

In the southern part of the area excavated in 1966–1969 the archaeological exposure was also executed below Phase G/2–1 like in the northern part (see chapter 5). As mentioned before, the row of squares which contained the main part of Mortuary Temple I (A/II-m/10–13) was not explored beneath it, because of the intention to restore the temple of Phase E/2–1 and thus it remained standing and sealed the layer below.<sup>859</sup>

## **OLDER PHASES**

### **Excavation and available records**

Excavation history and preserved records for the squares discussed here were already described in chapter 4 (A/II-n/11), chapter 6 (A/II-n/12–13, A/II-o/13) and chapter 7 (A/II-o/12). Thus, it seems sufficient to list the relevant plana<sup>860</sup> for the phase(s) older than G/2–1:

A/II-n/11, pl. 5<sup>861</sup>

A/II-n/12, pl. 5 and 6<sup>862</sup>

A/II-n/13, pl. 7<sup>863</sup>

A/II-o/12, pl. 7<sup>864</sup>

A/II-o/13, pl. 6<sup>865</sup>

As in previous instances the architectural description proceeds from north to south and from west to east. It has to be noted in the beginning that the lowest elevation reached in the north-western part of the area was around 4.00 m/NN in some places, whilst towards the east it was around 4.40 m/NN. The base levels of some of the walls visible in these exposures may even belong together when their base levels are quite

different (e.g. wall [G/4-M26] starts somewhere below the elevation of 4.00 m/NN in A/II-n/11 but runs through the northern baulk of A/II-n/12 at an elevation of almost 4.30 m/NN, which encompasses a difference of 0.3 m). These differences may exist due to the unevenness of the natural ground – the *gezirah* – below the settlement structures, which necessitated those different levels.

The main problem for the synchronisation of these walls is that for A/II-o/12–13 the sections only reach an elevation of 4.50 and 4.80 m/NN, respectively. However, because most of the older walls in the southern row of squares were not covered by the sections it is now impossible to be certain how they related to each other. Thus, in large part, the reconstruction of the building phases in these squares remains conjectural. Even more so as there were not many finds connected with these earlier phases. Thus, no sequence of finds helps in supporting even a relative chronological framework in this part of the area in the earlier levels.

### **Phases H to G/4 and G/4**

A proposed phasing is shown in Fig. 9.1 and 9.6 but it has to be stressed that especially the older phase – termed H to G/4 is extremely hypothetical. This is also the reason why the Phases H–G/4 and G/4 are shown together in one plan (Fig. 9.1). The numbering of the walls continues from the northern part of the excavation in 1966–1969 with [H-G/4-M6] (see Fig. 5.4). For Phase G/4, which is defined by slightly higher elevations the numbering continues with [G/4-M20] from the northern part of the excavation, see Fig. 5.5.

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<sup>859</sup> M. BIETAK, TD V, 27.

<sup>860</sup> Please note, that the number of the plana excavated is ultimately relating to the original preservation of the tell that was very uneven at this stage: The higher the tell originally was the more plana had to be taken off to reach a similar elevation down below.

<sup>861</sup> TDplan 281. A planum 6 appears in the photographic archive, which looks essentially the same as the pl. 5 plan drawing (cf.

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SW1099/8–24; SW1099/52–64). It seems that the numbering in this photograph series is erroneous.

<sup>862</sup> TDplan 298.

<sup>863</sup> TDplan 312.

<sup>864</sup> TDplan 352.

<sup>865</sup> TDplan 364.

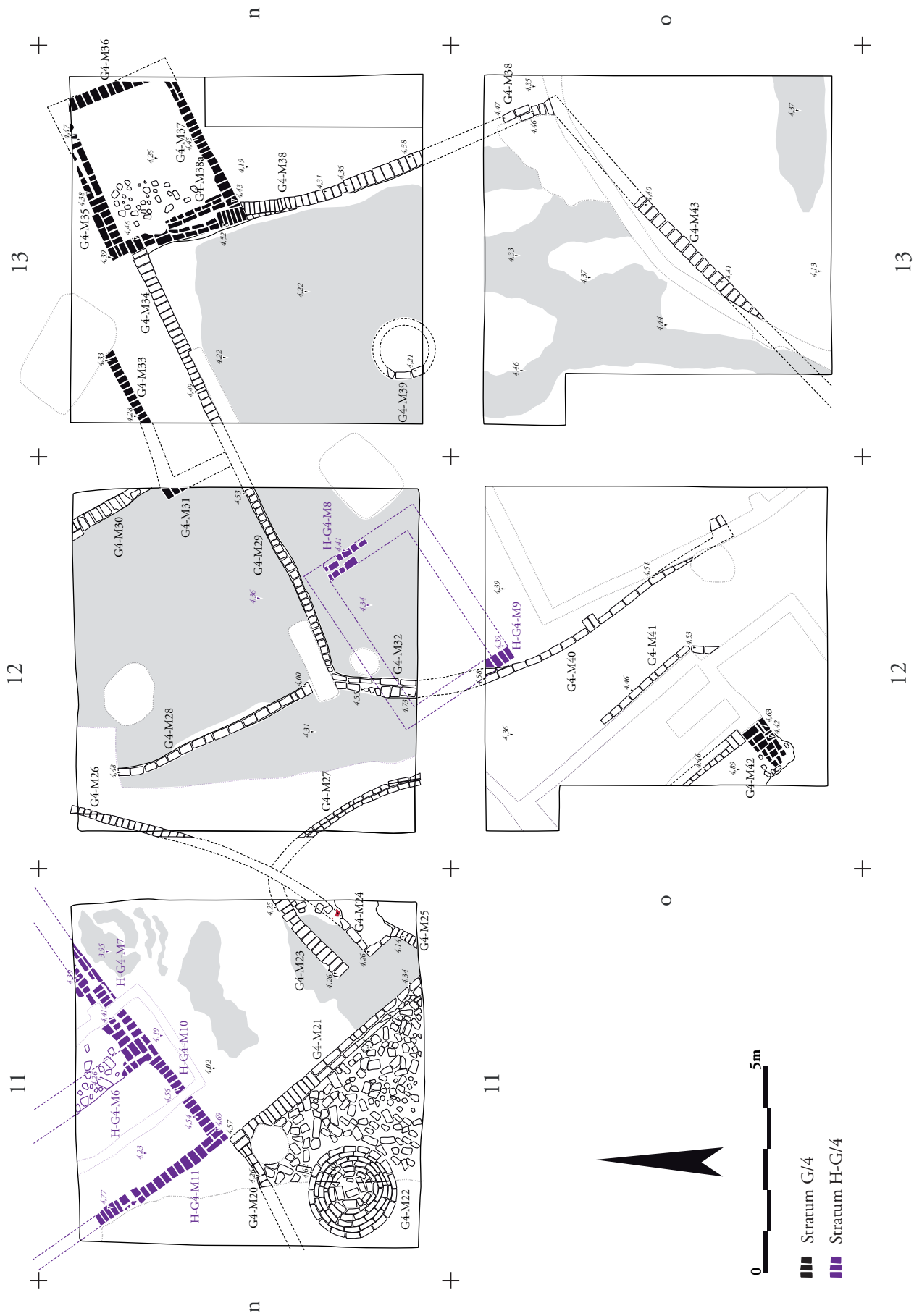


Fig. 9.1 Schematic plan of Phases H, H-G/4 and G/4, compiled by B. Bader, graphic execution N. Math

### A. DESCRIPTION OF ARCHITECTURE AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES (PHASE H?)

In the north-western part a very badly preserved corner of a building is constituted by walls **[H-G/4-M6]** and **[H-G/4-M7]** (see Fig. 9.2.c). Presumably the heavily sand tempered mud-brick walls were 1 1/2 brick's width wide by analogy with the other walls of the settlement, so far presented, but they were very badly preserved.<sup>866</sup> Around this corner of the building and inside it plenty of mud-brick rubble of the same material constituted the detritus derived from these walls.<sup>867</sup> These two walls belong to the south-western corner of this fragmentary building. The base levels of these wall fragments were not reached by the excavation because they were below the elevation of 4.10 and 4.00 m/NN, respectively.<sup>868</sup> From within the building stone tools such as rubbing/grinding and hammer stones were reported as well as a fossilised piece of wood.<sup>869</sup> This corner was reconstructed as a two-room house on the pattern of the measurements from Compound 10 with an exterior dimension of 15 by 16 1/2 Egyptian cubits.<sup>870</sup> Most probably this building belongs to Phase H judging from the tentative elevation of the base levels and the ash layer covering their preserved tops at an elevation of 4.45 (**[H-G/4-M7]**) and 4.30 m/NN (**[H-G/4-M6]**), respectively in the northern section.

Adjacent to the building formed by walls **[H-G/4-M6]** and **[H-G/4-M7]** two thin walls of one brick's width appear, namely **[H-G/4-M10]** and **[H-G/4-M11]**. They either form some sort of annexe or enclose an open space. The preserved tops of these walls are at an elevation of ca 4.55 to 4.70 m/NN and it must be noted that **[H-G/4-M11]**, which is 4.25 m long, may be the precursor of wall **[M8]** belonging to Compound 11 of Phase G/2-1 (see Fig. 3.1), although this later wall is slightly shifted to the east. Because wall **[H-G/4-M11]** runs into the baulk before running metre 1.0 counting from the west it was not recorded in the northern section of A/II-n/11 and thus the base level of the wall (or a series of walls) is not known. The same holds true for **[H-G/4-M10]**, which is not

running into any baulks and is 2.65 m long. For this reason it is not possible to prove whether these walls belonged to Phase H rather than to Phase G/4. The only certainty is that wall **[G/3-M33]** (see below, Fig. 9.6) cuts into or overbuilds this wall and thus that it must be later. Although walls (**[H-G/4-M10]** and **[H-G/4-M11]**) seem to form a useful unit with the corner of the housing unit, it is also possible that they are remnants of an even earlier unit, which was also overbuilt by walls **[H-G/4-M6]** and **[H-G/4-M7]** because their walls are only one brick's width wide rather than one and half.

In squares A/II-n-o/12 there are more very scant remains of a possible building, **[H-G/4-M8]** and **[H-G/4-M9]**, which may also belong to Phase H because a slightly later building phase covers these remains and possibly exhibits a different architectural layout (see Fig. 9.1). It has to be borne in mind, that this 'building' may be an artefact of reconstruction precisely because so little of it is preserved. Moreover, there is no additional information from the sections (baulk between A/II-n/12 and A/II-o/12) because they were not exposed/recorded down to this level. Thus, it remains unclear if the sections would have shown the walls where they are expected according to this reconstruction. The preserved tops of these walls are at an elevation of 4.39 and 4.41 m/NN, respectively and thus fit with that from walls **[H-G/4-M6]** and **[H-G/4-M7]**, although this does not provide a particularly convincing argument.

The base levels, however, are unknown. Interestingly these wall fragments (of ca 0.85 m length each) are exactly 3.65 m apart from each other in north-east direction, which corresponds very nicely to 7 Egyptian cubits. Using the preserved wall remains results in a reconstructed width of the 'building' of ca 4.2 cubits. However, the destroyed mud-brick feature to the east of **[H-G/4-M8]** may provide evidence against the reconstruction of a proper one room building but it remains unclear if this feature is contemporary, earlier, or later. On the other hand it may represent an installation of some kind such as a placement for a quern.

<sup>866</sup> M. BIETAK, Digging Diary, 29 June 1968.

<sup>867</sup> M. BIETAK, Digging Diary, 29 June 1968.

<sup>868</sup> A16, A/II-n/11 northern section, section nos A16-78 a and b. Note that those two walls continue below the elevation of 4.20 m/NN and the eastern one with a deep ash deposit east of it. A

thin ash layer ran over the preserved top of **[H-G/4-M7]**, which suggests its belonging to Phase H according to M. BIETAK's observation that ash is covering the whole of Phase H.

<sup>869</sup> M. BIETAK, Digging Diary, 29 June 1968, p. 33.

<sup>870</sup> Cf. B. BADER, On Simple House Architecture, 112, table 2.



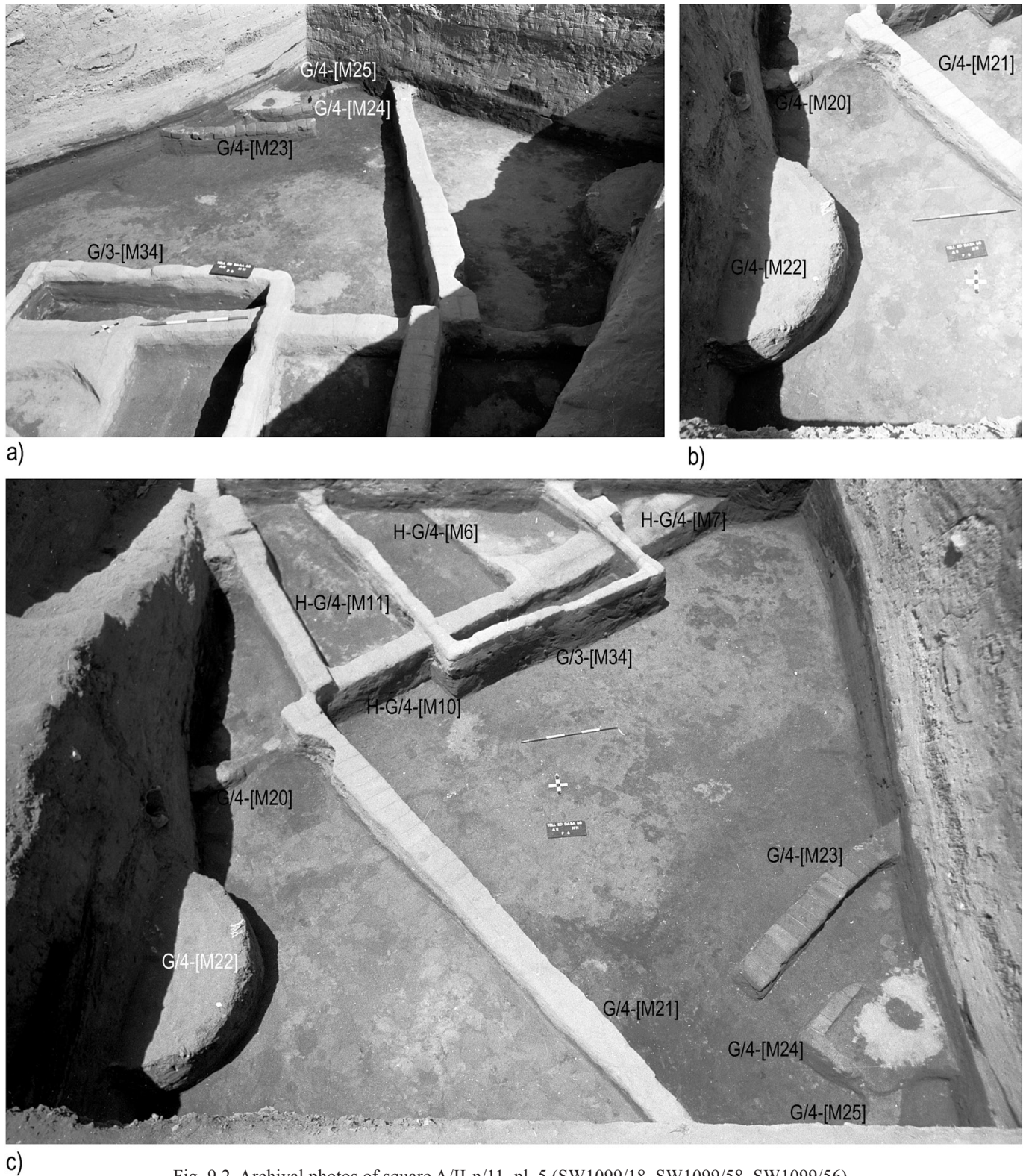


Fig. 9.2 Archival photos of square A/II-n/11, pl. 5 (SW1099/18, SW1099/58, SW1099/56),  
a) view from north-west to south-east, b) detail of silo from south to north, c) square from south to north

## B. DESCRIPTION OF ARCHITECTURE AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES (PHASE H–G/4)

The remaining architecture cannot be really assigned to one of the two phases except that it lies most likely slightly above the already described features, therefore the description follows again from north-west to south east.<sup>871</sup>

In the south western part of square A/II-n/11 the corner of a building or enclosure contains a very carefully built round silo with a well-executed mud-brick floor with the heavily sand tempered mud-bricks carefully laid out in rings. On top of this floor a lot of animal bones were found (see below, 277). The bricks were laid as headers as usual for this type of installation. The diameter of the silo is ca 2.25 m, which corresponds to 4 1/3 Egyptian cubits. The preserved top of the wall [G/4-M22] was at an elevation of 4.62 m/NN at the highest point, whilst the base level was measured in the planum at 4.17 m/NN. The size of the bricks was 0.34–0.36 by 0.14–0.16 m.<sup>872</sup> A preservation of almost 0.5 m is quite unusual for a silo in the settlement at Tell el-Dab<sup>a</sup>, thus, it is possible that two or even three phases were preserved on top of each other.<sup>873</sup> Unfortunately the western section was not exposed low enough to know the elevation of the base level of the circular silo there also. The two walls forming the enclosure for this silo are [G/4-M20] and [G/4-M21]. These two walls meet at right angles and they were one brick's width wide but laid out variably as stretchers and headers in some places and as stretchers in others, presumably to provide better bonding and stability. The walls were preserved up to an elevation of 4.36 and 4.57 m/NN, the base levels were not reached but are certainly below 4.30 ([G/4-M20]<sup>874</sup>) and 4.20 m/NN ([G/4-M21]<sup>875</sup>). Of wall [G/4-M21], which is 6.1 m long, running into the southern baulk of A/II-n/11 three mud-brick courses were visible in the southern section of A/II-n/11. Wall [G/4-M20] is 1.45 m long. The

format of the bricks was reported as 0.31–0.35 m by 0.16–0.18 m.<sup>876</sup> Depending on the duration of the existence of walls [H-G/4-M10] and [H-G/4-M11] there may have been no thoroughfare between the silo court and the housing unit. The southern section, A41, shows another wall for which no equivalent was found in the plan drawing.<sup>877</sup>

In the south-east corner of the square a thin wall extends towards the north-east, [G/4-M25]. It was 1 brick's width wide and the base level was at an elevation of 4.10 m/NN<sup>878</sup> at its southern end. Perhaps this is the same wall as [G/4-M26] that was recorded in A/II-n/12, which follows the same general direction. If this is so then the stretch of wall would extend for ca 9.0 m. The eastern section of A/II-n/11 (A80) shows [G/4-M25] running between metres 2.0 and 3.0 counting from the south. The base level must have been below 4.00 m/NN and only one or two brick courses are visible in the section.<sup>879</sup> The preserved top was measured at 4.14 m/NN. Another wall with the same base level is [G/4-M23] that seems to start at right angles to [G/4-M21] but leaving a gap.<sup>880</sup> It is preserved ca three or four brick courses high and is 2.4 m long. Between [G/4-M23] and [G/4-M25] another feature consisting of several sand tempered mud-bricks was situated, [G/4-M24]. Five bricks constitute a thin half brick's width wall laid out as headers and forming a 90° corner of 1.20 m and 0.7 m. This feature may have belonged to a rectangular silo (such as seen in Compound 11, chapter 3, 118) but it seems to have been destroyed by a pit and perhaps also by wall [G/4-M25]. The purpose of [G/4-M23] is difficult to fathom because it remains unclear if this is just what remains of an installation or if it served to protect [G/4-M24] to which it is aligned parallel at a distance of 0.5 m. Slightly ashy layers fill the area around these features but they do not seem to have been massive as they are not visible in the eastern section. In the southern section they appear only as a thin layer, ca 5 cm.

<sup>871</sup> The sections will not be discussed separately because so little can be said.

<sup>872</sup> M. BIETAK, Digging Diary, autumn 1968, p. 34.

<sup>873</sup> Note that on the same spot, just shifted a little to the north there was another silo dated to Phase G/2–1, chapter 8, Compound 14. Cf. also M. BIETAK, Digging Diary, autumn 1968, p. 34, who ascertains a strong continuity of activity in this area.

<sup>874</sup> This wall was given section no A54-73 b, close to running metre 4.0 in A54, the western section of A/II-n/11.

<sup>875</sup> A41, section no A41-63b, in the southern section of A/II-n/11.

<sup>876</sup> M. BIETAK, Digging Diary, 29 June 1968.

<sup>877</sup> Presumably it was just below the sand tempered brick rubble recorded in the plan drawing that covered the interior of the space enclosed by [G/4-M20] and [G/4-M21] towards the west. Section no A41-68, between running metres 6.0 and 7.0 counting from east.

<sup>878</sup> A41, final section nos not yet assigned in inked plan drawing.

<sup>879</sup> A80, section no A80-62b.

<sup>880</sup> A80, section no A80-62a.



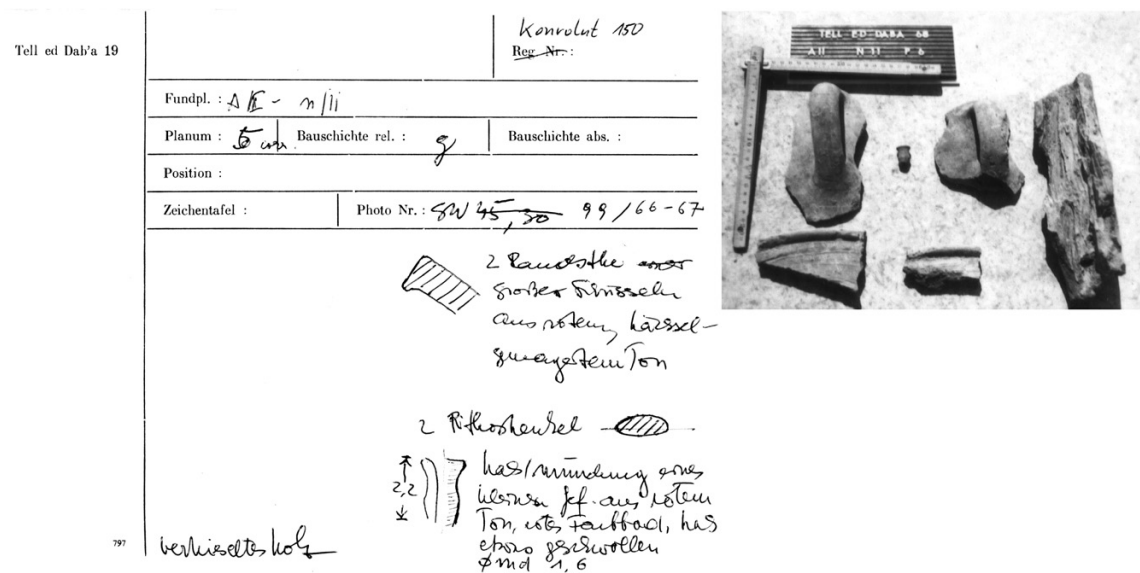


Fig. 9.3 Sherd collection/convolute card K150 with photo, scale approx. 1:2

The digging diary also relates that the floor of the planum in A/II-n/11 showed red-burnt earth in many places suggesting either local conflagration<sup>881</sup> or other activity in connection with fire. The continuation of the architectural layout towards the south must remain unknown because A/II-o/11 was not excavated. Also the continuation towards the north except for the reconstructed building walls [H-G/4-M6] and [H-G/4-M7] remains unknown.

### Finds from square A/II-n/11

#### Pottery

Sherd collection K150 is perhaps derived from the 'building' formed by [H-G/4-M6 and M7] or just around it, although this is not clear from the description on the card (Fig. 9.3). The fact that the digging diary mentions a piece of fossilised wood from within this building connects the sherd collection with it.<sup>882</sup>

The material described in the original recording fits quite well with the material as it is known from other parts of the settlement in the earlier Phases H to G/3–1 although no details can be ascertained:

- 1.) two rim fragments of large coiled and wheel-turned dishes with a folded lip of probably large diameter, of rough looking material (most likely Nile C2).
- 2.) 2 handles of two different large transport amphorae of imported fabric with a flattened handle section.
- 3.) a tiny kernos fragment of 2.2 cm height, with a rim diameter of 1.6 cm and a red slip.
- 4.) a piece of fossilised wood.

#### Animal bones

The silo formed by wall [G/4-M22] yielded a considerable collection of animal bones that was published by J. BOESSNECK.<sup>883</sup>

Cattle: 30 bone fragments from all parts of the animal resulting in a minimum number of 2 individuals, consisting of one young animal and one adult.

Sheep/goat: 1 frag. of upper jaw, molar very abraded; 2 frags. of lower jaw; 1 frag. of a radius shaft; 2 pelvis in fragments.

Goat: 2 scapulae, sin.

Pig: 1 frag. of upper jaw of male; 1 frag. of lower jaw of male, both adult; 1 frag. of scapula; 1 fragment of humerus shaft.

Dog: 1 humerus, distal part, adult.<sup>884</sup>

<sup>881</sup> M. BIETAK, Digging Diary, 29 June 1968.

<sup>882</sup> M. BIETAK, Digging Diary, 29 June 1968, p. 33.

<sup>883</sup> J. BOESSNECK, TD III, 16. N/11, SW-Eck des Planums 5, im Rundhürdenbau, Str. f = H. The assignation of the phase is rather

er G/4 than H, although it cannot be ultimately proven due to the sketchy information on base levels.

<sup>884</sup> J. BOESSNECK, TD III, 34.

## Distribution of animal bones in this silo

cattle	sheep/goat	goat	pig	dog
30	6	2	4	1

**C. DESCRIPTION OF ARCHITECTURE AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES (PHASE G/4)**

It remains unclear if the structures in the west (A/II-n/11) continued to be in use up to Phase G/4. For this reason the description continues in the east.

Towards the east (A/II-n/12–13, A/II-o/12–13) another set of buildings perhaps divided from the western one by walls [G/4-M25] and [G/4-M26] seems to have been built. Due to the fact that the base levels of these walls in the south are also very low it seems legitimate to assign these buildings at least roughly to the same Phase H–G/4. Interestingly though, the base level of [G/4-M26] in the northern section of A/II-n/12 is at an elevation of ca 4.30 m/NN,<sup>885</sup> which may reflect the natural unevenness of the *gezirah* at this early stage. Of course, it is possible that this wall belongs to Phase G/3 but it is unlikely to be later as it is not shown in the published plan of Phase G/2–1 because at that stage this area accommodates the open space south of Compound 11 L [156], see chapter 3.

Wall [G/4-M28] runs roughly for ca 5.2 m in north-south direction with a slight bend to the north-east in its northern part. The wall was built with heavily sand tempered mud-bricks laid out as headers of 1/2 a brick's width. The size of the bricks is approximately 0.34–0.345 by 0.17–0.175 m.<sup>886</sup> The base level of this wall lies below 4.10 m/NN in the northern section,<sup>887</sup> whilst it does not reach the southern section of the same square. The preserved top of this wall is at an elevation of 4.48 m/NN.<sup>888</sup> This wall seems to form some sort of enclosure together with walls [G/4-M29], which is 4.9 m long, and perhaps [G/4-M30], which is 2.10 m long. Those walls are also half a brick's width and 1 brick's width wide, respectively. It is, thus, extremely unlikely that these walls could have

held any type of roofing, even more so as the space to be bridged is more than 5.50 m wide. The 'enclosure' was cut in its presumed south-western corner by the limestone sarcophagus of Tomb 4 of Phase G/2–1 (see chapter 5). Thus, the connection with the one brick's width wide wall [G/4-M32] running towards the south is destroyed and it can only be assumed that the meeting point of these three walls delimits either alleyways or property boundaries. The base level of [G/4-M32] is at an elevation of 4.50 m/NN and it is four brick courses high preserved with an elevation of the preserved top at ca 4.70 m/NN.<sup>889</sup> It is 2.05 m long. While the relationship of wall [G/4-M28] to the eastern walls cannot be ascertained exactly, it is possible to gain information on the relation to [G/4-M26], see above and Fig. 9.1. The northern section of A/II-n/12 (see chapter 6, 200) clearly shows that [G/4-M28] is older than [G/4-M26], because the finely stratified layers abutting the eastern face of that wall run over the top of [G/4-M28] and towards the east. Although this is clear, it is less certain whether [G/4-M28] should therefore be grouped with Phase H–G/4 or assigned to G/4<sup>890</sup> because no more information is coming forwards from any of the other walls.

Wall [G/4-M30] protrudes from the northern baulk and towards the south east until it disappears in the eastern baulk of the same square. The top of this wall is preserved up to an elevation of 4.60 m/NN (in the eastern section<sup>891</sup>), whilst the base level was not reached but is below 4.40 m/NN.<sup>892</sup> The top of wall [G/4-M29] was preserved up to an elevation of 4.53 m/NN close to the eastern section. Again the base level lies below 4.40 m/NN.<sup>893</sup> A few bricks protrude from the eastern section with number [G/4-M31] which may constitute a cross wall to [G/4-M29] (see reconstruction in Fig. 9.1). The base level is at an elevation of below 4.40 m/NN and the wall seems to directly abut wall [G/4-M30].<sup>894</sup> It seemed likely for the reconstruction of this wall that it continued further towards the north-east including wall fragment [G/4-M33] in square A/II-n/13. Unfortunately [G/4-M33]

<sup>885</sup> A17, section no A17-78a.

<sup>886</sup> M. BIETAK, Digging Diary, 28 June 1968.

<sup>887</sup> A17, section no A17-78b at running metre 3.0 from west.

<sup>888</sup> The original plan drawing suggests an older wall below it.

<sup>889</sup> A40, final section no A40-63a = [G/4-M40] in the southern part.

<sup>890</sup> In Fig. 9.1 this wall, however, was assigned to Phase G/4 assuming that not too much time passed between the falling out of use of [G/4-M28] and the erection of [G/4-M26].

<sup>891</sup> A85, no section number because there is only rubble preserved in the section. It starts at running metre 2.20 and continues to 2.75 counting from north.

<sup>892</sup> The lowest elevation reached in this section was ca 4.40 m/NN. Thus what lay beneath has not been recorded in the section.

<sup>893</sup> A85, section no A85-56b at running metre 5.0.

<sup>894</sup> A85, section no A85-56a. Two brick courses are visible in the section, but the wall was probably founded earlier.



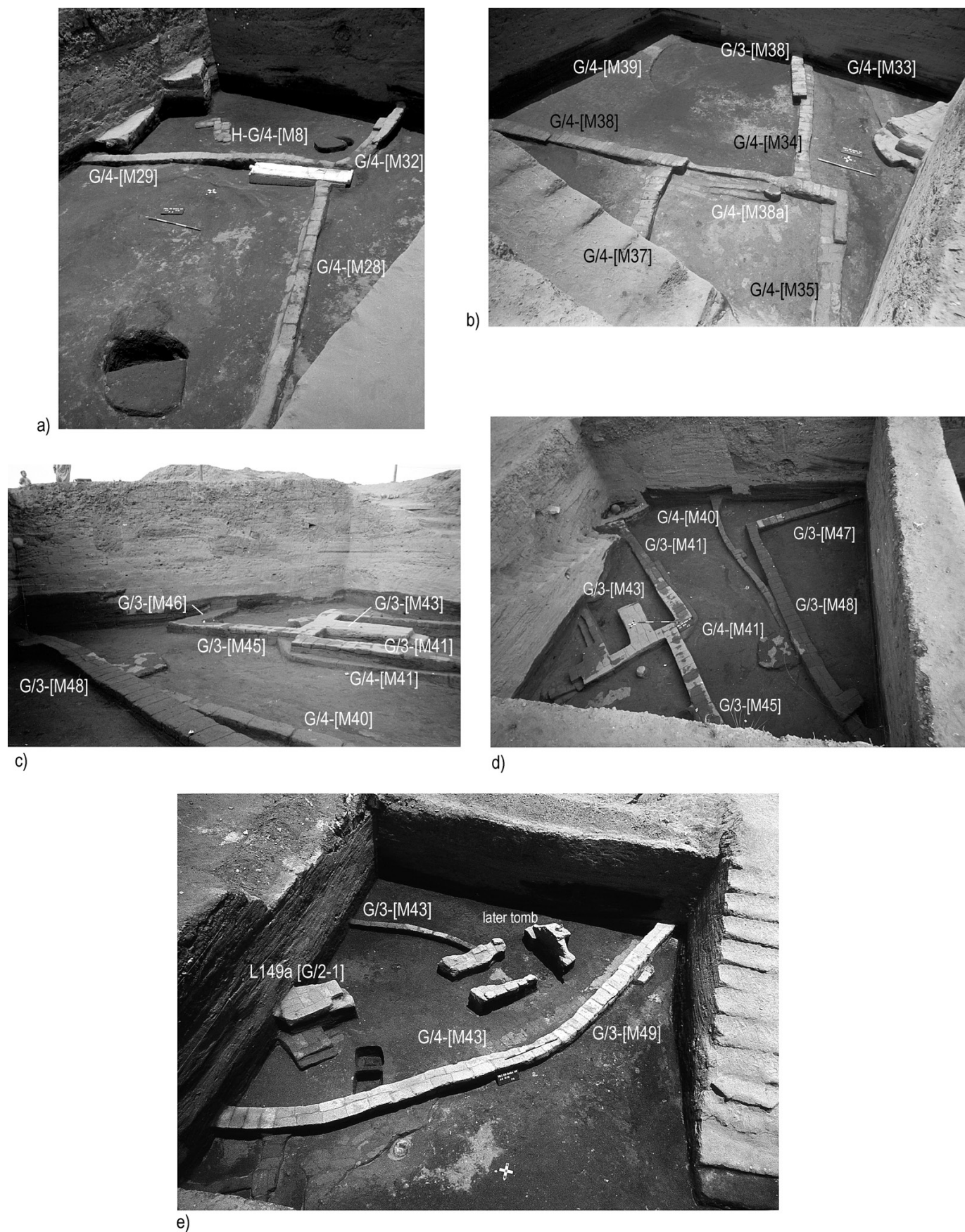


Fig. 9.4 a) A/II-n/12, pl. 6, view from north-west to south-east SW1097/41–42. b) A/II-n/13, pl. 7, view from east to west SW1117/62. c) A/II-o/12, pl. 7, view from north-east corner towards south-west SW1176/8. d) A/II-o/12, pl. 7 view from south towards north, SW1176/4. e) A/II-o/13, pl. 6, view towards the south, Cairo Archive



is cut by a later tomb,<sup>895</sup> thus it remains unclear what function this wall had or up to which point it continued. However, it ran through the northern section of square A/II-n/13, where three to four brick courses were preserved. The wall is preserved for 1.95 m. The base level of this wall was not reached but it lies certainly below the elevation of 4.15 m/NN. The preserved top is at ca 4.60 m/NN, which fits reasonably well with the preservation of 4.28 and 4.33 m/NN in other parts of the wall.

Except for ash depositions visible in the plan drawings no more archaeological features belonging to this early phase were reported.

The only other feature in the western part of square A/II-n/12 is wall [G/4-M27], which is ca 3.15 m long. Its base level recorded in the western section of the square lies below 4.0 m/NN and thus presumably belongs to the earlier phases of the settlement although this placement cannot be more specific. The base level in the northern section of A/II-o/12 was not reached because that section was only recorded to an elevation of 4.60 m/NN. For this reason it must remain unclear whether that wall continued towards the south east. It is unlikely that the southern part belongs to the structure in the north-western corner of A/II-o/12 because the ground plan would result in a very irregular layout. The elevation of the preserved tops of these walls can also not be compared because this data is only known for the southern walls (at 4.61 m/NN) and it seems as if [G/4-M27] was lower. In the same way it remains unknown how the arrangement at the northern end of [G/4-M27] was laid out. It may have abutted [G/4-M26] as reconstructed (see Fig. 9.1). Another possibility is that they formed a unit with [G/4-M23] and, thus, [G/4-M25] may have existed earlier and/or later. Also a difference in denudation is not a criterion for the assignment to a phase.

In the very north-eastern corner to the east of wall [G/4-M30] a deep ash accumulation (ca 0.3 m), perhaps some kind of fire pit, was found.<sup>896</sup> The entire square within and without this enclosure was covered by an ash layer<sup>897</sup> as well as the area further east

in square A/II-n/13.<sup>898</sup> This layer accumulated to a thickness up to about 0.4 m in the southern part of the square.<sup>899</sup> Partly this ash is compacted and partly mixed with very fine sand. This fact led M. BIETAK to the opinion that the ash was carried by winds and mixed with sand layers, implying that the ash was lying around on the ground for some time. Most probably the ashes were derived from fire related activities such as from firing pits or similar features and distributed across the square. Perhaps such ashy accumulations are more usual in settlements and need not be derived from outright destruction, especially as no burnt brick work was reported. Open fires and fire pits used for heat and cooking must have produced enormous amounts of ash over time that then needed to be discarded or at least spread within the settlement as soon as it was cold. Unfortunately the nature of the fire installation in the north-east corner cannot be ascertained because it was covered by the baulk, which had not been taken down.

South of wall [G/4-M29] the north-south wall [G/4-M32] runs over the burnt remains of the possible earlier housing unit of Phase H–G/4 [H-G/4-M9] (see above 273 and Fig. 9.1). The wall [G/4-M32] continues southwards through square A/II-o/12 as [G/4-M40] and was at least partly overbuilt there by a later wall ([G/3-M48], see below and Fig. 9.6). Thus, it remains unclear how its course runs exactly and if it continues even further to the south. It may have abutted wall [G/4-M43] further south. Again this assumption must remain hypothetical. Where wall [G/4-M40], which is ca 5.65 m long and roughly one brick's width wide, is not built over by the later wall two buttresses/pilasters are recorded. This building technology, presumably used to strengthen the stability of this rather flimsy wall, also occurs in the northern part of the excavation (see Fig. 5.5), square A/II-l/12 in this phase but also in Phase G/3 and G/2–1 in singular cases. The two buttresses/pilasters are built by means of two heavily sand tempered mud-bricks laid out as protruding stretchers, two at a time and in bonding with the remainder of the wall, which was

<sup>895</sup> A/II-n/13-no 8, Phase E/3, cf. M. BIETAK, TD V, 86–91. Section A18, tomb section no A18-31, wall [G/4-M33] cut by it and situated immediately east, no section no.

<sup>896</sup> A85, section no A85-55. The base of the accumulation was not reached. The north east corner of the square may have contained a pit, but only a depression is really visible.

<sup>897</sup> It is interesting to note that Tomb A/II-n/12-no 4 (Phase G/2–1) cut through those ash layers. Cf. M. BIETAK, Digging Diary, 28 June 1968, p. 50; M. BIETAK, TD V, 33–34.

<sup>898</sup> This is also visible in the western section of A/II-n/13 A64, where an ashy layer extends from north to south descending from 4.60 down to 4.20 m/NN with decreasing thickness from 25 to 10 cm. The final section nos were not yet assigned in the inked section.

<sup>899</sup> Cf. also section A40, A/II-n/12 southern section.

mostly built of headers. Also the wall becomes thinner in the southern part. Presumably this happens somewhere within the baulk between A/II-n-o/12. The distance between the two buttresses/pilasters is ca 3.5 m (equals exactly 6 2/3 cubits). Unlike the situation in the north the distance between the pilasters does not amount to an even number of cubits. The reconstruction of a third buttress/pilaster, which might be hidden under the later wall, (see Fig. 9.1) would lead to an even cubit count of almost 3 cubits as the buttresses/pilasters themselves measure exactly 0.35 m, which constitutes exactly two thirds of an Egyptian cubit of 0.525 m.

To the east, in square A/II-n/13, some other archaeological features need to be mentioned. There is a rectangular structure close to the eastern section. The feature was constituted by walls [G/4-M35], [G/4-M36], [G/4-M37] and a part of [G/4-M38], namely [G/4-M38a]. It seems from the photograph (Fig. 9.4.b) as if [G/4-M38] not just abutted the rectangular feature in a later phase after the building of the rectangular feature but was bonded into it. Whether this represents an adjustment from the original plan must remain uncertain. The internal measurements of the feature are 3.35 m by 2.50–2.60 m (= 6.4 cubits by 5 cubits<sup>900</sup>). The walls are all of one brick's width and the construction pattern alternates between stretchers and headers laid out beside each other, presumably again to provide stability. The fill inside these walls is represented by brick rubble and collapse as well as some other walls adjacent to [G/4-M38a] (see Fig. 9.4.b). Thus, the real floor level had not been reached. Again it remains unclear whether there would have been precursors for the whole structure or installations within the feature. The structure lies exactly below the later one of Phase G/2–1 (see Fig. 6.1) and thus continuity in the settlement structures can be once more demonstrated. The base level of none these walls was reached, because in the northern section wall [G/4-M35] runs below the elevation of 4.20 m/NN,<sup>901</sup> and in the eastern section walls [G/4-M36] and [G/4-M37] are below the elevation of 4.40 m/NN.<sup>902</sup> The preserved tops of these walls are at an elevation of

around 4.40 m/NN but no floors have been mentioned in the digging diary dividing the buildings of Phases G/2–1 and G/4–3. It remains unclear how long the building was used and if it could have existed in Phase G/3.<sup>903</sup> The format of the bricks was given as 0.33 by 0.16 by 0.085 m.<sup>904</sup> Abutting the rectangular structure just described are walls [G/4-M34] and [G/4-M38] forming a rectangular space that was probably open because the distance between the walls appears to be too wide to be covered. Both these walls are one brick's width wide and [G/4-M34] is preserved on a stretch of ca 5.7 m and perhaps continues towards the west as [G/4-M29]. Both the base levels of these walls, [G/4-M34] and [G/4-M38] are below an elevation of 4.30 m/NN whilst the preserved tops are at 4.40 m/NN and 4.31–4.52 m/NN. Approximately in the middle of wall [G/4-M38], which is ca 4.5 m long, there is one single brick visible that was laid out as a header at the lower elevation and may constitute the precursor of wall [G/4-M38]. Therefore the first course of bricks is visible presumably with a base level of around 4.25 m/NN in this area. This would fit well with the information from the southern section<sup>905</sup> because the base level of that wall is below an elevation of 4.30 m/NN. Presumably this wall continues towards the south and probably forms an enclosure with [G/4-M43] in square A/II-o/13 (see Fig. 9.4.e).

Within the space enclosed by the walls just mentioned the fragment of a rounded wall laid out as headers [G/4-M39] is situated running into the southern baulk of the square (see Fig. 9.4.b). It belonged to a circular silo and the reconstructed diameter is very approximately 1.75 m (= 3.3 cubits). The feature is cut by a large pit that was filled with ash.<sup>906</sup>

The whole square was described as filled with a deep ash layer distributed by wind<sup>907</sup> (although the plan drawing does not show such large amounts. The 'floor' level given for the space in the south-west corner is at 4.22 m/NN. The 'floor' level given for the area east of wall [G/4-M38] is at an elevation of 4.19 m/NN. No finds were reported from squares AII-n/12–13.

<sup>900</sup> This represents a ratio of length to width of almost exactly 4:3 although the building is not exactly regular.

<sup>901</sup> A18, final section no A18-38 is exactly below that of 35 which belongs to G/2–1.

<sup>902</sup> A90, preliminary section nos. Only the walls belonging to G/2–1 are recorded in this section but it is likely that the older ones are situated just below as visible in the northern section.

<sup>903</sup> In the plan in Fig. 9.6 it has been omitted.

<sup>904</sup> M. BIETAK, Digging Diary, 7 July 1968.

<sup>905</sup> A39, section no A39-34.

<sup>906</sup> M. BIETAK, Digging Diary, 7 July 1968.

<sup>907</sup> M. BIETAK, Digging Diary, 7 July 1968.

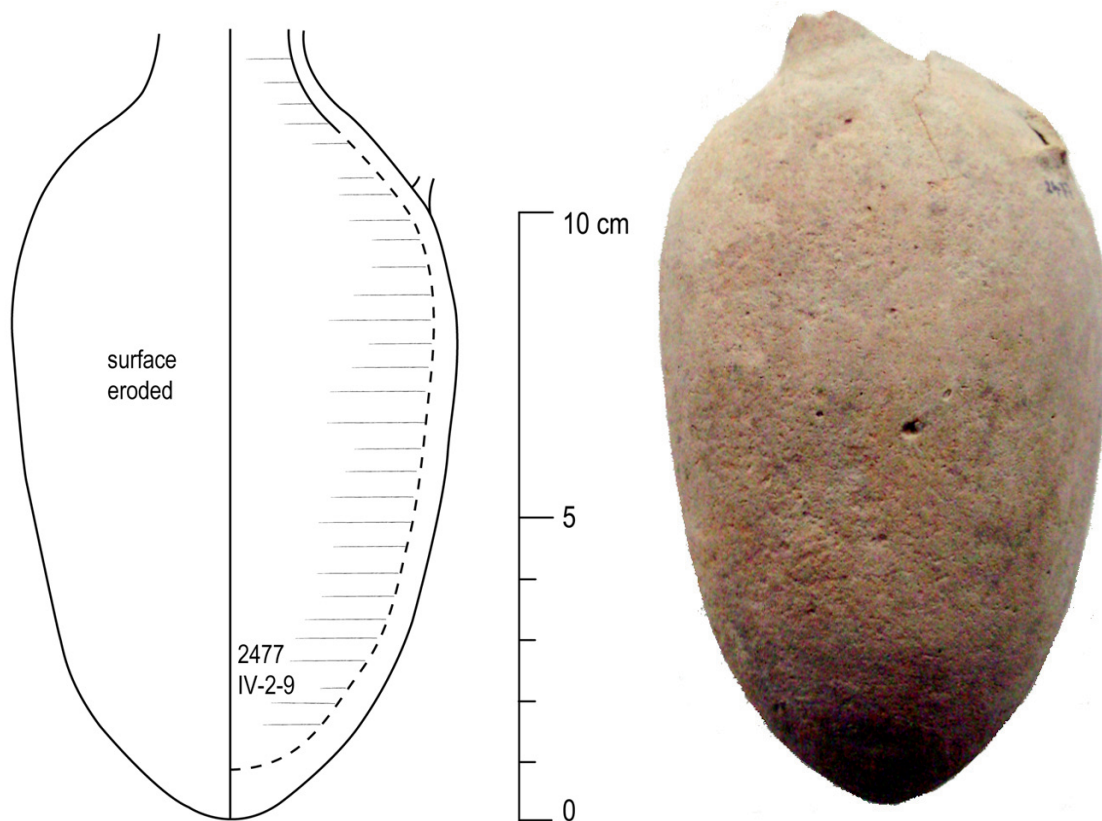


Fig. 9.5 Reg.no 2477, dipper juglet surface severely eroded, drawn and photographed by B. Bader, courtesy of KhM

The surrounding wall of the presumed open space constituted by walls [G/4-M29], [G/4-M32], [G/4-M34] and [G/4-M38] in the northern part (A/II-n12–13) continues towards the south with walls [G/4-M40] and [G/4-M43] (A/II-o/12–13). The base levels of the walls in square A/II-o/12–13 are not known in the relevant sections because they were only recorded down to 4.40 m/NN in square A/II-o/12 and to 4.80 m/NN in square A/II-o/13, which means that they cannot give any information on the phasing of these walls. In planum 6 of A/II-o/13 the preserved top of wall [G4-M43] was just exposed at an elevation of 4.41 m/NN (see Fig. 9.4.e). The wall is one brick's width wide and can be followed on a length of 4.05 m. The preserved tops of wall [G/4-M40] with the buttresses/pilaster (see above) are at an elevation of ca 4.50 m/NN. The fact that the latter wall is only 1/2 a brick's width wide may cast some doubt on the assignation to this phase but it is possible that at first all the walls were only 1/2 a brick's width wide and only in a second stage was it replaced by a slightly thicker wall. The base level of [G/4-M40] is recorded in the southern

section A40 with the final section no A40-63a at a base level of 4.50 m/NN. That wall may just be visible beside [M56] in the plan drawing of planum 6.

The purpose of the enclosed space remains unclear due to a lack of finds, only the presence of ashy layers in the fill of the enclosure may suggest activities of dealing with open fires (cooking, industrial activities or something similar). It needs to be made clear though that in A/II-o/12 the plan drawing does not show any ashy layers (the digging diary for this planum was not preserved). The photo (Fig. 9.4.d) on the other hand makes it difficult to decide whether the dark colour is derived from ash or the fact that the features are still somewhat wet owing to the high water table. Thus, this interpretation may be only valid for part of the space.

Finally parts of a structure in the south western corner of square A/II-o/12 probably belong to Phase G/4 (see Fig. 9.1 and 9.4.c–d). There are two walls apparently below later structures just about visible in the plan drawing of planum 7. Unfortunately, for this reason, there are no base levels for the fragmen-



tary walls [G/4-M41] and [G/4-M42]. The preserved tops of these walls are around an elevation of about 4.40–4.50 m/NN and might thus belong to the earlier of the two phases, namely Phase G/4, even more so as the walls only seem to be one brick's width wide at the most. The two wall fragments run more or less parallel to each other in a north-north-western direction. Interestingly both [G/4-M41], which is ca 3.0 m long, and [G/4-M42], which is 2.65 m long, are also parallel to the southern part of wall [G/4-M40] before it bends in a slight curve towards the east forming a passage way of about 1.65 m width.

The general 'floor' level in this square was around an elevation of 4.36 m/NN roughly corresponding to the northern and the eastern squares.

### Finds from square A/II-o/12

#### Pottery

Reg.no **2477** (KhM A 4026), dipper juglet. Position: A/II-o/12, pl. 7, 1.4 m/E, 2.8 m/N, relative stratum h (Fig. 9.5).

Records: drawing ZN 24/69, redrawn and re-recorded.

RP	IV-2-9	m	W2	Bd. geschl.	ox	3
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Wd. = 0.3–0.6; base 100% preserved; max.d. = 7.3; H1 = 13.0 +x.

Red burnished: 10 R 4/6 red, natural colour: 5 YR 6/6 reddish yellow. The red slip and burnishing are totally eroded except for a few traces of colour. No fresh break, Section: uniform pink, slightly powdery look. The vessel was slightly malformed at the shoulder due to pinching it. The handle scar was not well enough preserved to provide evidence for a rounded or squared section. The base was very eroded but there was a slight elongated gap visible, which may have been derived from not properly closing the base.

### D. DESCRIPTION OF ARCHITECTURE AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES (PHASE G/3)

Phase G/3 (Fig. 9.6) is distinguishable in squares A/II-n/11–13, but to a greater extent in squares A/II-o/12–13. In some areas it was difficult to decide whether a building or part of a building was in use through Phase G/3 up to G/2–1, such as the circular

silos in A/II-n/11 or most of the walls in the eastern part of square A/II-n/12.

In some parts of these squares a definite tradition of architectural features can be noticed as remarked several times before: a series of buildings in A/II-n/11 into which the south western corner reached; the use of silos in the south western corner of the same square; a series of walls running north-south in square A/II-n/12; the smallish one room unit in the north eastern corner of Square A/II-n/13 and lastly the presence of some sort of building in the western part of square A/II-o/12.

One feature in square A/II-n/11 must definitely belong between Phases H–G/4 and G/2–1, namely the rectangular 'room' protruding from the northern baulk southwards (see Fig. 9.2.a, 9.2.c, 9.6). It consists of walls [G/3-M33], [G/3-M34] and [G/3-M35]. Their base levels were recorded in the northern section of the square<sup>908</sup> at an elevation of 4.46 m/NN and 4.50 m/NN, while the base level of [G/3-M34] itself was measured at 4.62 m/NN. The preserved tops of these walls ranged from ca 4.60 m/NN to 4.70 m/NN. This means a preservation of about 10–20 cm, which is equivalent to about two to three brick courses. These walls were only 1/2 a brick's width wide and it remains unclear if they cut into the older structures of [H-G/4-M6], [H-G/4-M7], and [H-G/4-M10] (Fig. 9.1) or set on top of the ruins.<sup>909</sup> The interior width of the 'room' is 2.60 m, which equals quite well 5 Egyptian cubits. The exterior measurement is 2.95 m, which is to be equated with 5.6 Egyptian cubits, i.e. 5 2/3 cubits. The length of the 'room' cannot be ascertained because the northern square A/II-m/11 was not excavated to the necessary depth, but a trench along the southern section of that square was dug and the section recorded to an elevation of 4.0 m/NN (cf. Compound 11, chapter 3, 120). Here a suitable wall may appear with section no A36-66a at running metre 7.0 from the east. The preserved top of this wall is at 4.60 m/NN, which makes it too low to be identified with Phase G/2–1 and [M20].<sup>910</sup> For the oldest wall [H-G/4-M6] might be in the correct position (should be roughly at running metre 7.0 from the east) but the top of that wall is not preserved to sufficient height to be no A36-66a. Moreover, the equivalent of [M30] is also not visible in the southern section of A/II-m/11 (= A36). Thus, the building must have been

<sup>908</sup> A16, [G/3-M33] equals final section no A16-75 (more like rubble), whilst [G/3-M35] equals final section no A16-73.

<sup>909</sup> In Fig. 9.2 it seems as if these walls have been set onto a pedestal suggesting the later date as well.

<sup>910</sup> Base level 4.70 m/NN.

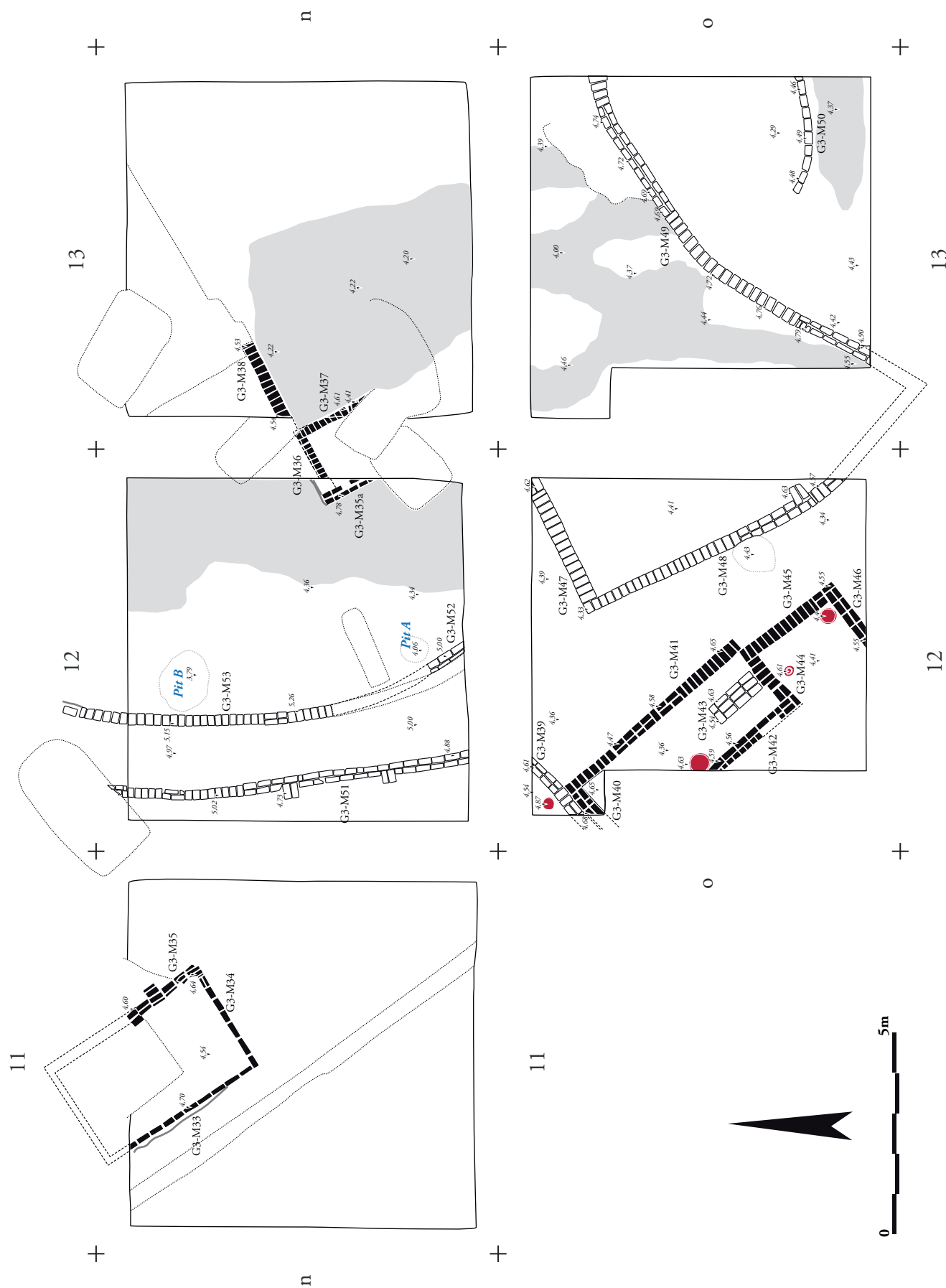


Fig. 9.6 Schematic plan of Phase G/3, compiled by B. Bader, graphic execution N. Math

quite thoroughly destroyed. A possibility that cannot be proved is that A36-66a represents [G/3-M33] if the north western corner is situated within the baulk, which was not taken down. This reconstruction is also not perfect because in the same way that [M30] is not visible in the southern baulk of A/II-m/11, wall [G/3-M35] also does not appear, although it should come out somewhere between running metres 4.0 and 5.0 from the east.<sup>911</sup> But the section shows in this area just sandy fill of a shallow depression and heavily sand tempered mud-brick rubble (section no A36-67). This could be the remains of both [M30] and [G/3-M35]. The distance between walls [G/3-M33] and [G/3-M35] provides us with the interior width preserved of this room and results in 2.65 m (= 5 cubits). The minimum length on the other hand for the 'room' is 3.55 m provided by the preserved length of [G/3-M33]. That is a minimum of 6.8 cubits. The interior length of the room according to the hypothetical reconstruction would amount to ca 4.07 m equating  $\sim 7 \frac{2}{3}$  cubits.<sup>912</sup>

The space to the south of the feature mentioned before was either free of any structures or those from the previous phase were still in use, because in the eastern section of A/II-n/11 no other walls above [G/4-M23] and [G/4-M24] were encountered. The deep ash layer in the northern part of the section covers this phase as well and, to the south of it thin layers of mud, sand and ash alternate. However, these layers are not as numerous and thin as in other parts of the site (e.g. in A/II-k/12) thus the level of activity in this area might have been different without the possibility to verify this hypothesis.

Whether the installations in the south western corner of A/II-n/11 were still in use in Phase G/3 or not cannot be ascertained, but it seems likely, because a similar installation albeit with two silos was in use in the next later Phase G/2–1 as well (see chapter 8).

A similar problem is met in square A/II-n/12 because there are no vitally different architectural features to before or after, except some minor modifications in the courses of some walls. The main features remain the same. The roughly north-south wall in the

west of square A/II-n/12 [G/3-M51] replaced the bent walls [G/4-M26] and [G/4-M27], which might have formed an ensemble. Wall [G/3-M51] shows two buttresses/pilasters formed by two protruding stretchers in bond with a one brick's width wide wall. The bricks protrude on the western face of the wall, whilst in [G/3-M48] the buttress/pilaster protrudes on the eastern face of the wall. If there is a meaning behind this choice it is as yet unclear. [M45] of Phase G/2–1 is superimposed on wall [G/3-M51] again in a slightly different course.<sup>913</sup> The second dominating feature is wall [G/3-M53] probably belonging together with [G/3-M52] which is just preserved on a short stretch in the south of the square. Because the Phase G/2–1 wall [M52] was not taken down it remains unclear if the course of it was exactly the same as in the previous phase. That there is another wall between [G/4-M28] and G/2–1 [M56] is clear from the northern and southern sections although not much of them was left.<sup>914</sup> If the dividing wall [M51] also had a predecessor in Phase G/3 cannot currently be ascertained. Unfortunately there are no finds that might have helped to define the phases of usage here.

In the area east of [G/3-M53] two pits were discovered, whose stratigraphic position is not entirely certain, but which seem to rather belong to Phase G/3 than G/4. Both of these pits did not contain any finds that would have helped in dating. In the north-western part of the space enclosed by wall [G/3-M53] a quite deep pit (Pit B) was unearthed. Its shape is irregular and the measurements were 1.42 by 1.25 m. The elevation of the excavated rim of the pit was roughly at 4.41 m/NN whilst the deepest point measured was at 3.79 m/NN. Thus the pit was at least 0.62 m deep if the original top of the pit has not been cut away. The digging diary relates that the pit was probably dug from a slightly higher level because the rim is higher than the preserved tops of the walls belonging to Phase G/4. Thus, Pit B should probably belong to Phase G/3. The section of this pit included a kind of step and the upper fill (ca first 0.4 m) consisted of unstratified mud, whilst the lower fill consisted of

<sup>911</sup> The wall in the section is 0.75 m thick. The reconstructed thickness of a 1/2 brick's width wide building comes to about 0.5 m. But 0.75 m would be slightly too thin for [H-G/4-M6], which should be about 0.8 to 0.9 m if cut obliquely. This question cannot be solved without renewed excavations.

<sup>912</sup> The ratio of width to length would then be 4:2.5 (almost 4:3 as is often proclaimed to be architecturally ideal, cf. J.PH. LAUER, *La triangle sacré dans les plans des monuments de l'Ancien Empire*,

*BIFAO* 77 (1977), 55–78; J. DÖRNER, *Die Absteckung und astronomische Orientierung ägyptischer Pyramiden*, PhD Dissertation, University of Innsbruck, Fakultät für Bauingenieurwesen und Architektur, 1981, 91. See also C. ROSSI, *Architecture*, *passim* for a cautious approach to geometry in ancient Egypt.

<sup>913</sup> For the discussion of the relevant sections see chapters 4 and 6, 140–141, 144–146, 199–200.

<sup>914</sup> See discussion in chapter 6, 202–206.



sandy earth (*gezirah?*). The pit was assumed to aid storage.<sup>915</sup> The relation of Pit B and wall [G/3-M53] cannot be ascertained because there was no stratigraphic connection between the two. It is of course possible that the 'enclosure' was already built earlier and continued into Phase G/3 with the upper parts destroyed later. As there were no finds reported from this part of the excavation the definition of use phases remains extremely difficult. The pit is visible in Fig. 9.4.a as the structure in the lower left corner of the photo. South of wall [G/4-M29] an oval pit (Pit A) was dug immediately to the east of [G/4-M32] (see above, 277). The diameter is 1.22 by 1.15 m and the pit is at least 0.4 m deep. Again this feature was interpreted as a storage pit rather than belonging to Phase G/3.<sup>916</sup> It would have destroyed the reconstructed wall of the earlier building [H-G/4-M8-M9] but no notes exist that a wall might have been visible in the profile of the pit. For this reason the reconstruction of the presumed building in Fig. 9.1 might be unlikely.

Further to the east a probable single room unit is formed by walls [G/3-M35a], [G/3-M36] and [G/3-M37].<sup>917</sup> However, the southern part of this presumed 'room' was destroyed by later tombs in square A/II-n/13-no 8,<sup>918</sup> A/II-n/13-no 10<sup>919</sup> and A/II-n/12-no 7.<sup>920</sup> The base levels of walls [G/3-M35a], [G/3-M36] and [G/3-M37] were recorded: [G/3-M35a] at an elevation of 4.50 m/NN,<sup>921</sup> [G/3-M36] at an elevation of 4.40 m/NN<sup>922</sup> whilst the base level of [G/3-M37] was also at an elevation of 4.40 m/NN.<sup>923</sup> The preserved top of wall [G/3-M35a] was recorded at 4.78 m/NN, whilst that of [G/3-M37] was at 4.61 m/NN. This structure, with some modification, may have become part of the later Compound 12 in Phase G/2-1. Either the structure was reused for Phase G/2-1 or it did not exist before. Unfortunately this cannot be further clarified from the sections. The walls are preserved to a length of 1.40 m [G/3-M35a], 1.95 m [G/3-M36]

and 2.10 m [G/3-M37]. The distance between [G/3-M35a] and [G/3-M37] is 1.55 m equalling almost exactly 3 cubits. The length of the 'room' must be at least 2.10 m, which amounts to exactly 4 cubits. An overall length of 5 to 6 cubits is therefore very possible.<sup>924</sup> Nothing much can be said about its function due to a lack of finds, but usage as stables and barns for storage of fodder may be suggested.<sup>925</sup>

In square A/II-n/13 the archaeological description cannot go beyond the assertion that wall [G/3-M38] preserved to a length of ca 2.10 m overlies [G/4-M34] (see Fig. 9.4.b). The other, older structures may still have been in use, but no more details can be related.

The situation is different in the southern part of the area, A/II-o/12<sup>926</sup>-13, where several features must have been built between those of Phase H-G/4 and G/2-1 because they partly overlie or cut into each other or were used differently in the next phase. One of the most striking new features are walls [G/3-M47] and [G/3-M48], which are 3.65 m and 6.90 m long, respectively (see Fig. 9.4.c-d). The base level for wall [G/3-M47] is below 4.60 m/NN<sup>927</sup> whilst that of [G/3-M48] also lies below the recorded elevation of 4.50 m/NN and both are thus unknown. Although no section has been drawn where these walls met, it seems that they overlaid each other, with [G/4-M40] being the one below and [G/3-M48] being the one on top.<sup>928</sup> In contrast to the wall underneath [G/3-M48] was built to one brick's width with a buttress/pilaster in the south that is ca 0.35 m wide, approx. two thirds of a cubit.<sup>929</sup> It protrudes from the wall into which it was bonded, for 0.3 m towards the east. The presence of a buttress/pilaster in this wall suggests a surrounding wall of an open space. It remains unclear how, and if, [G/3-M47] continued towards the north east, because it seems to stop dead as it runs into the baulks of A/II-n-o/12 and A/II-n-o/13. Because [G/3-M47] does not appear in the southern section of A/II-n/13,

<sup>915</sup> M. BIETAK, Digging Diary, 28 June 1968, p. 50.

<sup>916</sup> M. BIETAK, Digging Diary, 28 June 1968, p. 50.

<sup>917</sup> These are the same walls as [M59], [M55] and [M60]. It was not possible to decide without any associated finds whether these walls belong to Phases G/3 or G/2-1. It is even likely that the walls were in use in both these phases. Thus, they have been included into the plans of both phases.

<sup>918</sup> M. BIETAK, TD V, 86-90, Phase E/3.

<sup>919</sup> M. BIETAK, TD V, 93-94, Phase E/3.

<sup>920</sup> M. BIETAK, TD V, 207-209, Phase E/1.

<sup>921</sup> The remains of this wall consist only of rubble in the western section of A/II-n/13.

<sup>922</sup> A85, final section no A85-50, it was perhaps reused for [M55] of Phase G/2-1.

<sup>923</sup> A63, provisional section no A63-27.

<sup>924</sup> Cf. B. BADER, On Simple House Architecture, *passim*.

<sup>925</sup> M. BIETAK, personal communication 25 July 2017.

<sup>926</sup> For the lower elevations of this square no digging diary was preserved in the records.

<sup>927</sup> A86. The section was not recorded below this elevation; it is also below wall [M57] with final section no A86-56a.

<sup>928</sup> The plan drawing of A/II-o/12 planum 7 certainly evokes this impression.

<sup>929</sup> Two thirds of a cubit amount to 4 2/3 hands. 1 hand is 75 mm, thus 0.35 m are exactly 4 2/3 hands based on a cubit of 0.525 m.

A39,<sup>930</sup> it must be assumed that it turned southwards through the baulks of A/II-o/12–13. But as the access ramp for the excavation workers had not been taken down, its continuation remains unclear. The two walls [G/3-M47] and [G/3-M48] were included or overbuilt in the next Phase G/2–1 to form Compound 12 (cf. chapter 6) by connecting wall [G/3-M48] to [M56] by means of [M75] (see Fig. 6.1). It needs to be noted that the course of the later walls of Phase G/2–1 is roughly the same but often a little more rounded or straighter (compare the plans Fig. 9.1, Fig. 9.6 and Fig. 6.1).

In the western part of square A/II-o/12 several walls and wall fragments [G/3-M39] to [G/3-M46] were found that are difficult to connect to a meaningful ground plan of a single housing unit.<sup>931</sup> It seems quite certain that close to the western section several walls overlay each other in a sequence, but unfortunately the lack of information from a section does not allow going into more detail. It is possible that the rectangular ‘room’ formed by walls [G/3-M40], [G/3-M41], [G/3-M44] and [G/3-M42] constitutes the narrow part of a two-room unit<sup>932</sup> with an installation (bench, shelf, or similar) [G/3-M43]. [G/3-M41] is 5.60 m long, whilst [G/3-M40] is only preserved on a stretch of 1.10 m. The ‘installation’ [G/3-M43] is ca 1.50 long and the preserved top is at an elevation of 4.47 to 4.61 m/NN. Finally [G/3-M42] is preserved for a length of 2.75 m. To the west a slightly wider room might have continued.

The rectangular space south of this structure delimited by [G/3-M45] and [G/3-M46] may have constituted an addition to the basic room unit similar to Compound 11 (see chapter 3), but if so on a smaller scale. If this was the case, the building process was divided into at least two sub-phases, because [G/3-M41] and [G/3-M45] were not built in bond but slightly set off according to the plan drawing. Also [G/3-M45], which is 2.83 m long, does not constitute a perfectly straight continuation of [G/3-M41] but is slightly tilted towards the southwest at its southern end. Moreover, the interior space from wall [G/3-M44] to [G/3-M46], which is 1.65 m long, is 2.20 m wide, which corresponds to 4.2 cubits, but this is not an even measurement as in many other instances.

Whether this is enough evidence to decide that these two parts did not belong together, is difficult to judge. Significantly, all of these walls are one brick’s width wide. The preserved tops of these walls vary from 4.47 m/NN to 4.65 m/NN and it is not impossible that several building sub-phases are encountered here and that parts of these walls overbuilt each other. If they existed, they may have been rather short lived.

The course and function of wall fragment [G/3-M39], which is only preserved on a stretch of 1.70 m, remains uncertain. There is no proven continuation towards the north east because the wall does not appear clearly in the southern section of A/II-n/12. If the wall continued in a straight line, it should be visible in this section at about running metre 4.5 counting from the west and at an elevation for the top at about 4.60 m/NN.<sup>933</sup> But if it curved through the baulk between A/II-n/12 and A/II-o/12 it could represent the continuation of [G/3-M51] and anticipate the truly curved compound boundary wall [M45], see Fig. 4.17. In the, at the moment, unlikely case that [G/3-M39] continues in a straight line, it would go through roughly the same spot (at running metre 5.0) in the southern section of A/II-n/12 as the series of walls the latest one of which was numbered [M56].<sup>934</sup> Because it was not entirely clear if walls [G/4-M32] and [G/4-M40] are one and the same or not, they have been numbered differently in the different squares. However, below wall [G/4-M32]<sup>935</sup> one single brick with some rubble appears in the southern section at running metre 5.5 from the east. The top of this brick rubble is at an elevation of 4.45 m/NN clearly divided from the later wall [G/4-M32] by overrunning layers of some rubble and sand. These remains with low elevation are unlikely to be identified with wall [G/3-M39], because it does not tally with the preserved elevation of it of 4.61 m/NN. Unfortunately the base level is not recorded because the excavation did not reach so low in this area. There is one wall too few at running metre 0.5 in the southern section of A/II-n/12 and the northern one of A/II-o/12 was not exposed far enough to know. It also does not seem logical in this phase because this wall would block the thoroughfare from north to south by a cross wall. The sequence of walls in this area according to available information would then be as follows: 1)

<sup>930</sup> No walls at all are recorded between running metres 1.0 and 7.0 from west to east between the elevations of 5.20 and 4.20 m/NN.

<sup>931</sup> Cf. B. BADER, *On Simple House Architecture*, passim.

<sup>932</sup> Comparison with the measurements of other bi-partite house units shows in contrast that they usually larger from from

around 8.0 to ca 10 m. Cf. B. BADER, *On Simple House Architecture*, passim.

<sup>933</sup> A40.

<sup>934</sup> Cf. chapter 6.

<sup>935</sup> The wall is called [G/4-M40] in square A/II-o/12.

[H-G/4-M9], 2) [G/4-M40] and [G/4-M32]<sup>936</sup> and 3) [M56] (Phase G/2–1). It is possible, though, that wall [G/4-M32] should rather belong to Phase G/3. Due to the sketchy information it is difficult to be certain. However, without further exploration of the actual walls this problem cannot be solved.

Finally, there are only two further walls to discuss, namely in square A/II-o/13. The main wall is [G/3-M49], which divides the square almost into two equal halves. It is not straight like its precursor [G/4-M43] but more curved and irregular on a length of ca 10.0 m. However, the width is the same: one brick's width and again the building technique alternates in using stretchers and a double row of headers, presumably for an increase in bonding stability. The preserved top of the wall [G/3-M49] at its southern end is at an elevation of 4.90 m/NN, whilst in the northern part it is around 4.70 m/NN. Such an elevation in preservation suggests prolonged use and continued renewal of this wall and the base level of one of these walls in the northern part is at 4.65 m/NN, which fits well with Phase G/2–1. Another base level of the wall for Phase G/3 more towards the south may be at about 4.40 m/NN where it overlies the older wall [G/4-M43] as seen in the plan drawing. It seems that in this part another tradition of open space was established as only this wall and a few other features are present, from the earliest phase (H–G/4) onwards up to G/2–1.

Wall fragment [G/3-M50] protrudes from the eastern baulk and runs in a slight curve westwards for about ca 3.0 m, after which it is no longer preserved. It could have only been preserved one brick course high, because the base level was taken at 4.40 m/NN and the preserved top was measured at 4.48 m/NN. The purpose of this wall remains entirely unclear, especially as it stops suddenly, due to denudation. Unfortunately the excavations of I. FORSTNER-MÜLLER of 1997<sup>937</sup> cannot help in clarifying this structure and the others in this square because the exposure of the neighbouring square A/II-o/14 did not reach down far enough.

## Finds from square A/II-o/12, pl. 7

### Stone

One stone implement was found to the east of wall [G/3-M48], which was described as a stone 'head' in the plan drawing. As this find does not reappear in the records, it must be assumed that it was rather a pounder or a rounded grinding stone. The diameter according to the plan drawing (1:50) is 13.0 cm. For a grinding stone this appears to be of rather large size, thus perhaps a pounder or stone hammer is more likely. About the material nothing much can be said, except that the drawing convention at Tell el-Dab'a indicates that it was made of limestone.

### Pottery

Also drawn into the plan are four pottery vessels, which seem to belong to this phase. Unfortunately they could not be identified and re-studied. The two vessels in the southern space in square A/II-o/12 seem to have been medium to large jars, whereas the northern one (according to the photo Fig. 9.4.d) was deposited with the base on top (contrary to the plan drawing). The preserved height of the vessel was around 20.0 cm. The other jar seems to have been deposited with the base on the floor (although this vessel had already been taken out when the photograph was taken). Thus, it might have been *in situ*. The same holds true for the vessel close to wall [G/2-M42], which was preserved to a height of ca 27.0 cm. Both the latter vessels had a very wide body diameter of 45.0 and 55.0 cm. The only vessel type attested for other parts of the settlement of the late Middle Kingdom with such a large body diameter is that of large storage vessels made from Marl C.<sup>938</sup> The other two slightly less wide jars (one in the north-west corner close to wall [G/3-M39] preserved height 33.0 cm, the other close to [G/3-M44]) have a body diameter of ca 30.0 to 35.0 cm. Also for these jars medium to large sized Marl C vessels either with bulbous rims<sup>939</sup>

<sup>936</sup> It is also possible that [G/4-M32] and [G/4-M40] are not the same but that [G/4-M40] is older. Unfortunately this cannot be verified because the northern section of A/II-o/12 was not recorded to this elevation.

<sup>937</sup> I. FORSTNER-MÜLLER, Vorbericht, 197–220. I. FORSTNER-MÜLLER, Colonization/Urbanization, 83–95.

<sup>938</sup> B. BADER, TD XIII, Type 57, 155–193. The heights range from ca 40 to almost 60.0 cm, whilst the max. diameter varies from 37.0 to almost 52.0 cm.

<sup>939</sup> B. BADER, TD XIII, Type 36, 108–120. Comparing the heights of the completely preserved examples they appear perhaps a little too small (around 25.0 to 28.0 height, 15.0 to 21.0 max. diameter).



or with corrugated necks<sup>940</sup> come to mind, because closed vessels made from Nile clay fabrics are exceedingly rare in this period in the late Middle Kingdom settlement. Imported transport amphorae – also rarely occurring without handles – may also be a pos-

sibility. As there were no handles drawn into the plan, it seems slightly less likely that the vessels were imported amphorae. Both of them were found with the base up, which may hint at secondary deposition of these pottery vessels.

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<sup>940</sup> B. BADER, TD XIII, Type 46, 129–145. The heights range from ca 40.0 to 50 cm, the max. diameter is usually around 22.0 to 29.0 cm. See also B. BADER, *Vessels in Ceramics and Stone: The Problem of the Chicken and the Egg?* in: D. ASTON, B. BADER, C.

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GALLORINI, P. NICHOLSON and S. BUCKINGHAM (eds), *Under the Potter's Tree, Studies on Ancient Egypt Presented to Janine Bourriau on the Occasion of her 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday*, *Orientalia Lovaniensia Analecta* 204, Leuven – Paris – Walpole, MA 2011, 125–171.