

Study Concerning the King $\bar{K}3j\text{-}^c$ of the 1st Dynasty

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Abstract

According to the archaeological documents and historical resources, on which Ancient Egyptian history considered that the king QAj-a is the 8th and the last king of the 1st Dynasty. He may reign 26 years. The parents of the king QAj-a are unknown, but it is thought that either his predecessor aD-ib or smr-xt was his father, since it was a tradition to leave the throne to the eldest son. The architectural buildings of the king were numerous in the contemporary tombs, whether his tomb in Abydos, his tomb in Saqqara, tombs and monuments of the noble of his period. Several stone vessel inscriptions and numerous ivory tablets dating to his reign also mention only typical arrangements, such as depicting and counting burial offerings and personal possessions of the king. Despite QAj-a's long and prosperous reign evidence shows that after his death, a dynastic war between different royal houses began over the newly empty throne. The research aims to study the most important works of the king QAj-a in Ancient Egypt; study his most important monuments and shed light on the end of the first dynasty.

Introduction

Little information is available about the Archaic or Early Dynastic Period of Egypt (also known as Thinite Period) before 1895, despite that, the ancient historians had some important information including the historical documents provided with the sources of the ancient Egyptian history. Some of the excavations and discoveries made by both the great Egyptologists W.F.Petrie at Abydos “*3bdw*”¹ and Araba el Madfuna², J. de Morgan, Quibell at Hieraknopolis “*nhn*”, it was the early site of Horus temple in the south, “El Kom-El-Ahmar”³, and also W.B. Emery of tombs and temples⁴.

Abydos king list mentioned 76 kings titled with “*nsw*” namely king, started by the king “*Mn*”. Karnak list 62 kings, start with “*Mn*”. Saqqara king list mentioned 58 kings which starts with the king “*d-ib*” from the first dynasty and the king $\bar{K}3j\text{-}^c$ is the sixth of the first dynasty⁵.

But Turin Papari specified the kings with years, months and days, named the first 10 kings by the name of god's dynasties, and finally Palermo Stone has a whole lot problem like Turin Papryi which lost more than its half which contains reign period of each king within years, months and days. Most importantly that the bigger part contains only eight kings from the 2nd dynasty and nine kings from the 3rd dynasty⁶.

Manetho mentioned the name of the dynasty kings, and the place which originated in, but it is named in “Greek”⁷. The most important topics is to determine the time range of the dynastic period, Breasted mentioned that it started at 3400 B.C., Henry R.H. Hall mentioned that it started at 3500 B.C., Weigall 3407 B.C., Driton-Vandier 3197 B.C., Frankfort 3100 B.C., and Hayes mentioned that it started at 3200 B.C.

The most didn't accept the period set by Manetho 3100 B.C., about 550 years from the ascending of the king "Mn" to the end of the dynasty⁸. The recent studies completed that the beginning of the period 3100 B.C, (Abd El Aziz Saleh- Ali Radwan- Arnold- Coner- Grabel). According to the Archeologist Dr. Ali Radwan opinion⁹, the period begins at 3000 B.C.-2670 B.C¹⁰.



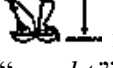

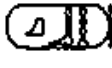

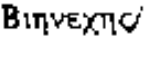

The designation "Dynasty 0" in the Prehistoric period referred to as Nagada III B¹¹, was firstly used by James E. Quibell to describe the artefacts discovered by him at Hierakonpolis, its archaeological context made it plain that they preceded those of the first dynasty, which their number is 14 kings titled with "hr"¹².

The king $\overline{K}3j\text{-}^c$

The king $\overline{K}3j\text{-}^c$ was the last eighth king of the first dynasty of Egypt by agreement of all scholars¹³. Manetho called $\overline{K}3j\text{-}^c$ "Bieneches" and gave him a reign of 26 years, according to Eusebius Armenian version 16 years and 26 years according to Eusebius from Syncellus¹⁴. There is no basis for the scholars to say that when the "Nbtj" name paired together with the "Horus" name upon *hr* sign, the hieroglyphic signs are written in reverse. Indeed, the two names on the king's labels face each other, but the change in the direction of the hieroglyphic signs is the feature of this era, and it is seen on several wooden and ivory labels. However the *Nbtj* and Horus name of the king $\overline{K}3j\text{-}^c$ is appeared on seals on one-way as it was in the ivory labels of Naqada¹⁵.

The Titles of the King $\overline{K}3j\text{-}^c$

The Horus name¹⁶ of the king $\overline{K}3j\text{-}^c$ is appeared upon the *serekh*, which consisted of a vertical rectangle divided into two sections, the lower portion showed a patterned area representing a niched façade, while the upper part depicted a plan of the palace into while the king's name was inserted. A top the *serekh*¹⁷ was perched a falcon figure symbolizing the celestial god Horus of whom the king was thought to be a representative on earth¹⁸. The name inside the *serekh* reads as " $\overline{K}3\text{-}^c$ or $\overline{K}\text{-}^c3$ or $k3y\text{-}^c3$, which means that "his arm is raised" or "the great higher one"¹⁹ (Fig. 1)²⁰.

- The Horus name:  reads as " $\overline{K}3j\text{-}^c$ " "his arm is raised".
- The Nbtj name:  reads as " $\overline{K}3j\text{-}^c\text{-}nbtj$ " "the great higher one of the two lands",  reads as "*sn-nbtj*" "the brother of the two lands", and  reads also as "*sn-nbtj*" "the brother of the two lands".
- His name reads as  "*Kbh*" "the cool one" and  reads as "*Kbh*".
- His Greco name is  reads as "BIËNECHES" and  reads as "UBIËNTHIS".

The king $\overline{K}3j\text{-}^c$ ruled after the death of the king *smr-ht*²¹, the seventh king of the first dynasty, and it may be the king *Kbh*, who was mentioned in the list of Abydos. It is thought that either his predecessor "*d-ib*" or "*smr-ht*" was his father, since it was a tradition to leave the throne to the eldest son. If Manetho suggested correctly *smr-ht* was the father²².

As for the name given to him by Manetho, which is the name of Bieneches, there is no evidence that it matches the name " $\overline{K}3j\text{-}^c$ ", but it may match his 26 years rule²³.

Royal tombs of the king *K3j-^c*

In Abydos, the southern tomb of the king “*K3j-^c*”²⁴ was found, also recently four mastabas were found from the reign of the king” *K3j-^c*”, one of them is the tomb no. 3505 and the most complete tomb in which it is believed that he was buried²⁵. Vandier identified the architectural attributes of its style as “type II -4”²⁶.

The tomb of the king “*K3j-^c*” located in Abydos “tomb Q” at “Umm El Qa’ab”²⁷, is more elaborate than the tomb of the king “*smr-ht*”, and its architectural design is more accurate than that of Saqqara in the same period. Its original axis extends from the north to south. Unlike many of the other royal tombs at Umm El- Qa’ab, that of the king *K3j-^c* has not yet a corresponding brick enclosure identified on the edge of the desert.

1. A deep rectangular pit under the ground with a stairway in the form of a staircase is warehouses.
2. The underground burial chamber is characterized by a ceiling of wood from the tree stems as well as warehouses.
3. The building is surrounded by many warehouses in the center, as well as 26 burials for high official of which *s3b.f*, and they all have a floor higher than the floor of the burial chamber and stairs (Fig. 2)²⁸.
4. The upper structure of the tomb was destroyed and may have covered all the construction. The length of the tomb is 30*23 M., several seals, jar sealing and labels were found²⁹.
5. There are indications that the tomb was built in several phases, with fairly long periods without building activity. This would confirm that Qa’a may have had a long reign³⁰.
6. There are also indications that the tomb may have been entered by robbers shortly after the king’s burial, and that it was re-closed by *K3j-^c*’s successor *htp-shmwy*³¹.

The Funerary temple of the king *K3j-^c*

The most important characteristic of the tomb of the king “*K3j-^c*” in Abydos is the remains of two limestone tablets found on the Eastern side of the building, both bearing the Horus name of the king³² (Fig. 3 A. B), and these two round-top stelae represent the falcon Horus standing on the *srh* sign of “the facade of the palace” and was found by Emilino³³ and the second was commented by Petrie³⁴. Dr. Ali Radwan sees from his opinion that there was an offering table between them, and this will be a representative of the funerary temple in the Eastern side of the tombs and pyramids in Ancient Egypt³⁵.

The tomb of Saqqara No. 3505

Is the prototype of the pyramid complex of later times. It is discovered in 1945 by Emery at Saqqara. It is in the shape of a Mastaba (fig. 4)³⁶.

1. A rectangular mud brick superstructure has recess paneling on which were decorated with enclosure wall, covered with a layer of multi-colored plaster (frescoes) well protected. Consists of geometric drawing imitates decorations of mat-work. The tomb complex measures overall 65 by 37 meters (Fig. 5)³⁷.
2. A descending passage leads the burial chamber which cut in rock, surrounded by warehouses, such as the tomb of Abydos.
3. Surrounding the superstructure is massive enclosure wall³⁸ within which from the Northern side is a funerary temple with a maze of rooms and corridors.
4. There are no burials for servants around the mastaba, and it is believed that the completion of the habit of burial of servants with the king during the reign of the king “*K3j-^c*”, that is, at the end of the first dynasty³⁹.
5. Dr. Ali Radwan sees from his point of view that the mastabas at Saqqara are in a shape of a roofed mastaba, while Abydos has the enclosure wall except for the king “*K3j-^c*”.

6. The tomb of “ $\overline{K}3j-^c$ ” at Saqqara contains a funerary temple that simulates in architectural planning the funerary temple of Djoser “*Ntry ht*” to the north of the step pyramid, as well as finding two wooden statues (Fig. 6)⁴⁰ and the remains of platform (Fig. 7)⁴¹.

Monuments of the king “ $\overline{K}3j-^c$ ”

1. A superb limestone stele of the king acquired by the Louvre in 1967, it may have been founded in his tomb at Abydos, represents the king “ $\overline{K}3j-^c$ ” wearing the “*hdt*” white crown of Upper Egypt while being embraced by the falcon headed god Horus. His name was written above and his Horus name appears upon the *srh* as well “*m hr-ht*” which means “in the temple of Horus”. This stele is one of the oldest stelae that express the idea of embracing to the king and the king’s strong relationship with the gods (Fig. 8)⁴².
2. Stele E6878 of King “ $\overline{K}3j-^c$ ”, tomb (Q), at the East side over chamber 3, of black quartzite inscribed with the Horus name of the King. This stele is decorated with a serekh (a rectangle with panelled lower half) surmounted by an image of the falcon god Horus. The Horus-name was the oldest element of the pharaoh’s titulary and associated him with the falcon god. The two large pieces of this stela were discovered at Abydos during separate excavations of the Early Dynastic royal cemetery. The fragments were reunited at Penn Museum in 1903 (Fig. 9)⁴³.

The jars sealing of the king “ $\overline{K}3j-^c$ ”

Jars sealing distinguished in the late period of the first dynasty by subjecting hieroglyphic signs to consistency in design, for example, the use of rotation with names. It was a seals on the clay blocks that closed the holes of the wine jars.

A. The first seal of the king king “ $\overline{K}3j-^c$ ”

The seal contains the Horus Name of the king “ $\overline{K}3j-^c$ ”, repeated three times, then a fortified oval shape written inside it (*hr- nb(w) snd*) which means (The fearful golden Horus), this shape repeated twice and at the end the *hr* sign upon the hieroglyphic sign of *hr* which means (who is above foreigners) (Fig. 10)⁴⁴.

B. The second seal of the king “ $\overline{K}3j-^c$ ”

The Horus name of the king proceeded by (*hr- ib*) means which reads as follows: (*hr ib K3j-^c3 hrp*) means (who in the heart of $\overline{K}3j-^c$ and controller⁴⁵ (of)..... (Fig. 11).

C. The third seal of the king “ $\overline{K}3j-^c$ ”

The seal shows the hieroglyphic sign “*hrp hr ib*” followed by the name of the king “ $\overline{K}3j-^c$ ” which means “director who is in the midst, $\overline{K}3j-^c$ (Fig. 12)⁴⁶.

D. The fourth seal of the king “ $\overline{K}3j-^c$ ”

The seal shows the hieroglyphic sign “*hr*” “followed by the king’s name “ $\overline{K}3j-^c$ *hr hr nb(w) sdr K3j-^c*” means “who is above the foreigner $\overline{K}3j-^c$, who is the above foreigner , the fearful golden Horus, $\overline{K}3j-^c$ (Fig. 13)⁴⁷.

Inscriptions on stone vases of king $\overline{K}3j-^c$

The important sources of the written materials are those texts that were written on these stone vases, and they refer to names and titles, and in some cases they may refer to an event, palace, or royal tomb. But in their entirety they refer to the ownership of their owner, including writing an inscription in a primitive way and very briefly it refers to the Horus name of the king $\overline{K}3j-^c$ (Fig. 14)⁴⁸.

- A. A vase of schist stone with a rounded edge, now at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo. It was found at Saqqara on which the Horus name of the two kings *smr-ht* and $\overline{K}3j-^c$ from the end of the first dynasty, taking the title “*ntr htp*” “satisfied god” (Fig. 15)⁴⁹.

Ivory tablets of the king $\bar{K}3j\text{-}^c$

- A. A part of a thin ivory tablet, found on the East of the tomb of $\bar{K}3j\text{-}^c$, it seems to give an unknown royal name “*sn*”, below the vulture and uraeus (Fig. 16)⁵⁰.
- B. This ivory carving is the most important artistic piece that was found. It is carved on the back with knots and bracts of a reed, and imitates one of the stripes of reed used for casting lots or gaming. The inner side is carved with a bound captive (Fig. 17)⁵¹.

The high officials during the reign of king $\bar{K}3j\text{-}^c$

A. Merka

Merka was the high official who lived during the reign of king $\bar{K}3j\text{-}^c$. He was buried in mastaba tomb no. 3505 at Saqqara. He was commemorated by a very large funerary stele found in the mastaba. A contemporary of the king $\bar{K}3j\text{-}^c$, Merka was a *sem*-priest with the title “prince”. He held a number of other offices including “controller of the palace”, “captain of the royal barque”, “administrator of the desert” and “head of the singers”. Among the material found in this tomb were seal impressions, scales in Egyptian alabaster and in schist and a stele listing the titles that Merka held during his life (Fig. 18)⁵².

The stele represents the noble Merka sitting at an offering table laden with loaves, his name and titles are given as “*iry-p*” “the noble”, “*hm-nbw*” “The royal servant”, “*hm-inpw*” “The servant of the god Anubis”, and “*hm nt*” “The servant of the goddess Neith”. He is holding the scepter while around sometimes above the table offering are depicted in the form of ideograms. He holds the scepter, it is believed that the tombs in the end of the first dynasty of the king $\bar{K}3j\text{-}^c$, the roof of the burial chamber was a pyramid roof of mud brick, but it may be for the second dynasty (Fig. 19)⁵³.

B. Stele of Sabef “*s3b.f*”⁵⁴:

Sabef was an Egyptian official or priest under king $\bar{K}3j\text{-}^c$ in the first dynasty⁵⁵. It is a square stele found next to the tomb of the king $\bar{K}3j\text{-}^c$ at Abydos⁵⁶. It is believed that Sabef was a priest of the god Anubis in the period of the king $\bar{K}3j\text{-}^c$ where he represented standing, holding the scepter with his right hand. Sabef was “governor of the residence”, keeper of the secrets of the decrees”, “overseer of the sed festival” and “a priest of Anubis” (Fig. 20)⁵⁷.

3. Ivory label to *hnw-K3*

This label of the king *smr-ht* from Abydos, *hnw-K3* was one of the nobles in the reign of the king *smr-ht*, but during the reign of the king $\bar{K}3j\text{-}^c$, he served the same job. It was believed that he was a priest of the god Sokar where the god Sokar boat appears in the label. There were labels with priests of religious rituals of *šmsw-ht*, written beside it *iry-ntr* which means “belongs to the god”⁵⁸ (fig. 21).

4. Tomb no. 3500

This tomb was a late first dynasty burial, founded by Emery in May, 1946 at Saqqara. Here, there are the elements that show a transition toward the tombs of the second dynasty. This is evidenced by the presence of only one niche on the façade, whereas the remainder of the mastaba façade is plain, as is the enclosure wall. It is a massive tomb, perhaps belongs to the wife of the king $\bar{K}3j\text{-}^c$ or one of the royal family. There are also four other tombs adjacent to this tomb. There is no evidence of the habit of sacrificing servants, although it almost returns to the same time.

The substructure consists of a large burial chamber measuring 8.1 by 5.4 meters, and one small magazine to its north. The burial chamber was accessed by a stepped passage originating to the east (Fig. 22)⁵⁹.

Conclusion

- The reign of the king $K3j-^c$ is one of the most important periods in Archaic period, as he was the last king of the first dynasty.
- The Horus and Nbtj names of the king $K3j-^c$ were varied between $K3-^c$, $K3-^c-Nbtj$, $sn-Nbtj$, Kbh , and $Kbhw$, it was reported by several primary sources especially according to Manetho.
- A great progress in architectural design is marked well during his period especially for construction of his tomb both Saqqara and Abydos.
- Four large tombs at Saqqara dates back to his reign, one of which, No. 3505, is almost certainly his actual burial place.
- There was a great development of Hieroglyphic signs, as well as the noble's titles, which continued in all the Ancient Egyptian periods as Merka, Sabef and Henuka.
- The funerary temple of tombs was actually appeared, which was two tablets between them an offering table from the Eastern side of the tomb and continued until the Pharaonic periods.

List of Figures

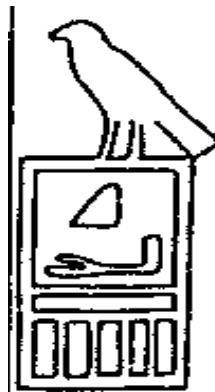


Fig.1. The Horus Name of the King
W.B. Emery, *Archaic Egypt*, fig. 50.

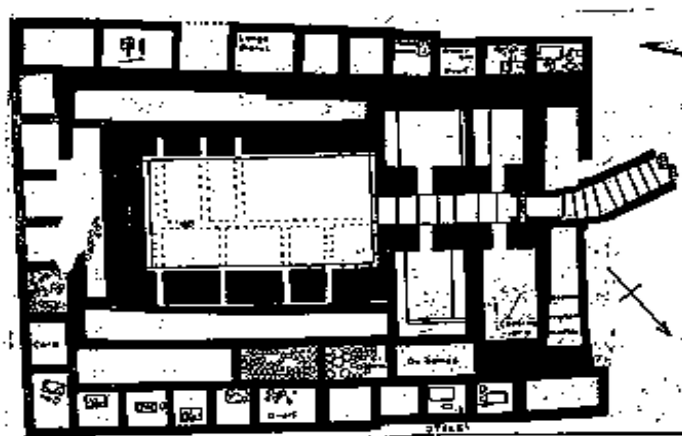


Fig.2. Map of the tomb of the king $K3j-^c$ Abydos Q.
After: J. Vandier, *Manuel d'archéologie égyptienne*, I-1, Paris, 1952, fig. 401.

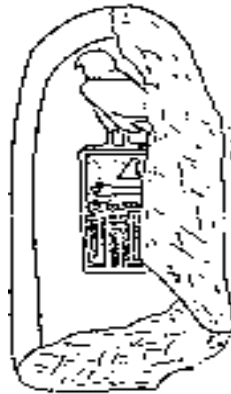


Fig.3 a. 1st stela of king $\bar{K}3j$ - \bar{c} from Abydos found by Amelineau.
After: W.B. Emery, *Archaic Egypt*, 1991, fig. 52.

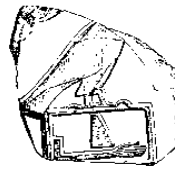


Fig.3 b. 2nd stela of king $\bar{K}3j$ - \bar{c} found by Petrie on east.
After: J. Vandier, *Manuel d'archéologie égyptienne*, I-1, Paris, 1952, fig. 486.

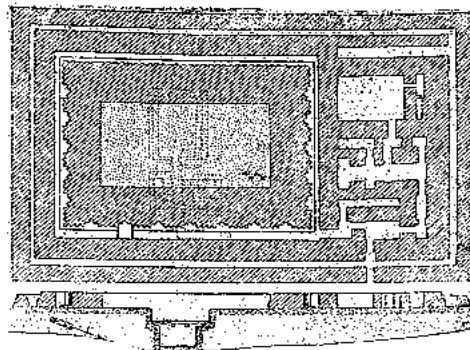


Fig.4. Saqqara tomb of $\bar{K}3j$ - \bar{c} No. 3505.
After: علي رضوان، الخطوط العامة لعصور ما قبل التاريخ و بداية الأسرات في مصر، القاهرة، 158 لوحة 72، 2004

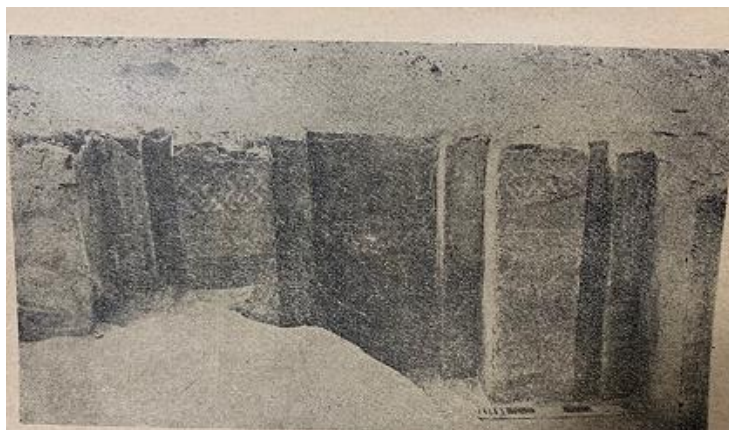


Fig.5. Geometric drawing from Saqqara tomb of $\bar{K}3j$ - \bar{c} No. 3505.
After: W.B. Emery, *Archaic Egypt*, pl. 7.



Fig. 6. Remains of two wooden statues of king $K3j-c$ at Saqqara.
After: W.B. Emery, *Archaic Egypt*, pl. 27.

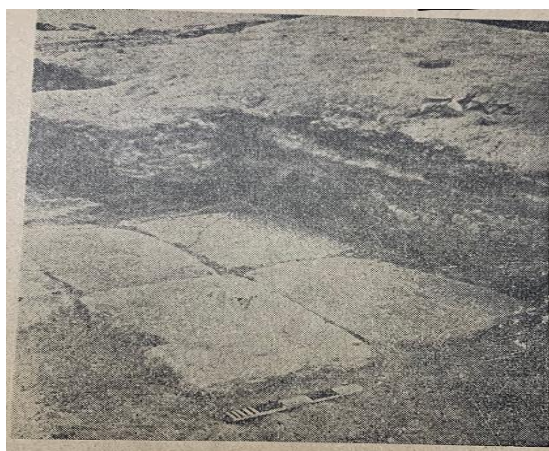


Fig. 7: Platform of the funerary temple of king $K3j-c$ at Saqqara.
After: W.B. Emery, *Archaic Egypt*, pl. 14.



Fig.8. Limestone stele of king $K3j-c$ embraced by Horus.
After: P. A. Clayton, *Chronicle of the Pharaohs*, London, 1994, p. 25.



Fig.9. Stele E6878 of King Qa'a.

After; H. Wegner, "Hidden Treasures: Abydos in the Basement". *Expedition: The Magazine of the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology*, Plate: 44, fig.2

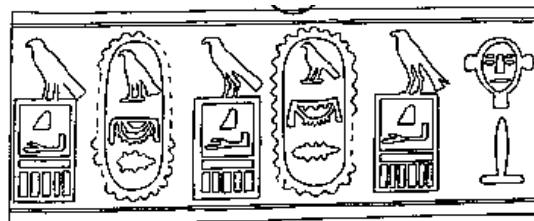


Fig.10. Jar sealing with the name of king K3j-^c.

After: W.B. Emery, *Archaic Egypt*, fig. 115.

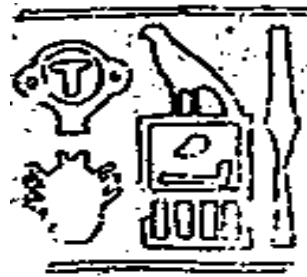


Fig.11. Jar sealing with the Horus name of king K3j-^c.
After: W.B. Emery, *Archaic Egypt*, fig. 115 (last one).

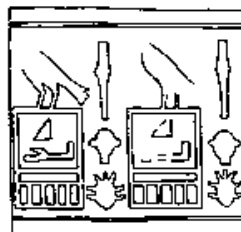


Fig.12. Jar sealing with the Horus name of king K3j-^c.
After: W. F. Petrie, *Royal Tombs*, pl. xxix (78).

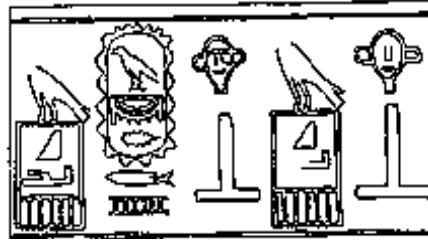


Fig.13. Jar sealing with the Horus name of king *K3j-c*.
After: W. F. Petrie, *Royal Tombs*, pl. xxix (2Q).



Fig.14. Inscriptions on the stone vases of king *K3j-c*.
After: W.B. Emery, *Archaic Egypt*, fig. 117.



Fig.15. The Horus name of *smr-ht* and *K3j-c* on a schist vase at Cairo Museum.
After: علي رضوان، الخطوط العامة لعصور ما قبل التاريخ و بداية الأسرات في مصر، القاهرة، 2004، ص: 6.

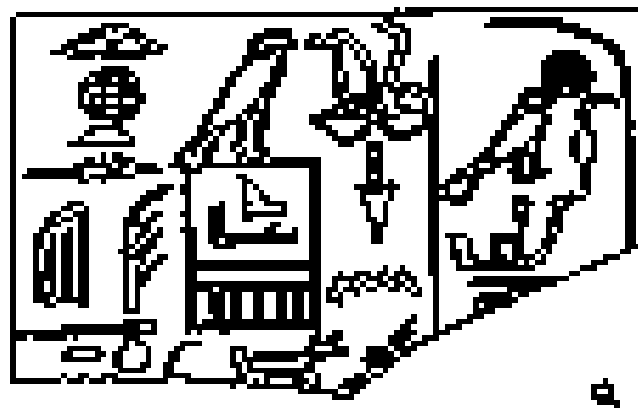


Fig.16. Ivory tablet from the tomb of *K3j-c* with his Horus name.
After: W. F. Petrie, *Royal Tomb*, pl.xii (2).

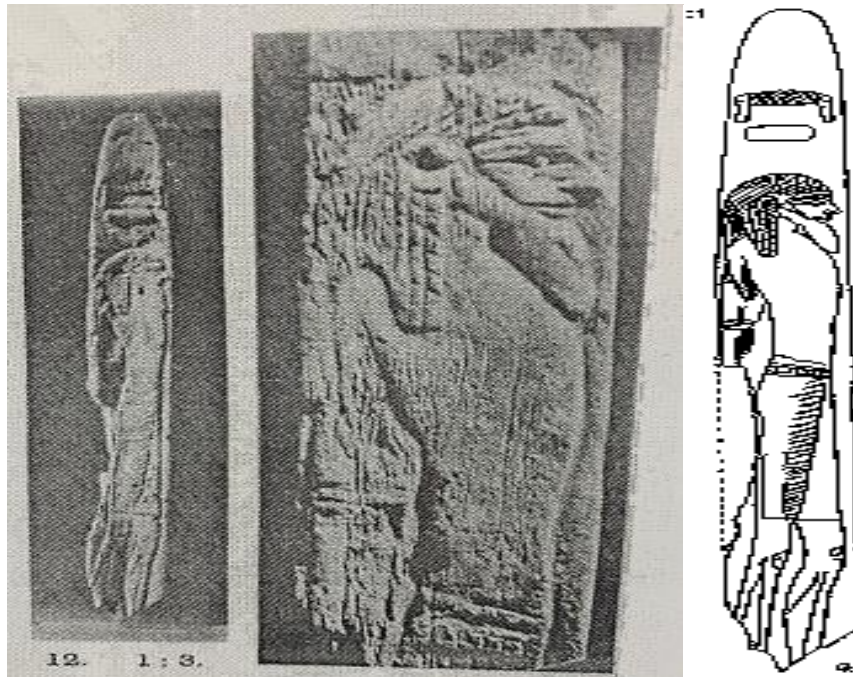


Fig.17. Gammig reed,Ivory tablet from the tomb of K3j-^c.
After: W. F. Petrie, *Royal Tomb*, pl. xii (12-13), pl. xvii.

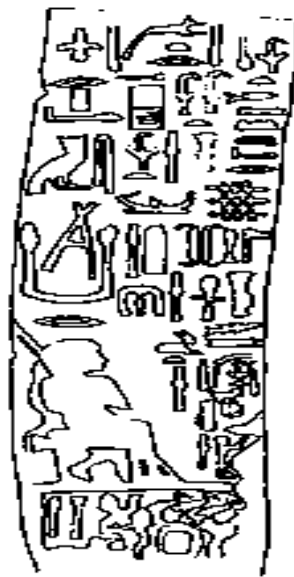


Fig.18. Stele of Merka, Saqqara, tomb 3505.
After: S. Smith, *The Art and Architectural of Ancient Egypt*, Maryland, 1958, fig. 21

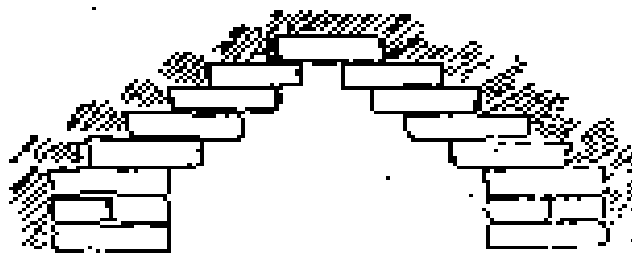


Fig.19. The mud bricks roof above the burial tombs.
After: J. Vandier, *op.cit.*, fig. 420.



Fig.20 Stele of *s3b.f* from Abydos.
After: J. Vandier, *op.cit.*, fig. 489.



Fig.21. Ivory label of king *smr-ht* with name of *hnw-K3*, Abydos.
After: W.B. Emery, *Archaic Egypt*, fig. 49.

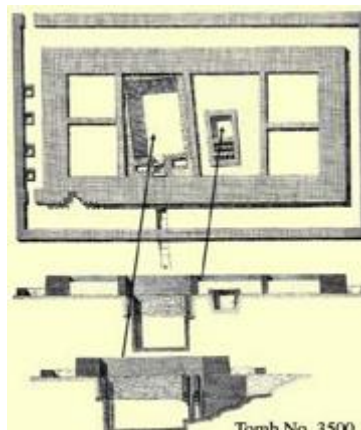


Fig.22. Tomb no. 3500 at Saqqara.
After: W.B. Emery, *Great tombs of the first Dynasty III*, London, 1958, pl. 124

Endnote

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دراسة عن الملك قاع الأسرة الأولى

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الملخص

طبقاً للوثائق الأثرية والمصادر التاريخية التي اعتمد عليها التاريخ المصري القديم بأن الملك قاع هو الملك الثامن لعصر الأسرة الأولى وهو كذلك الأخير. خليفه الملك "سمرخت" وتولي الحكم تقريبا 26 عاما. والداه غير معروفين، لكن يعتقد أن والداه كان عنجي- اب أو سمر-خت حيث كان متبع أن يرث الابن الأكبر عرش أبيه. ولقد تعددت مباني الملك المعمارية في المقابر المعاصرة سواء مقبرته في أبيدوس ومقبرته في سقاره ومقابر وآثار نبلاء عصره. تذكر العديد من النقوش الحجرية علي الأواني واللوحات العاجية التي تعود الي عهده الي الترتيبات النموذجية فقط مثل تصوير تقديمت الدفن والممتلكات الشخصية للملك وعلي الرغم من حكم الملك قاع الطويل و المزدهر، إلا أن ظهرت الأدلة بعد وفاته بأن بدأت حرب بين البيوت الملكية المختلفة علي العرش. ويهدف البحث إلي لقاء الضوء علي فترة نهاية الأسرة الأولى؛ دراسة أهم أعمال الملك قع في مصر القديمة؛ ودراسة أهم آثار عصره.

معلومات المقالة

الكلمات المفتاحية

قاعا؛ ملك؛ الأسرة؛ الأولى؛ أختام الجرار؛ سقارة؛ أبيدوس؛ بطاقات؛ لوحات؛ مصطبة

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