

# TOMB 197 AT ABYDOS, FURTHER EVIDENCE FOR LONG DISTANCE TRADE IN THE MIDDLE KINGDOM

By Wolfram Grajetzki

In the 1940s Xia (Hsia, also Shiah) Nai (1910–1985) was student at University College London and there wrote his PhD on the beads in the Petrie Museum. After finishing his studies in London, Xia Nai went back to his home country China and became a leading figure in Chinese archaeology.<sup>1</sup> In Egyptological literature, there are so far almost no separate published studies on Egyptian beads, although they are among the most common finds on excavations in Egypt. The corpora from several excavation reports are still the most important sources for dating beads. Xia Nai seems to have realised this gap and chose to write his PhD on one of the most important collections of Egyptian beads housed in the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology. Up to now, his PhD has remained largely unknown, although currently its publication is in preparation. During his work Nai came across a carnelian bead with a white pattern decoration, found in tomb 197 at Abydos. This bead type is known from Mesopotamia and India and is referred to as an ‘etched’ bead. Xia Nai recognised the importance of this ‘etched’ bead and drew the connection with Mesopotamia. He dated the bead to the Eleventh Dynasty, most likely following the date of the tomb proposed by the excavator W. M. Flinders Petrie.<sup>2</sup> The main aim of this article is to draw attention to this exceptional find from Egypt and to publish the whole tomb group in which the bead was found. It will also provide a slightly better dating for tomb 197.

Between December 8<sup>th</sup> 1921 and February 11<sup>th</sup> 1922 W. M. Flinders Petrie excavated parts of the cemeteries of Abydos<sup>3</sup> and found about 1000 burials, mostly dating to the First Dynasty, Middle Kingdom and the Late Period. The excavations were mainly conducted in the ‘Northern Cemetery’ and one of the major results – at least for Petrie – was the discovery of the First Dynasty

royal funerary enclosures. The excavation report appeared in 1925 but this is more a summary of the excavations than a full presentation of the material discovered.<sup>4</sup> There is no tomb register for the later tombs and the publication concentrates heavily on the burials of the First Dynasty and the inscriptions from all periods. Therefore, while most of the inscriptions found are published, small finds and the pottery from the tombs after the First Dynasty are hardly mentioned. However, preserved in the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology are the tomb cards made by Petrie, which provide important additional information on the burials. Even so, these extra details are effectively little more than short ‘bullet points’. Rarely do they include plans or drawings of the tombs or record the pottery, at least not for the burials after the First Dynasty. For later burials the pottery is merely dated, with no record of specific types and no drawings of them. Often, the record of the pottery on a tomb card simply states something along the lines of ‘XI–XII [Dynasty] pottery’ or similar.

The following description of tomb 197 rests solely on information taken from the tomb card and on the objects in the Petrie Museum marked as having come from the tomb. Tomb 197 was found undisturbed and contained several burials provided with jewellery and stone vessels. At least some of the deceased were placed in wooden coffins. Nothing else about them is mentioned on the tomb card. The only published object from this tomb is a Twelfth Dynasty stela belonging to the ‘overseer of bulls’ Antef.<sup>5</sup> The name Antef might have misled Petrie in to dating the stela to the Eleventh Dynasty, when it is more likely to belong to the Twelfth Dynasty.<sup>6</sup> It must remain an open question whether the stela originally belonged to tomb 197 or had once stood in a chapel of another burial. All Petrie reported was that the stela was

<sup>1</sup> BIERBRIER 2012, 267; see also CHANG 1986, 442–444.

<sup>2</sup> SHIAH 1944, 57, depicted as drawing on the same page, fig. 1.

<sup>3</sup> PETRIE 1925, 1.

<sup>4</sup> PETRIE 1925.

<sup>5</sup> PETRIE 1925, 10, pl. XXIV.

<sup>6</sup> БЕРЛЕВ 1972, 10.

found in the shaft. Abydos was a cemetery heavily used and reused over several thousand years. The stela might originally have come from a different tomb. The present location of the stela is unknown to the author. The other finds from the tomb complex are now in the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology. Although the tomb is marked on the tomb card as undisturbed, the collection of objects from it does not represent a closed archaeological context; thus any of the objects assigned to this group might be intrusive.

Tomb 197 was located in the south-eastern enclosure of king Djet<sup>7</sup>; although, what Petrie called tomb 197 was in fact one big shaft with 6 chambers and about 8 burials; two belonged to men, one to a woman and four were children. The eighth burial was not sexed by the excavators. According to the tomb card (numbers given under 'chamber') the shaft was 7.49 by 8.73 m wide and 3.78 m deep.

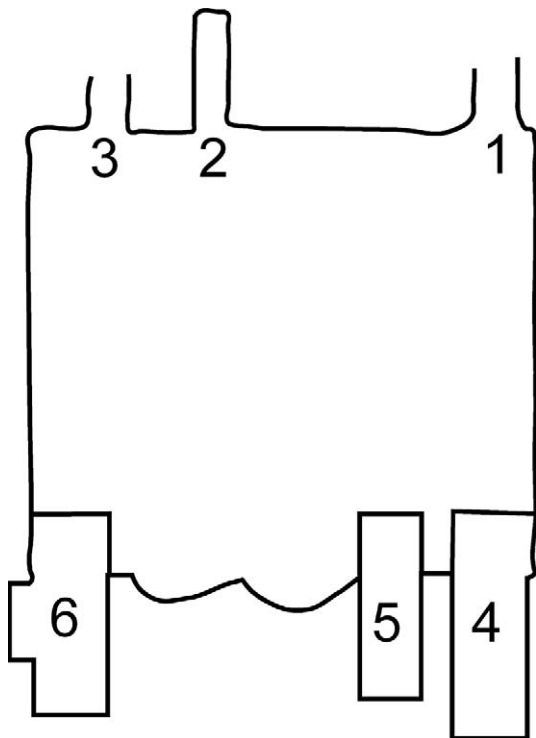


Fig. 1 Sketch plan of tomb 197 (© Wolfram Grajetzki).

The burials (where known, measurements are given in brackets):

- 1: The chamber was found destroyed with its roof collapsed. As a result, it was most likely not fully excavated. The chamber contained one skeleton.
- 2: Here were found the 'head and quarters of ox' (61 × 218 cm).
- 3: The chamber was found empty.
- 4: Here was discovered the burial of a single man who was adorned with a 'large green necklace'. Placed next to the body was an alabaster vase at the head and a kohl pot. The necklace is perhaps UC 51045 and the beads are discussed under no. 13 below (142 × 269 cm, 107 cm high).
- 5: Here were found the burials of a man and a woman; the man was lying on the east side. The body of the woman was adorned with jewellery. (114 × 223 cm, 86 cm high).
- 6: The burials of four children were found in this chamber. A single(?) alabaster vase was found at the head of two children and at least some of them were adorned with beads. On the west side was an empty niche. (127 × 249 cm, 106 cm high; niche: 43 × 142 cm).

The main objects from the tomb are stone vessels and beads, of which the 'etched' carnelian bead is certainly the most unusual. Made of carnelian, the bead is about 1.4 cm long with a diameter of about 0.8 cm. It shows a grid of circles with smaller circles within bigger ones executed in white paint. What is called 'etching' was in fact a solution of calcium carbonate painted on the bead, after which it was heated in a kiln. This process weakened the surface of the stone and allowed the calcium carbonate to settle below the surface. Today, the white colour often has gone giving the bead the appearance of having been etched.<sup>8</sup> 'Etched' beads are known from several Mesopotamian sites. Many of them were found in the 'royal cemetery at Ur<sup>9</sup> or at Kish.<sup>10</sup> So far, the westernmost Bronze age example was excavated at Mari in Syria.<sup>11</sup> The pattern on these beads varies. The example from Abydos tomb 197 with its grid of circles has almost identical parallels with others from Ur, Eshunna and Ashur.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>7</sup> PETRIE 1925, pl.XVII.

<sup>8</sup> For these beads in general see: READE 1979; MUSCHE 1992, 87; MOOREY 1999, 109–110, 171, KENOYER 1998, 142–143; POSSEHL 2002, 96–97.

<sup>9</sup> WOOLLEY 1934, 373–374, pl. 133.

<sup>10</sup> MOOREY 1999, 184–186.

<sup>11</sup> NICOLINI 2010, 241.

<sup>12</sup> READE 1979, 13–14, fig. 1, type B7.



Fig. 2 The modern string with the 'etched' bead (UC 30334)  
(© Wolfram Grajetzki).

'Etched' beads were imported into Mesopotamia from the Indus culture from about 2500 to 1900 BC. However, most of them are datable from 2500 to 2200 BC, indicating the existence of close contacts between Mesopotamia and the Indus valley especially in this period.<sup>13</sup> It is debatable whether all beads were made in the Indus Valley or at least some of them were produced in Mesopotamia. At least at Chanhu Daro in the Indus Valley, there is evidence of bead production.<sup>14</sup> Carnelian is not common in Mesopotamia while there are sources for it in the Indus Valley. It seems likely that they were painted at the place where the raw material was found. Nevertheless, their production in Mesopotamia should not be ruled out.<sup>15</sup> Indeed, most 'etched' carnelian beads in the Indus valley are oval in section<sup>16</sup>, while the one from Mesopotamia and the example from Abydos tomb 197 have a round section. This feature might rather

point to a Mesopotamian origin of the beads with the round section. Nevertheless, beads with a round section are attested in the Indus valley too.

The 'etched' bead from tomb 197 is certainly not evidence for any direct trade between Egypt and the Indus Valley. In case the bead was really produced in the Indus Valley it was most likely brought to Egypt via various intermediate traders, in places such as Ur and Byblos. The only other material reaching Egypt from such a distance was lapis lazuli. Lapis lazuli was brought to Mesopotamia from Afghanistan. Lapis lazuli is a material frequently used in Ancient Egypt but it is not found there. Interestingly, lapis lazuli is common in the Predynastic Period when there are many attestations of Mesopotamian objects in Egypt, whereas there are very few occurrences in the early Old Kingdom, a time which corresponds to its disappearance in Mesopotamia. There was evidently a break in the trade routes around 2700 BC.<sup>17</sup> In the Middle Kingdom, lapis lazuli is again well attested in Egypt suggesting that supply routes were open again. It seems that after about 1750 BC the trade routes were again interrupted. That might relate to the end of the Indus trade.<sup>18</sup> Like the bead, lapis lazuli reached Egypt most likely via Mesopotamia.

Contacts between Egypt and Mesopotamia are attested for the Predynastic Period.<sup>19</sup> In the Old Kingdom there is good evidence for trade between Egypt and Byblos, but little evidence for contacts further east. Ebla is the easternmost location where Egyptian objects have been found and comprise stone vessels with the names of Khaefre and Pepy I.<sup>20</sup> For the Middle Kingdom there is a wealth of evidence for trade and other contacts between the Levant and Egypt. This evidence comes from textual sources, but also from objects found in both regions.<sup>21</sup> Contacts with countries further east are again very sparse.<sup>22</sup>

Direct Egyptian-Indian trade is only well attested for the Ptolemaic-Roman period and beyond. From these periods are also known some 'etched' beads found in Egypt<sup>23</sup>, one even reaching

<sup>13</sup> READE 1979, 25; compare for the Indus Valley-Mesopotamia trade in general POSSEHL 2012, 763–764.

<sup>14</sup> MACKAY 1943, 194.

<sup>15</sup> SHIAH 1944, 58; READE 1979, 24–25.

<sup>16</sup> SARUP 1940, 434, compare KENYOER 1998, 97.

<sup>17</sup> ASTON, HARRELL, SHAW, 2000, 39.

<sup>18</sup> MOOREY 1999, 90.

<sup>19</sup> MARK 1997.

<sup>20</sup> PETTINATO 1991, 155.

<sup>21</sup> A recent summary: FORSTNER-MÜLLER 2008, 121–122.

<sup>22</sup> Compare most recently: THEN-OBLUSKA 2013, especially 119 (I am grateful to Angelika Lohwasser for this reference).

<sup>23</sup> SHIAH 1944, 58 (the beads were found in burials nos 705 and 796s at Saft el-Henna).



Nubia in the post-Meroitic Period. However, the main trade routes were now via Red sea ports and the Red Sea.<sup>24</sup> Egyptian trade on the Red Sea is also well attested for the Middle Kingdom, but not yet beyond Yemen.<sup>25</sup>

Mesopotamian objects in Egyptian Middle Kingdom contexts are extremely rare. The most famous example is the ‘Tod treasure’ which included many silver bowls (perhaps made in the Aegean)<sup>26</sup> and several lapis lazuli cylinder seals from Mesopotamia and eastern Iran. Also from the ‘Tod treasure’ comes a lapis lazuli stamp seal, originally produced in Afghanistan.<sup>27</sup> To the Third Dynasty of Ur dates a cylinder seal of unknown provenance. It bears the throne name of Amenemhat I: *Sehetepibre* and a cuneiform inscription.<sup>28</sup> From the Third Intermediate Period royal burials at Tanis are further two examples of Mesopotamian objects in Egypt. The first is an Akkadian cylinder seal from the burial of Sheshonq II<sup>29</sup> and the second is a bead with a cuneiform inscription from the tomb of Psusennes<sup>30</sup>. An Elamite cylinder seal was found at Bubastis, dating to about 1300–1200 BC.<sup>31</sup>

From tomb 197 there are a number of other beads perhaps also coming from outside of Egypt. A group of 79 biconoid beads (no. 12) belong to the most common bead types in Mesopotamia, but are not well attested in Egypt. L. Woolley noted for the royal cemeteries of Ur that this type of beads belongs to the most regular found in the cemetery.<sup>32</sup> Furthermore, several lapis lazuli beads in the ‘Tod treasure’ have the same shape.<sup>33</sup> Therefore it seems possible that these particular beads from tomb 197 come from Mesopotamia and one wonders whether they once belonged with the ‘etched’ bead and came from a single necklace. The highly decorative ‘etched’ bead formed perhaps the central piece of the necklace.

### The other objects from tomb 197

It seems that all of the finds from the burial are now in the Petrie Museum and consist of three types of objects; stone vessels (several examples),

jewellery and one metal object of unknown function. Pottery vessels and fragments of the wooden coffins were most likely left behind by the excavator. From the information available it is impossible to assign specific objects to individual burials.

Four stone vessels, two with lids, are in the Petrie Museum. They are all rather small and were perhaps used as cosmetic jars. Most parallels for them date to the late Middle Kingdom, indicating that the majority of the burials belong to this period (for references see below). There is one exception, kohl pot UC 2385 (no. 4), for which the better datable parallels belong to the Second Intermediate Period or New Kingdom. Even so, the New Kingdom examples are often closer in shape with a more rounded neck, while the Second Intermediate Period examples have a deeper, sharp neck. There are several possible explanations for the appearance of this later vessel within material which otherwise dates more closely to the late Middle Kingdom. 1. The vessel simply was not found in the tomb but became mixed with the material from 197 after the excavation or even in the museum. 2. One of the burials belongs to the New Kingdom. 3. The vessel might simply be an intrusive object that did not belong to any of the burials found. Indeed, according to the tomb card ‘later burials’ were found in the shaft and on Xia Nai’s bead card (no. 1055) it states that a fragment of a lid for a stone vessel was marked as ‘surface’.

Most of the beads have parallels in late Middle Kingdom Egypt as well as other periods. This is true for the amulets of hawks (1, 2, 3) which are not only well attested in the late Middle Kingdom, but also in the First Intermediate Period and later. The shell amulet (6) seems more typical for the late Middle Kingdom. Several examples were found in late Middle Kingdom tombs at Harageh and appear always to be made of some semi precious stone, including green feldspar.<sup>34</sup> The materials used for the beads in tomb 197 also point to a (late) Middle Kingdom date, although in general most of these are attested for all periods of Egyptian history. However, certain stones are more

<sup>24</sup> FRANCIS 2002, 48–49.

<sup>25</sup> FATTOVICH 2012, 12–15.

<sup>26</sup> Summary of the research: PIERRAT 1994, 18–28; WASTLHUBER 2011, 98–101, 151–152; PIERRAT-BONNEFOIS 2009, 65–66 (with further literature); CASANOVA 2009a, 68; ARUZ 2009, 388.

<sup>27</sup> PORADA, 1982, 290–91.

<sup>28</sup> PICHES, NEWBERRY 1921.

<sup>29</sup> AMIET 1951, 44, fig. 13 ; compare AMIET 1987, 264–266.

<sup>30</sup> DHORME 1951, 139–143 ; compare ANDRE-LEICKMAN 1987, 244–245.

<sup>31</sup> MARTIN 1995, 103–109; LOTH 2010, 184–185.

<sup>32</sup> WOOLLEY 1934, 367.

<sup>33</sup> BISSON DE LA ROQUE 1950, CG 70710, 43, pl. XXV, CG 70712, 43, pl. XXV; CASANOVA 2009b, 69.

<sup>34</sup> ENGELBACH 1923, pl. LI (Ribbed beads-47, J).

often used in the Middle Kingdom than in other periods. Amethyst was especially popular in this period and not that common in other periods.<sup>35</sup> Feldspar was used in all periods with a peak in the Middle Kingdom.<sup>36</sup>

According to the stone vessels, as well as the evidence provided by the beads, most of the burials in tomb 197 date to the late Middle Kingdom. This is the period from about the reign of Senusret III (c.1880 to 1860 BC) to the Thirteenth Dynasty (up to 1650 BC). A closer dating is not possible. The Bronze Age 'etched' beads have their peak in Mesopotamia around 2500 to 2200 BC with a few

found in contexts dating up to about 1900 BC. The Egyptian bead is therefore one of the latest examples. It is not known when the bead arrived in Egypt.

### List of objects from tomb 197

#### I. Stone vessels

1. UC 43045 (fig. 1)

Cylindrical vessel, alabaster, 4.8 cm high, 4.9 cm diameter at the top.

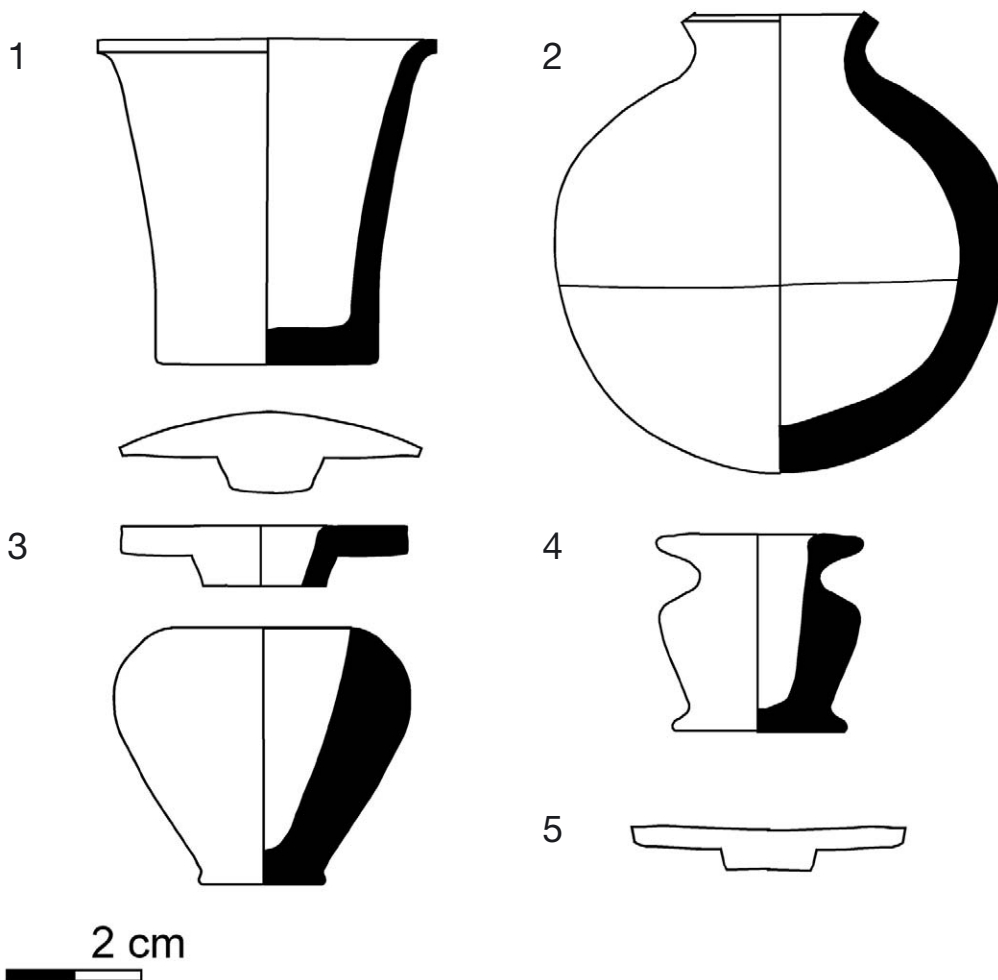


Fig. 3 The stone vessels from tomb 197 (© Wolfram Grajetzki).

<sup>35</sup> ASTON, HARRELL, SHAW 2000, 51.

<sup>36</sup> ASTON, HARRELL, SHAW 2000, 46.

Parallels<sup>37</sup> come from Abydos<sup>38</sup>, Beni Hasan<sup>39</sup>, Dahshur<sup>40</sup>, Esna<sup>41</sup>, Harageh<sup>42</sup>, Hu<sup>43</sup>, Lahun<sup>44</sup> and Mirgissa<sup>45</sup>.

## 2. UC 43042 (fig. 2)

Round vessel, made in two halves, alabaster, 6.6 cm high, 6.1 cm in diameter.

Parallels are known from Abydos<sup>46</sup>, Beni Hasan<sup>47</sup>, Hu<sup>48</sup> and Tell el-Dab'a<sup>49</sup>. This type is often made in two halves.<sup>50</sup>

## 3. UC 2384 and UC 43044 (fig. 3)

UC 2384 is a limestone kohl pot with flat-rimmed base and sides widening to a rounded shoulder with slightly flattened top. 3.7 cm high, 1.9 cm wide at the base.

This vessel has a lid and a separate circular rim.

### UC 43044

Round lid, serpentine, 4.3 cm wide and 1.1 cm high. The rim is 4.3 cm wide and about 0.9 cm high.

Parallels<sup>51</sup> are known from Abydos<sup>52</sup>, Beni Hasan<sup>53</sup>, Dahshur<sup>54</sup>, Esna<sup>55</sup>, Harageh<sup>56</sup> and Hu<sup>57</sup>.

## 4. UC 2385 and UC 43043

UC 2385 is a kohl pot made of alabaster, 3.0 cm high; 2.8 cm wide at the top.

UC 43043 is a fragment of a lid from a kohl pot, alabaster, once about 4 cm in diameter. Marked with the written note 'surface'. Most likely belonging to UC 2385.

Parallels are known from Abydos<sup>58</sup>, Harageh<sup>59</sup>, Lisht<sup>60</sup>, Mirgissa<sup>61</sup>, Riqqeh<sup>62</sup> and Tell el-Dab'a<sup>63</sup>. All date to the Second Intermediate Period or New Kingdom.

## II. Personal adornments

The Petrie Museum owns a rich set of personal adornments from tomb 197, mainly consisting of beads originally strung as necklaces and perhaps armlets, but there are also some amulets. It is again almost impossible to assign certain beads or strings to individual burials. It is also not known whether the strings in the museum represent the original stringing or whether their current arrangement is modern. Furthermore, in World War II the collection was moved to a more secure place and returned only after the end of the war<sup>64</sup>. It is possible that the objects were inadvertently mixed during these moves. However, here Xia Nai's note cards provide a guide to the bead collection as it was before the war. Therefore the list of bead types will include just a brief reference to the modern stringing in the museum. Several bead types appear only once in the finds from the tomb complex.

1. Amulet of hawk, green stone (green faience?), 1.4 cm high. (part of UC 26007)

<sup>37</sup> ASTON 1994, 105, no. 36 (mainly after Senusret II).

<sup>38</sup> GARSTANG 1901, pl. I (Twelfth Dynasty); PEET, LOAT 1913, pl. IX (tomb D. 167, D 224, D 303).

<sup>39</sup> GARSTANG 1907, fig. 106 (tomb 487, late Middle Kingdom).

<sup>40</sup> DE MORGAN 1895, pl. XXV, 62, 63 ('second treasure', Amenemhat III).

<sup>41</sup> DOWNES 1974, fig. 75, 76 on p. 99 (tomb 153E, late Middle Kingdom).

<sup>42</sup> ENGELBACH 1923, pl. XLVII (tomb 124, Senusret II or later)

<sup>43</sup> PETRIE 1901, pl. XXX (tomb W72).

<sup>44</sup> BRUNTON 1914, pl. IX.

<sup>45</sup> VERCOUTTER 1975, 146, fig. 14.21 (tomb 144).

<sup>46</sup> GARSTANG 1901, pl. III (tomb E 105 of Nakht, late Twelfth or Thirteenth Dynasty); PEET, LOAT 1913, pl. IX (tomb 224 [different rim]).

<sup>47</sup> GARSTANG 1913, fig. 106 (tomb 487, late Middle Kingdom).

<sup>48</sup> PETRIE 1901, pl. XXX (tomb W72 [different rim], tomb W 32 [made in two halves]).

<sup>49</sup> SCHIESTL 2009, 123.

<sup>50</sup> ASTON 1994, 141, no. 142.

<sup>51</sup> ASTON 1994, 145, no. 157.

<sup>52</sup> PEET, LOAT 1913, pl. IX (tomb 224, tomb 303).

<sup>53</sup> GARSTANG 1913, fig. 106 (tomb 487, late Middle Kingdom).

<sup>54</sup> DE MORGAN 1895, pl. XIX, 59, XXV, 59 ('second treasure', Amenemhat III).

<sup>55</sup> DOWNES 1974, fig. 75, o2, n (tomb 153E, late Middle Kingdom).

<sup>56</sup> ENGELBACH 1923, pl. XLVII, 38, 38 (tombs 91, 248).

<sup>57</sup> PETRIE 1901, pl. XXX (tomb W72).

<sup>58</sup> GARSTANG 1901, pl. XV (tomb E 143, New Kingdom)

<sup>59</sup> ENGELBACH 1923, pl. XLVIII, 91, 94 (tomb 584 and NN, both New Kingdom).

<sup>60</sup> ARNOLD 1992, 75, no. 205 (New Kingdom).

<sup>61</sup> VERCOUTTER 1975, 96, fig. 30, 31.8 (tomb 86); 121, fig. 122, 4 + 6 + 12 (tomb 104); 181, fig. 73.4 (tomb 126) all Second Intermediate Period; VERCOUTTER 1975, 386, fig. 34 (tomb 148.2, 149.3); 397, fig. 40.2 (tomb 188); 468–469, all New Kingdom.

<sup>62</sup> ENGELBACH, PETRIE, PETRIE 1915, pl. XIV, S42–S52 (New Kingdom).

<sup>63</sup> FORSTNER-MÜLLER 2008, 154–155, fig. 91 (no. 2511).

<sup>64</sup> JANSSEN 1992, 42–50.

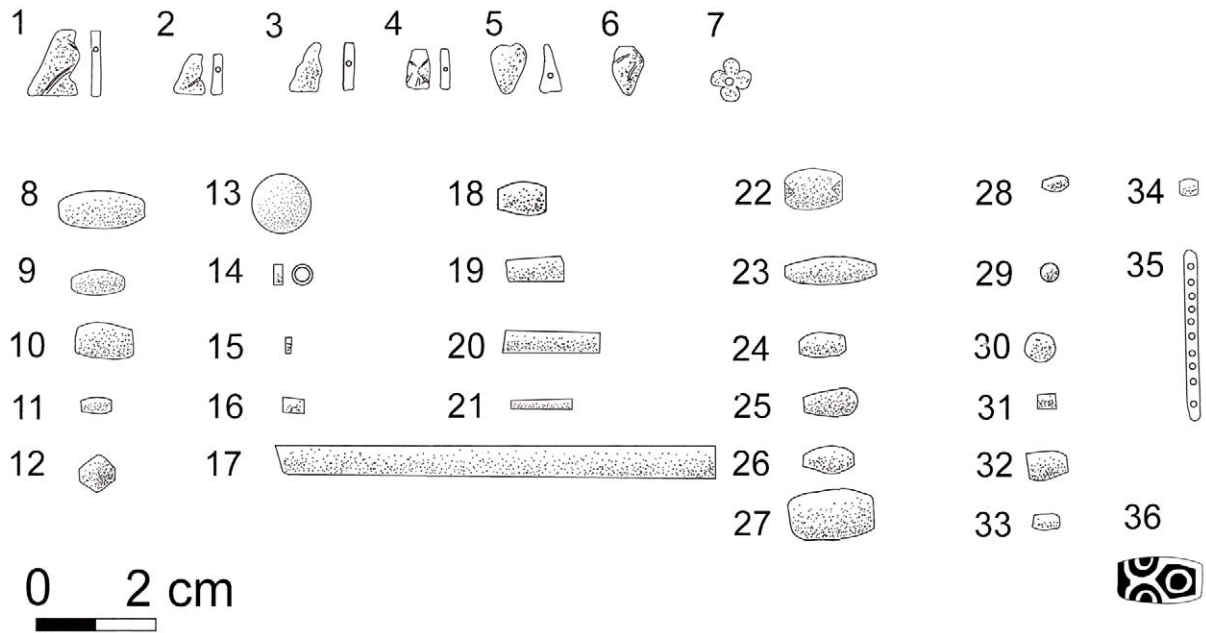


Fig. 4 The bead types from tomb 197 (© Wolfram Grajetzki).

2. Amulet of hawk, amethyst, 0.9 cm high (part of UC 26007)
3. Amulet of hawk, carnelian, very rough shape, 0.9 cm high (part of UC 26007)<sup>65</sup>
4. Amulet (?) unknown, green felspar, 0.8 cm high (UC 51046)
5. Triangular shaped bead pendant, perhaps a fly, carnelian, 0.8 cm high (part of UC 26007)
6. Amulet/bead in shape of shell, green felspar, 0.6 cm long (UC 51046)<sup>66</sup>
7. Bead, star/blossom shape, green faience, 0.6 cm diameter (UC 30334, 51048)<sup>67</sup>
8. Bead, carnelian, 1.3 cm long (part of UC 26007)
9. Bead, carnelian, 0.9 cm long, another one in amethyst (both part of UC 26007)
10. Bead, glazed steatite, 1 cm long (UC 30334)
11. Bead, barrel shape, 0.4 cm long, 37 examples (UC 51046)
12. Biconoid, green faience (?), 0.6 cm 79 examples (UC 51048)
13. Bead, round, green glaze, 1 cm, 39 examples. Perhaps they were found in chamber 4. (UC 51045)
14. Ring bead, blue faience, irregular in shape, 0.2–0.3 cm in diameter: 102 examples (UC 30334),
- about 301 examples (UC 51047), about 711 (UC 51049),
15. Very small, irregular disc beads, 5/4 examples (UC 51048)
16. Small, irregular tube beads, 7 examples (UC 51048)
17. Bead, cylinder, 6 cm long, 0.5 cm diameter UC 51045)
18. Barrel bead, amethyst, 0.8 cm long (UC 51046)
19. Cylinder bead, glazed steatite, 1 cm long (UC 30334)
20. Tube bead, green glaze, 1.6 cm long (UC 51046)
21. Cylinder beads, 3 examples: 1.2, 1.0 and 0.6 cm long, blue faience (UC 51048)
22. Round, slightly irregular flat bead, green felspar, about 1 cm (UC 51048)
23. Carnelian barrel bead, 1.5 cm long (UC 51046)
24. Carnelian barrel bead, 0.9 cm long (UC 51048)
25. Bead, amazonite, 0.9 cm long (UC 51048)
26. Bead, blue frit, 1 cm long, 2 examples (UC 51048)
27. Barrel bead, blue frit, 1.5 cm long (UC 51048)
29. Round amethyst beads, 0.5 cm, 17 examples (UC 51048)

<sup>65</sup> Similar hawk amulets are well attested in the late Middle Kingdom, see: ENGELBACH 1923, pl. L (Hawk-5); for First Intermediate Period examples compare: BRUNTON 1928, pl. XCVII (45 Hawks).

<sup>66</sup> Compare ENGELBACH 1923, pl. L (Shells-36); ANDREWS 1981, 91–92 (list of examples).

<sup>67</sup> Compare ENGELBACH 1923, pl. LI (Ribbed beads-47, J).



- 30. Bead, carnelian, 0.6 cm (UC 51048)
- 32. Small dark blue faience, barrel bead, 0.7 cm long (UC 30334), green faience 0.8 cm (UC 51048)
- 33. Bead, blue faience, 0.6 cm (UC 51048)
- 34. Beads, blue frit, 0.5 cm 350 examples (UC 51049)
- 35. Two spacers, made of bone, 2.8 cm long (UC 51049)<sup>68</sup>
- 36. Carnelian bead ‘etched’, decorated with a white pattern, 1.4 cm long, 0.8 cm diameter (UC 30334)

The strings (bead types; number of beads in brackets):

UC 26007<sup>69</sup>: 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 9 (2)

This is a small collection of amulets as well as two carnelian and one amethyst beads (fig. 7).

UC 30334<sup>70</sup> 7, 10, 14 (105), 19, 32, 36

This is a string of small beads with three larger ones in the middle; one of these is the ‘etched’ bead (no. 36).

UC 51045<sup>71</sup> 13 (37), 17

This is a simple necklace with larger green beads (fig. 5).



Fig. 5 String of beads (UC 51045) (© Wolfram Grajetzki).

UC 51046<sup>72</sup> 4, 6, 11, 18, 20, 23

This is a necklace with some larger beads in the middle.

<sup>68</sup> Compare ENGELBACH 1923, pl. LI (Miscellaneous-58, L).  
<sup>69</sup> Xia Nai bead card no. 1052.  
<sup>70</sup> Xia Nai bead card no. 1055. The bead card states that the string was ‘together with a fragment of lid of alabaster kohl pot marked with ‘surface’.

UC 51047<sup>73</sup> 14 (301)

This is a simple string with small beads.

UC 51048<sup>74</sup>, 7, 12 (79), 15 (5), 16 (7), 21 (3), 26 (2), 27 (1), 29 (17), 30, 32 (2), 33

This is a string with different types of beads. There are several biconoid beads (fig. 6).



Fig. 6 String of beads (UC 51048) (© Wolfram Grajetzki).

UC 51049<sup>75</sup> 14 (711), 34 (358), 35 (2)

The beads and the two spacers are today reconstructed as an armlet (fig. 7).

To the burial belongs a copper wire of unknown function. It is about 3.9 cm high and 2.5 cm wide (UC 43047) (fig. 10)

**Appendix: the Tomb Card (fig. 8, 9)**

**Front**

No. 197

DISTURBED

No

HEAD TO

Appendix, the tomb card:

N

FACE TO

up

<sup>71</sup> Xia Nai bead card no. 1057.  
<sup>72</sup> Xia Nai bead card no. 1053.  
<sup>73</sup> Xia Nai bead card no. 1054.  
<sup>74</sup> Xia Nai bead card no. 1051a.  
<sup>75</sup> Xia Nai bead card no. 1056.





Fig. 7 String of beads (UC 51049, top; UC 26007, bottom) (© Wolfram Grajetzki).

Fragments. 12 <sup>th</sup> dyn		POTTERY	<b>No. 197</b>
<b>ANTEF</b>			<b>DISTURBED No</b>
			<b>HEAD TO</b> N
long green nephelocranoid with 1/2 mdr on SE pit. Also one head of a bowl & stool with 1/2 of a bowl at head of 2 of children. 1/2 of a stool.			<b>FACE TO</b> up
			<b>ATTITUDE</b> long
STONE			<b>CLOTHING</b> 0
			<b>SEX</b> 2 mdr, 1 female & children.
METAL			<b>COFFIN</b> wood decayed
			<b>CHAMBER TYPE</b> Pit
AMULETS			<b>HIGH</b> 140
		<b>N</b> 295	
BEADS		<b>E</b> 344	
		<b>CHAMBER ON</b>	
BRICKS		<b>N.</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
		<b>E.</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
SHAFT		<b>DEEP</b>	

Fig. 8 The Tomb card, front © University College London.

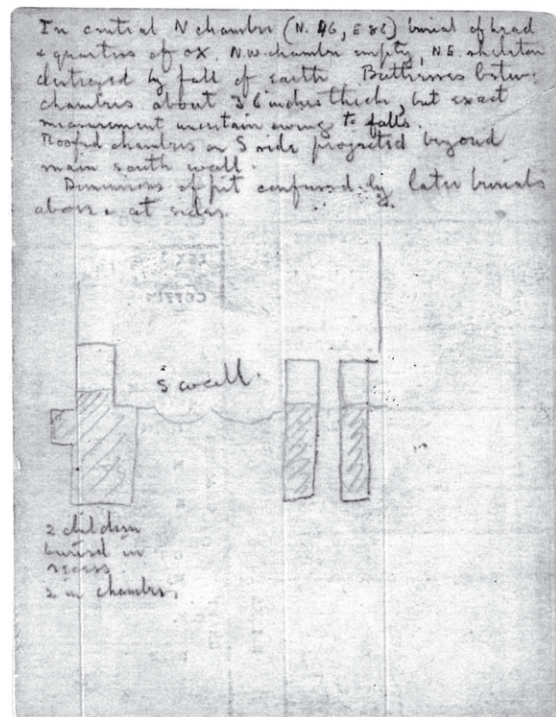


Fig. 9 The Tomb card, back © University College London.



Fig. 10 Copper 'wire' (UC 43047) (© Wolfram Grajetzki).

ATTITUDE

Long

CLOTHING

0

SEX

2 males, 1 female, 4 children

COFFIN

Wood decayed

CHAMBER TYPE

Pit

## CHAMBER

HIGH 149 N 295 E 344

## POTTERY

Fragments 12<sup>th</sup> Dyn(asty)

## STONE

Large green necklace around neck of male in SE pit

Alab[abster] vase at head of same and stone

Kohl pot, Alab[aster] vase at head of 2 of children, large stela

## AMULETS

S(outh) burial (?)

## BEADS

Many blue and carnelian [beads] with female and children

1 male alone in S(outh)-E(ast) grave. N. 56, E 106 high 42 roofed

Alongside to w another chamber (N(orth) 45 E(ast) 88 high 34 roofed), 2 bodies male and female, male to east; beads around neck of woman

S(outh)-W(est) chamber with recess (N(orth) 50, E(ast) 98, high 42 recess N(orth) 17, E(ast) 56 roofed), 4 children. This opened off shaft (N(east) 24, E(ast) 72, deep 61 to

P.T.O. (Please turn over)

**Back of card**

In central N(orth) chamber N(orth) 46, E(ast) 86, burial of head and quarters of ox. N(orth)W(est) chamber empty, N(east)E(ast) skeleton destroyed by fall of earth. Buttresses between chambers about 36 inches thick, but exact measurement uncertain owing to falls.

Roofed Chambers on S(outh) projected beyond main south wall

Dimensions of pit confused by later burials above and at sides.

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