December 1948: Started the clearance of the chambers to the east (part south).

16 December 1948: One of the chamber in the north part (near the eastern corner) was found as being semicircular to the east<sup>23</sup>. After a small distance to the west another semicircular chamber was found facing south. The level of both seemed to have been one. The walls of both places were plastered and painted with designs of which, however, only a few traces were left.

18 December 1948: Another semicircular chamber was found but facing west.

ZAUZICH, der das betreffende Photo freundlicherweise ebenfalls einer Prüfung unterzogen hat (persönl. Nachricht vom 14.3.94).

22 Aller Wahrscheinlichkeit nach handelt es sich hierbei um das mutmaßliche Taufbecken (s.u. Kap. 1.3.5). Die zunächst verwirrende Angabe „to the east of the chambers“ bezieht sich auf die Räume auf der Westseite der Bauanlage B und ist damit inhaltlich eine Fortsetzung der Eintragung vom 11.11.1948; s. auch die folgende Eintragung vom 15.12.48.

23 Es handelt sich um die Ostapsis des Trikonchos.



Fig. 6. Triconch and church

19 December 1948: The clearance of the chamber on the south side proved that a church existed behind the semicircle facing west (Fig. 6). The church had a hall and chapel<sup>24</sup>. A part of it had designs which were copied by Mme Bachatly (see above December 8 and 9). To the west of the church was found a small water channel going outside the whole building and pouring into a pit<sup>25</sup>. Rostom Bey, Abou el-Naga, Zaki Noor and Raslan Eff. visited the site.

20 December 1948: In the debris outside the south wall was found a bottom of a pottery disc, 25 cms diameter on which is a Coptic text<sup>26</sup>.

21 December 1948: Work going on in the clearance of the south-west.

22 December 1948: I handed the photograph of the Coptic text to the Director General in Cairo. Work going on.

23 December 1948: The whole area is finished. The chambers are 66.

25 December 1948: Some fragments of pottery were found all with Coptic text.

26 December 1948: Working on the north part<sup>27</sup>.

27 December 1948: A row of chambers were found. The buildings are poorer than the main place. In one of the chambers were found X<sup>28</sup> to place for feeding animals (a stable).

28 December 1948: The north side was cleared. To the east of the stable a rectangular pit built with red bricks was found. To it from south and north run two drain pipes<sup>29</sup>. Two wells were sunk in a chamber to the east of this place. Both were built with red bricks.

29 December 1948: Clearing the east part of the monastery. To the east of the first chamber was found a drain pipe with a hole in which a circular pottery jar was put in the wall from the exterior part and pours the water into a small pit cut in soft rock (Fig. 7).

30 December 1948: To the south of the previous drain was found a rectangular pit, the walls of which built with red bricks. To the south is a canal cut in the rock in a higher level

24 „Fragments of a decorated column were found among the debris of the church. The walls of the apse were decorated with foliage designs painted on the plaster...“ nach Mitteilung von ROSTEM, *Identification* 113–119, bes. 115.

25 Richtigstellung der irrigen Ansicht vom 4.12. 1948; „pit“ steht hier für „channel“.

26 s. u. Kap. 3.3.3. Ostrakon Nr. 1.

27 Nördliche Außenvorbauten der Bauanlage B.

28 Leider ist die Bedeutung von „X“ nicht mehr aufzulösen.

29 Es scheint sich um den großen Raum auf der Höhe der Innenräume 14 bis 18 zu handeln. In der Aufnahmezeichnung von RASLAN ist allerdings für den „rectangular pit“ nur eine nördliche „drain pipe“ angegeben.

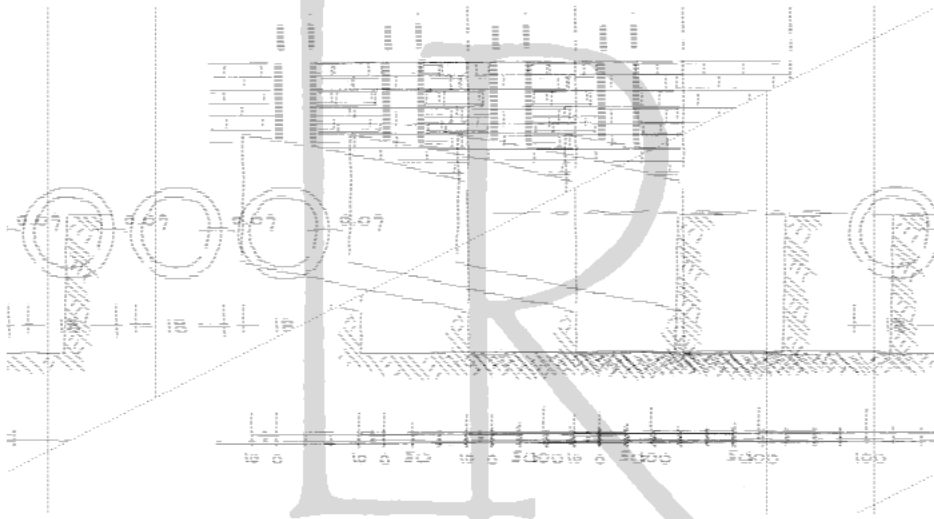


Fig. 7. Drain pipe

than the pit. This canal runs the whole length of the place to the south and joins another canal cut into the rock.

1949

1 January 1949: Carrying on with the clearance of the south part.

2 January 1949: The canal was found going on from the east to the west. In it was built a small water passage with red bricks. Near the west part in front of the part to the west of the church there were found three draining passages pouring their water into the main canal.

3 January 1949: At the south-west corner of the monastery starts a big building spreading south-west. Following the walls, we found that it is not less than the monastery<sup>30</sup>. The Director General M. Drioton and Rostom Bey visited the site and found it is important to carry on with the excavations in this part.

5 January 1949: Clearing the east-north part of the building<sup>31</sup>. In one of the chambers were found three gold coins in a very good state of preservation, inscribed in Arabic language (to be examined by specialists). 2 cms diameter and about 1 mm thick (photographed the two faces).

8 January 1949: Clearing the part to the west of the monastery and clearing the chambers of the other building.

10 January 1949: Clearing the main drain to the west.

11 January 1949: Work going on. Dr. Moh. Mustapha of the Arabic Museum visited the site.

12 January 1949: Carrying on with the repairing of the roads.

30 Hier Bauanlage A.

31 Hier die Räume zwischen 6 und 12.

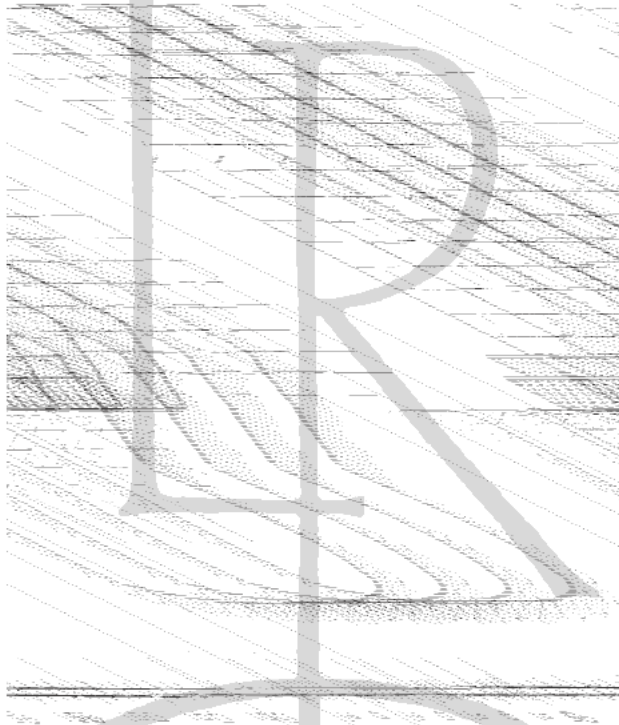


Fig. 8. Drain pipe at the north-west corner of the building

13 January 1949: A gold coin was found near the place of the three others found before<sup>32</sup>.

16 January 1949: Dr. K. A. C. Creswell visited the site with Dr. Moh. Mustapha from the Arabic Museum.

20 January 1949: Still clearing the west side of the monastery.

32 s. auch die Notiz vom 5. Januar. Alle vier Goldmünzen befinden sich heute unter den Registrations-Nrn. 18324/1. 18324/2. 18325. und 18326 im Islamischen Museum von Cairo und werden im Katalog des Museums von 'ABD AR-RAHMAN FAHMI (Cairo 1965) S. 291f. unter den Nrn. 8, 9, 12 und 17 genannt. Nach den Eintragungen im Journal d'Entrée des Museums wurden sie in 1956 aus den Beständen des ehemals königlichen Palastes, dem Qaṣr al-Qubba, übernommen, doch wird von der Museumsleitung die Herkunft aus den Grabungen Z. Y. SAADS in Hulwān bestätigt. Die sonstigen Eintragungen im Journal d'Entrée zu den einzelnen Stücken lauten:

18324/ 1 und 2 (= Fahmi 8 und 9): 2 *Dinars with kufic inscription, both dated 79 H, weight 8,490 g*

18325 (= Fahmi 12): 1 *Dinar with kufic inscription, dated 80 H, weight 4,190 g*

18326 (= Fahmi 17): 1 *Dinar with kufic inscription, dated 81 H, weight 4,210 g*

Welche dieser vier Münzen am 5. Januar bzw. am 13. Januar gefunden wurden, ist nicht mehr feststellbar.



22 January 1949: Clearing the middle part of the building. It is deeper than the surface.

23 January 1949: In the western wall, near the north side, a hole was found. In it is placed a pottery pipe going down. By the foot of the wall was found an opening out of which the water goes out<sup>33</sup>. Clearing this place we found the place built with mud-bricks<sup>34</sup> and a small rectangular hole cut in the soft rock (**Fig. 8**). Studying this piece and comparing it with the other on the east-north wall<sup>35</sup>, one judges that both of these holes fitted with pottery were to let the rain get down from the roof to the ground.

24 January 1949: Two benches (mastabas) were found built against the west wall. One built to the north of the gate while the other is to the south. Work going on in the other building.

25 January 1949: We completed the clearance of the drain to its end in the west. The part in the big building which was found dug deep was emptied. To the south of it traces of the pavement show that water was kept or as a drain (not clear).

26 January 1949: The building is still not yet finished.

27 January 1949: Another depression was found near the west part.

30 January 1949: Clearing the chambers.

31 January 1949: The depression was cleared. It is of unknown feature.

1 February 1949: Still carrying on with the clearance of the chambers.

4 February 1949: Some of the chambers are semi-circular in form like those in the other monastery<sup>36</sup>.

8 February 1949: The building seems to have been for different dwellings. A group of chambers is very interesting for the way of its building. It has a middle door that leads to a hall. To the right and left are two semi-circular chambers and in front of the hall is a third chamber in the same way<sup>37</sup> (**Fig. 9**).

9 February 1949: The clearance is going on. A part of a white limestone column was found in a pit. It is the lowest part of the column.

10 February 1949: The south of the building ends with a draining canal but not deep and does not resemble the draining system of the convent. The clearance of the part to the east of the semi-circular chambers is a big chamber ending on the east with a semicircle<sup>38</sup> like the previous ones. The work is on the east part of the building outside the chambers (**Fig. 10**).

12 February 1949: The work stopped on this big house.

13 February 1949: Work going on in the drains to the east of the house.

14 February 1949: Work is on the high mound to the south.

15 February 1949: M. Drioton and Rostom Bey visited the site.

16 February 1949: Closing down. Clearing the tombs in the grave yard of the monastery<sup>39</sup>. 15 intact tombs were all we found out of 36 tombs. They contained nothing except

33 Nach dem Photo (**Taf. 12a**) bezieht sich diese Bemerkung auf eine Stelle in der Außenwand von Raum 12 der Bauanlage B. Eine Maßskizze von M. A. M. RASLAN liegt für diese Abflußleitung nicht vor.

34 Nach dem Photo (**Taf. 12a**) handelt es sich hierbei um Brandziegel.

35 s. o. unter dem 29. Dezember 1948.

36 Es handelt sich hierbei um den Trikonchos der Bauanlage A.

37 s. vorige Anm.

38 Es handelt sich hierbei um die Kirche der Bauanlage A.

39 Kein Hinweis über die Lage, s. dazu die folgende Anm.

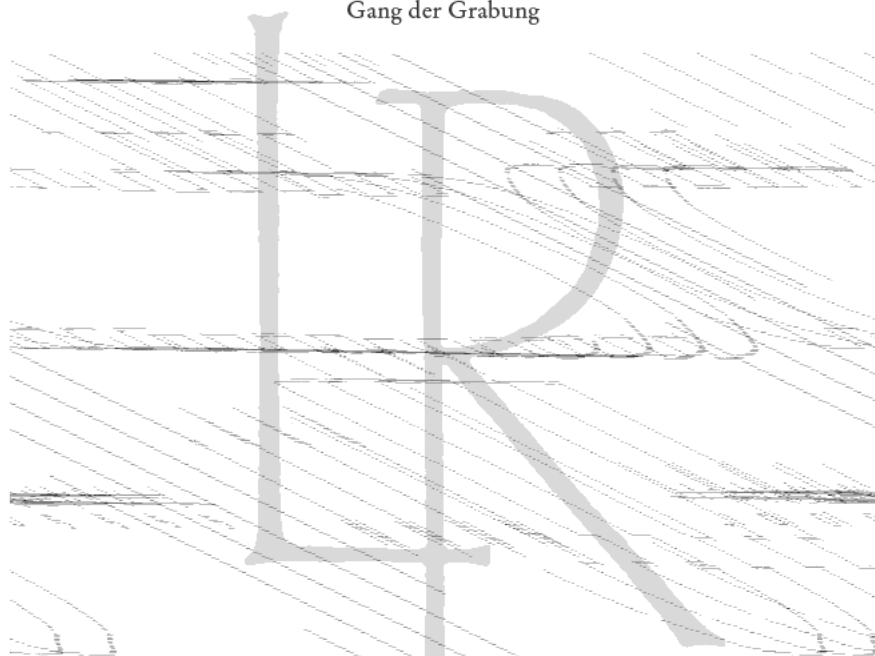


Fig. 9. Hall with semicircular chambers

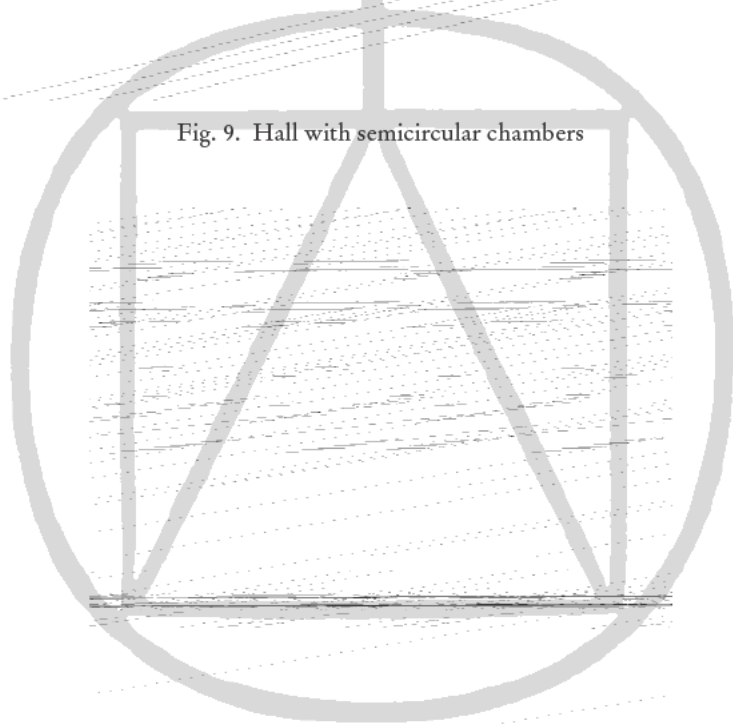


Fig. 10. Big chamber with a semicircle outside of the chambers; later identified as a church

tomb no. 1, in which was found at the head of the owner a rectangular piece of ivory in a very bad state of preservation. After we treated the piece with gomalaka we found that it was inscribed with Coptic letters as shown on the photograph (Taf. 14d). In tomb no. 14 (Fig.11) traces of two bodies were found, buried each one in a coffin. They were wrapped in cloth with threads of thin gilt material. Near the south-west corner was found a conical silver seal bearing the name of *Kosmas*. The tomb itself was built with mud bricks. The steps are on the west side<sup>40</sup>.

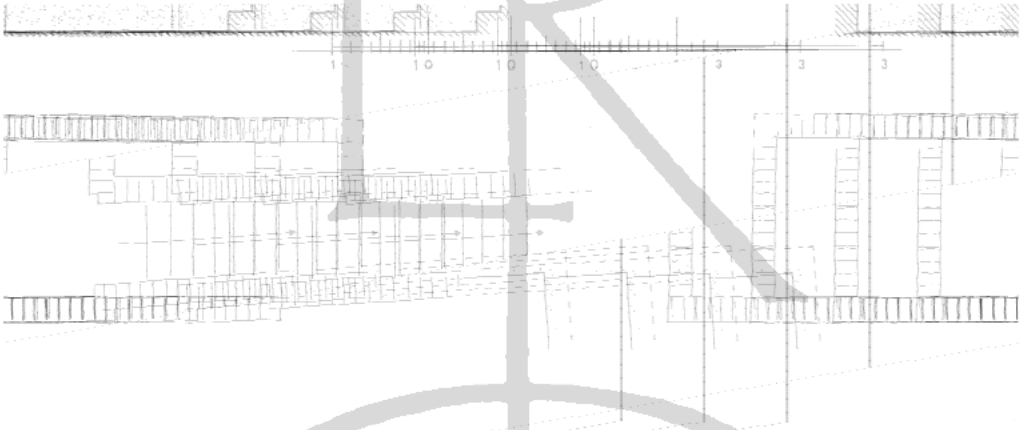


Fig. 11. Tomb no. 14 (Für den Grundriß wurden die Maße von M.A.M. RASLAN übernommen.)

<sup>40</sup> Aus der beigelegten Skizze (Abb. 11, mit Maßen) geht hervor, daß es sich bei diesem „tomb 14“ um die Grabanlage im Hof vor der Kirche handelt. Nach DU BOURGUET, *Découvertes* 83f, dessen Angaben wohl auf einer Notiz des Ausgräbers beruhen, wurden die übrigen Gräber nördlich außerhalb der Bauanlage B gefunden.