

This only partly preserved house is situated close to the southern limitation of the excavation field in square A/II-o/12, pl. 6. It consisted of at least two rooms, perhaps even three which were orientated NW-SE. Unfortunately the excavation was not continued towards the west or south, thus it remains unknown whether the compound continued further towards the west or south beyond the room programme indicated by the excavated remains. It seems likely that M. BIETAK's reconstruction as a two-room house is well founded.⁷³¹ The comparison to the other bipartite houses in Phase G/3–1, which are on average between 7.40–8.30 m by ca 9.0 m,⁷³² makes such a reconstruction very possible. It is also possible though, that to the north of the two rooms some activity space was enclosed by a wall or that a proper room was situated there (see Fig. 7.1).⁷³³

SQUARE A/II-o/12

Excavation and available records

Square o/12 was excavated in the spring season of 1969.⁷³⁴ All together seven plana were excavated and recorded. The original level on the top of the tell was 7.56 m/NN in the north western corner, 7.70 m/NN in the north eastern corner, 7.54 m/NN in the south western corner and 7.25 m/NN in the south eastern corner. The eastern edge of the square ascended in the middle to about 7.97 m/NN.

Available records include the plan drawings of the seven plana,⁷³⁵ the section drawings of the eastern, northern and southern sections,⁷³⁶ the register book, the position data file, B/W photos, and object drawings. Whilst some of the features of plana and tombs within were also described in the digging diary, there is no description of those relevant for Phases H to G/4–1, namely plana 6 and 7 (TD 351–352) in the available digging diary. As they were the last two plana excavated, it is possible that the site had to be abandoned in the middle of the work, due to the war with Israel.⁷³⁷

Structures relevant for the late Middle Kingdom settlement Phases G/3–1, G/4 and H begin to appear at an elevation of approximately 5.30 m/NN up to which some of the tops of the walls were preserved (see Fig. 7.1).

Description of architecture and archaeological features (A/II-o/12)

The excavated part of the compound takes up the south western corner of the square A/II-o/12 (Fig. 7.2). The presumptive eastern exterior wall built from heavily sand tempered mud-bricks runs from the north western corner almost towards the south eastern corner [M47a] and follows, thus, the general orientation of the settlement. The wall is 3.35 m long and reached a thickness of one and a half brick's width. The preserved top reached an elevation of ca

⁷³¹ See plan in M. BIETAK, *Houses, Palaces and Development of Social Structure in Avaris*, fig. 14.

⁷³² Cf. B. BADER, *On Simple House Architecture*, passim.

⁷³³ M. BIETAK, TD V, 31.

⁷³⁴ After the spring season the excavations were interrupted until 1975 due to the precarious security situation between Egypt and Israel after the Six-Day war along the Suez-Canal zone, M. BIETAK, personal communication.

⁷³⁵ TDplan nos 345–349, 351, 352.

⁷³⁶ TDplan nos 356–358. The western section is partly available as a photograph, see Fig. 7.4.

⁷³⁷ The prolonged conflict between Egypt and Israel started after the Six-Day war in 1967 on the 6 March 1969 and lasted to 7 August 1970. Source: *Kriege Archiv der Universität Hamburg (Sozialwissenschaften)*: <http://www.wiso.uni-hamburg.de/fachbereiche/sozialwissenschaften/forschung/akuf/kriege-archiv/vorderer-und-mittlerer-orient/aegypten/>, accessed on 22 February 2016. It was apparently possible to see the spring campaign through until 10 July 1969, M. BIETAK, personal communication 22 February 2016, but then the team had to leave and was not allowed back until 1975.

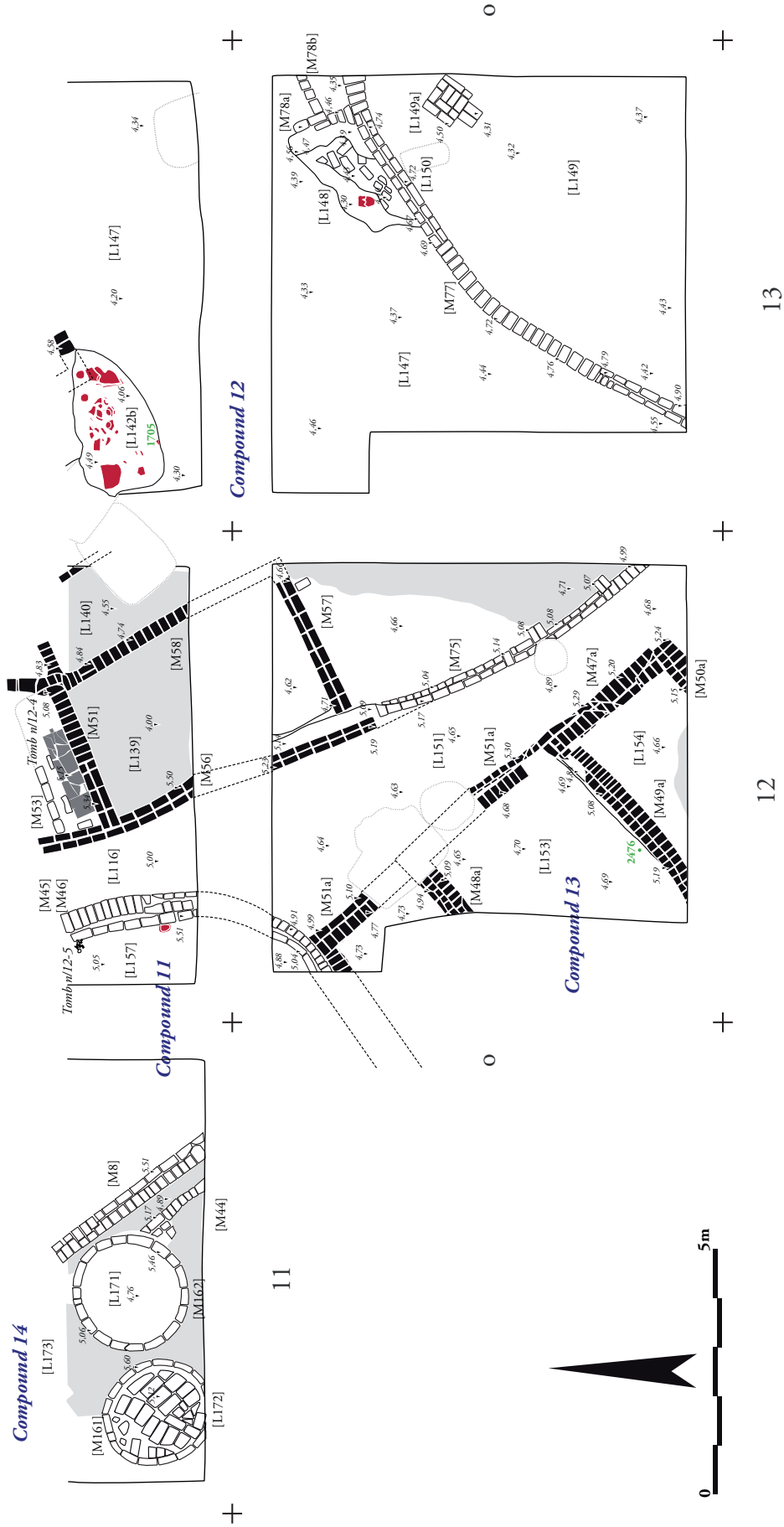


Fig. 7.1 Schematic plan of Compound 13. Adapted from M. BIEŤAK, TDV, plan 2 and archival records, graphic execution N. Math

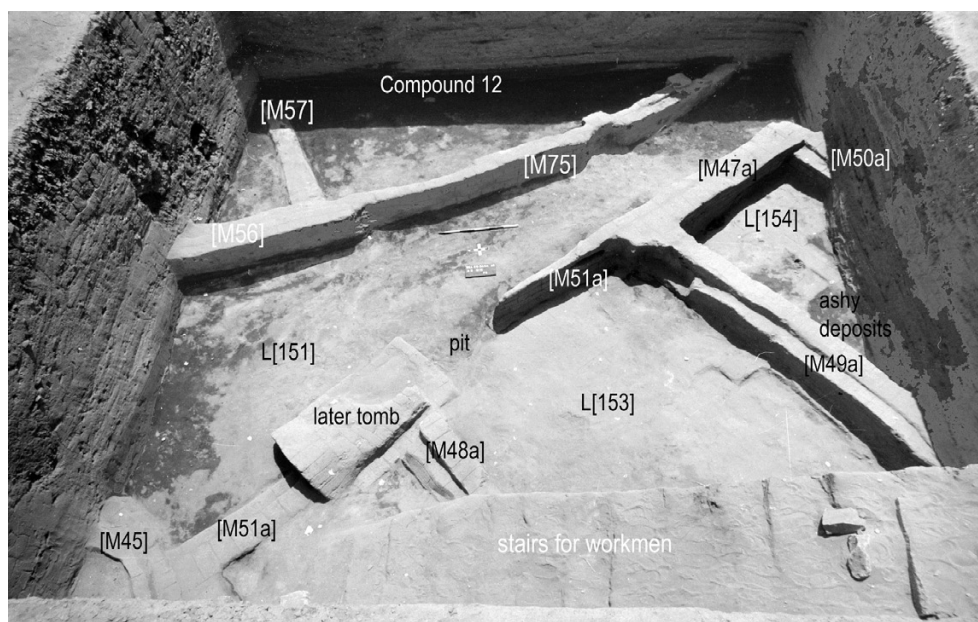


Fig. 7.2 A/II-o/12, pl. 6, view towards east, SW1165/44

5.30 m/NN in some places. In the northern part it runs against the dividing wall to the open space/court L [156] of Compound 11, [M45]. Thus, it seems to form the western part of the limitation of the alleyway L [151] that leads towards the northern part of the settlement (numbered there L [116] and L [115]). The space of ca 1.30 m between walls [M47a] and its eastern counterpart [M75] is quite narrow, which may hint at a lesser thoroughfare or roofing with palm fronds or similar materials. The same width can be found further north between walls [M45] and [M52].

The size of the bricks of this wall, [M47a], is 0.37–0.45 m by 0.15–0.17 m, and the bricks were ca 10 cm high.⁷³⁸ To the west of wall [M47a] three perpendicular walls run towards the south west [M48a–M50a] forming a ground plan to be reconstructed in a minimum version as the typical bi-partite nuclear unit consisting of a narrow and a wide room side by side. It is very likely that this unit is of similar size as the other ones in area A/II.⁷³⁹ The overall length in north-south direction can be determined as 7.5 m (or just over 13.5 cubits), whilst the single rooms measure 3.5 m (L [153]) and 2.3–2.2 m (L [154]) on the interior in north-south direction, which do not exactly correspond to even cubit measurements (6 2/3 cubits and

4 1/3 cubits). M. BIETAK thinks it possible that an additional room was originally present to the north of the house, but was taken down in favour of the alleyway north of Compound 13 (L [155], Fig. 3.1) and the walls encircling L [156].⁷⁴⁰ It is equally possible, though, that a tripartite house plan might have existed there or even a bigger one, such as Compound 11, continuing further towards the south or west. Only renewed excavation of squares A/II-o/11 and A/II-p/11–12 will reveal whether this was the case or not.

The position of the main door cannot be precisely ascertained, but there is a good probability that it was situated in the eastern wall of the unit, [M47a] or perhaps more likely in [M51a], namely towards the northern corner of the house. A gap in the wall is recognisable, although a pit partially disturbs that area. In addition tomb A/II-o/12-9 cuts into the house from the later Phase E/3. The plan published in *Tell el-Dab'a V* shows that it was thought that a doorway was situated there.⁷⁴¹ For the same reason it must remain unclear if access could be gained from alleyway L [151] to that compound north of the actual housing unit where a short wall connects the house unit of Compound 13 and the precinct wall [M45] of Compound 11.⁷⁴²

⁷³⁸ Measurements were taken from the plan 1:50.

⁷³⁹ Cf. B. BADER, *On Simple House Architecture*, passim.

⁷⁴⁰ Cf. M. BIETAK, TD V, 31.

⁷⁴¹ M. BIETAK, TD V, plan 2.

⁷⁴² Cf. M. BIETAK, TD V, 31.



Fig. 7.3 A/II-o/12, northern section, note the later tomb cutting into the settlement on the left side of the photograph, the alleyway L [151] delimited by walls [M51a] and [M56] runs into the northern section, colour slide TD2518

Discussion of relevant parts of the sections (A/II-o/12⁷⁴³)

The northern section (A22, drawn in 1969) shows a series of walls belonging to Phases G/2–1 and probably G/4–3. The section was recorded down to an elevation of approximately 4.40 m/NN (see Fig. 7.3 and Fig. 6.37.b). Thus, it is unlikely that the oldest phase, Phase H, was reached in this square. The most relevant features are represented by two series of overlying walls [M56] and [M45]. The western series of walls is represented in plan Fig. 7.1 by [M45]. In the provisional section no A22-30 represents [G/3-M39] and is positioned in the western part close to running metre 2.0 (from west). This is the oldest wall visible in a superimposed series of walls (prov. section nos

A22-30, A22-26a [= [M45] and A22-22a⁷⁴⁴). Unfortunately a much later pit (provisional section no A22-5) destroyed the finely stratified layers running against those superimposed walls from the east. Therefore the connection to the walls, provisional section A22-22b and A22-26b, between running metres 5.0 and 6.0 from the west cannot be unequivocally made with the help of these layers. The latest western wall of this series (at running metre 2.0) is that with provisional section no A22-22a.⁷⁴⁵

To sum up, it can be said that the wall with provisional section no A22-26 [M45] has a base level of about 4.85 m/NN and a preserved top of 5.10 m/NN. Because the preserved top of [M45] is at 4.91 m/NN in the plan drawing Fig. 7.1 it is likely that provisional section no A22-26 at running metre 2.0 represents

⁷⁴³ Only the northern section is available in ink with provisional section nos derived from the original plan drawing. The analysis was conducted by M. BIETAK.

⁷⁴⁴ It is unclear whether section no A22-22a belongs to Phase F or the last part of Phase G/3–1. The fact that seven brick courses are preserved speaks against the assignment to G/3–1 because such good preservation is unusual for this phase even more so for a precinct wall. On the other hand, this wall was also not assigned to Phase F (cf. M. BIETAK, TD V, plan 3) and there is no

wall in Phase E/3 at this position, cf. M. BIETAK, TD V, plan 4. The wall of Phase E/2, on the other hand, visible in M. BIETAK, TD V, plan 5, is represented by section no A22-21.

⁷⁴⁵ The original pencil/crayon drawings were labelled with absolute phases, but the blue prints scanned in Cairo showed that the walls were then thought to be one phase older each than originally thought. Cf. notes on the copy of the section. The final labelling of the section did not happen as yet.



Fig. 7.4 A/II-o/12, western section, note the later tomb cutting into the settlement, the wall in the foreground is wall [M47a/M51a] (Cairo Archive)

the preserved top of wall [M45] of Phase G/2–1, at least. Thus, the wall below, with provisional section no A22-30 is older and probably belongs to the phase below, G/3, so wall [G/3-M39]⁷⁴⁶ was identified with it. Unfortunately the recording of the section was cut short at 4.70 m/NN, so that no further information on the relation of the earlier walls and their base levels is extant, because wall [G/4-M27] might have come through this baulk at a lower elevation (cf. Fig. 9.1). This feature of superimposed walls is again evidence for the continued renewal of walls in the same location. Another series of superimposed walls exists at running metre 5.50 from the west, visible as [M56] in the plan Fig. 7.1,⁷⁴⁷ and the oldest one starts at a base level of 4.70 m/NN. There are only two phases of

walls represented by provisional section nos A22-26b and A22-27 (beside each other) and A22-22b above them slightly shifted towards the west (base level ca 5.15 m/NN).⁷⁴⁸ The wall with section no A22-26b is preserved up to an elevation of ca 5.0 m/NN which fits quite well with wall [M56]. Also the width of the drawn wall plus the sand tempered wall sticking out at the east of it fits well the width of section no A22-26b and A22-27. It does not seem necessary to reconstruct a perpendicular wall running into the baulk, although, of course, it is possible.⁷⁴⁹ In fact, it seems as if in pl. 6 both walls section A22-26b and A22-22b were drawn, because in the section the same shift of the top wall (A22-22b) towards the west is visible as in the plan drawing. Thus, the top of this with the

⁷⁴⁶ This is the oldest wall reached in this location and it is visible in Fig. 9.6.

⁷⁴⁷ Belongs to Compound 12, Room/Building 3, cf. Fig. 6.1.

⁷⁴⁸ This second wall with provisional section no A22-22b ca at running metre 5.5 and base level of 5.10 m/NN does not appear at all in the published plans and may be either assigned to Phase F or E/3. M. BIETAK thinks Phase F more likely due to the similar elevation of the base levels, namely at about 5.10 m/NN and the fact that the finely layered compacted levels of the alleyway ran towards the Phase F version of wall [M45], personal

communication 5 September 2017. Also N. MATH chose Phase F in her overall plan of A/II, personal communication.

⁷⁴⁹ M. BIETAK remarked on this in the provisional section analysis but it was not reconstructed in TD V, plan 2, square A/II-o/12, Compound 12. It is notable that the wall section no A22-27 noted in the northern section as abutting the western wall of Compound 12 could not be identified in the southern profile of A/II-n/12, which probably means that if it existed it only served as an installation but not an element dividing a room.

mud-bricks drawn in is, in fact, the wall of the next phase, perhaps Phase F.⁷⁵⁰

Finally there is another wall at a lower elevation at running metre 4.70 from west: it carries the provisional section no A22-30 and the preserved top of the wall reaches an elevation of ca 4.70 m/NN and just the top mud-brick course was recorded. Again the base level of this wall was not reached, although another 0.3–0.4 m were excavated to reach planum 7. This wall may belong to Phases H–G/4 and/or G/3, but a lack of base levels makes this assumption arbitrary. Two potential walls are in the correct position of running metre 4.70 from west, namely [H-G/4-M9] and [G/4-M40] cf. Fig. 9.1. However, it seems unlikely to belong to Phase H, proper because the elevation of that phase is usually much lower. Further, the western lower portions of this section show layers of broken mud-bricks in the tiny area that belongs to L [156] south and east of Compounds 11 and 14, respectively (cf. Fig. 4.17). The alleyway (in square A/II-o/12 numbered as L [151]) is represented in the section from running metre 2.40 to ca 4.50 counting from the west by a series of finely stratified ashy, humic and sandy layers (provisional section no A22-33). On top of this phase the stratified layers between the walls numbered A22-26 and A22-30 contain more ash as well as charcoal. They were described as aeolic (section no A22-28).

The western section (A63) was either not recorded or the records are no longer available (see Fig. 7.4).

The eastern section (A86, drawn spring 1969) is not relevant for Compound 13, because that only covers Compound 12 (see above, chapter 6, 206).

In the southern section (A45, drawn in 1969⁷⁵¹) the most prominent walls belonging to the earlier phases are section no A45-21a and b (= [M50a, M49a]) with a base level of ca 4.60 m/NN (see Fig. 6.38). They both belong to the actual housing unit and A45-21a represents the southern exterior wall [M50a], whilst A45-21b represents the inner partition wall [M49a]. Notable is the layer of mud-brick rubble between those walls with provisional section no A45-22, which covers the rather thin package of stratified layers of settlement activity (provisional section no A45-25) and

represents a fill of the room L [154]. The walls are preserved six to eight courses, which is relatively well preserved compared to the other walls discussed so far. These two walls were well and evenly built. The section shows very clearly that there was no building activity here until the beginning of Phase E/2,⁷⁵² providing some evidence for the area having fallen in disuse after Phase G/2–1.

Below the walls just discussed, there is another phase visible (planum 7), with a single wall running through the southern baulk, ([G/3-M46]). In the section it is represented by provisional section no A45-27. The base level was not reached because it lies below the exposure. It is interesting to note that the older wall was not destroyed to make the floor of the later building of Phase G/2–1 even. It took some time and accumulations until it was slightly more straight. The lowest elevation reached altogether in this area is 4.40 m/NN, but it is very probable that the settlement layers continue further down below. This wall no A45-27 is preserved at least three brick courses high and up to a height of 4.80 m/NN. It is clear that the phase of G/2–1 e.g. [M50a] is built on top of an older phase, which is more probably G/4 or G/3 than Phase H. Phase H generally exhibits an even lower elevation for its base levels, although the unevenness of the *gezirah* might have created more differences in base levels than hitherto appreciated. The elevation of the base level of wall no A45-27 remains unknown so that the two phases could even have been superimposed H and G/4–3.⁷⁵³ There are series of finely stratified layers with both phases of walls (provisional section nos A45-21 and A45-27). The stratified layers east of wall [M50a] represent again L [151], which is the alleyway/thoroughfare east of Compound 13. The package of layers (provisional section no A45-24) consists of sandy, ashy and humic elements, just as in the northern section (cf. above, 234–236). The phase below also contains sandy, ashy and humic layers which run towards and against the wall with provisional section no A45-27, from both the west and the east in a way that suggests that they are contemporary with the wall (slightly rising against the wall).

⁷⁵⁰ This has been corrected in Fig. 7.1.

⁷⁵¹ This section is not yet inked but drawn in crayon (TDplan 357) with provisional section nos, analysed by M. BIETAK.

⁷⁵² Cf. M. BIETAK, TD V, plan 5.

⁷⁵³ Cf. chapters 5 and 9.

Finds from square A/II-o/12, pl. 6*L [153] Room*

Stone

Reg.no **2476** (Museum Cairo), cosmetic palette.⁷⁵⁴
 Position: A/II-o/12, pl. 5–6, 1.60 m/S, 3.60 m/W
 2.80 m/D [= ~4.60 m/NN], relative level g (Fig. 7.5).
 Records: B/W negative SW1187/11.

Measurements: Preserved length = 9.3 cm, width =
 9.7 cm, height = 3.3 cm. About 2/3 preserved. Trap-
 ezoid section, traces of red colour. Material: quartzite
 (colour of material 7.5 YR 6/4), well smoothed (or
 polished?); the inner ledge is rounded and the dimen-
 sions of the inner depression is 5.2 cm in width and
 7.0 + x in length.

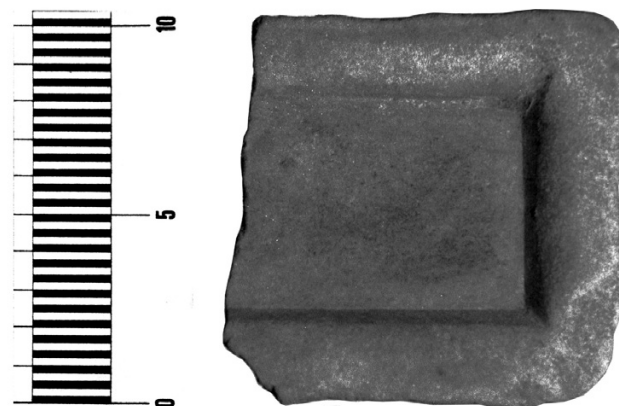


Fig. 7.5 Reg.no 2476, cosmetic palette, SW1187/11

⁷⁵⁴ This object was seen and re-evaluated by M. BIETAK on 21 November 1983 and he added some entries to the register book in his hand writing.

