

RECENT FINDS

by

Dr. M. ABDUL-QADER MUHAMMAD

KARNAK

THIRD PYLON

In order to get out the monuments which had been placed in the foundation of the third pylon, it was decided to dismantle the north flank of the pylon. The work of dismantling and reconstruction took several years, from 1957-1964. But the foundation was cleared during the season of 1958-1959, when I was chief inspector of upper Egypt during that period.

I will not discuss in details the architectural problems, as this is outside my scope. This work has been carried out by the architect Moustafa Subhy, Director of works at Karnak, under the supervision of the architect Taha El-Sheltawy, Director of the engineering section.

This pylon, as is known, was constructed by Amenophis III. The two faces of the pylon, both the inner and outer, or the western and the eastern, faces are both quite vertical. That is in accordance with the usual regulations of building the walls of a hall, but not of a front-*pylon*, though the flag-shafts were set in the façade (at that time of Amenophis III this inner face was the temple-façade). It seems that when Amenophis III built his pylon, he had in mind the building of an immense hypostyle hall which is usually attributed to later kings. Thus the idea of the huge hypostyle hall was first conceived by king Amenophis III, who also conceived the idea of the fourteen-columned hall at the temple of Luxor. It is also possible that Amenophis III might have begun laying the foundation of this big hypostyle hall, but died before completing his project. There is a strong proof to support this view.

When the north flank of the third pylon was dismantled it was found out that the pylon in reality consisted of two walls (Pl. XIX), both built by Amenophis III. Both walls extend from the main gate to the north wall of the hall. The western façade of the eastern wall, which was later hidden by the second western wall, was not vertical, but it recedes inwards as it gets higher, in accordance with the usual regulations of building the proper pylon-façade. It was inscribed with few lines giving the names and titles of Amenophis III. But there was no other decoration. Thus it seems that as soon as it was finished, Amenophis III decided to build the second western wall, hiding the whole façade of the eastern wall and tightly fitted unto it. No space whatsoever was left between the two walls. Accordingly, the eastern face of the west wall is leaning outwards to match the receding façade of the east wall, while the western face of this west wall is made vertical to suit the columns of the hypostyle hall. There is no doubt, according to this evidence that the originality of the idea should go to Amenophis III, who was the first to construct for himself the two huge colossus which are known as the Memnon colossi and in whose reign the big tombs of Thebes were constructed. It was this king, and not Ramses II, who was the first to originate the idea of building the immense and the huge. Ramses II exploited it to the utmost.

It is decided, when the third pylon will be re-built, to leave a space between the two walls, so that people can see the two parts of the pylon Pl. 19 ; though this would not be exactly the same as it was before dismantling, yet this is the only possible solution.

When the third pylon was dismantled, we found out that it had a solid foundation constructed of re-used blocks of previous kings. It was about 6 metres deep. These blocks were laid on a bed of sand which runs also under the foundations of the columns of the hall. The total length of the foundation was 38 metres \times 6,30metres. in breadth.

From this evidence we can be sure that the pylons. and the columns have very solid and strong foundations.

contrary to the view which was prevailing in the past that Egyptian buildings had no foundations. This might be true only of the buildings which were constructed on a rocky ground.

We had to build a new foundation for the pylon instead of the re-used blocks which had been taken out. The new foundation is made of concrete as follows. Pls./ 18, 20.

	cm.
First, a bed of concrete	70
Second bed of re-inforced concrete ..	60
26 pillers of re-inforced concrete	300 height.
Each piller is 225 × 100 cm.	
The space between the pillers is filled with sand.	
On top of the pillers is another bed of re-inforced concrete on which the walls of the pylon will stand ..	
	170
	600
	600

The work is now near completion.

The old foundation was made of huge blocks of stones, cut to sizes between 1-4 metres in length, thickness is about one metre. These were taken out of earlier temples. The blocks were all inscribed. The upper layers of the blocks belong to Thutmose IV. Lower layers belong to Amenophis I. Few blocks, strangely, belong to Amenophis III himself, the builder of the pylon. A small block of alabaster bears the name of Ahmes, another bears the name of Sobek-Hotep. Now we will discuss these in detail.

AMENOPHIS III

It is extremely interesting to find in the foundation, blocks bearing inscriptions of Amenophis III. These monuments must have been obstructing the building of the pylon in his second stage, so it was decided to put them as a foundation deposits of the king in his own pylon.

In both scenes Pls. 1, 2, king Amenophis III is celebrating his *heb-sed* festival. Thus the second stage of building of the pylon took place some time after the celebration of this festival.

In one scene Pl.2 the king is shown holding the *heb*-sign and dancing before the god Amun-Re. (The construction of this scene is not certain ; it is possible that there was more than one scene of the same occasion.)

In the second scene Pl. I the king is offering libation to the god.

The two scenes are sculptured in relief on several blocks of limestone. They do not form a stela, but they seem to be parts of a wall which bears a series of scenes. This indicates the existence of a temple constructed by Amenophis III. Is it possible that Amenophis III died before finishing the foundation for the second stage, and his successor who decided to complete the work, placed the temple-blocks of Amenophis III in the foundation? This could be possible, but it is difficult to know the truth. But there is no doubt that it was Amenophis III who built the east wall of the third pylon.

SOBEK-HOTEP

A block of limestone bearing the name of a king, Sobek-Hotep of the XIIIth. dynasty, was found at the depth of six metres, i.e. the last layer of the foundation of the third pylon. Date of discovery First of July 1957.

The block bears inscriptions on both faces and on its thickness. The inscriptions and the scenes are in sunk relief and not of a high quality. It reflects the low standard of sculpture at that time.

On one face Pl. 3.b, it shows two scenes :

Left scene : The king stands in the centre, wearing the crown of Upper Egypt, and gives an offering to Amun-Re.

The king is dressed in the usual *šndyt* kilt, the *usht* collar, and wearing the crown of Upper Egypt, and holds in each hand a jug offering them to the god. The king is called in the text.

s3 r° n ht.f Sbk Htp di °nh dt

The god is clad with the *šndyt*-kilt also, the *wsht* collar and wearing on his head the two feathers of Amun. In his left hand he holds the *was* scepter, while in his right hand he holds the *°nh*-sign.

He is called in the text.

imn r° nb nsw.t t3wy

Right side. The king stands in the center wearing the kilt and the *wsht*-collar. On his head he wears the two feathers of Amun and the uraeus on his forehead. There is a difference between the two crowns which are made of feathers. That of the king has the uraeus ; that of the god is without a uraeus, but is adorned with a tail falling down behind his back. The king who is offering to god Hapy is called :

ntr nfr nb t3wy nb i°ry ht šhm r° wsr t3wy di °nh dd was m° r° m° dt

The god is called *H°py °3*, the great Hapy.

The second face of the stela. Pl. 3. a

This side of the stela records a certain visit to the residence of this god Hapy.

“ The living son of Re Sobek Hotep, beloved of Hapy, may he live for ever. Year 4, month 4, of summer, the five epagomenal days, the majesty of this god living for ever. His majesty proceeds to the divine palace to see the great Hapy. His majesty came to this northern divine palace in the middle of the water. (His majesty) crossed unto it”.

The rest of the line is destroyed.

The name of the place where the divine palace existed was not given. But as the name of god Amun-Re was given, and Amun-Re, as we know, is the god of Thebes and his original residence was Karnak; moreover, this stela was also found in Karnak, the divine palace concerned should have existed somewhere in this area. According to this inscription, it seems that there was at that time a chapel in the area of Karnak for the Nile-god Hapy who was considered a very important god, the god who provides Egypt with water.

This northern palace was situated amidst the water. Does that mean that the site of Karnak was at that time an island which was joined to the main land at a later date? Could this be possible?⁽¹⁾ Or was the divine palace of Hapy situated somewhere else? It is in fact difficult to give a definite answer.

The king who is mentioned here is Sekhem-Re Weser Tawy Sobek Hotep III, one of the most active kings of the Thirteenth dynasty.

The thickness of the stela. Pl. 4 *a*.

On the thickness of the stela there was an attempt for writing the titulary of the king, but the inscription was never completed.

NEBPEHTIRE AHMOSIS

Two interesting objects were found for that king. They were found near the bottom, about two metres higher than the bottom-level of the foundation.

(1) Compare the Bible, Nahum iii, 8.

The first is a fragment of limestone pl.4.b. The rest of the stela is destroyed. It gives the year 17, but we could not be sure as the date is partly destroyed.

The second is a stela of limestone, inscribed on both faces, but unfortunately it is badly destroyed pl. 5.

On both faces the king is represented given an offering probably to the goddess of the fields, for the offering is consisting of *dfꜣw rnpt*.

In 5. a, the king seems to be sailing southwards, probably returning home after he conquered his enemies ; he is called, *itꜣ tꜣwy* the conqueror or the unifier of the two lands.

In the text on the other face of the stela, the king had arrived at his capital, "His majesty sat as in the southern *Iwn* (i.e. Thebes)." pl. 5.b.

Both texts, taken together, seem to indicate that after the king had conquered his enemies the Hyksos in the north, he returned to Thebes to be crowned as king. The southern *Iwn* continued to be the capital.

Pl. 5. c. d. Two faces of a small fragment of limestone.

AMENOPHIS I

Few fragments were found bearing the name of *dsr kꜣrꜣ*. Pl. 6,7, Amenophis I must have had built many a monument in Karnak, but they were dismantled by later kings to be put as foundation deposits in their pylons. Dr. Abou Ennaga found in 1940 a complete shrine for that king which was made of alabaster and exquisitely sculptured. It was also found in the filling of the third pylon, in the southern flank.

These few fragments show the king offering to Amun-Re. The sculpture is very fine.

TUTHMOSIS II

The monuments of that king in Karnak are almost nil. But in the foundation of the third pylon several blocks bearing his name were found. They no doubt prove that this king had added to Karnak at least one magnificent building and that sculpture had reached a high standard in his time. But it seems that because of the feud in his family, his monuments were destroyed.

One block Pl. 8. a shows the king kneeling down to offer milk to the god ; the relief of the king is wonderful, a prelude to that art of Hatshepsut.

Several blocks which seem to form a lintel of a wall bear in huge relief the titulary of Thutmose II. Pl. 9.

There is no doubt, according to this evidence, that there existed in Karnak somewhere in the vicinity of the fourth pylon a temple for that king which had been destroyed by Amenophis III. More blocks of that temple may still be found. Surely, there must be some other blocks among those already discovered in the foundation of the third pylon. These will be separated when a proper study is made of the blocks.

TUTHMOSIS IV

It seems that a whole temple for Thutmose IV was dismantled, the blocks of which were used in the foundation of the third pylon. That may explain the scanty remains of that king in the Karnak temple. It certainly demonstrates the bad relation between king Amenophis III and his predecessor Thutmose IV. It is possible that Amenophis III, who tried to ascertain his claim to the throne by inventing the story of his divine birth which he sculptured on the walls of his Luxor temple, was not, in fact, the right successor to the throne, and that Thutmose did not support him during his life. However, Amenophis III did not only demolish the monuments of that king, but of other kings. Blocks of Senuseret Amenophis I, Hatshepsut, and others were also found in

the filling of this pylon, though not in this part of the foundation. There is no doubt that at least up to the reign of Thutmosis III, the temples of the Middle Kingdom were still existing on their original sites ; it was Amenophis III who was the first to decide to pull them down, and to use their blocks as a filling or as a foundation for his pylon. We should notice also that in this area, there are no buildings for Amenophis II. Is it possible that Amenophis III had also pulled down the temples of Amenophis II and used their blocks in the foundation of southern flank of his pylon as he had used the blocks of Thutmosis IV in the foundation of the Northern flank ? It is really surprising to find that monuments of that king in Karnak are very scanty. There is no doubt that Amenophis III who was much devoted to love and wine was unscrupulous and did not hesitate to destroy the buildings of his predecessors to satisfy his greed. It was Amenophis III then who was the first to destroy and to usurp the buildings of his predecessors long before Ramses II came into existence. Is it possible also that the funerary temples of Thutmosis III and Amenophis II and Thutmosis IV on the western bank of the Nile were pulled down by Amenophis III and their blocks were re-used in the construction of his funerary temple with the result that his successors did the same to his temple ?

We now return to the blocks of Thutmosis IV.

Various pillars were found in good condition. The scenes on them pl. 10,11 show Thutmosis IV embracing Amun - Re. Other scenes show the king offering to the god. Among the most valuable reliefs are those of two bulls pl. 12; they are finely sculptured and beautifully painted and ornamented for the festival. Another fine sculpture shows the king offering a bouquet pl. 13

But no long text was found. The blocks, inspite of their large size, bear only parts of scenes pl. 14-17

Owing to the large size of these blocks and the good preservation of its sculpture, the possibility of reconstructing most of the walls of the temple is great.

THE SACRED LAKE

As the area round the lake was very dusty, the municipality paved a way two metres in width, running round four sides of the lake. This side-walk was constructed of concrete-tiles. I hope that in future this side-walk would be widened and rebuilt with sandstone - tiles. I also think that a path should be paved along the corridors of the temple, as the ancient sandstone - tiles had been completely destroyed.

It was also decided by the municipality to build a cafeteria at the shore of the sacred lake. I did my best to keep the building as hidden as possible in the farthest southeastern corner of the mound which surrounded the lake in those parts. It was erected in 1960 at the back of the eastern mound, south side. When we were trying to level the mound, which, at the beginning, we thought that it was simply a mass of earth, it was soon clear that this mound is nothing else than a huge enclosure - wall which was most probably constructed soon after digging the sacred lake in order to shut it from the outer world. The eastern flank of the enclosure wall closes northward at the back of the main temple, that part which was built by Thutmosis III, but this end-part of the enclosure wall must have been demolished later. The southern flank of the enclosure wall closes at the Eighth pylon which was constructed by Hat-shepsut. At that time no monuments existed outside that enclosure. Accordingly this enclosure - wall which is several metres in thickness had been probably built by Thutmosis III, who might have also dug the present lake. Thus both the lake and the enclosure wall are probably the work of Thutmosis III who also built many halls and chambers in the eastern part of the great temple of Amun - Re parallel to the lake.

On the top of the south - eastern corner, of this enclosure wall two slabs of sandstone were found, both of the Late period.

One block pl. 22 shows a priest praying to the ithaphilitic god Amun - Re who is supported once by Isis, then by another goddess, but the text is not in a good state of preservation. I was not able to make a copy of this text nor of the text on the other slab as I left Luxor.

The second slab Pl. 21 is a door - jamb of a priest of Amun called Ankhef Khonso son of a third prophet of Amun.

THE THEBAN NECROPOLIS

THE TEMPLE OF AMENOPHIS III.

The stela of Amenophis III which had been lying for centuries on its back was at last erected on a solid foundation made of re-inforced concrete. The work was done by the Late Helmy Pacha and others. The back of the stela was supported by re-inforced concrete. Its face was set towards the west as was supposed to be pl. 23.

The foundations of the pillars of the hypostyle hall of the temple were found and the huge hall could be reconstructed. Later in 1959 many statues of the goddess Sekhmet were found. However, the most valuable object found in this temple is the head of a statue of Amenophis III, of gray granite two metres in height pl. 24, 25. It was moved to the store-house in Gurna. It is a very fine piece of sculpture.

THE TOMB OF KHERUEF

When I was appointed chief inspector of Upper Egypt, the work of clearing the tomb of Kheruef was not yet completed. Labib Habachi and Ibrahim Kamel cleared the inner chambers and part of the first hall. So, with the help of my colleague Ibrahim Ennawawy, the inspector of Gurna, I had to clear the remaining part of the hall and the great court of the tomb which was quite full of debris. pl. 26.

The burial chamber of the tomb was constructed in the first hall. It was hewn in the back wall, left side. But nothing was found in it, as the tomb was certainly robbed; for it was re-used later for other burials. In the ground of the first hall and in that of the court several shafts were hewn by later intruders but nothing was found in those which were excavated during this season. Also in the walls of this big court several tombs, mainly Ramesside, were hewn. For each tomb a small court was made the walls of which were constructed of mud-bricks.

In the debris many small objects were found, but few are of interest :

A quartzite head, about 20 cm. in height, pl. 27.

It is impossible to decide whether this head is of Kheruef himself, or of somebody else, as it was found in the debris of the court.

A wooden box containing paints made in the form of discs. Pl. 28.

An offering - table of limestone pl. 29.

A headrest of wood.

A small head of limestone

A fragment of a jug bearing few line of hieratic.

Ostraca of limestone with hieratic inscription.

A limestone ostraca with a painted goose.

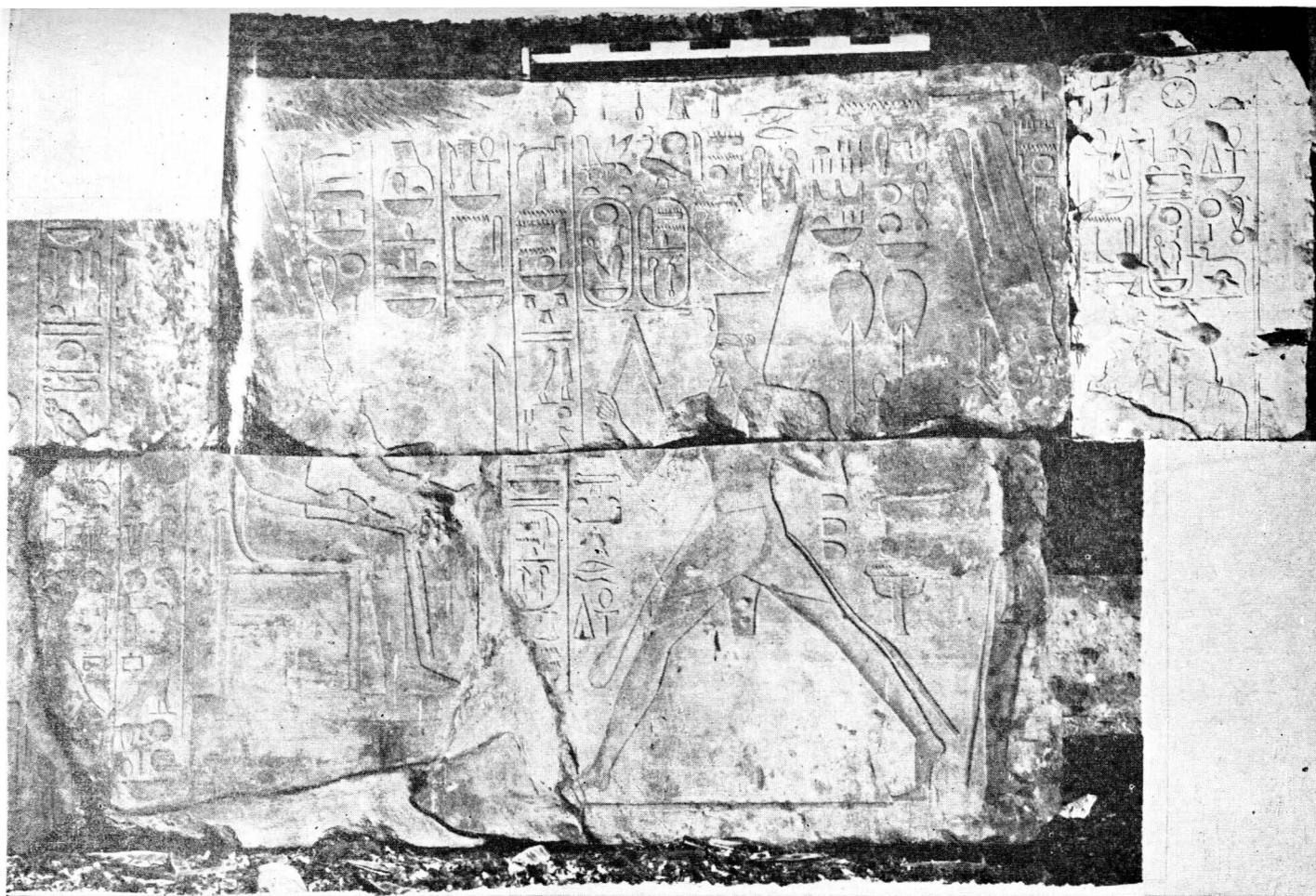
Two ostracae showing human figures, probably of Roman period.

A small fragment of limestone bearing minute relief of a man and his wife before offerings. This scene is probably cut from a tomb, pl. 29.

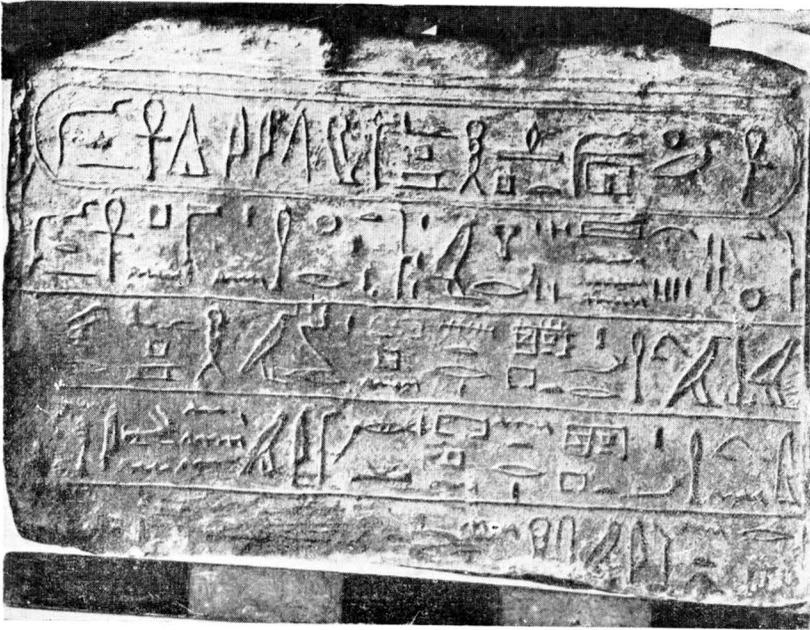
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1.—Amenophis III, wearing the crown of Upper Egypt, dancing and pouring cold water before god Amun Re.



2.—Amenophis III, wearing the crown of Lower Egypt, holding the *heb*-sign, is dancing before god Amun-Re.



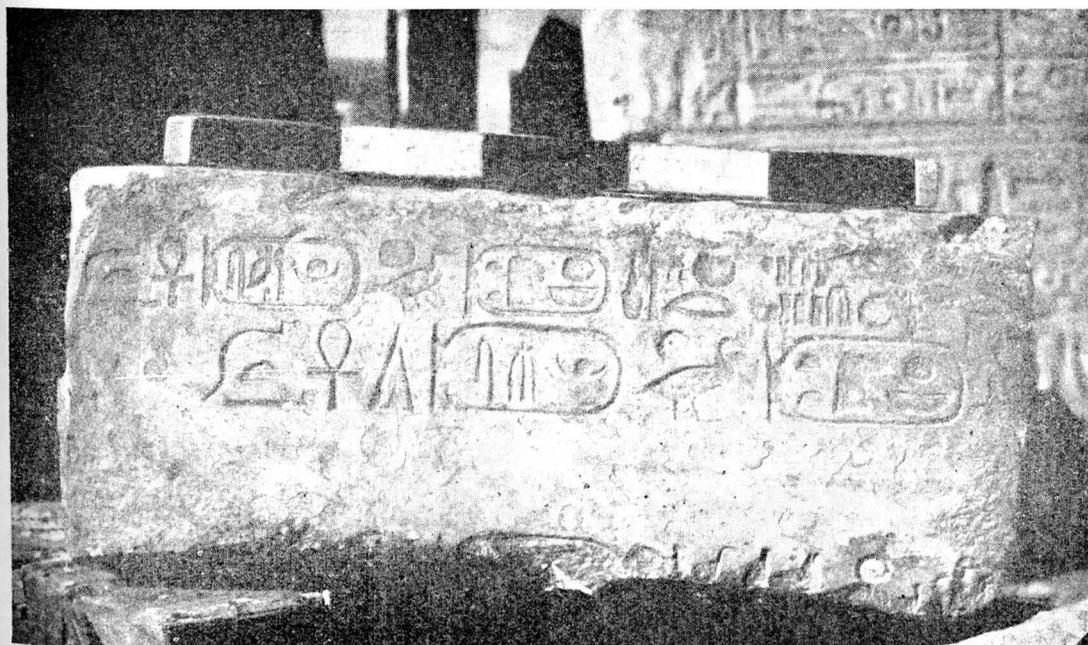
3 *a.*—A stela of Sobek-Hotep III commemorating his visit to the residence of Hapy.



3 *b.*— Sobek Hotep III standing once before the Nile-god Hapy and then before god Amun-Re.



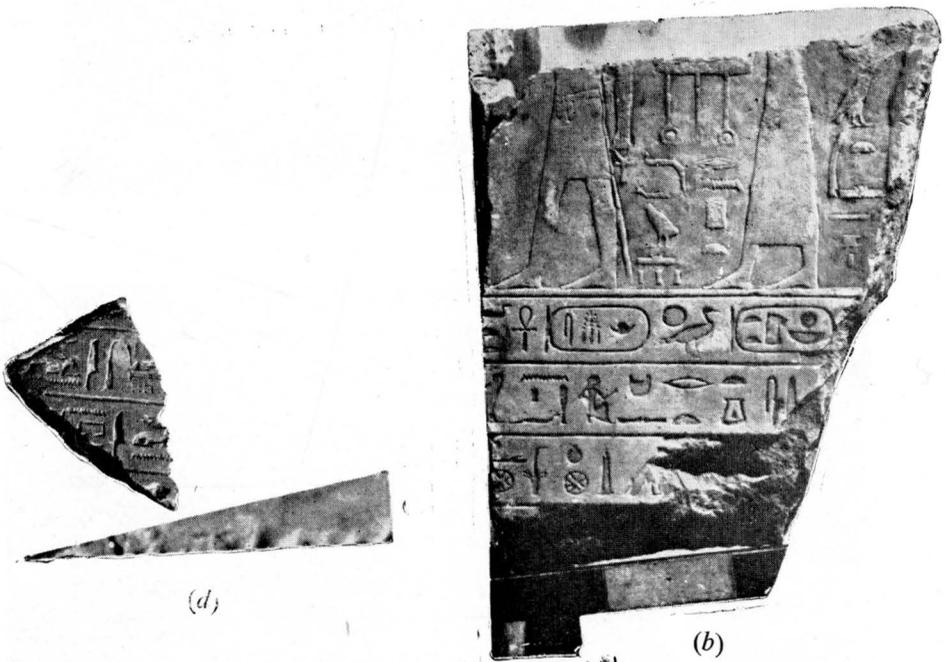
4 a.—Inscription on the thickness of the stela of Sobek Hotep III.



4 b.—A fragment of a stela of Ahmes.



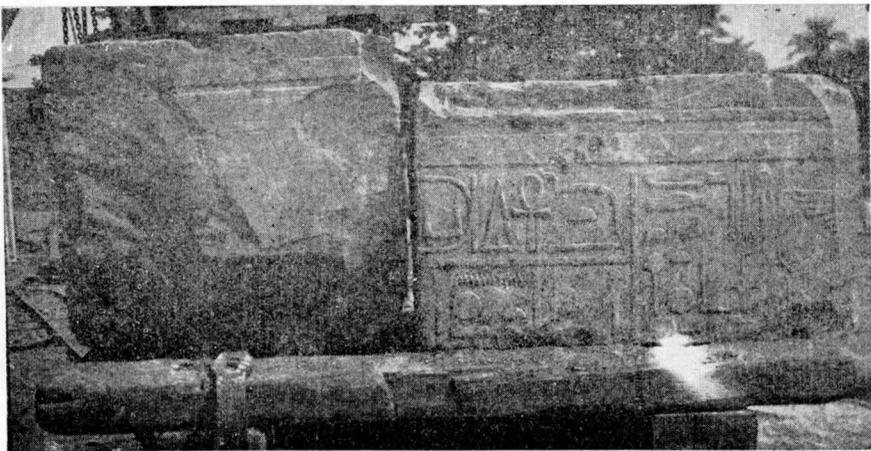
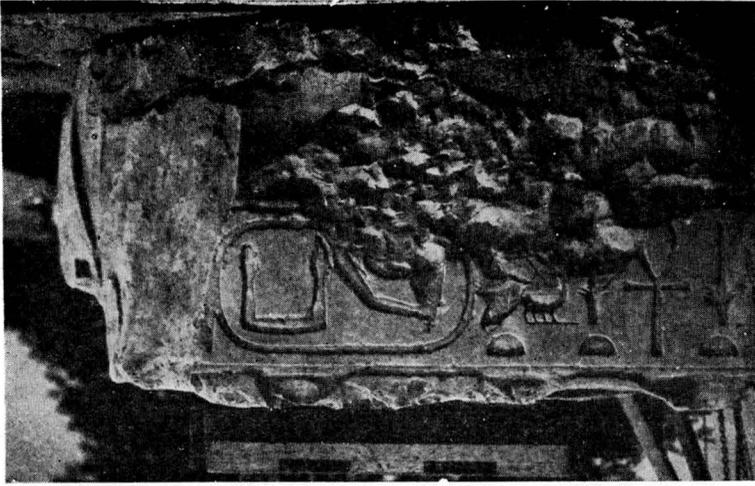
(c)



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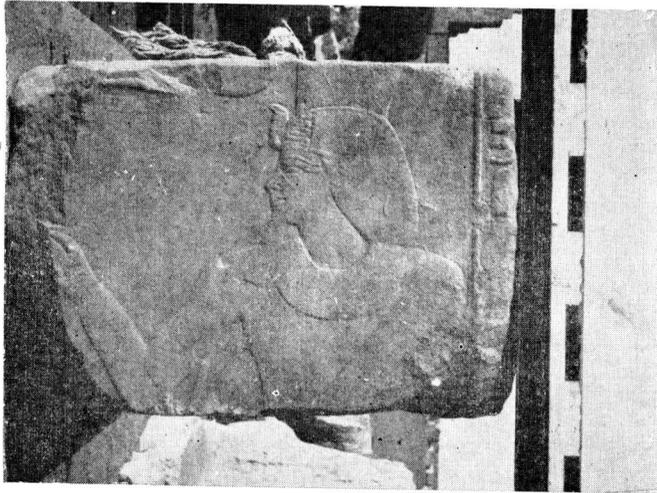
(b)

5 *a, b.*—The two faces of the stela of Ahmes.
a.—Ahmes is sailing southwards.
b.—Ahmes is crowned in Thebes.
 5 *c, d.*—Two faces of a fragment of a stela.



6.—Blocks bearing inscriptions and reliefs of Amenophis I.

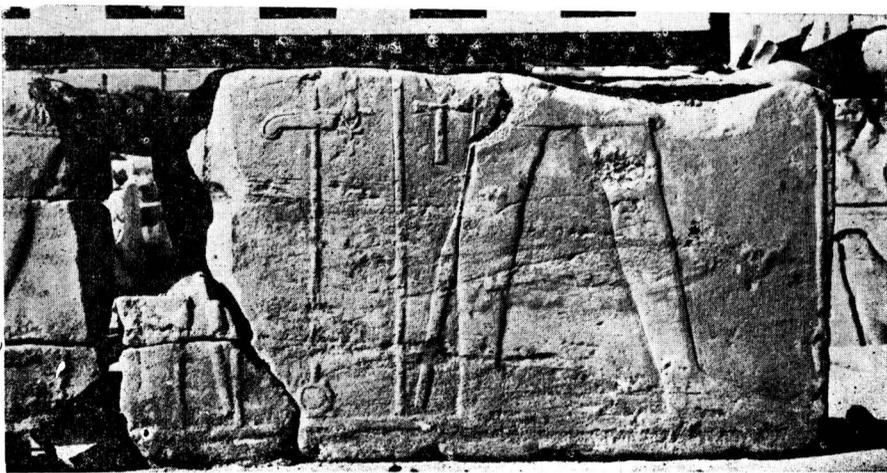
(a)



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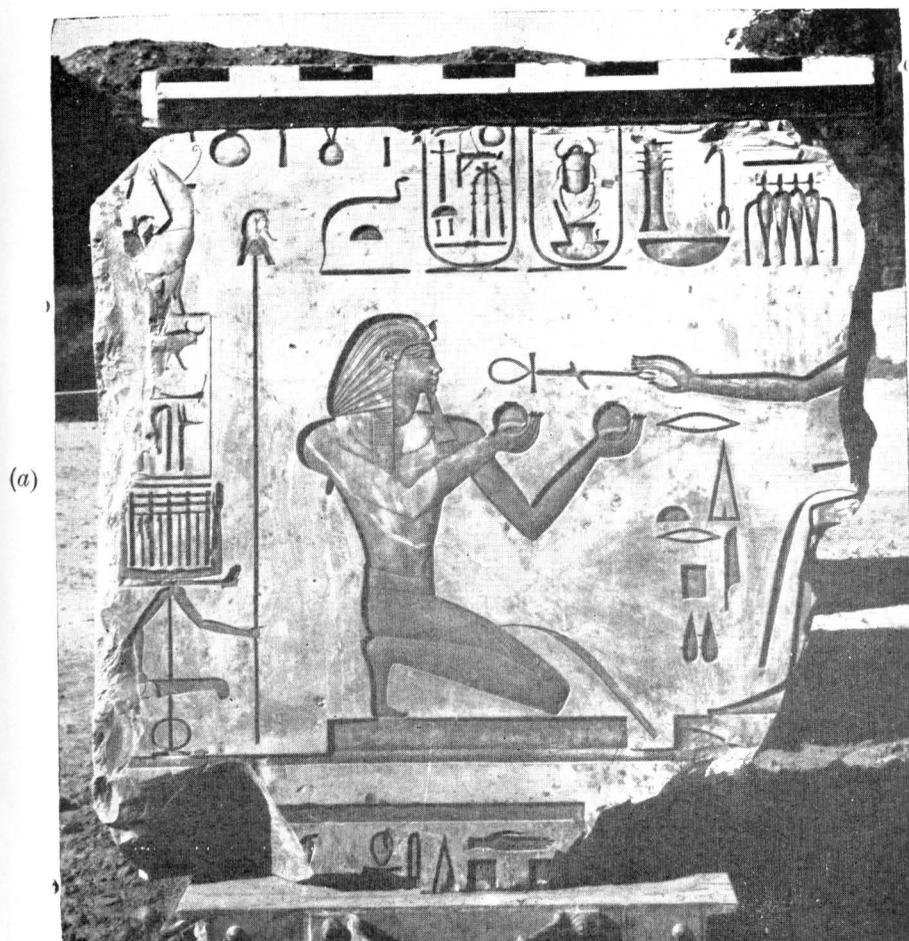
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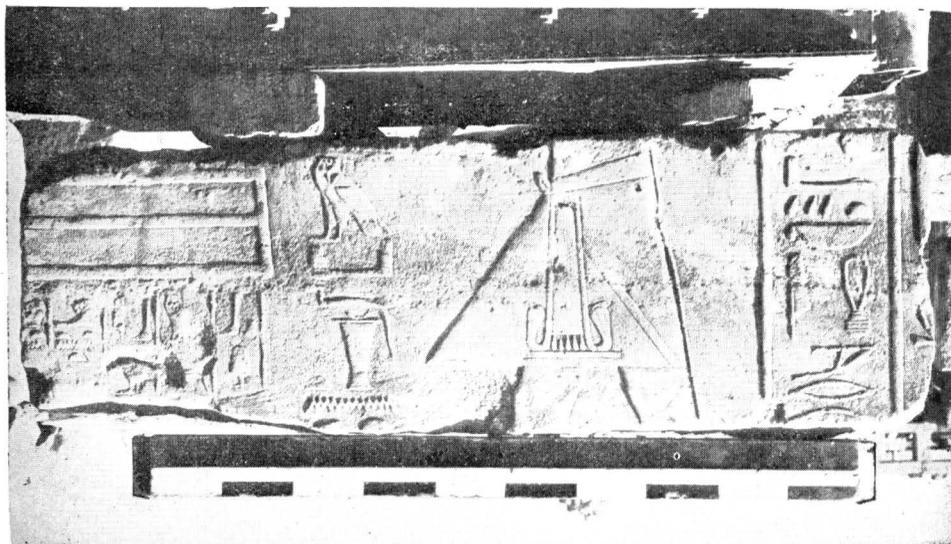
7 a.—Block bearing inscription of a king.

7 b.—Block bearing inscription of a god, probably of the reign of Amenophis I.

7 c.—Block showing a relief of the two legs of a god.

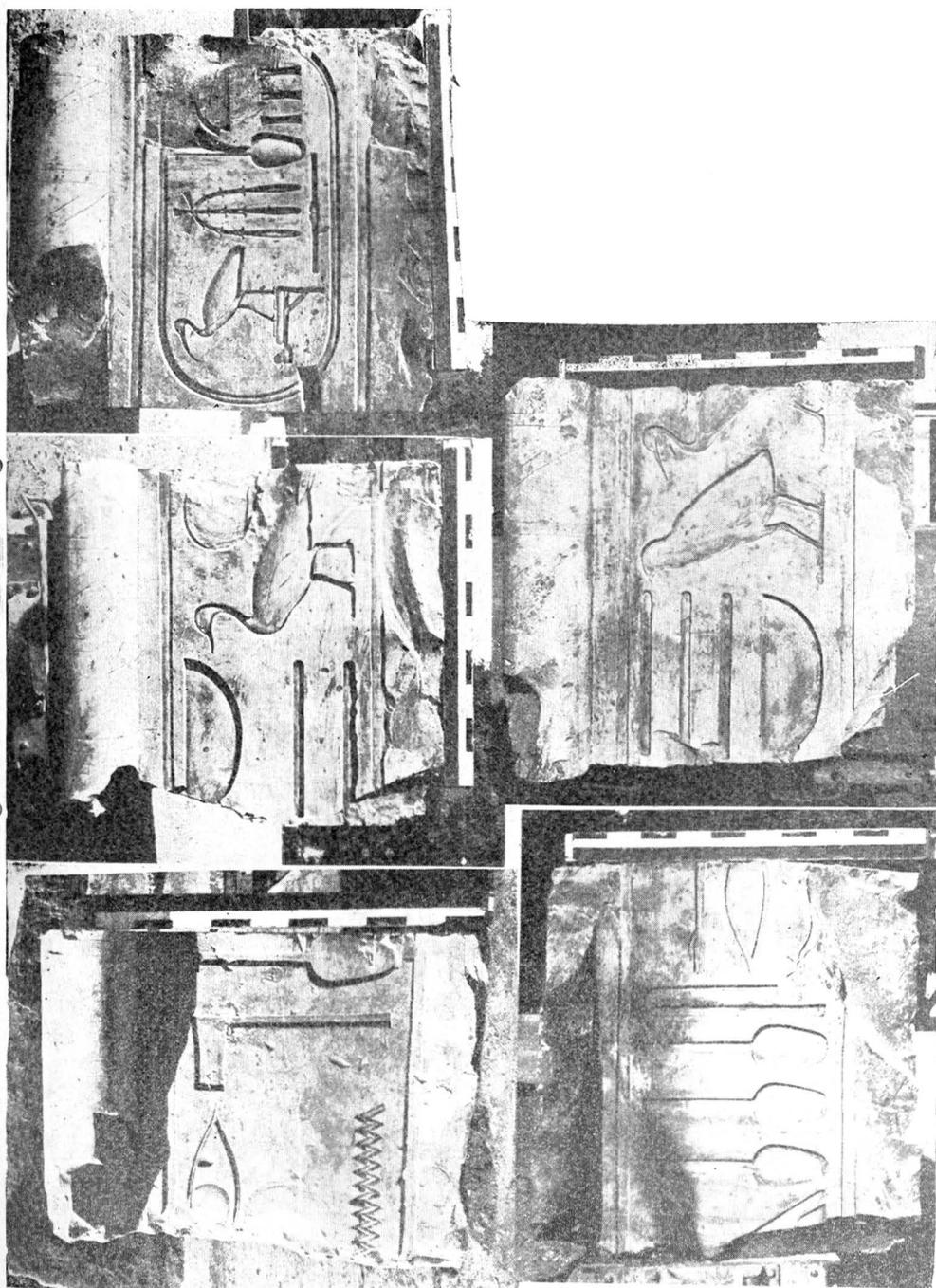


(a)

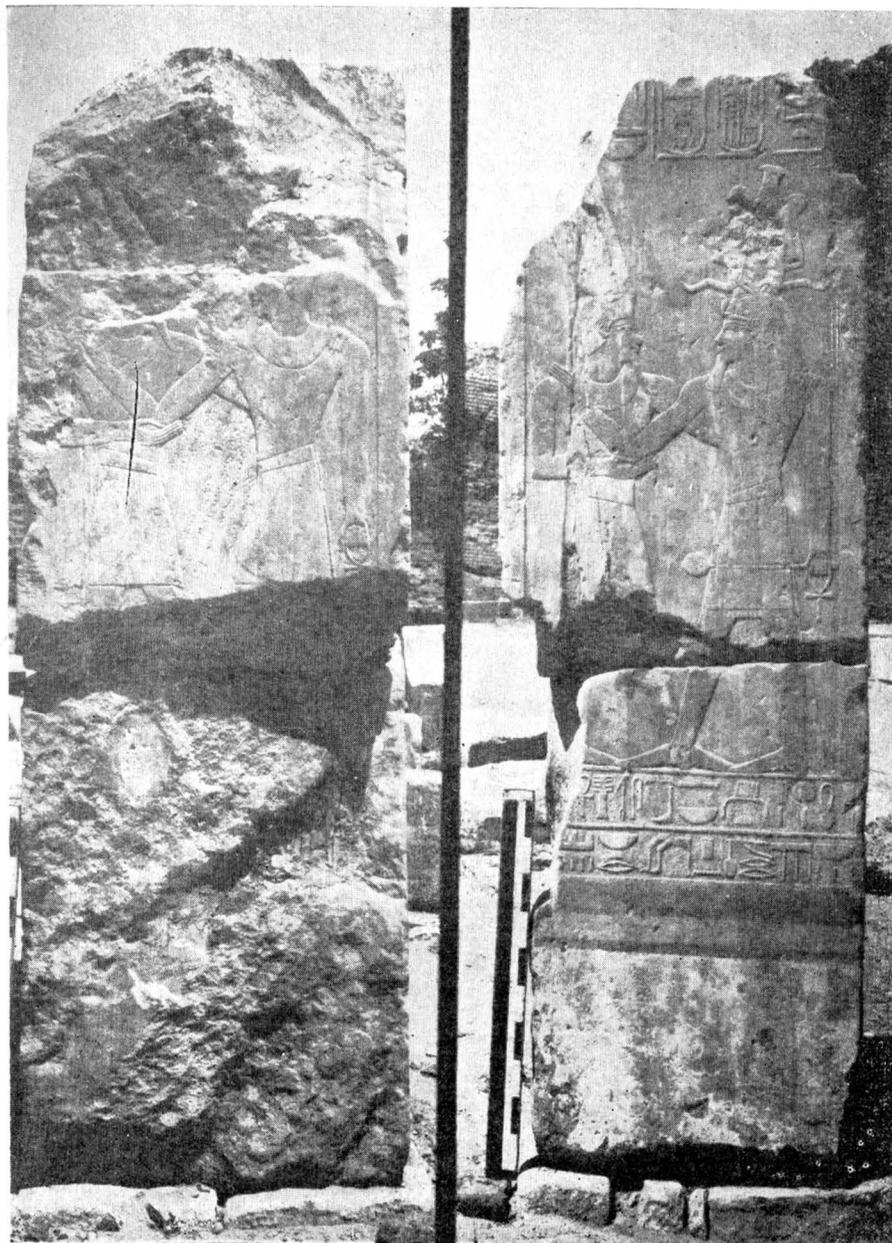


(b)

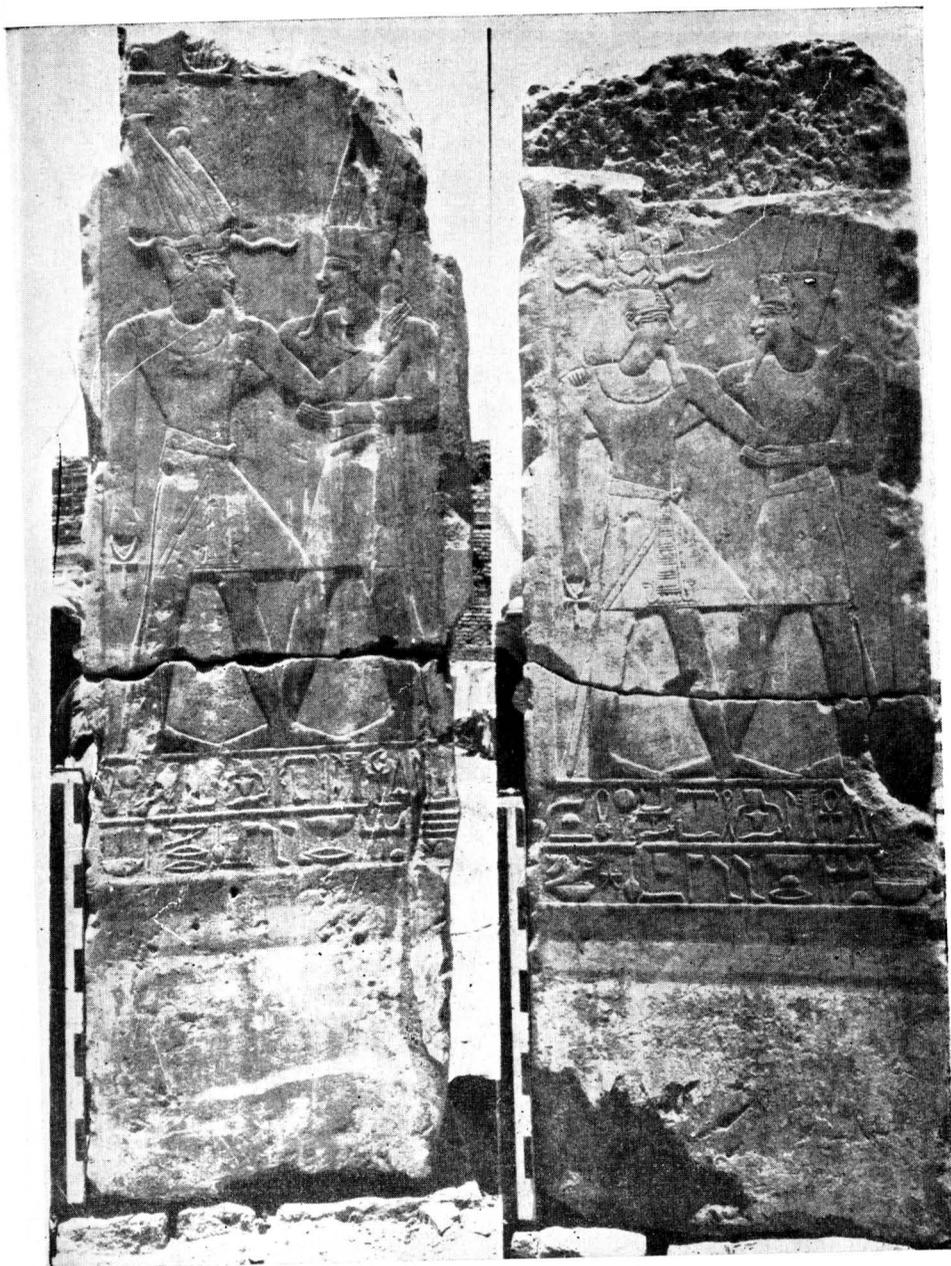
8 a.—A relief showing Thutmose II kneeling down to present an offering of milk to a god who is probably Amun-Re. Notice the exquisite workmanship of the sculpture, a prelude to the reign of Hatshepsut.



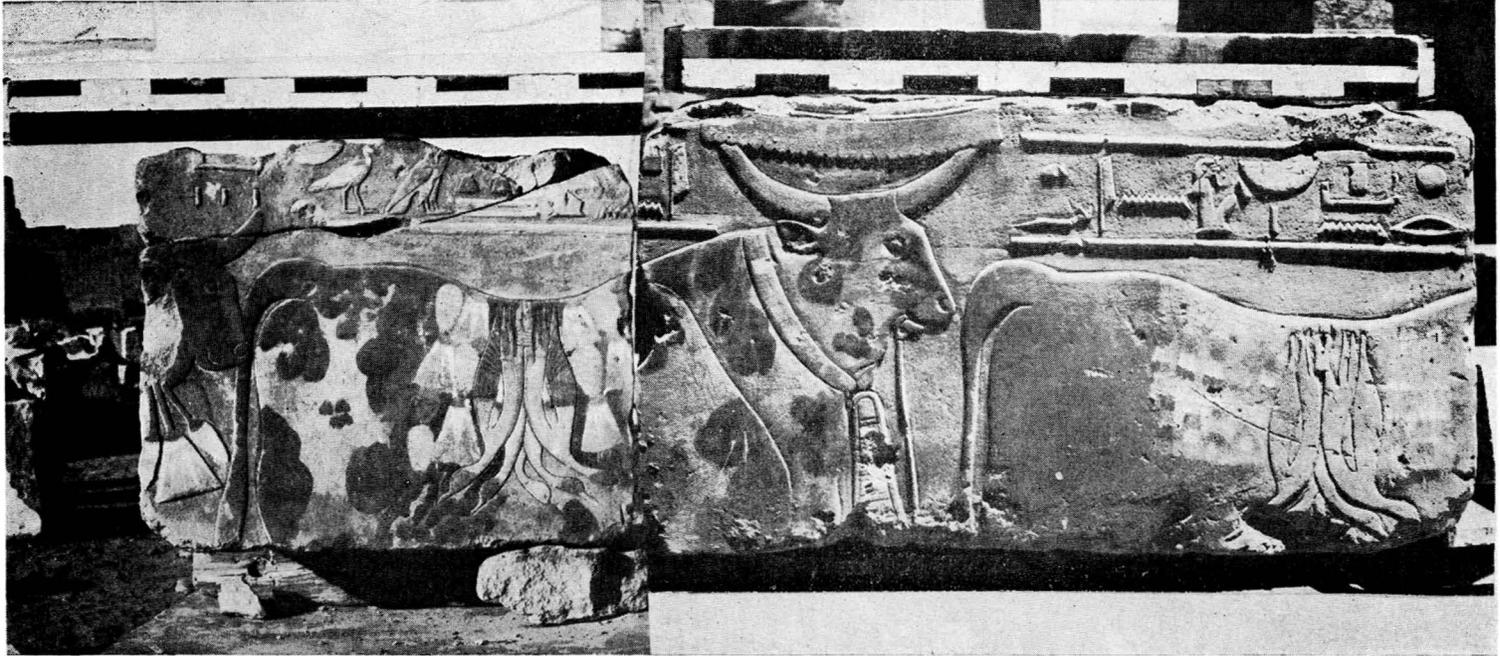
9.—Several blocks bearing the titulary of Thutmosis II.



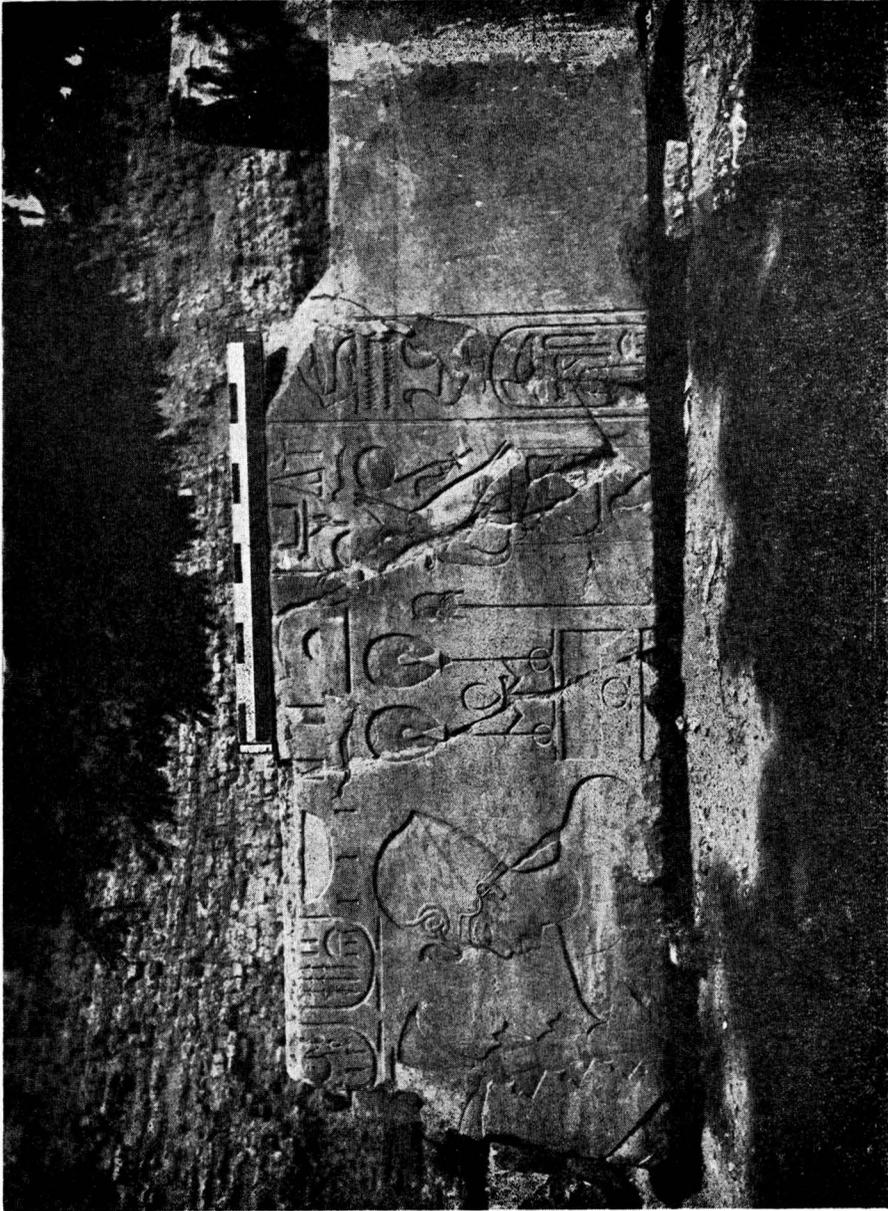
10.—Pillar, Amun-Re embracing Thutmose IV.



11.—Pillar, Amun-Re embracing Thutmose IV.



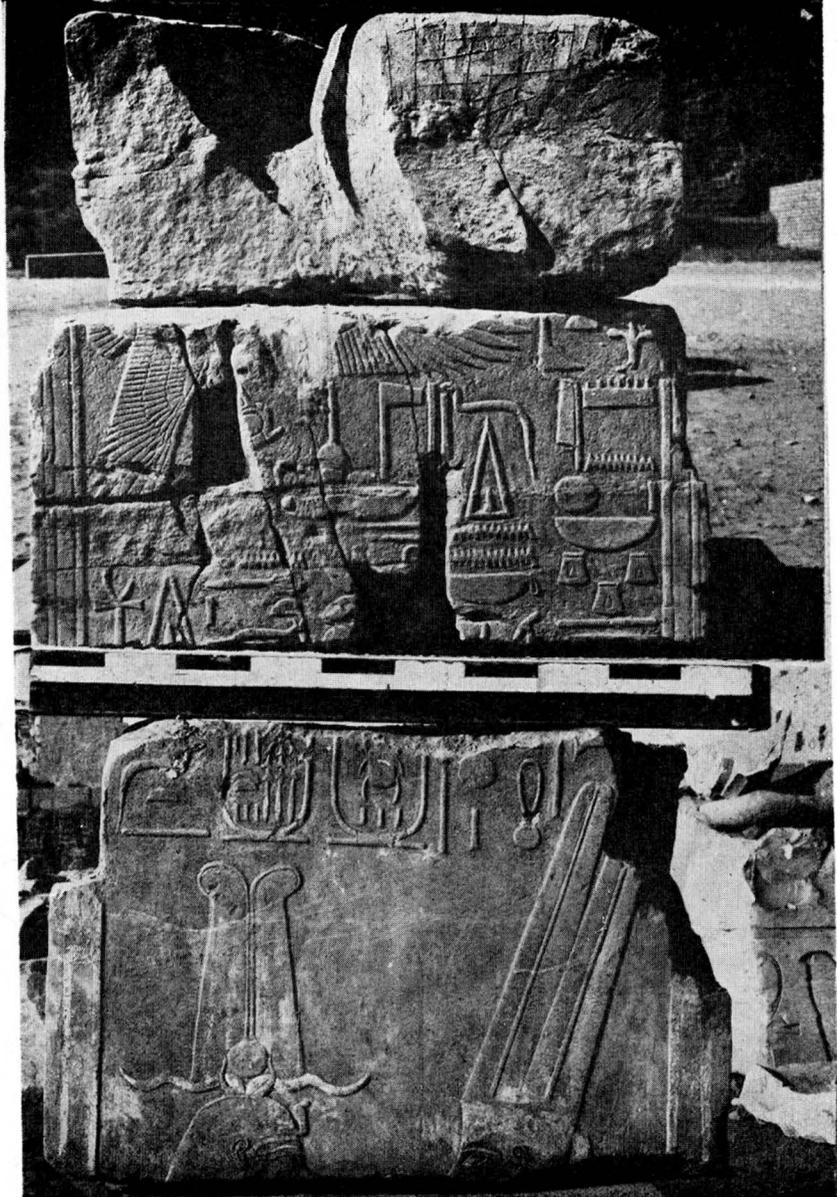
12.—Two blocks showing reliefs of ceremonial bulls lead in a procession. The colours, when these blocks were discovered, were still fresh and beautiful. They are probably of the reign of Thutmose IV.



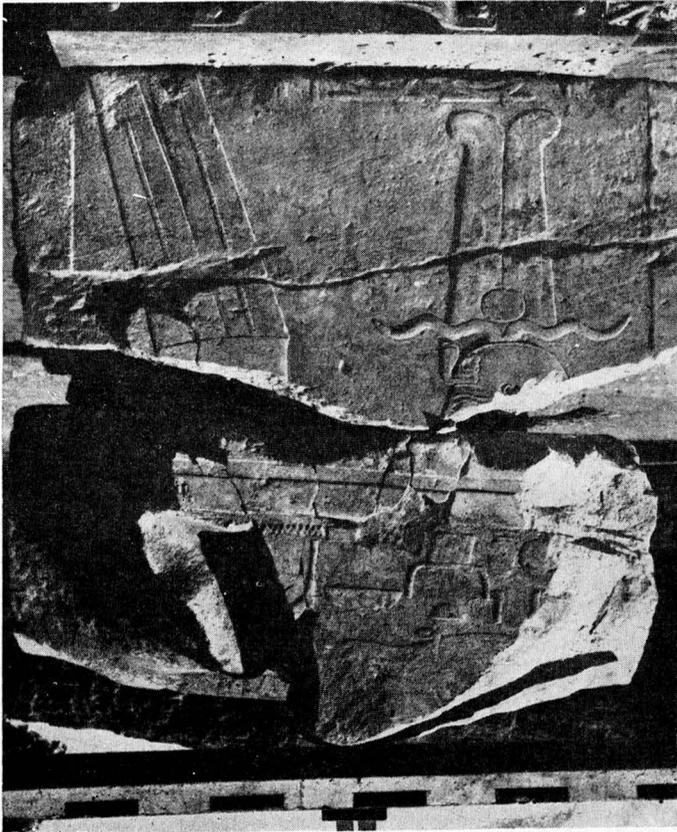
13.—A relief showing Thutmose IV offering a bouquet.



14.—Several blocks found in the foundation of the third pylon.



15.—Several blocks found in the foundation of the third pylon;
One block bears the name of Thutmose IV.



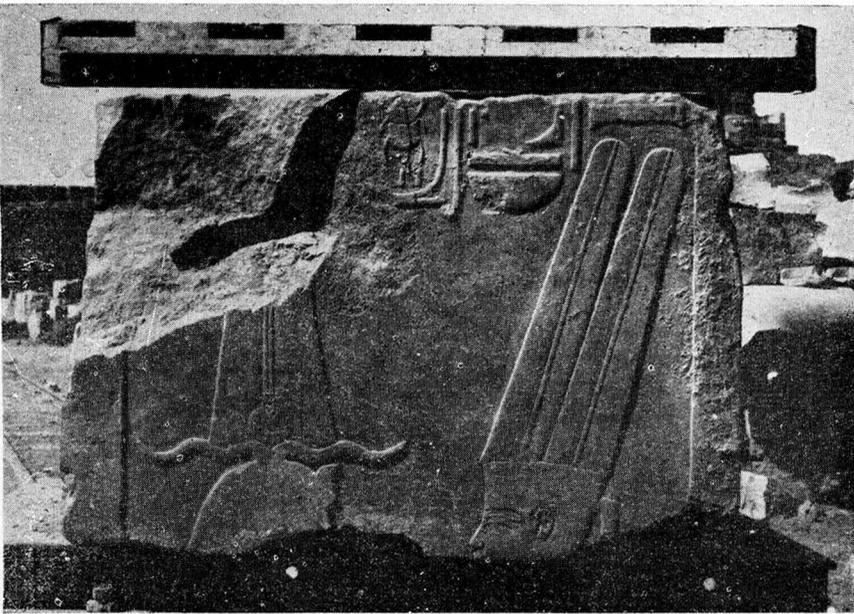
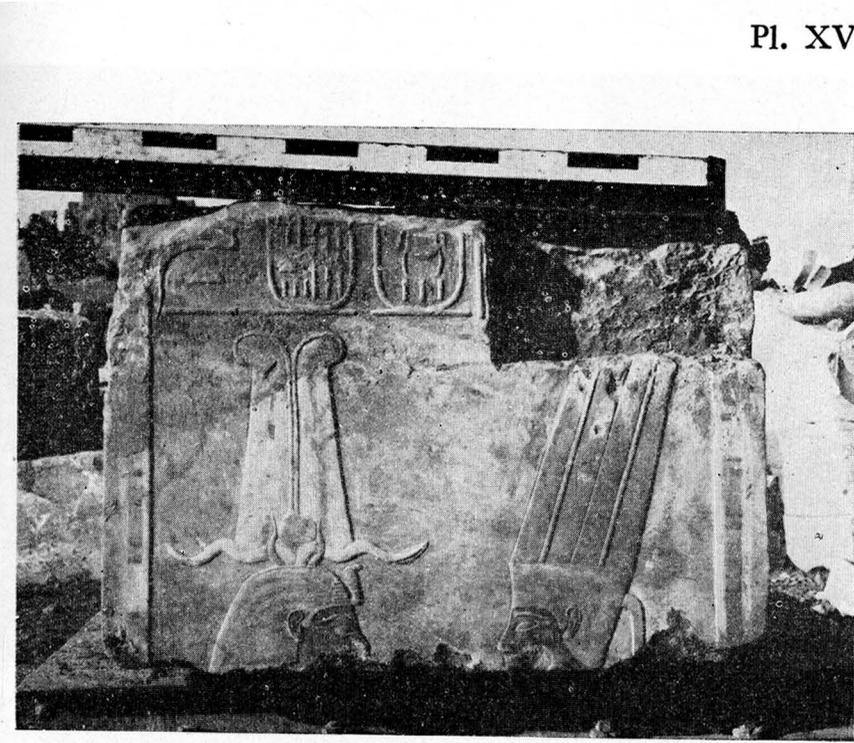
15 *bis*.—Several blocks found in the foundation
of the third pylon.



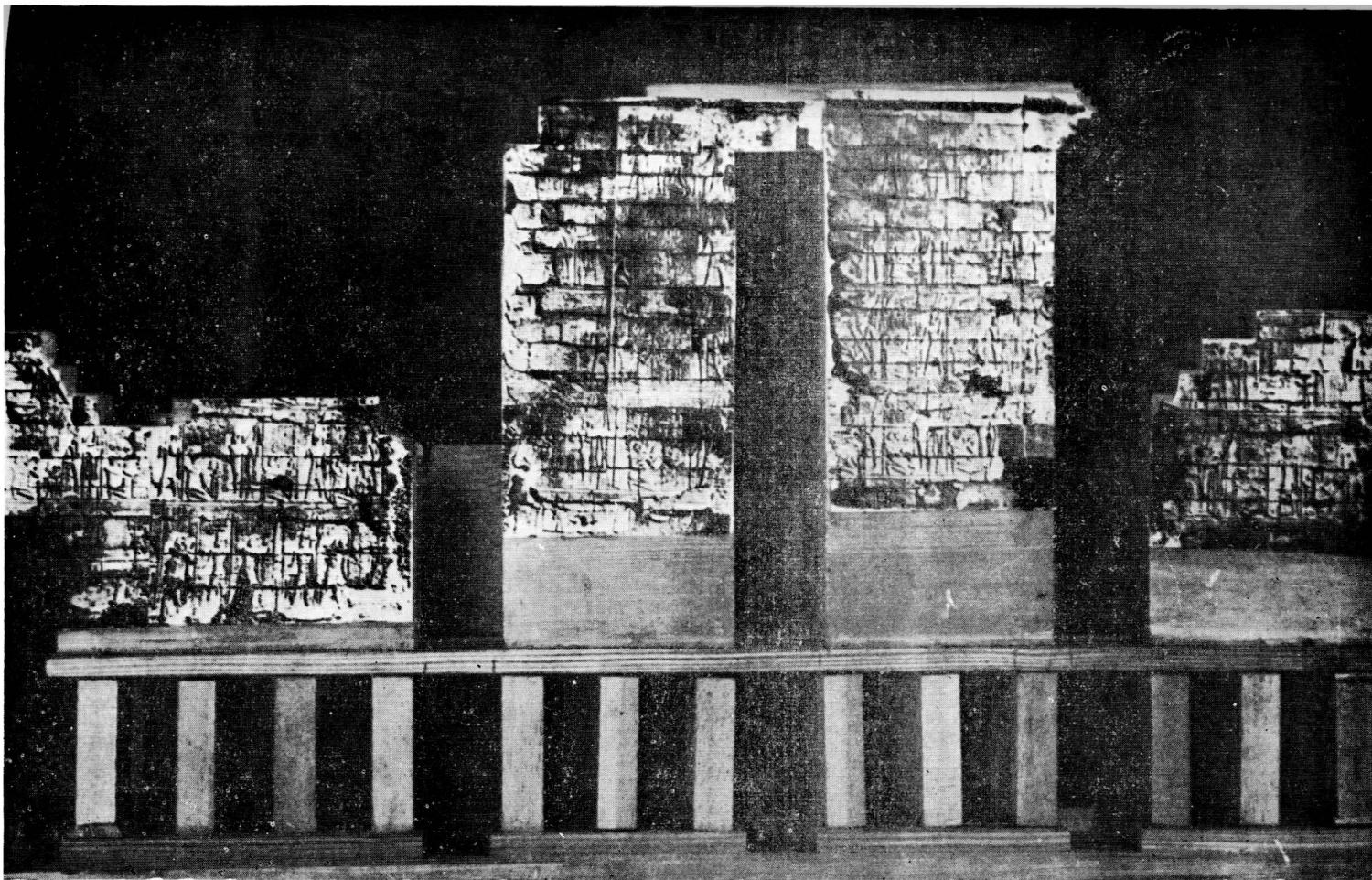
16.—Several blocks found in the foundation of the third pylon.
One block bears the name of Thutmose IV.



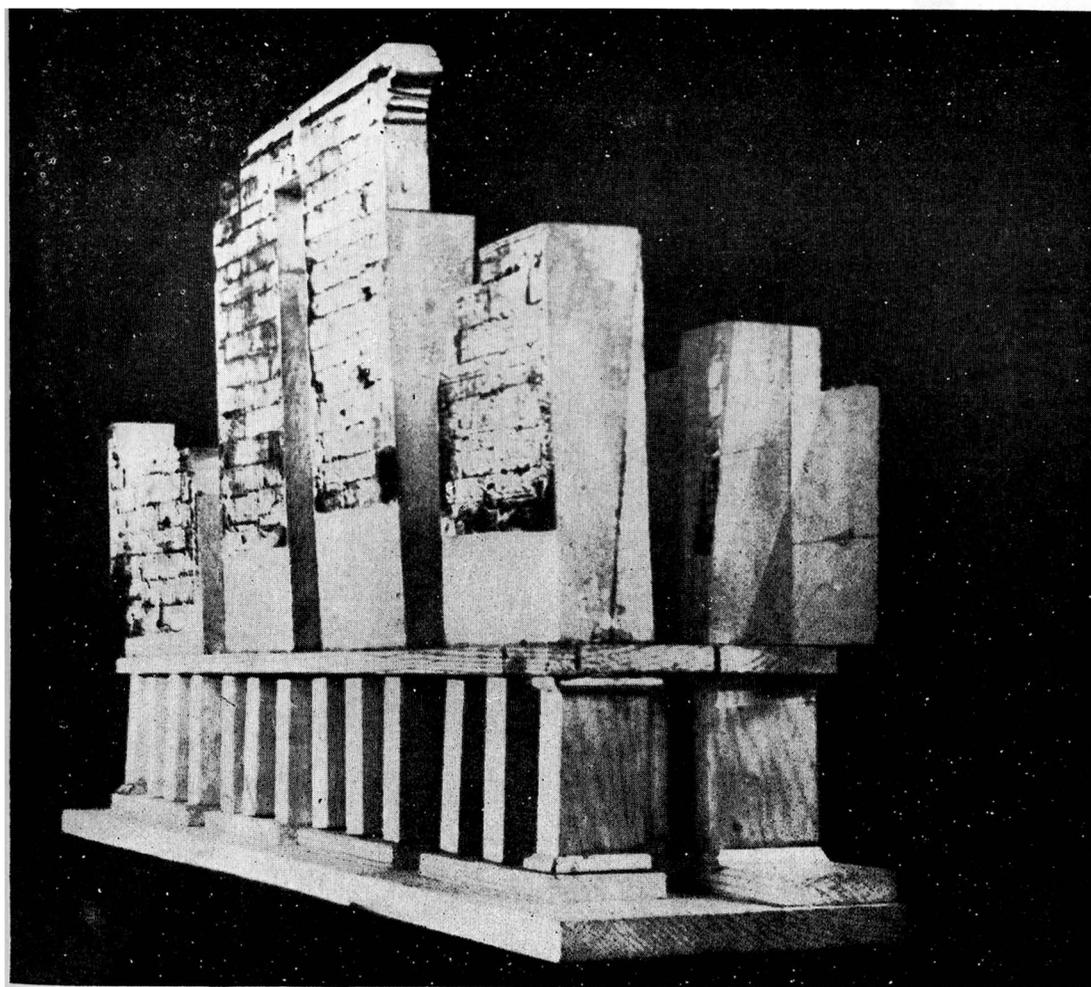
16. *bis*—Several blocks found in the foundation
of the third pylon.



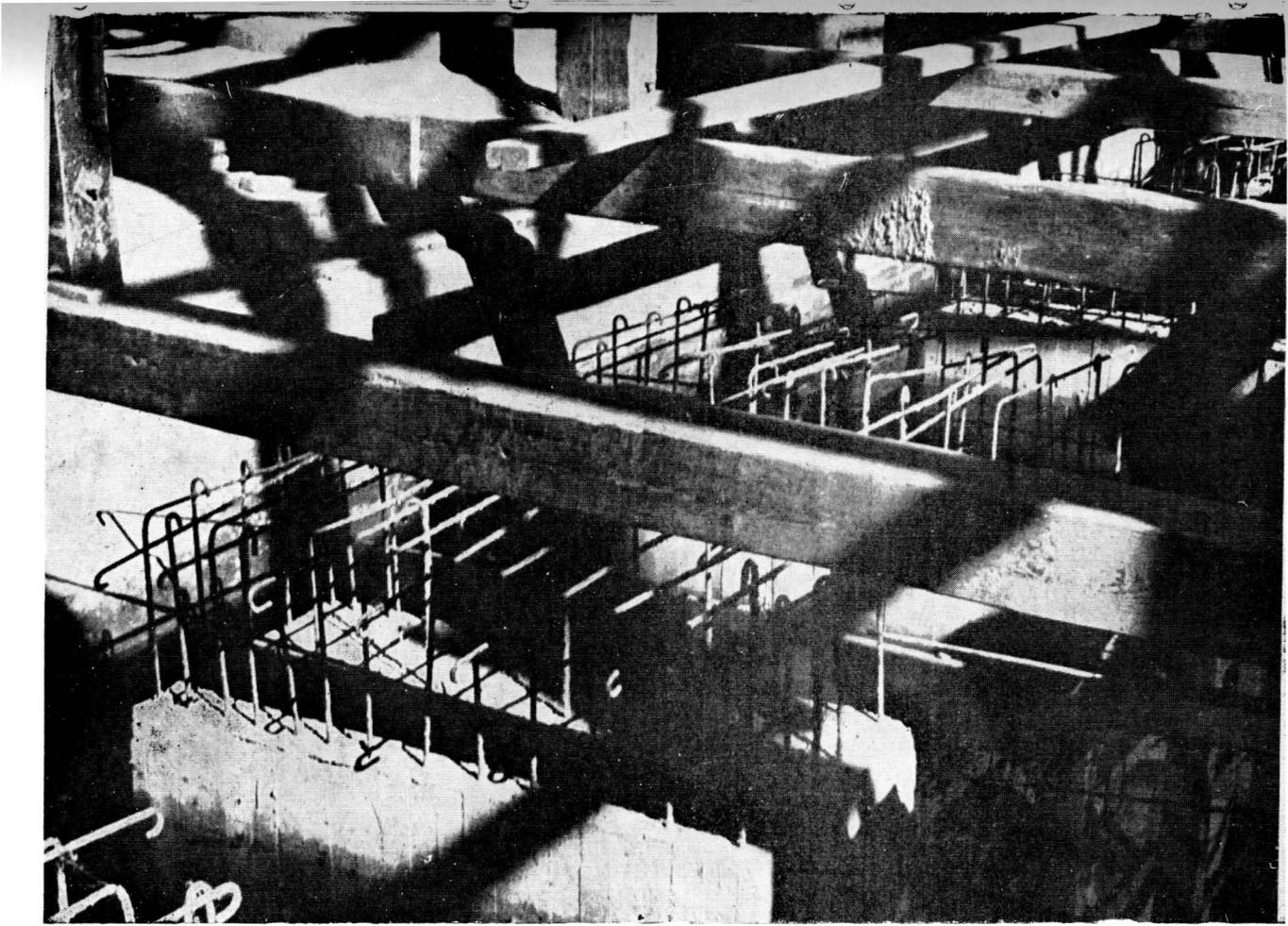
17.—Two reliefs showing king Thutmose IV before Amun-Re.



18.—Front view of the model of the third pylon after its reconstruction. Notice the pillars of re-inforced concrete which are used in the foundation instead of the re-used blocks.



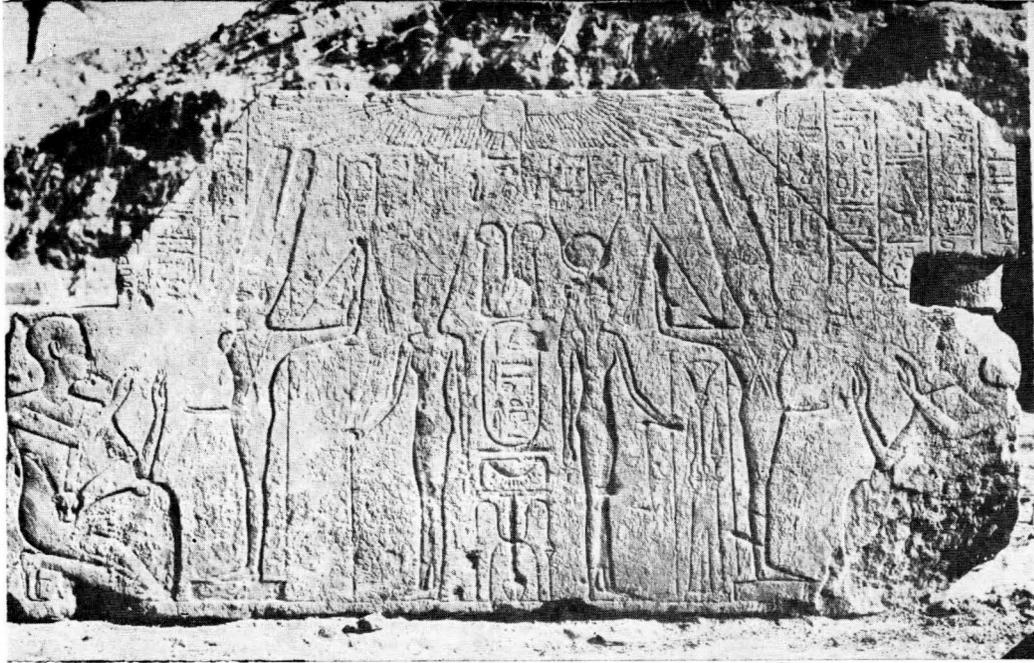
19.—Side-view of the model of the third pylon after its reconstruction. Notice the two walls of the pylon, the west wall and the eastern wall which was hidden behind the former. A space will be left between the two walls to show this inner wall.



20.— The Re-inforced concrete pillars used in the new foundation of the third pylon.



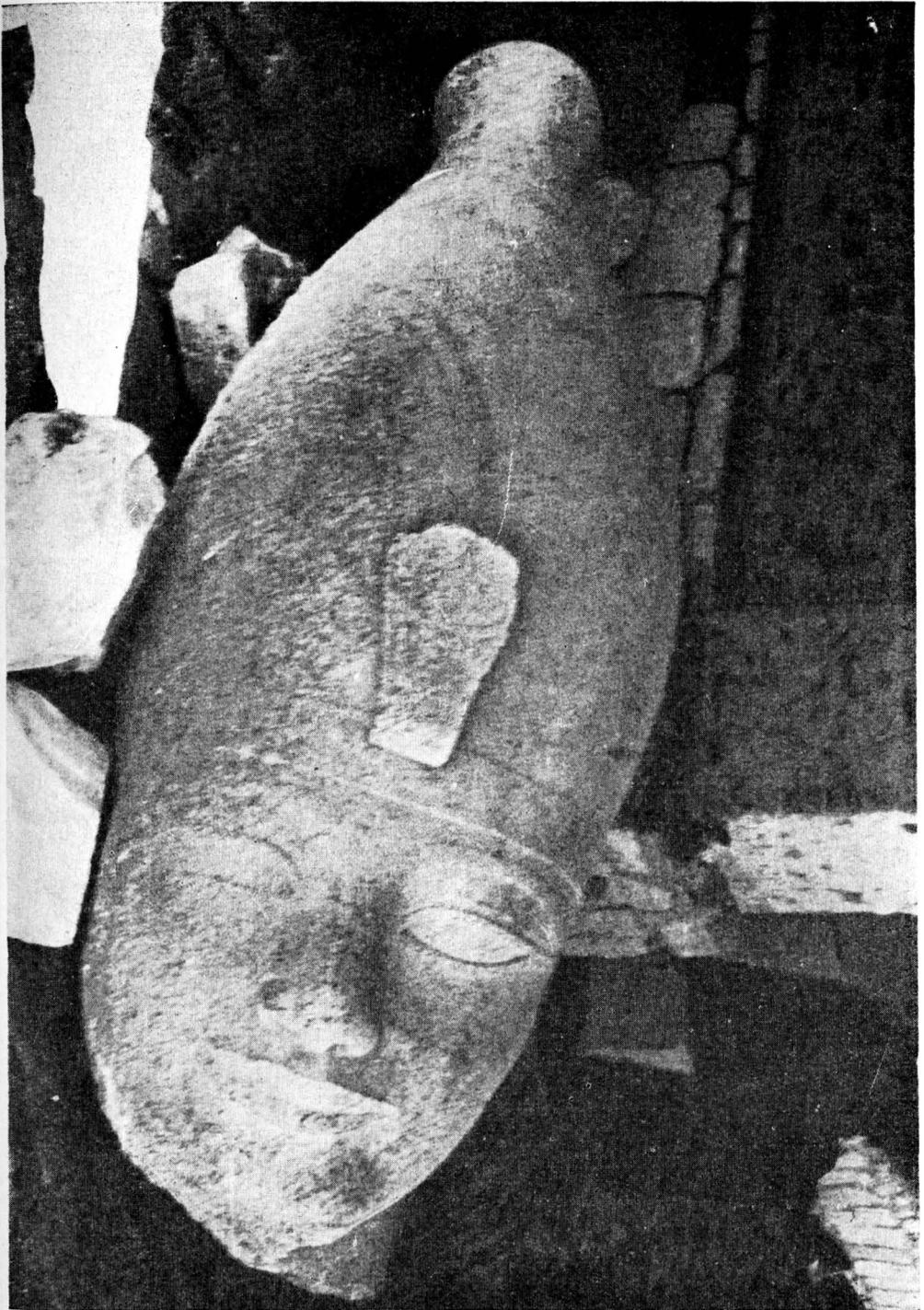
21.—A door-jamb found on the wall in the south east corner of the lake. It is of Ankh Ef Khonso son of the third prophet of Amun-Re.



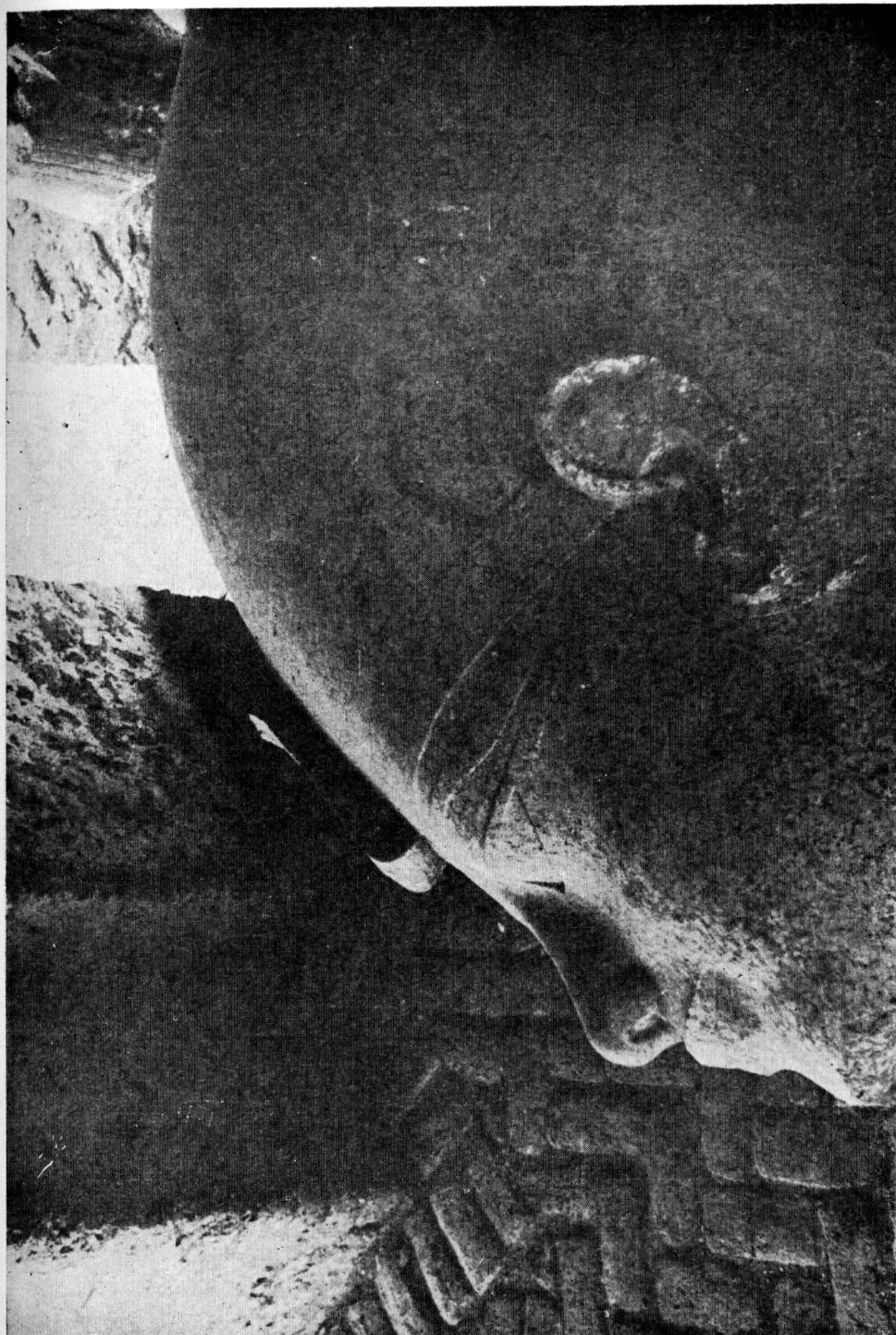
22.—A priest kneeling down before the ithyphallic Amun-Re. A stela found on the wall in the south-east corner of the lake.



23.—The stela of Amenophis III after its erection in his funerary temple.



24.—Front view of the head of a statue of Amenophis III, found in his funerary temple at Gurna. Height : two metres. Gray granite.



25.—Profile of the head of the statue of Amenophis III.



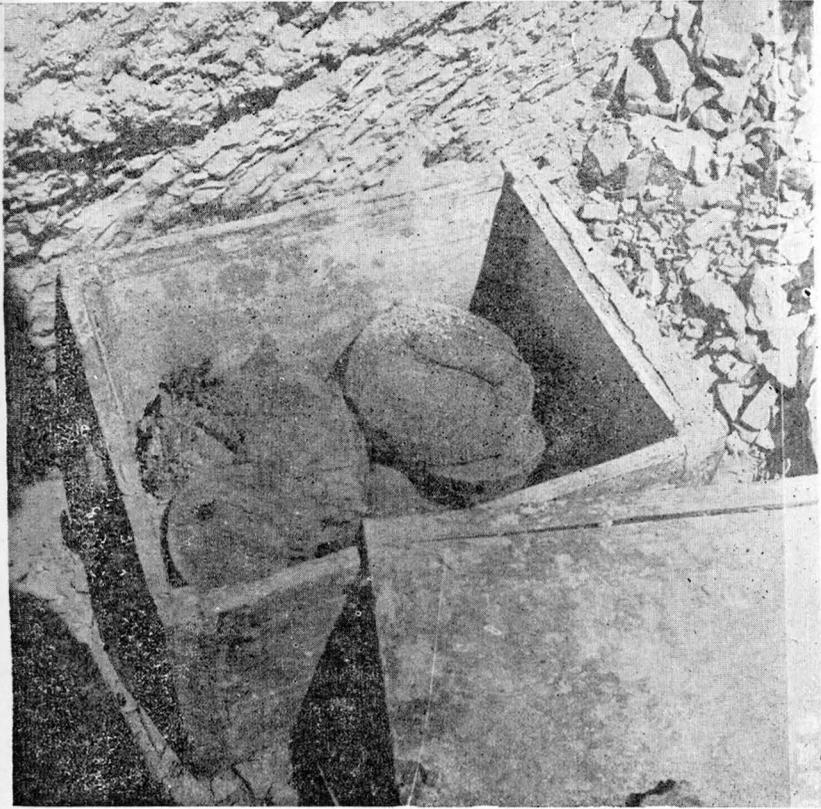
26,—The court of the tomb of Kheruef before its clearance in 1958. Notice the Ramesside tombs which were hewn in the walls of the court, when the old tomb was neglected.



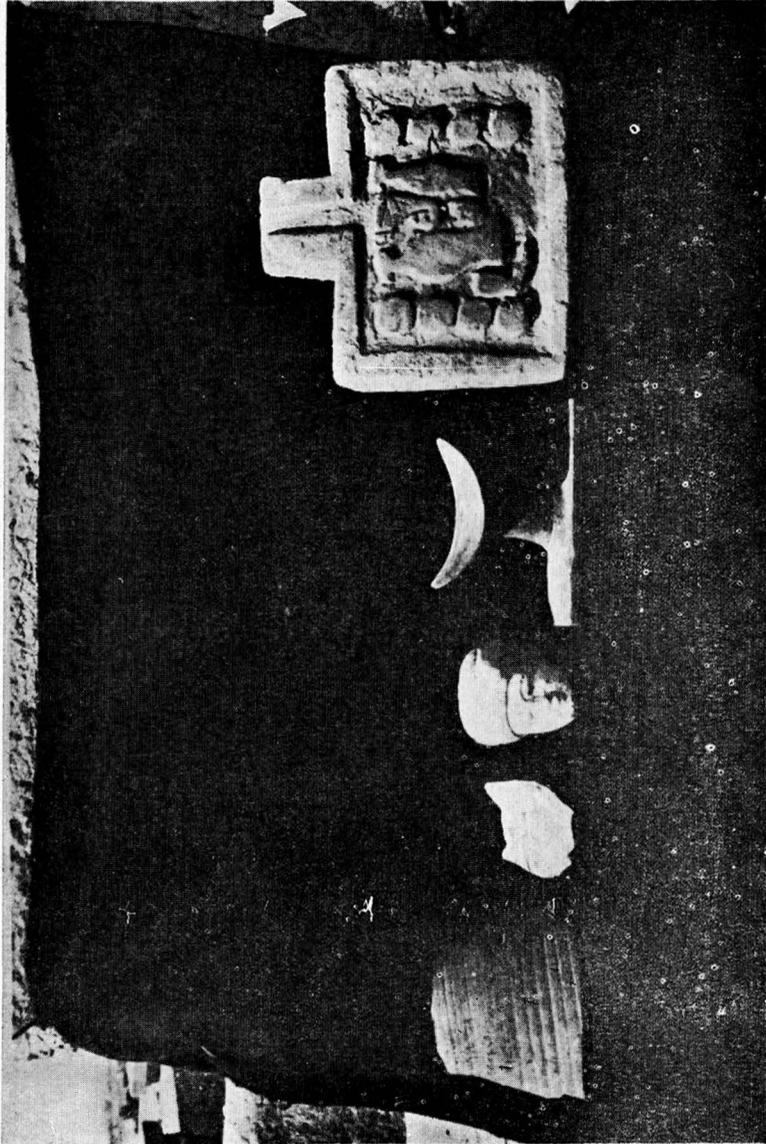
27.—A quartzite head found in the debris of the court of kheruef.
Height : 20 c.m.



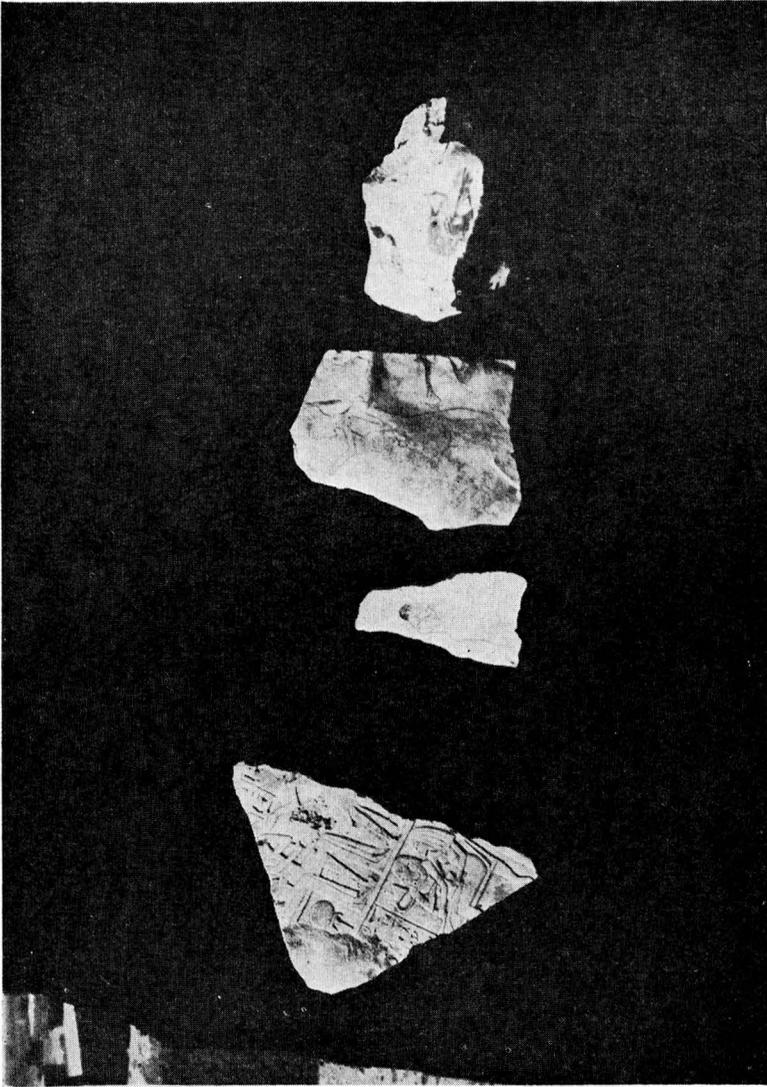
28.—A box containing discs of paints found in the debris of the court of Kheruef.



28 *bis*.—A box containing discs of paints found in the debris of the court of Kheruef



29.—Various objects found in the debris of the tomb of Kheruef.



29 *bis*.—Various objects found in the debris of the court of Kheruef

