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edited by

Massimiliano S. Pinarello, Justin Yoo, Jason Lundock
and Carl Walsh

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BASHA, Walaa Aboubakr (University of Manchester) Stable Isotope Analysis of Soft Tissue from Kulubnarti (Sudanese Nubia).

BAUMANN, Stefan (Universität Tübingen) Treasuries and Hidden Chambers in GraecoRoman Temples.

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BRUMBRIDGE, Caroline (University of Auckland) 'You carried your spear on the testimony of a filthy whore!': Gender Stereotypes and Transgendered Individuals in the Tale of the Two Brothers.

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GUTIERREZ, Maria (Yale University) Processional Oracles: Methods of Approaching the God in the Context of Egyptian Temple Festivals and Processions.

HACKNER, Stacy (University College London) 3D Scanning for Nubian Bones: a Case Study.

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JOHNSON, Diane (Open University/University of Manchester) Irons in the Fire: Iron Working in Early Egypt.

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PORTER, Robert M. (Independent) Recent Egyptian Carbon Dating Projects and Dendrochronology.

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ROBINSON, Joanne M. (University of Manchester) 'Blood is thicker than water': Cultural and Biological Influences and Outcomes of Consanguineous Marriage in Ancient Egypt.

ROBINSON, Peter (Independent) The Manchester 'Funeral' Ostrakon: a Sketch of a Funerary Ritual?

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STONER, Jo (University of Kent) The Cultural Life of Monastic Baskets in Late Antique Egypt.

STÖVESAND, Katharina (University College London/University of Cologne) Ancient Egyptian Coffins as Communicative Media for Religious Visual Strategies: Lower and Middle Egyptian Coffins of the Late and Ptolemaic Periods.

TAKENOUCHI, Keita (Waseda University) Some Remarks on the Distribution of Stone Production in Predynastic Egypt: A View from the Analysis of Mudstone Artefacts.

TITZ, Pavel and MUSIL, Jiri (Charles University in Prague) El-Hayz Project: Current State of Knowledge on the Egyptian Western Desert Oasis.

WADE, Janelle (University of Chicago) Pharaonic Economy: a New Commodity-Based Approach to an AgeOld Discussion.

WALSH, Carl (University College London) Establishing the Proper Etiquette: Diplomacy and the Transmission of Court Lifestyles between Egypt and Kerma during the Middle Bronze Age.

WYATT, John (Independent) Bird Hieroglyphs: An Ornithologist's Viewpoint on their Origin and Subsequent Depiction.

YOO, Justin (King's College London) Mercenaries, Merchants, Migrants and Marauders: Greeks in Late and Persian Period Egypt.

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KAHLBAUM-HOISINGTON, Kelsey (University of Maryland University College) It's All about the Bread Moulds: Analysis and Measurements Taken to Find Possible Standardization among Middle Hellenistic Bread Moulds.

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MCGUINNESS, Kevin (Brock University) Drag Queen: the Liminal Status of the Bust of Queen Nefertiti.

MANSOUR, Ahmed (Bibliotheca Alexandrina) The Journey of Writing in Egypt.

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SHAWKI, Nora (Durham University) King Tutankhamun's Facsimile: Recreation as Preservation.

SHEPHERD, Sarah (University of Hull) The Bronze Age Sword Manufacturing in Egypt: the Khepesh.

SIFFERT, Uta (University of Vienna) From Object to Icon: Visual Reflections on and the Designations of Material Culture in the Reliefs and Paintings of Middle Kingdom Tombs.

TITZ, Pavel and MUSIL, Jiri (Charles University in Prague) El-Hayz Project: The Coarse Ware Pottery from the Czech Excavations.

UGOLINI, Federico (King's College London) Upper Adriatic and Egypt in the Roman Empire: Ports and Trade.

WASMUTH, Melanie (University of Basel) Being 'Foreign' in an Ancient Multi-cultural Society: the case of the Egyptians in Early Iron Age Mesopotamia.

WATT, Kimberly (University of Cambridge) Does Form Follow Function? What Functions can be Deduced from a Floor Plan?

ZERMANI, Isabel (University of North Carolina at Wilmington) Sharing the Story: Creating a Dialogue with the Past and Present Community.

The Discovery of Intact Foundation Deposits in the Western Valley of the Valley of the Kings

Afifi Rohim Afifi and Glen Dash

Introduction

Between 2007 and 2011, the Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities (now the Ministry of State for Antiquities) undertook a comprehensive programme of excavation and survey in the Valley of the Kings. It was the first such effort in the Valley by an all-Egyptian team of archaeologists. The mission, conducted under the auspices of Zahi Hawass, then Secretary General of the Supreme Council, consisted of Afifi Rohim Afifi as field supervisor and team members Eltayeb Mohamed Elkhodary, Ahmed Mohamed el-Lathiy, Ahmed Ali Mohamed, Hamada Abdel Moeen Kellawy, Mohamed Abdelbadie, Abdelghafar Wagdi, and Ahmed Hemada. Sherif Abdelmonaem provided the ceramics illustrations. Within the scope of excavation, permission was granted to Glen Dash, Joan Dash, Rebecca Dash, and James Bishop of the Glen Dash Foundation to undertake a targeted geophysical survey.

In this paper we discuss the discovery by the archaeological team of four intact foundation deposits from the westernmost end of the western valley of the Valley of the Kings (Fig. 1.1). Foundation deposits are votive offerings placed in, beneath, or around a tomb, temple, or other structure, usually at its commencement (Weinstein 1973, lxix).

Prior work in this part of the western valley

At its west end, the western valley splits into two canyons, one continuing to the west and the other running to the south. The southern canyon contains a multiplicity of workmen's huts, but no known tombs. WV23, WV24, and WV25 are located in the western canyon.

In the summer of 1972, the University of Minnesota Egyptian Expedition (UMEE), under the direction of Otto Schaden (1984, 39), cleared the tomb of Ay (WV23). UMEE also explored the nearby unfinished tomb WV25.

Wilkinson wrote: 'The chief question about WV25 is: for whom was this monument originally intended? [...] Opinion has differed over the years, but the most likely answer right now would seem to be none other than the heretic pharaoh, Akhenaten' (Wilkinson 1991, 51).

Wilkinson and Schaden, then co-directors of the University of Arizona's Western Valley of the Kings Project, also surveyed nearby WV24 in 1972. According to Schaden, one item in the tomb appeared to have been untouched since the tomb was abandoned in the 18th dynasty,

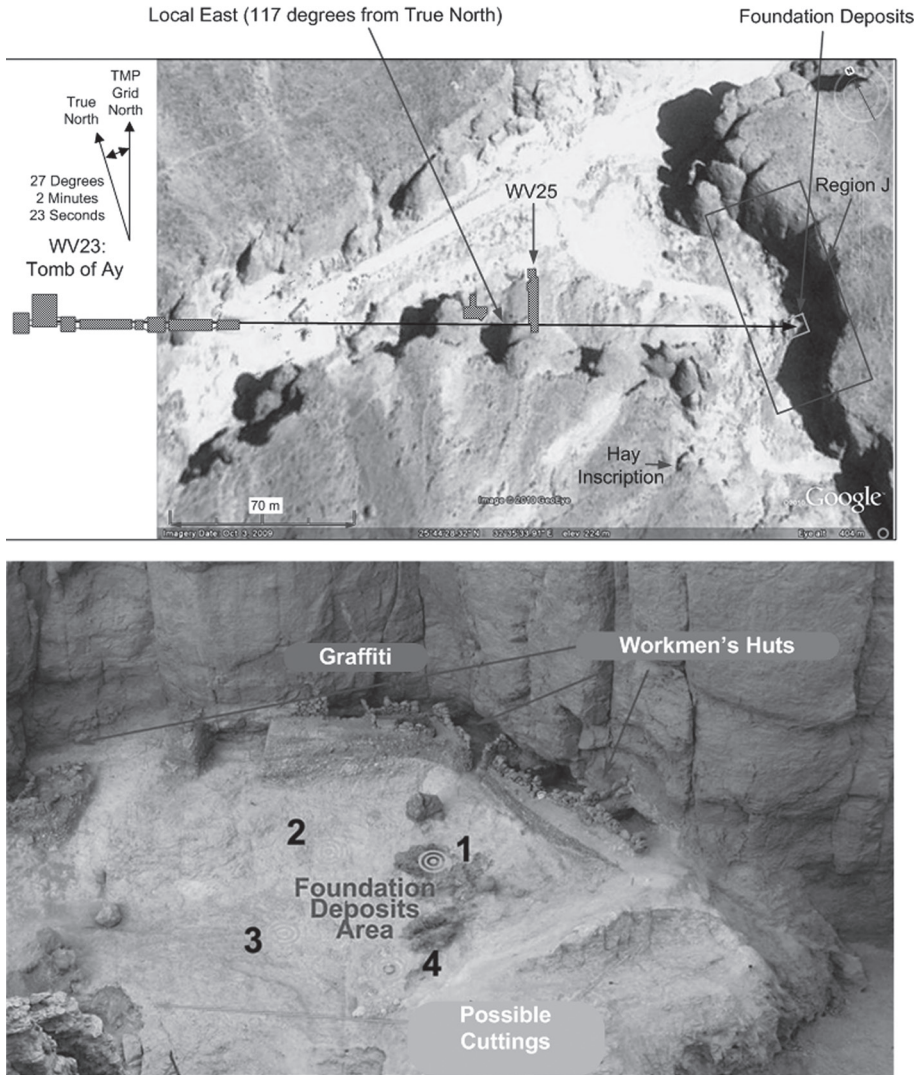


Figure 1.1. Location of the foundation deposits. Top: Relationship between the deposits and the tombs. Photo courtesy Google Earth. Bottom: Completed excavations in Region J viewed from the southwest. Photo courtesy the Ministry of State for Antiquities. Both photos used with permission.

a wooden mallet. ‘It was never recovered. [...] This lends support to the notion that the tomb may have been prematurely (and perhaps even abruptly?) abandoned’ (Schaden 1991, 58). Wilkinson and Schaden believe that WV24 was intended either to be a storage annex for WV25, the tomb of an important family member or courtier of the king (Reeves and Wilkinson 1996, 182; Harwood 2013, 51).

In 2000, Wilkinson and the University of Arizona Egyptian Expedition returned to the western valley in search of foundation deposits. To the east of WV25, the expedition found an

empty pit set into the hard-packed grey-white rock and desert clay, which is typical of this area. The pit was 20–30 cm deep and 40–45 cm in diameter, and probably once held a foundation deposit (Wilkinson 2004, 202).

Location of the newly-discovered foundation deposits

Figure 1.1 shows the location of the newly-discovered foundation deposits in an orientation following the Theban Mapping Project (TMP) maps of the area (Weeks 2005, 12). These are rotated about 27 degrees clockwise from true north (see the north arrows at the upper left and right of Fig. 1.1). The Theban Mapping Project chose to orient their maps with the monumental axis of Karnak Temple, which is set perpendicular to the Nile (Belmonte *et al.* 2009, 265, fig. 8.42; Goodman 2005, 3). In this orientation, river alignments are easier to identify; and so common in Egypt that the direction of the Nile in a given area can be thought of as ‘local north’ (Belmonte *et al.* 2009, 215). The axis of WV25 runs parallel to the river and therefore parallel to the local north. The tomb of Ay (WV23) is set perpendicular to the river and runs local east-west. A line has been drawn on Fig. 1.1 from the tomb of Ay to the newly-discovered foundation deposits. This line too runs local east-west.

The process of discovery

At the beginning of work in this part of the western valley, the team mapped a multiplicity of workmen’s huts. Beneath the huts, in an area they designated as Region J, they found the first deposit. The team eventually cleared the surrounding area down to bedrock, finding a total of four deposits arrayed around a central hut, designated J12. As shown in the section in Fig. 1.2, hut J12 was built over two layers of soil, each composed of clay, silt, and sand,

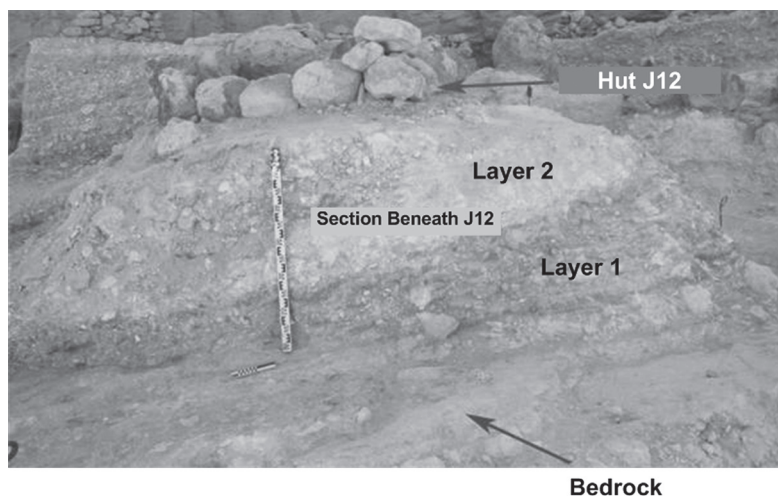


Figure 1.2. Hut J12 before its removal. Photograph used with the permission of the Ministry of State for Antiquities.

with limestone and chert inclusions. The lower layer (Layer 1) is darker and more irregular in elevation. Layer 1 may have been the product of natural processes, whereas Layer 2 may have been laid down deliberately to provide a level surface for the construction of the huts in this area.

Description of the foundation deposits

Figures 1.3–1.8 show the contents of the four deposits. The team found that the placement of artefacts in these deposits (Fig. 1.3, top left) was similar to their placement in the deposits found by Howard Carter in front of the tomb of Amenhotep III (WV22). Carter reported that objects there were ‘placed *en masse*; the only visible order being that flesh offerings were always on top and were followed with pottery’ (Thomas 1966, 101 n. 178).

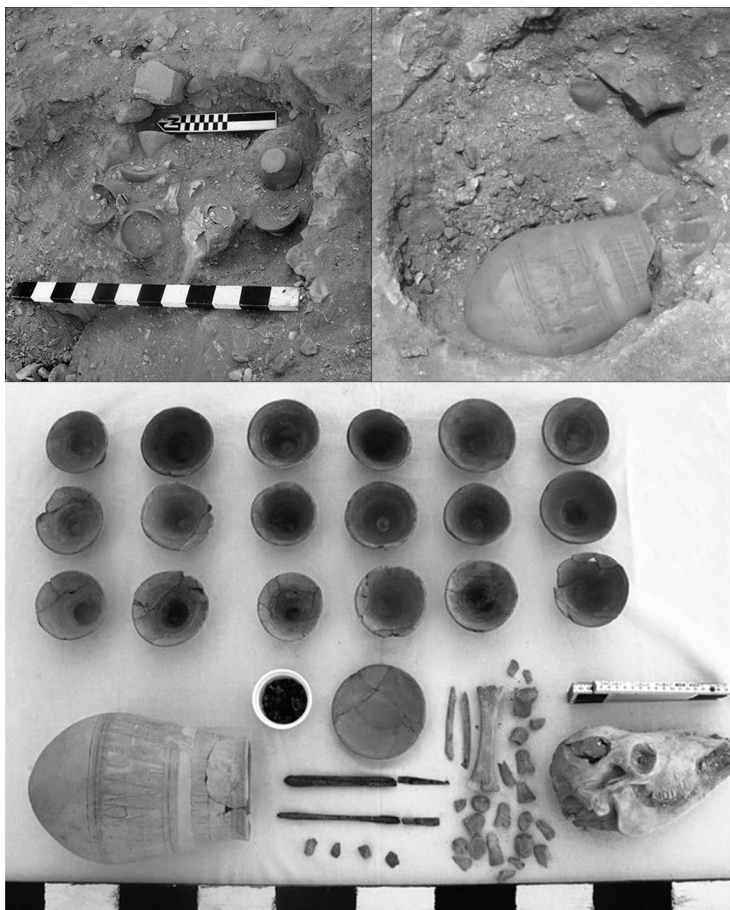


Figure 1.3. Contents of the foundation deposits. Upper left: A deposit as found. Upper right: Blue painted vase of Deposit 4. Bottom: Contents of Deposit 4. Ruler and coffee cup shown for scale. Photographs used with the permission of the Ministry of State for Antiquities.

The Egyptians created the southeast deposit, Deposit 1, by cutting through the soil layer into the bedrock. It contained 16 flat-bottomed offering bowls, one dish, and one ovoid jar with long neck (Fig. 1.4). Deposit 2, cut into the soil layer, held 15 flat-bottomed offering bowls (Fig. 1.5) and the poorly preserved skull of a bovine. Deposit 3, more complex, was cut into the soil layer and held 12 flat-bottomed offering bowls, one ovoid long necked jar (Fig. 1.6), seeds, a poorly preserved bovine skull, and two miniature tools with wooden handles. Deposit 4, cut through

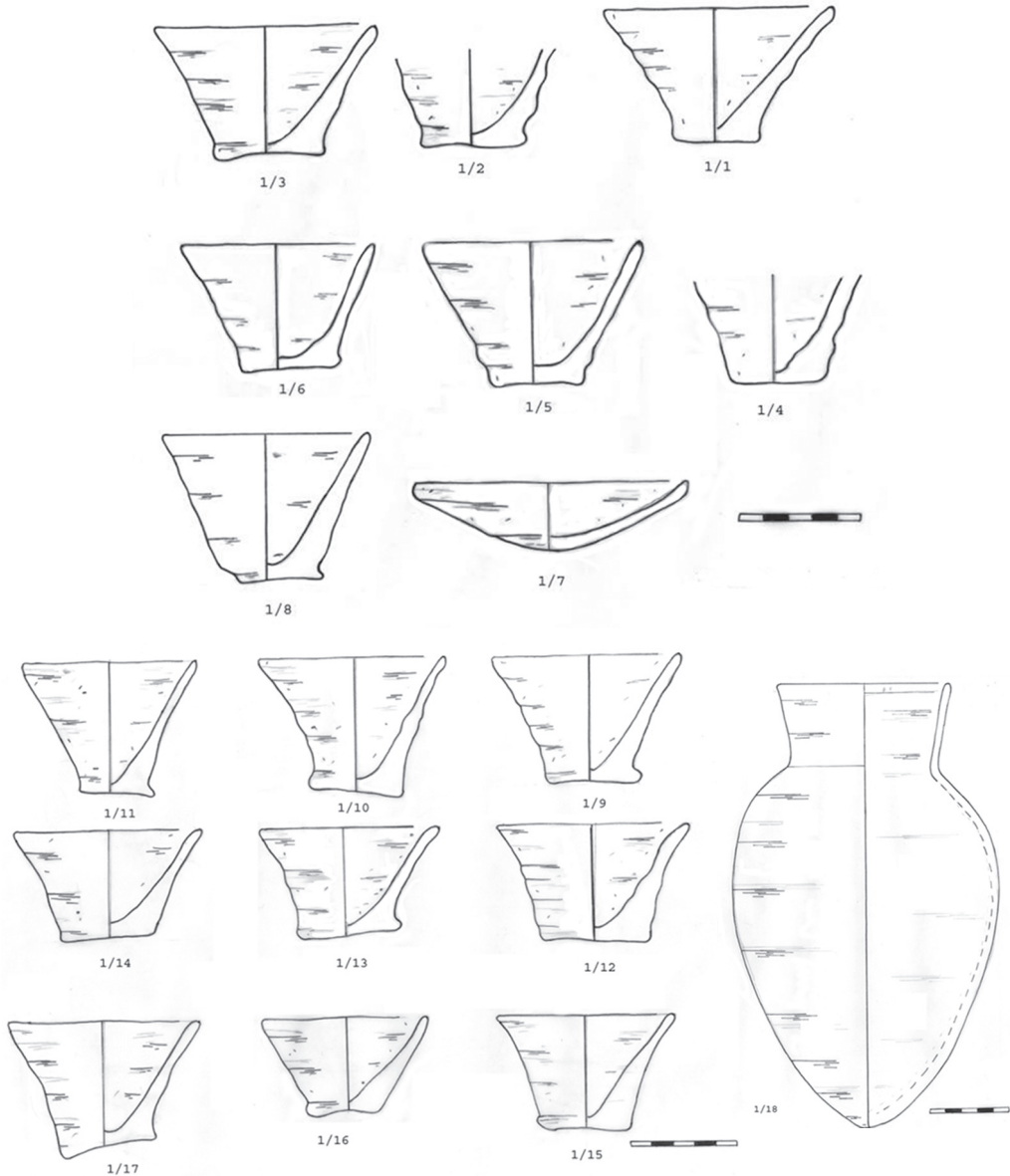


Figure 1.4. Pottery found in Deposit 1. Published with the permission of the Ministry of State for Antiquities.

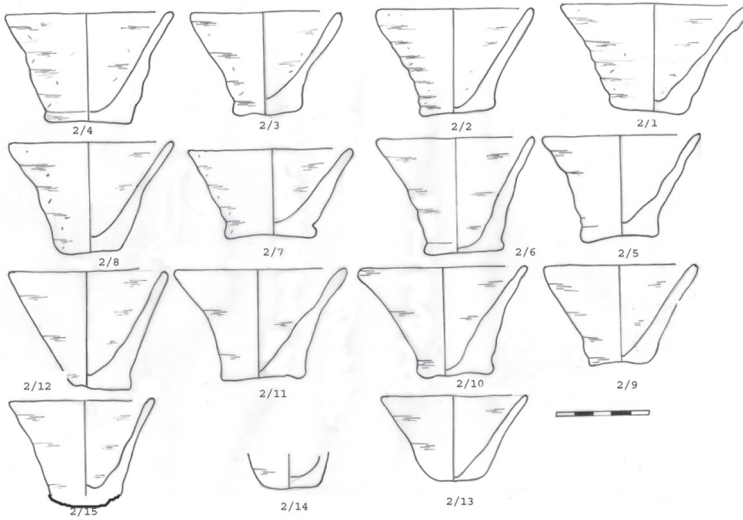


Figure 1.5. Pottery found in Deposit 2. Published with the permission of the Ministry of State for Antiquities.

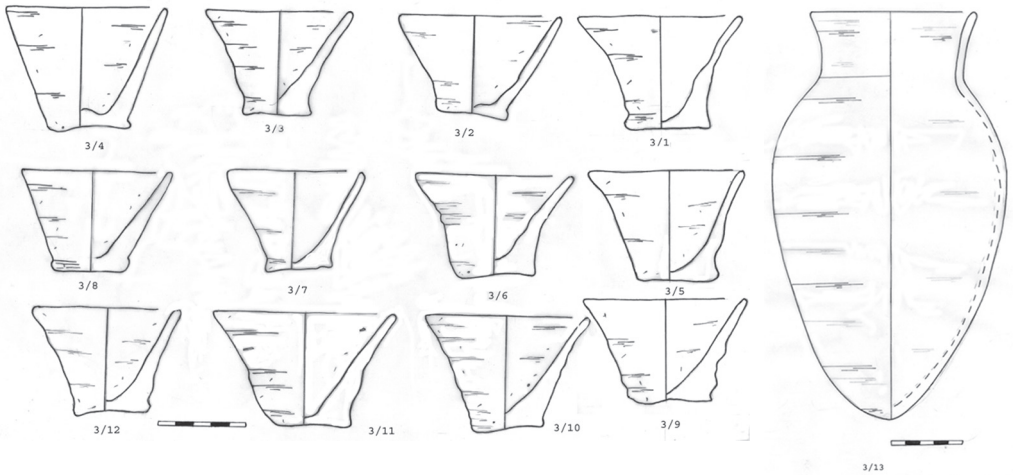


Figure 1.6. Pottery found in Deposit 3. Published with the permission of the Ministry of State for Antiquities.

the soil and into the bedrock, held 18 flat-bottomed offering bowls, one dish, a blue painted jar with a rounded base (Fig. 1.7), two miniature tools with handles, and a well preserved bovine skull. All the deposits were between 0.4 and 0.6 m in diameter.

The blue painted jar and the tools (Fig. 1.8) allow us to date these deposits to the 18th dynasty. The blue painted pottery first appears in the mid-18th dynasty (Rose 2007, 18). Miniature tools with attached wooden handles are common in foundation deposits of the 18th dynasty, but are practically unknown for the 19th and 20th dynasties, and none from those two dynasties have been found in the Valley of the Kings (Weinstein 1973, 232).

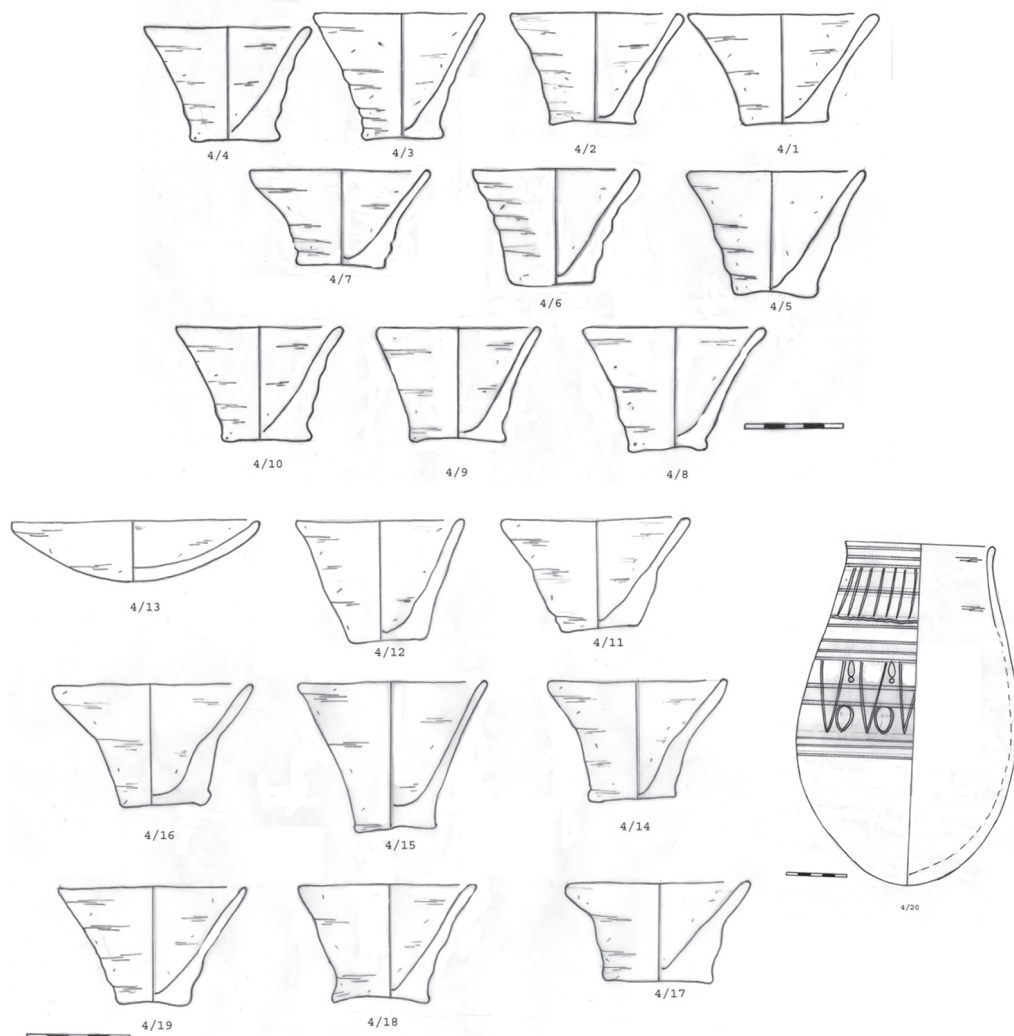


Figure 1.7. Pottery found in Deposit 4. Published with the permission of the Ministry of State for Antiquities.

The search for a tomb

The team cleared the bay surrounding the deposits from the roadway to the eastern escarpment wall, leaving only the necessary supports for the workmen's huts that did not need to be removed. No tomb, nor convincing evidence of a tomb commencement, was found. It is the first time in the valley's history that foundation deposits not immediately associated with a tomb were found. In the search for the tomb, the team also explored the western escarpment wall across the southern canyon from the foundation deposits. Here, in a cleft in the wall, the team encountered and re-recorded Carter Graffito 1517 (Fig. 1.9). The inscription reads: 'The hut of the deputy Hay



Figure 1.8. Miniature tools found in the foundation deposits. Photograph used with the permission of the Ministry of State for Antiquities.

Totosherry, his son the scribe Amenenakht, his son Amennakht, and his son [Nebnufer]'. Hay, who used the sobriquet Totosherry, is first attested during the reign of Rameses III (Davies 1999, 69). In his tomb in Deir el-Medina, TT 267, Hay described himself as: 'deputy of the workforce in the Place of Truth on the West of Thebes and chief craftsman of the Lord of the Two Lands in the House of Eternity, the temple scribe in the estate of Amun, Lord of Opet' (Davies 1999, 67).

Hay left other inscriptions in this part of the valley, leading Peden (2001, 211) to conclude that: [T]he absence of textual graffiti naming any other workmen in the immediate vicinity of this shady grotto [...] might suggest that Hay held this area of the royal wadi to be his own. One can imagine him taking refuge in his private sanctuary, well away from his fellow-men, at need.

In 2010, the archaeological team asked the Glen Dash Foundation for Archaeological Research to undertake a ground-penetrating radar survey of the area. The geophysical team used a Sensors and Software pulseEkko Pro system with 200 MHz and 50 MHz antennas. Most of the results have been published elsewhere (Dash 2009, 1; Dash 2010, 1). However, one set of findings is of particular significance to this discussion. North and west of the tomb of Ay, the geophysical team detected several distinct anomalies indicative of pit tombs. The archaeological team excavated the area down to bedrock and found two squared and levelled sections of bedrock (Fig. 1.10). These may have been areas set aside for pit tombs, but beyond the superficial cuttings, they were never completed (Dash 2009, 4–12).



Figure 1.9. The Hay inscription. Photo by the Glen Dash Foundation. Illustration courtesy the Ministry of State for Antiquities, and used with permission.

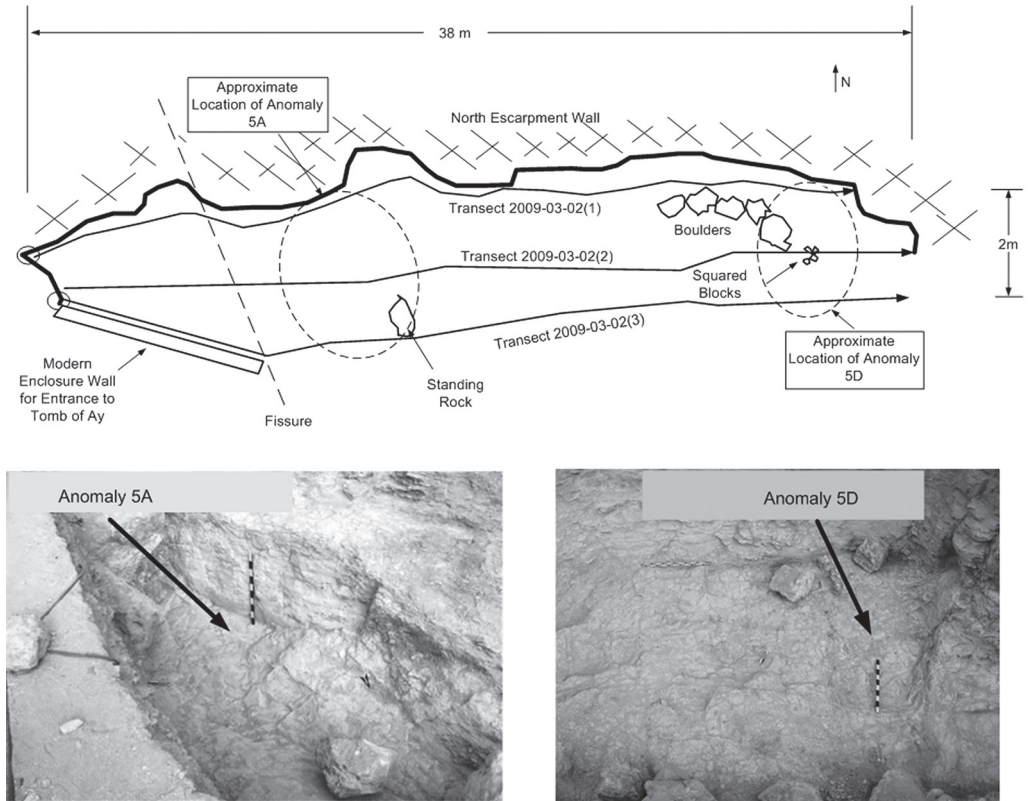


Figure 1.10. Radar surveys near the Tomb of Ay. Drawing by the Glen Dash Foundation. Photographs used with the permission of the Ministry of State for Antiquities.

Interpretations of the finds

During whose reign were the foundation deposits placed? The evidence seems to suggest the reign of Amenhotep IV/Akhenaten. Nothing encountered is inconsistent with the hypothesis proposed by Schaden and Wilkinson that WV24 and WV25 were begun by Amenhotep IV/Akhenaten before he moved the royal house to Amarna. Indeed, the relative positions of WV23, WV24, WV25, and the foundation deposits suggest that they may all have been conceived of as part of one complex. However, none of these tombs were completed until after the Amarna period, when the royal house returned to Thebes, finishing what eventually became the tomb of Ay. To supply the infrastructure needed for that undertaking, the Egyptians may have levelled the area over and around the forgotten foundation deposits, and built workmen's huts on top. In an alternative scenario, it is possible that the foundation deposits could have been set in place during the reign of Tutankhamen, Ay, or another king of the late 18th dynasty. Under this scenario, the workmen's huts would not have been built in the 18th dynasty at all. They would have been built later, perhaps by the deputy Hay in the 20th dynasty.

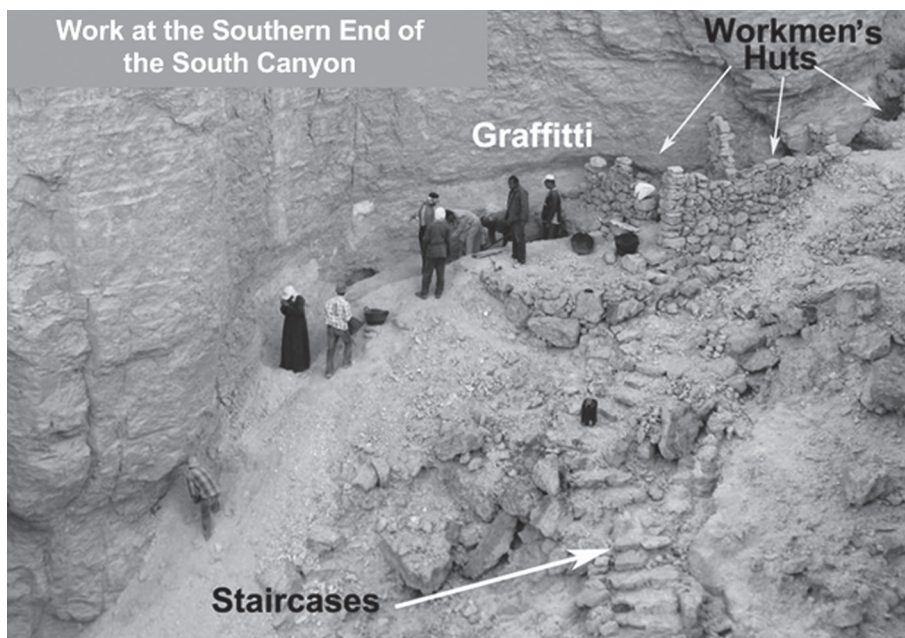


Figure 1.11. Stairway leading to previously unknown workmen's huts at the southern end of the south canyon. Photograph used with the permission of the Ministry of State for Antiquities.

Other work in the westernmost end of the western valley

The archaeological team also uncovered, excavated, and recorded workmen's huts at the southern end of the southern canyon (Fig. 1.11). Here, the team found a rock-cut stairway leading up to the huts from the floor of the canyon.

Problems encountered with the Theban Mapping Project maps

Some problems were encountered with the TMP maps of the area. The topographic overlays appear to be somewhat misplaced. Since it appears that the workmen's huts were mapped relative to the contours, they appear to be misplaced on the TMP maps as well.

Conclusions

We can reasonably date the deposits to the 18th dynasty. The deposits lie on a line that runs 'local east' from the axis of the tomb of Ay, suggesting that this tomb and the deposits are related. Almost exactly in the middle is WV25, perhaps originated by Amenhotep IV/Akhenaten, further suggesting that all three may be related. Amenhotep IV/Akhenaten may have originally intended to make this portion of the western valley his personal royal necropolis, before moving to Amarna. Alternatively, a later king of the 18th dynasty, perhaps Ay, may have placed the foundation deposits here after the royal house returned to Thebes. Ay may have marked out, but not completed, pit tombs near his own.

Despite the team's diligent efforts, no tomb associated with the foundation deposits could be found. This may be because none was built. It is possible, however, that a tomb is still there, perhaps lying under the roadway, or cleverly hidden high up in the escarpments.

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