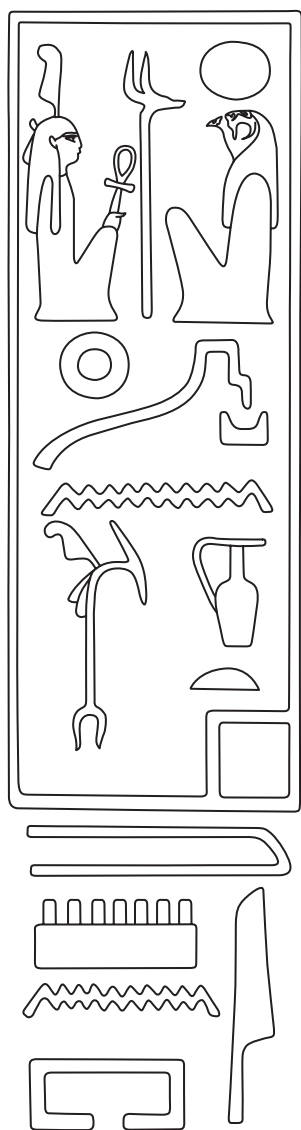


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SEAL IMPRESSIONS FROM THE AREA OF TT. 11–12 IN DRA ABU EL-NAGA [Pl. XXV–XXXI]

José M. GALÁN *

A Spanish–Egyptian mission has been working since January 2002 in the central area of Dra Abu El-Naga, at the northern end of the Theban necropolis. The two main funerary monuments within the SCA's concession are TT. 11 and TT. 12. The former belonged to the royal scribe Djehuty, who held the office of “overseer of the Treasury”, “overseer of works” and “overseer of the cattle of Amun” under Hatshepsut–Thutmose III. The latter belonged to a scribe called Hery, who lived at the very beginning of the Eighteenth Dynasty, probably dying under Amenhotep I. His main administrative responsibility was as “overseer of the granaries of the royal wife and king's mother, Ahhotep”⁽¹⁾.

For various reasons, the density of tombs in Dra Abu El-Naga is very high, they are very close to each other, what eventually caused the interconnection between them, both in a horizontal and in a vertical level. Due to their foothill location, the courtyards of TT. 11–12 laid under more than five meters of rubble. Scattered randomly and all mixed up were a large number of objects, the remains of funerary equipments of various periods, mostly from the New Kingdom and Third Intermediate Period. When the floor level of the courtyards was finally reached, several burial shafts of the Seventeenth and early Eighteenth Dynasties, which had been re-used later on, were unearthed.

Due to the fact that a comprehensive publication of the excavation outside the tombs TT. 11–12 will still take a few years, it has been considered

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⁽¹⁾ See Marquis of Northampton, W. Spiegelberg, P. E. Newberry, *Report on some Excavations in the Theban Necropolis during the winter of 1898-9*, London 1908. For a summary of the modern history of the tombs, see J. M. Galán, «The Tombs of Djehuty and Hery (TT. 11–12) at Dra Abu el-Naga» in J.-C. Goyon, C. Cardin (eds.) : *Proceedings of the Ninth International Congress of Egyptologists, OLA 150*, Leuven 2007, pp. 777-787 ; *idem*, «Early investigations in the tomb-chapel of Djehuty (TT 11)» in press.

appropriate to keep publishing groups of objects that could be of interest for colleagues. Funerary cones, figured ostraca, significant pottery deposits and a wooden board drawn and inscribed by both master and pupil have already been published ⁽²⁾. A group of seal impressions found during the course of the first five seasons of excavation outside the tombs is here presented. They are not directly related to the main funerary monuments, but come from burials nearby or should be associated with unknown structures that were once standing in the vicinity of TT. 11–12 (cf. fig. 1). Most of the sealings have been found removed from their original location, some even reused elsewhere. Nevertheless, they may be of significance for their archaeological and historical implications. The samples discussed below have been classified according to size in two groups, the stamped mud bricks constituting a particularly relevant group among the large seal impressions.

A. STAMPED MUD BRICKS

1. Twenty-eight fragmentary crude mud bricks of quite consistent measurements. A seal was stamped once on one of the two broader sides in an arbitrary way, as the impression is generally not carefully aligned with any of the brick's edges. The seal has a double oval frame. The inscription within it is arranged vertically, with the signs carefully carved and coming out in a quite legible raised relief (cf. Pl. XXV).

Measurements : 28 x 14 x 10 cm ; the sealing is 7,5 x 4,5 cm.

Material : Mud.

Date : Mid Eighteenth Dynasty.

Transcription : sš nb-*imn*

Translation : «The scribe Neb-amun».

⁽²⁾ For some of the objects found during the excavation of the debris accumulated at the entrance of TT. 11–12, see J. M. Galán, F. Borrego, «Funerary Cones from Dra Abu El-Naga (TT. 11-12)», *Memnonia* XVII, 2006, pp. 195-208, pl. XXXIII-XXXIX ; J. M. Galán, «An Apprentice's Board from Dra Abu el-Naga», *JEA* 93, 2007, pp. 95-116, pl. 2-3 ; G. Menéndez, «Figured Ostraca from Dra Abu el-Naga (TT. 11-12)», *SAK* 37, 2008, pp. 259-275 ; M.-J. López, E. de Gregorio, «Pottery Vases from a Deposit with Flower Bouquets found at Dra Abu el-Naga» in *Proceedings of the Tenth International Congress of Egyptologists, OLA*, in press ; M.-J. López, E. de Gregorio, «Two Funerary Pottery Deposits at Dra Abu El-Naga», *Memnonia* XVIII, 2007, pp. 145-156, pl. XXXI-XXXV ; J. M. Galán, «Excavations at the courtyard of the Tomb of Djehuty (TT 11)» in *Proceedings of the Tenth International Congress of Egyptologists, OLA*, in press.

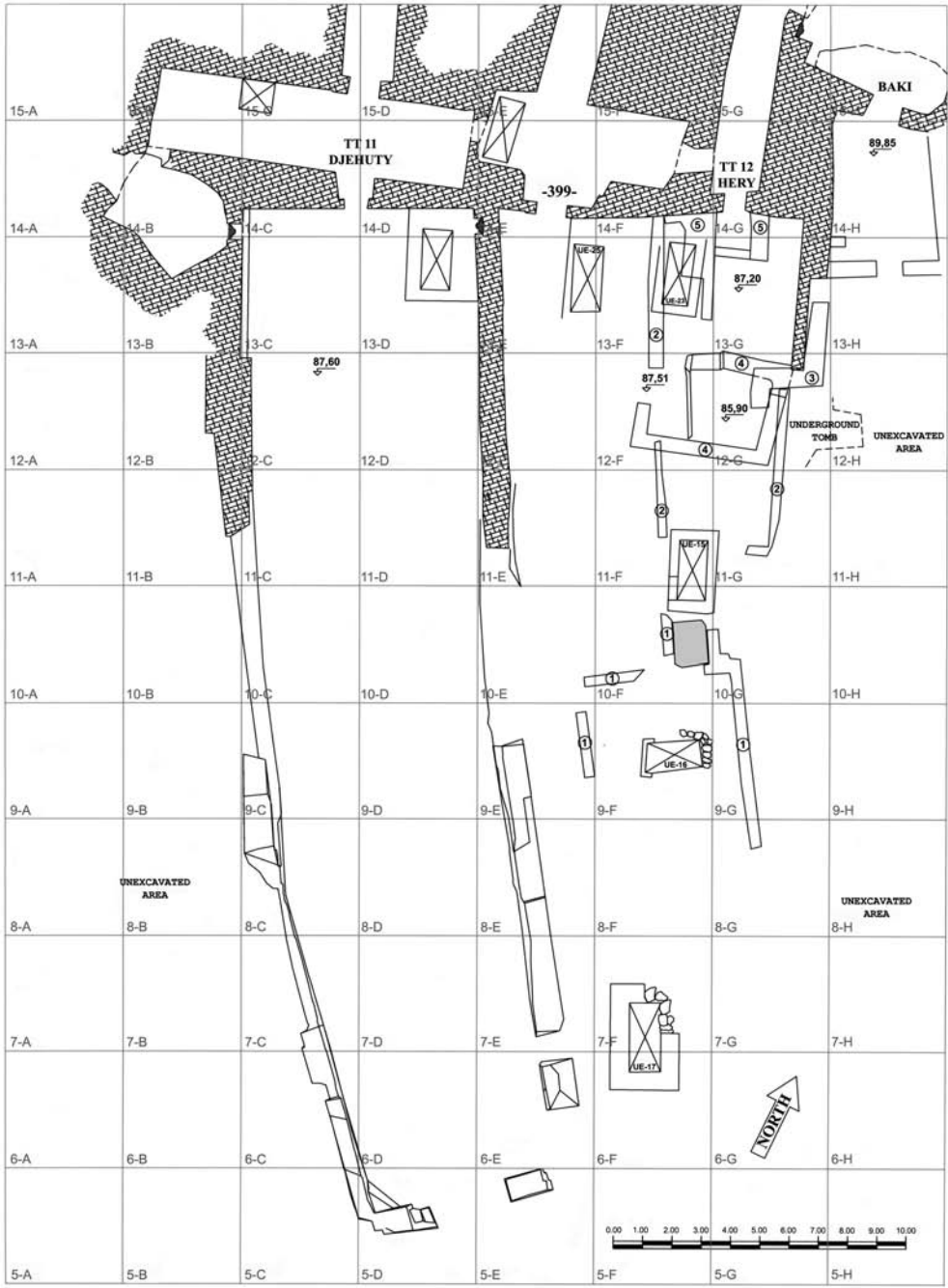


Fig. 1 — Area of TT. 11-12. [Plan of the Spanish-Egyptian Mission].

Findspot : Most of the mud bricks were reused in walls of a later period, right outside the entrance to the tomb of Hery (wall n° 5, east side), and slightly to the south-east (wall n° 2, east side). The former was built on top of 1,5 m of debris, its partner to the west of Hery's door resting on top of the 0,65 m wall surrounding the funerary shaft UE-23. The latter was built on top of debris, its base about 2 m higher than the rock floor (height : 89,90 ; cf. fig. 1) and part of it resting on top of wall n° 4. A few meters to the north-east, at the courtyard of the recently identified tomb of Baki (squares 14-H and 13-H), eighteen mud bricks were unearthed, what may indicate that Neb-amun's tomb could be located to the north/east of Hery, maybe slightly higher up the hill.

Comments : Excavating above the entrance to the tomb of Hery and twelve meters to the north-east, above the tomb of Baki, three funerary cones of "The scribe and accountant of the grain, overseer of the granary of Amun, Neb-amun" were unearthed, a type already found by the Marquis of Northampton's expedition ⁽³⁾.

There are at least half a dozen individuals named Neb-amun from the mid Eighteenth Dynasty that were buried in the central area of Dra Abu El-Naga : (a) The steward of the royal wife Nebtu (TT. 24), of the time of Thutmosis III ; (b) The head of bowmen (TT. 145), probably of this same period ; (c) The overseer of the granary of Amun, scribe and accountant of grain under Thutmosis III (TT. 146) ; (d) The scribe and accountant of the grain of Amun in the granary of divine offerings (TT. 231) ; (e) The scribe and physician of King Amenhotep II (TT. 17) ; (f) and the owner of the tomb from where the fragments now kept at the British Museum came from, dating to the reign of Thutmosis IV or earlier part of Amenhotep III, who was also scribe and accountant of grain ⁽⁴⁾.

Tombs TT. 145, 231 and 17, are very close to each other, and about 150 m to the west of TT. 11. The exact spot of TT. 146 is unknown, but

⁽³⁾ J. M. Galán, F. L. Borrego, *Memnonia* XVII, 2006, p. 207 ; see also N. de G. Davies, M. F. L. Macadam, *A Corpus of Inscribed Egyptian Funerary Cones*, Oxford 1957, n° 66 ; Northampton, *Theban Necropolis*, p. 35, pl. 23, n° 9.

⁽⁴⁾ L. Manniche, *Lost Tombs. A Study of Certain Eighteenth Dynasty Monuments in the Theban Necropolis*, London 1988, pp. 136-157 ; R. Parkinson, *The Painted Tomb-chapel of Nebamun*, London 2008, pp. 32-44.

it is supposed to be a short distance also to the west of TT. 11 ⁽⁵⁾. If these Neb-amun have to be excluded in view of their far away western location ⁽⁶⁾, the only known candidates for the group of stamped mud bricks are the owner of TT. 24, located about 30 m to the north-east of TT. 12, and the owner of the lost British Museum tomb. Moreover, two mud bricks belonging to Neb-amun were found during the clearance of the tomb of Montuherkhepeshef (TT. 20) ⁽⁷⁾, which is contiguous to TT. 24.

It seems probable that the stamped mud bricks of the scribe Neb-amun were once used in the construction of his tomb, as building material for the outside structures. Spencer made the following statements in his volume on brick architecture : “The occurrence of private stamps on building-bricks is not common (...) although many of these bricks have been found out of their original locations, the style of the inscriptions shows clearly that they were used in tomb-construction” ⁽⁸⁾.

2. Twenty-six crude mud brick fragments of quite consistent measurements. A seal was stamped once on one of the two broader sides in an arbitrary way, as the impression is generally not carefully aligned with any of the brick’s edges. The seal had a rectangular frame. The inscription within it was arranged vertically, with the signs carefully carved and coming out in a quite legible raised relief (cf. Pl. XXVI).

Measurements : 34 x 16 x 10 cm ; the sealing is 13 x 5,3 cm.

Material : Mud.

Date : End of the Eighteenth Dynasty ; post-Amarna period.

Transcription : *imy-r iḥw n imn tw-tw-i3*

Translation : «The overseer of the cattle of Amun, Tu-tu-ia».

⁽⁵⁾ Note that the proposed location for TT. 146 in PM, *TB*, I², plan II, is rejected by F. Kampp, *Die Thebanische Nekropole, Theben 13*, Mainz am Rhein 1996, vol. I, pp. 430-432, plan VII, based on the statement in Northampton’s report, «A short distance to the east of the tomb of Neb-amun is that of Tehuti».

⁽⁶⁾ See, however, the last paragraph of n° 3 below.

⁽⁷⁾ N. de G. Davies, *Five Theban Tombs (being those of Mentuherkhepeshef, User, Daga, Nehemawäy and Tati)*, London 1913, p. 5 (19).

⁽⁸⁾ A. J. Spencer, *Brick Architecture in ancient Egypt*, Warminster 1979, p. 146.

Findspot : Most of the mud bricks were re-used in walls of a later period. Sixteen were brought to light dismantling the wall that separates Hery's courtyard and that of tomb –399– (north-west section of wall n° 2), which was resting on top of 1,10 m of debris and ran above the surrounding wall of the funerary shaft UE-23. Actually, one sample was found at the very bottom of the shaft. Three mud bricks of Tu-tu-ia, together with mud bricks of Neb-amun, were used to build the eastern side of wall n° 5, at the entrance of Hery's tomb (see above). The rest were found further south, spread over the area covered by squares 10/9-F, 9/8-G and 7-F, next to the funerary shafts labelled UE-15, 16 and 17.

Comments : The name Tu-tu-ia is not all that common. In the Theban necropolis there is at least another attestation, but it refers to a woman. She has a statue inside the Asasif tomb of Si-mut, called Kyky (TT. 409), who was “scribe and accountant of the cattle of Amun's estate” during the reign of Ramesses II ⁽⁹⁾. Tu-tu-ia, “songstress of Amun,” might have been Si-mut's mother, and thus she would have lived at the very end of the Eighteenth and beginning of the Nineteenth Dynasty.

Tu-tu-ia's title, “overseer of the cattle of Amun,” is written in a peculiar way. The plural marker of *ihw* is not written after the logogram, but before it and after *imy-r*, not a common display of signs. Out of the twenty-five attestations of the title “overseer of the cattle” in the corpus of funerary cones, for instance, only one impression is written in a similar way ⁽¹⁰⁾. On the other hand, the use of the red crown for the preposition *n* as the indirect genitival link before the name Amun is well known for this period. It might be interesting to note that in the central area of Dra Abu El-Naga it seems that there is a high concentration of tombs whose owners were “overseer of the cattle of Amun” ⁽¹¹⁾.

⁽⁹⁾ PM, *TB*, I², p. 462 (17) ; M. Negm, *The tomb of Simut called Kyky. Theban Tomb 409 at Qurnah*, Warminster 1997, pp. 32, 47 ; pl. 34-35b ; M. Abdel-Qader Muhammed, «Two Theban Tombs : Kyky and Bak-en-amun», *ASAE* 59, 1966, p. 179, pl. 100-101.

⁽¹⁰⁾ N. de G. Davies, M. F. L. Macadam, *Funerary Cones*, 1957, n° 384.

⁽¹¹⁾ Djehuty (TT. 11) and Baki, whose tomb is just a few meters to the north-east, are just two of them. For this office, see S. S. Eichler, *Die Verwaltung des “Houses des Amun” in der 18. Dynastie*, *SÄK* : Beihefte 7, Hamburg 2000, pp. 73-96. It seems that tombs where sometimes reused by people holding a professional relationship with its first owner, as mentioned by D. Polz, «Excavation and recording of a Theban Tomb : some remarks on recording methods», in J. Assmann – G. Burkard (eds.), *Problems and Priorities in Egyptian Archaeology*, London - New York 1987, p. 121.

A couple of similar impressions dating to the end of the Eighteenth or early Nineteenth Dynasty and found in the vicinity of Dra Abu El-Naga south belong to “The noble, leader, royal scribe and overseer of the Treasury, Tia”, and to “The noble, royal scribe and overseer of the Treasury, Uadjyt”⁽¹²⁾. The mud brick dimensions are said to be 40 x 18 x 13 cm and 31 x 17 x 12 cm, respectively. A third impression of the same type and date, found also at Dra Abu El-Naga south, belongs to Pa-ren-nefer (see below n° 3). Associated to the tomb TT. 32 in Khokha, similarly arranged impressions were found belonging to “The osiris, royal scribe and steward of Amun, Djehuty-mose, justified,” with the shorter variant “The osiris, overseer of the granary of Amun, Djehuty-mose”⁽¹³⁾. He lived during the second half of Ramesses II reign, and was one of the first officials who made use of fired (and stamped) bricks. They measure 33 x 15 x 7/9,5 cm ; the matrix stamped on the longer-narrow side was 24 x 5,5 cm, while the one stamped on the shorter-narrow side was 13 x 5 cm.

Dating to the post-Amarna period, but this time found at Saqqara, there is a similar stamp belonging to “The royal scribe, the overseer of the Treasury, Maya, justified.” The dimensions of the bricks are : 33,5 x 16,0 x 10,5 cm ; and the stamp 14,2 x 4,5 cm⁽¹⁴⁾.

3. Two crude mud bricks. A seal was stamped once on one of the two broader sides in an arbitrary way, as the impression is not carefully aligned with any of the brick's edges. The seal had a rectangular frame. The inscription within it was arranged vertically, with the signs carefully carved in raised relief. One of the mud bricks is fragmentary, but the signs are quite legible. The other one is complete, but only a few signs are today visible (cf. fig. 2).

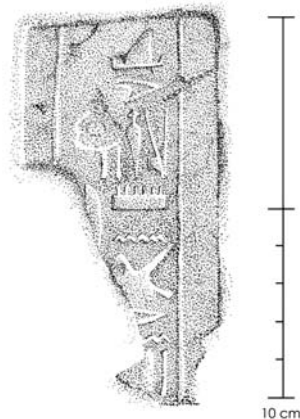


Fig. 2 — Partially preserved mud brick seal impression of Pa-ren-nefer.

⁽¹²⁾ Marquis de Northampton, *Theban Necropolis*, p. 40, nos. 4-5 ; A. J. Spencer, *Brick Architecture*, p. 146, pl. 38.

⁽¹³⁾ E. Gaál, *Stamped Bricks from TT 32*, *Studia Aegyptiaca* 15, Budapest 1993 ; C. N. Reeves, «Miscellanea Epigraphica», *SAK* 13, 1986, pp. 169 f.

⁽¹⁴⁾ M. J. Raven, *The Tomb of Maya and Meryt II : Objects and Skeletal Remains*, Leiden, 2001, p. 59 (n° 331), pl. 24, 38 ; G. T. Martin, *The Hidden Tombs of Memphis : New Discoveries from the Time of Tutankhamun and Ramesses the Great*, London 1991, p. 166.

Measurements : 24 (incomplete) x 17 x 9,5 cm ; the sealing is 11 x 5 cm.

Material : Mud.

Date : End of the Eighteenth Dynasty ; post-Amarna period.

Transcription : *wsir ḥm-nṯr tpy n imn p3-rn-nfr m3ꜣ-ḥrw*

Translation : «The osiris, high priest of Amun, Pa-ren-nefer, justified».

Findspot : Squares 14-G, 15-C. The former, which has the best preserved impression (although not complete) comes from the area just above the tomb of Hery, and it was found loose. The latter has visible only part of the signs that form the owner's name. It was reused in a mud brick wall built slightly higher than Djehuty's tomb, its base lying almost at the same height than the top of Djehuty's façade wall. It remains *in situ* for the moment.

Comments : The impression is smaller than that of Tu-tu-ia, but their overall look and shape of the signs is similar. The two sealings are certainly of the same time period.

Contemporary to both mud brick impressions, and found in the same area, at the courtyard of TT. 12, is a dark blue faience bottom end-piece of a crook or staff in the shape of a papyrus flower, with the cartouche of King Horemheb inlaid in a greenish colour on top of the blossom⁽¹⁵⁾.

⁽¹⁵⁾ A similar piece is now in Cairo Museum, Special Register n° 4013. See also R. Hari, «Un monument cypriote d'Horemheb» in S. F. Bondi (eds.), *Studi in onore di Edda Bresciani*, Pisa 1985, pp. 249-54. The same type of bottom end-piece was used for Tutankhamun's crooks with a foreign captive as the curved end ; JE 61736 (Carter n° 48c), A. Wise, A. Brodbeck (eds.), *Tutankhamun – The Golden Beyond : Tomb Treasures from the Valley of the Kings*, Basel 2004, p. 326 (n° 81). A similar piece was found in the tomb of Queen Nefertari, bearing the cartouche of Ay ; see E. Schiaparelli, *Relazione sui lavori della missione archeologica italiana in Egitto (anni 1903-1920), I : esplorazione della 'Valle delle Regine' nella necropoli di Tebe*, Turin, 1923, p. 103, fig. 82 ; A. M. Donadoni Roveri (ed.), *Egyptian Civilization, II : Religious Beliefs*, Turin 1988, p. 150 (n° 201).

⁽¹⁶⁾ F. Kampp, *Thebanische Nekropole*, II, pp. 713-716, plan VII ; *idem*, «Vierter Vorbericht über die Arbeiten des Ägyptologischen Instituts der Universität Heidelberg in thebanischen Gräbern der Ramessidenzeit», *MDAIK* 50, 1994, p. 178, pl. 24 (c) ; *idem*, «Die Verfemung des Names P3-rn-nfr» in H. Guksch, D. Polz (eds.), *Stationen : Beiträge zur Kulturgeschichte Ägyptens ; Rainer Stadelmann gewidmet*, Mainz 1998, pp. 303-319. See also, A. J. Spencer, *Brick Architecture*, pl. 38.

Mud bricks of Pa-ren-nefer with the same impression were found at his tomb (–162–), located in Dra Abu El-Naga north, about two hundred meters to the north-east of Hery's tomb⁽¹⁶⁾.

B. OTHER LARGE SEAL IMPRESSIONS

4. Part of the handle of a marl clay “D” jar. The vase must have been a large amphora of Canaanite type, the handle coming out from its shoulder. The thickness of the handle is 2,8 cm, and the vase's wall next to it is 1 cm thick. The seal impression is well centred along the handle, and displays vertically a royal cartouche with the throne name of King Thutmosis I inside (cf. Pl. XXVII).

Measurements : 10,5 x 9,4 x 5,8 cm ; the sealing is 5,2 x 2 cm.

Material : Pottery.

Date : Early Eighteenth Dynasty ; reign of Thutmosis I.

Transcription : ‘3-*hpr*-k3-r’

Findspot : Square 6-D ; at the entrance of Djehuty's courtyard, 30 m away from the tomb's façade and in a superficial level, 2,87 m above the court's floor.

Comments : Royal cartouches stamped on jar handles are common. Due to the estimated size of the vase it must have been used to contain provisions, most likely cereal. As it was found in the debris out of context, it is difficult to relate it to any cult installation in the area.

5. Four pieces of mud plaster with an impression of the ‘seal of the necropolis’ on them. The mud that holds them is of grey colour, with very little straw. The seal has been pressed hard, making an impression 0,5 cm deep. The shape of the seal is oval, it has a double frame line and the figures inside are arranged vertically. On the upper part, Anubis is shown as jackal, wearing the linen *insy*-band around the neck and recumbent on a small shrine, with its tail hanging down behind the shrine. Below, three rows one above the other (without separating lines) display three captives in line kneeling down, and bound by the arms behind the torso. The facial features, long hair, prominent nose and pointed beard, make it clear that they are all foreigners of Levantine origin. All figures are facing left (cf. Pl. XXVIII).

Measurements : 10,5 x 9,4 x 5,8 cm ; the sealing is 8,1 (incomplete) x 5,5 cm.

Material : Mud plaster.

Date : Twenty-first Dynasty (?).

Findspot : Squares 7-D and 8-D. They were found at the courtyard of the tomb of Djehuty (TT. 11), about 25 m away from the façade. Three of them were found between 0,5 and 1 m below the floor level of the court, when a trench was dug to find out how the extension of Djehuty's courtyard was built. Together with them, fourteen relief fragments, some of them coming from the inner walls of the tomb of Djehuty (with the surface burnt), were found. Also three fragments of coffins painted in Twenty-first Dynasty style were unearthed. It seems that in the late Third Intermediate Period a hole was opened in the court's floor and what was regarded then as rubbish in the surrounding area was thrown inside, including relief fragments, coffin boards and mud pieces stamped with the seal of the necropolis. The fourth sample was found in a very superficial level, 5,19 m above the court's floor.

Comments : Nineteen different types of impressions of the seal of the necropolis were found at the tomb of Tutankhamun. Seven of them were of large size, almost 15 cm in height⁽¹⁷⁾. Large size devices of the seal of the necropolis were used on doorways. One of them, made of faience and measuring 11 x 5,2 cm, was found inside the tomb of Amenhotep II⁽¹⁸⁾. Impressions of the seal of the necropolis have been found not only in the Valley of the Kings, but also in other areas of the Theban necropolis, although the number of examples is meagre and most of them are of a smaller size

⁽¹⁷⁾ O. E. Kaper, «The Door Sealings and Object Sealings» in J. Baines (ed.), *Stone Vessels, Pottery and Sealings from the Tomb of Tutankhamun*, Oxford 1993, pp. 139-77, pl. 40-50 ; H. Beinlich, M. Saleh, *Corpus der hieroglyphischen Inschriften aus dem Grab des Tutanchamun*, Oxford 1989, p. 226. For small the small sealings, see A. Cabrol, «De l'importance du contexte pour l'interprétation : enquête préliminaire sur certains ensembles d'empreintes de sceaux datant de la fin de la XVIIIe dynastie», *CRIPEL* 22, 2001, pp. 33-45. On the meaning of the emblem, see H. Goedicke, «The 'Seal of the Necropolis'», *SAK* 20, 1993, pp. 67-79 ; J. W. Wegner, M. A. Abu el-Yazid, «The Mountain-of-Anubis : Necropolis Seal of the Senwosret III Tomb Enclosure at Abydos» in E. Czerny *et al.* (eds.), *Timelines : Studies in Honour of Manfred Bietak*, *OLA* 149, Leuven 2006, vol. I, pp. 419-435.

⁽¹⁸⁾ CCG 24109 ; G. Daressy, *Fouilles de la Vallée des Rois (1898-1899)*, *Catalogue Général des Antiquités Égyptiennes du Musée du Caire Nos 24001-24990*, Cairo 1902, p. 65, pl. 18. See also the catalogue *The Small Masterpieces of Egyptian Art : selections from the Myers Museum at Eaton College*, Leiden 2003, p. 57 (n° 60), ECM 1481.

(c. 5 x 1,5/4 x 2 cm)⁽¹⁹⁾. Outside Thebes, in the Memphite tomb of Horemheb, thirty impressions were found loose, on cream-pinkish coloured plaster⁽²⁰⁾. Also at Saqqara, in the tomb of Aper-el, impressions of the seal were found⁽²¹⁾.

6. Three fragments of whitish fine mud plaster, with very little straw. Each one of them preserves part of two identical large oval impressions, 0,5 cm deep. They are vertically arranged side-by-side, parallel and almost at the same height, separated by 1,5/ 2,8/ 3 cm. They show a double frame line. No trace of any sign can be seen in their interior, if they were ever inscribed (cf. Pl. XXIX–A).

Measurements : 14 x 15 x 9,5 cm ; the impression is 9,5 (incomplete) x 5 cm.

Material : Mud plaster.

Date : New Kingdom/ Third Intermediate Period.

Findspot : Squares 7-E, 7/8-D, 8-C. Courtyard of TT. 11, about 25 m away from the tomb façade. Two of them were found in the trench dug into the court's floor, in the same context as the three pieces of mud with the seal of the necropolis commented above. Therefore, it seems that they were buried below the court's floor in the late Third Intermediate Period. The third sample was found among the rubble, 1,69 m above the court's floor.

Comments : Through the dimensions and deepness of the oval frames, and the good quality of the mud plaster, it can be suggested that these impressions may be related to the seal of the necropolis (although they are much whiter than the specimens referred to in n° 5 above), or they were meant to bear a royal name.

⁽¹⁹⁾ H. E. Winlock, *The Tomb of Queen Meryet-Amun at Thebes*, New York 1932, p. 40, pl. 37(E) ; N. Strudwick, *The Tombs of Amenhotep, Khnummose, and Amenmose at Thebes*, Oxford 1996, p. 117 (n° 253.033), pl. 24.

⁽²⁰⁾ H. D. Schneider, *The Memphite Tomb of Horemheb, Commander-in-chief of Tutankhamun*, II. *A Catalogue of the Finds*, Leiden 1996, pp. 50 f. (n° 323-325), pl. 74 ; G. T. Martin, «Excavations at the Memphite Tomb of Horemheb, 1977 : Preliminary Report», *JEA* 64, 1978, p. 7, pl. 2 (1).

⁽²¹⁾ A. Zivie, *Découverte à Saqqarah. Le vizir oublié*, Paris 1990, pp. 104-107, fig. 56.

7. Piece of grey mud, compacted and without straw, but with some pebbles in it. At some point it was exposed to fire and got partially backed. A very large seal has been stamped on it, and part of its impression covers the whole surface. The seal had a figurative motive, but unfortunately most of it is now difficult to reconstruct. The impression is not very deep, and only a few signs and decorative elements can be recognized (cf. fig. 3).



Fig. 3 — Figurative seal impression.

The left side of what seems to be the upper register is partly taken by a quadrangular or rectangular frame with curved corners, what may constitute the lower part of a vertical royal cartouche. Inside, at the lower right corner there are traces of two vertical signs, maybe two reed-leaves side by side, as to compose the ending phoneme /-y/. The right side of the lower register includes a bearded seated figure wearing some kind of crown or headdress, and holding a staff up front and vertically. The figure seems to be framed by a rectangle, probably a schematization of a kiosk or shrine. Behind it there is a bird, similar to the fatted duck or widgeon hieroglyphic sign (G 42), and above the latter the body of a lizard can be easily recognized, very likely the logogram for the word ʕ3 (I 1). The combination of the two signs may stand for ʕ3-*df*3(w), “abundant of provisions,” probably used as a royal or divine epithet⁽²²⁾.

Measurements : 10,4 x 11,6 x 5,1 cm.

Material : Mud.

Date : New Kingdom (?).

⁽²²⁾ C. Leitz (ed.), *Lexikon der ägyptischen und Götter und Götterbezeichnungen*, II, OLA 111, pp. 213-228, Leuven 2002. The combination of the two signs can be found in an Amenhotep III's sealing from Malkata ; see M. A. Leahy, *Excavations at Malkata and the Birket Habu 1971-1974 : The Inscriptions*, *Egyptology Today* 2, IV, Warminster 1978, p. 40 (n° 79), pl. 21. Similar epithets are ʕ3-*df*3w, *wr-df*3w, *sr-df*3w.

Findspot : Square 10-E ; in front of tomb –399–, 13 m away from the façade, and in a superficial level, 3,60 m above ground level.

Comments : Elaborate seal impressions such as this one are not common. Royal and private seals include the name(s) and title(s) of the owner, maybe a reference to an institution or building to which the container was associated, and little more. Indeed, their purpose was mostly economic. In this case, however, due to the large size of the seal and its figurative composition, its economic use is not very clear. It might rather be related to a category that can be labelled as ‘informative seals’, of which the best known figurative composition is the seal of the necropolis.

C. SMALL SEAL IMPRESSIONS

8. Piece of fine grey mud plaster, compacted and without straw. On one of the sides there is a small patch of finer mud attached to it by means of a dense bituminous glazy black paste. A seal has been pressed on top of the finer mud, leaving an oval impression with a double line frame. Inside, the upper half has two vertical royal cartouches side-by-side, with the throne name of Thutmosis III in them. The lower half preserves the upper part of a *nfr* sign in the middle, and an Horus falcon at the right side facing outwards, the two signs together making up the royal epithet “The good Horus”. Probably a second falcon would have been included at the left side looking outwards to complete a symmetrical composition (cf. Pl. XXIX–B).

Measurements : 12 x 10 x 7,5 cm ; the sealing is 1,2 x 1,3 cm.

Material : Mud plaster.

Date : Eighteenth Dynasty ; reign of Thutmosis III.

Transcription : *mn-hpr-r^c nfr hr [...]*

Findspot : Square 8-C/D ; courtyard of TT. 11, about 25 m away from the tomb façade. Found in the trench dug into the court’s floor, in the same context as the three pieces of mud with the seal of the necropolis commented above.

Comments : No parallels have been found for the seal composition. The hieroglyphic signs inside both cartouches are blurred, and there is a

possibility that one of them would have the name of Amenhotep II, *ʿ3-hprw-rʿ*, instead of repeating the name of Thutmosis III⁽²³⁾.

9. Lump of very fine grey mud plaster. On the flat side there is an oval seal impression. Inside, hieroglyphic signs have been used to compose an emblem. The upper half seems to have the sign for *nfr* in the middle, flanked by two *mr*-signs (U 6). The lower half has a variation of the sign inspired on a pool with lotus flowers (M 8) written upside down (cf. fig. 4).

Measurements : 1,9 x 2,2 x 1 cm ; the sealing is 1,9 (incomplete) x 1,2 cm.

Material : Mud plaster.

Date : Eighteenth Dynasty (?).



1 cm

Fig. 4 — Emblematic seal impression.

Findspot : It was found inside the inner chamber of the tomb of Djehuty, at the niche sheltering the statue group carved in the rear wall, when there was still about 1 m of debris in the room. The ancient material, mostly relief fragments fallen from the walls, was very much mixed up with modern objects (end of the Nineteenth/ beginning of the Twentieth century).

10. Lump of very fine grey mud plaster, curved in shape, with remains of three impressions of the same seal. The inner part is 2,1 cm tall and 1,7 cm wide, and has traces of the string that would have kept closed the container by means of a small piece of cloth. The impressions, probably done with a scarab, have an oval shape with a double frame line. Inside there is a vertical hieroglyphic inscription with the name and title of the seal's owner. One of the impressions has most of the signs fairly recognizable, another less than half and the third is not legible at all (cf. Pl. XXX).

Measurements : 2,1 x 2,2 x 0,4 cm ; the sealing is 1 x 0,8 cm.

Material : Mud plaster.

⁽²³⁾ See B. Jaeger, *Essai de classification et datation des scarabées Menkheperre, OBO : Series Archaeologica 2*, Fribourg - Göttingen 1982, pp. 181 f. (n° 112).

Date : Early Eighteenth Dynasty.

Transcription : *sš i^c.f-ib-ḥr wḥm-^cnḥ*

Translation : «The scribe Iaf-ib-hor, reborn».

Findspot : Square 13-E ; inside the lower north-west burial chamber of the shaft that opens at the entrance of tomb –399–, labelled UE-25.

Comments : The funerary shaft has two sets of opposing chambers at two different levels. The archaeological context dates to the early Eighteenth Dynasty, probably about the time of Hatshepsut–Thutmose III. Among the funerary equipment, two scarabs were found, one decorated (see plate), but it does not match this nor the following sealing discussed below (n° 11).

Doubts on the last signs of the anthroponim make the reading uncertain. It seems that the name has to be read like the Middle Kingdom name *i^c.f-ib-ḥr*⁽²⁴⁾. However, the sealing has no water signs following *i^c*, and there are traces of two vertical signs following the sign for *f*. The two vertical signs, identified as the compound *wḥm-^cnḥ*, are some times removed from their expected final position, following the anthroponim, and they are placed wherever there is an empty space in the seal. They are occasionally written in reversed order. The possibility of reading the name as *i^c.f-^cnḥ-ḥbḥ-ḥr* was considered, but finally rejected for lack of parallels among other reasons.

11. Lump of very fine grey, slightly reddish, mud plaster. It has a rounded shape, and it was probably attached to some kind of box or chest. On the flat side there is an oval seal impression with a double frame line, probably done with a scarab. Inside, a set of hieroglyphic signs has been arranged symmetrically to compose an emblem (cf. Pl. XXXI–A).

Measurements : 1,8 x 1,1 cm ; the sealing is 1,2 x 0,9 cm.

Material : Mud plaster.

Date : Second Intermediate Period.

Transcription : *swt ^cnḥ wḏ3 k3 ḥpr k3 swt ^cnḥ wḏ3*

⁽²⁴⁾ H. Ranke, *PNI*, 12 (n° 9).

Findspot : Square 13-E ; inside the lower north-west burial chamber of the shaft that opens at the entrance of tomb –399–, labelled UE-25 (see n° 3 above).

Comments : The archaeological context dates to the early Eighteenth Dynasty, probably about the time of Hatshepsut–Thutmose III (see above n° 10). A very similar impression type can be found in Tufnell's corpus ⁽²⁵⁾.

12. Fragment of a jar stopper made of mud mixed with straw. The thickness of the stopper varies between 2 and 3,5 cm, and it was certainly placed over the neck of a large vessel. Only 40% of the upper flat surface remains. Six seal impressions are preserved at the top and sides of the stopper, but unfortunately the inscription is not legible in any of them (cf. Pl. XXXI–B).

Measurements : 13 x 10,5 x 6 cm ; the seal impression is 1,5 x 1,1 cm.

Material : Mud.

Date : Eighteenth Dynasty (?).

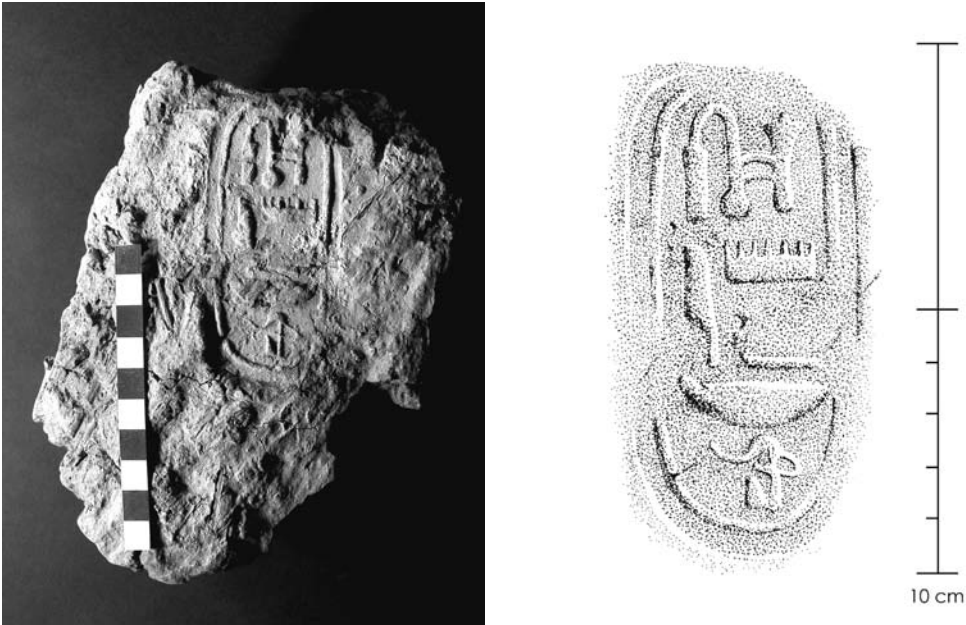
Findspot : Square 13-E ; at the entrance of the tomb –399–, almost at the floor level of the court, and next to the funerary shaft UE-25.

Comments : Jar stoppers of this type, with several small seal impressions on it, are quite common ⁽²⁶⁾.

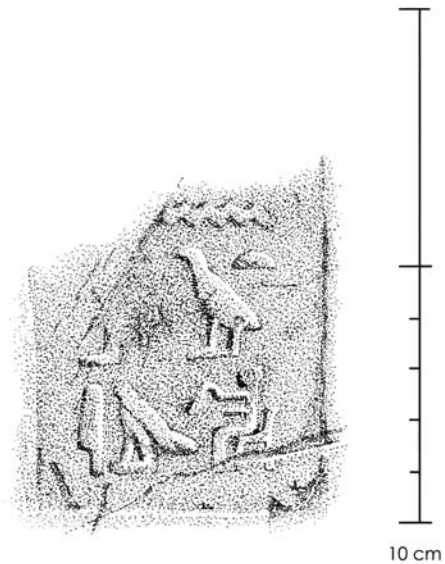
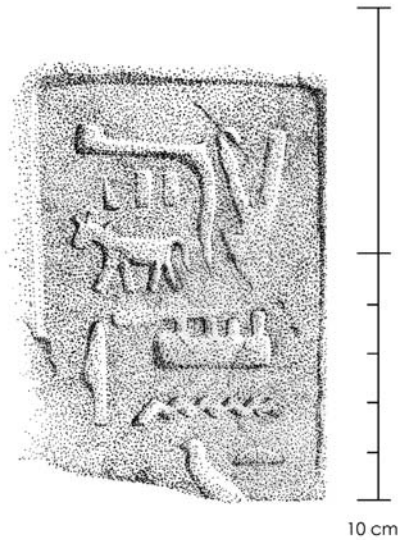
⁽²⁵⁾ O. Tufnell, *Studies on Scarab Seals, II : Scarab Seals and their contribution to history in the Second Millennium B.C.*, Warminster 1984, pl. 14 (n° 1641, 1659) ; D. Ben-Tor, *Scarabs, Chronology, and Interconnections. Egypt and Palestine in the Second Intermediate Period*, OBO 27, Fribourg - Göttingen, 2007, pl. 33-35. Daphna Ben-Tor suggested to me that the use of the sign /r/ and the shape of the sign for /k3/ support a Second Intermediate Period dating.

⁽²⁶⁾ P. Dorman, *The Tombs of Senenmut. The Architecture and Decoration of Tombs 71 and 353*, New York 1991, p. 149 (n° 41), pl. 87 (c, f).

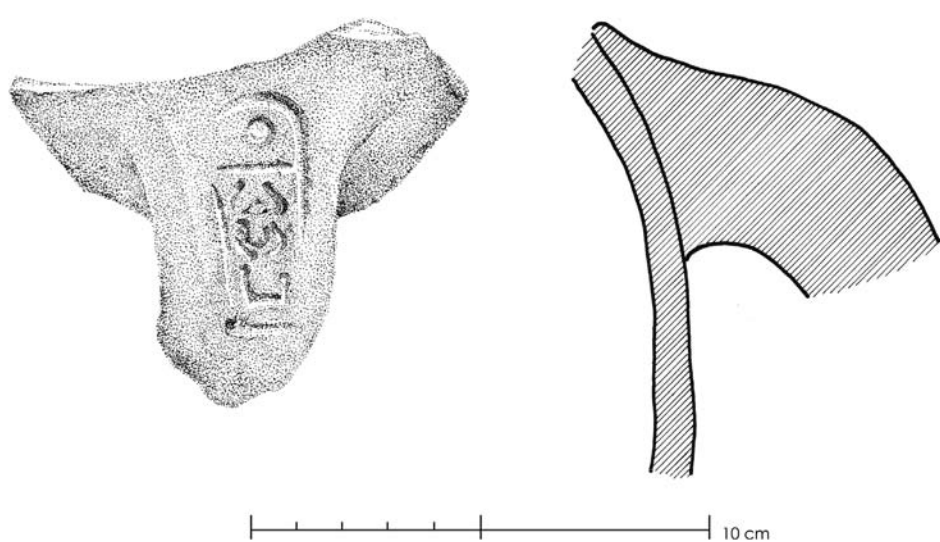
planches



Mud brick seal impressions of Neb-amun.
[Clichés © Proyecto Djehuty and drawing Pia Rodriguez Frade].



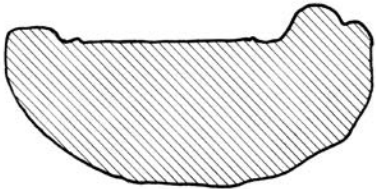
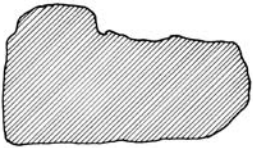
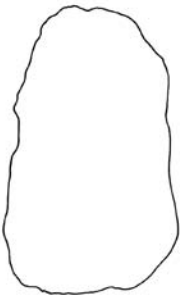
Mud brick seal impressions of Tu-tu-ia.
[Clichés © Proyecto Djehuty and drawings Pia Rodriguez Frade].

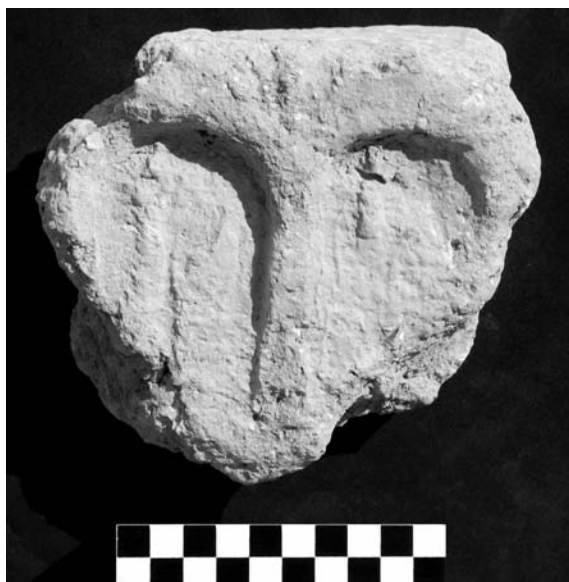


Jar handle with cartouche of Thutmosis I.
[Cliché © Proyecto Djehuty and drawing Pia Rodriguez Frade].



Impressions of the “seal of the necropolis”. [Cliché
© Proyecto Djehuty and drawings Pia Rodriguez
Frade].



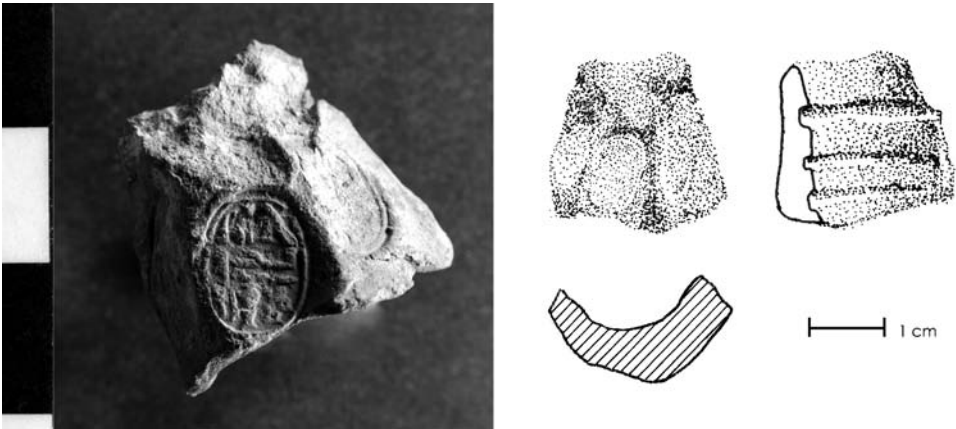


A.— Mud plaster with two large oval impressions.
[Cliché © Proyecto Djehuty].



1 cm

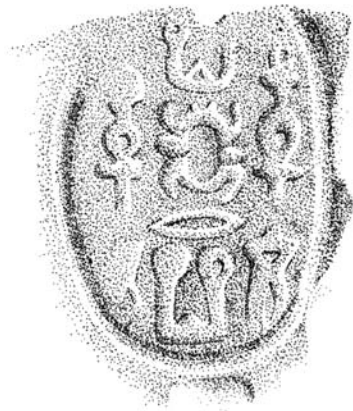
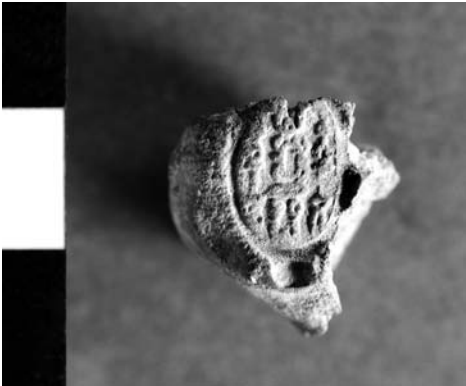
B.— Seal impression with cartouche of Thutmosis III.
[Cliché © Proyecto Djehuty and drawing Pia Rodriguez Frade].



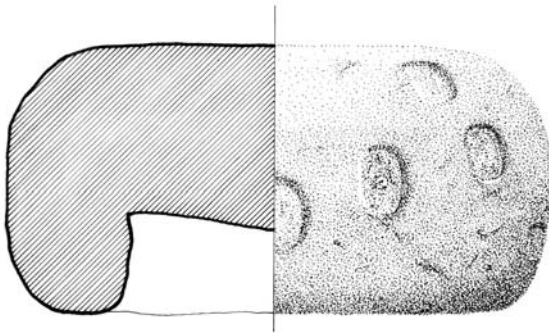
A.— Seal impression with cartouche of Iaf-ib-hor, associated with a small container.
[Cliché © Proyecto Djehuty and drawing Pia Rodriguez Frade].



B.— Scarab found together with the sealing of Iaf-ib-hor.
[Cliché © Proyecto Djehuty and drawing Pia Rodriguez Frade].



A.— Emblematic seal impression, associated with a box or chest. [Cliché © Proyecto Djehuty and drawing Pia Rodriguez Frade].



B.— Partially preserved jar stopper with six seal impressions. [Cliché © Proyecto Djehuty and drawing Pia Rodriguez Frade].

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