

# A NEW CONCEPT ABOUT THE IMPLEMENTS FOUND IN THE EXCAVATIONS AT GÎZA

BY

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These implements were found at Gîza excavations by the late Dr. Selim Hassan in 1931-1932 in Several Tombs. They were always found in the burial chambers<sup>(1)</sup> near the sarcophagi together with vases, vessels, dishes... etc... Most of the tools<sup>(2)</sup> are corroded and fragile, some being found broken due to the effect of mud that covered them.

The aim of this article, is to show by evidence :

(1) That these implements are engraving tools and not surgical tools.

(2) The idea that every artist left his engraving tools, used in a certain mastaba, in that same mastaba for some purpose apparently unknown to us (perhaps for rituals or other circumstances known to the Ancient Egyptians).

(3) They were found scattered on the ground and not arranged in a special box or container signifying that they had not to be used for the same purpose later on.

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(1) DR. SELIM HASSAN'S, excavations at Gîza, Vol. III.

(2) There are similar tools and implements counting 23 pieces in the Egyptian Museum under the J. E. Number, 87081.

# The Mastaba of Seshemw<sup>(1)</sup>

The accompanying diagram shows the place where the copper implements were found in the burial chamber near the sarcophagus.

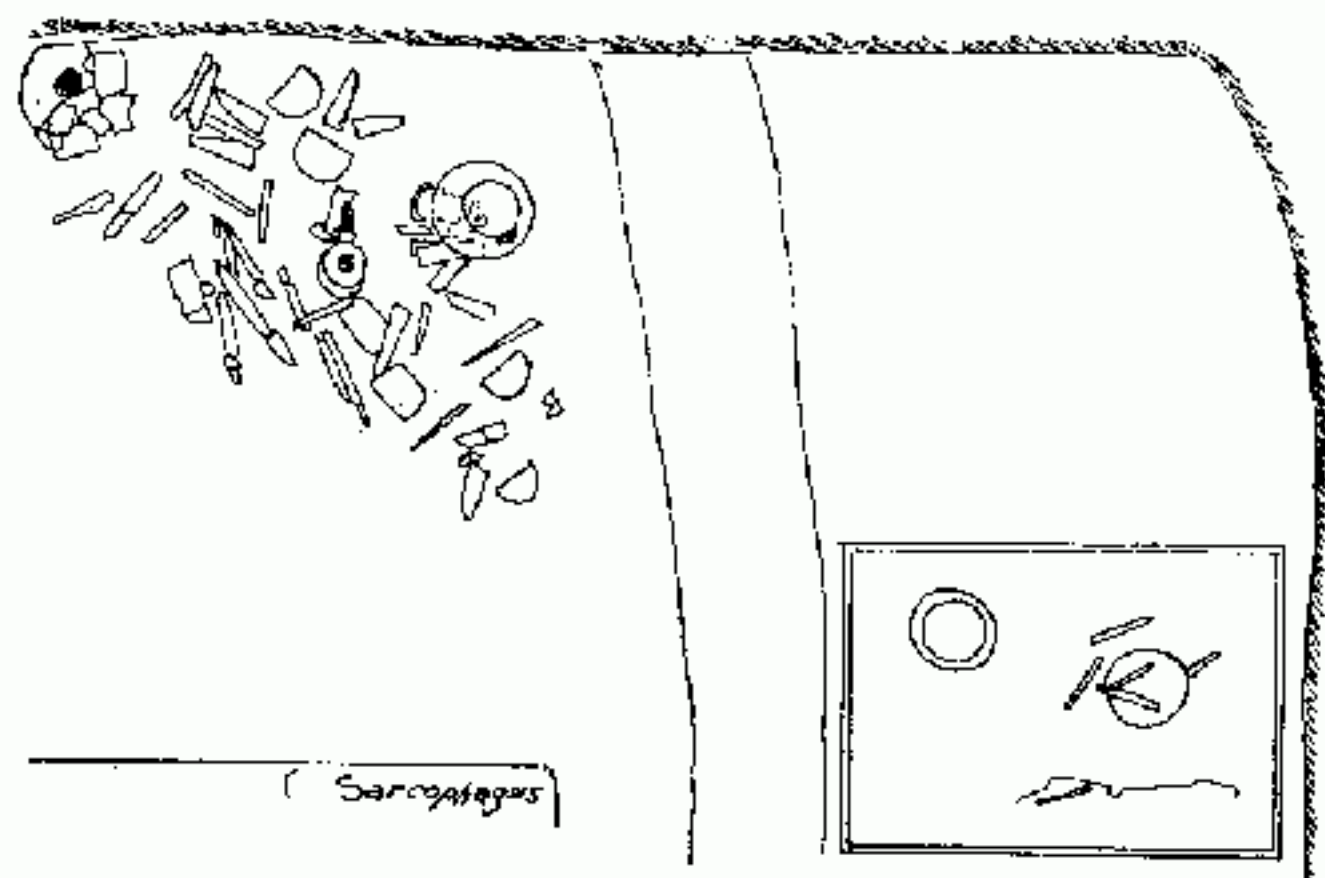
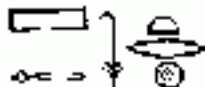




FIG. 1.—Diagram of part of "Mastaba of Seshemw."<sup>(2)</sup>

It is useful to study his titles as they were put by Dr. Selim Hassan.<sup>(3)</sup>

(1)  "He who is concerned with the King's affairs of the great house."

(2)  "The overseer of the kitchen (place)."

(3)  "The master of the secrets of the Royal Harem."

From the titles we can deduce that the owner of that Mastaba was the man chosen by the King "to look after" the affairs of the King's palace including his "Harem".


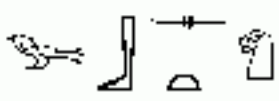

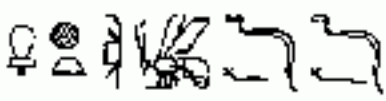


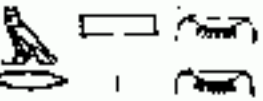
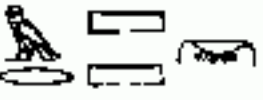



(1) Old Kingdom (Preface by DR. SELIM HASSAN, Excavations at Giza, Vol. III.

(2) *Ibid* Fig. 77.

(3) *Ibid*, pages 78-92.

The Mastaba of  'Ankh-Ha-f With the Good  
Name  Kar

TILES

- (1)  "Judge, Nome Administrator."
- (2)  "The Great one of the Beset."
- (3)  "Over-seer of the two workshops."
- (4)  "Scaler of the provisions of the  
King of Lower Egypt".
- (5)  "Overseer of the two houses of silver."
- (6)  "Overseer of the two chambers of  
the King's wardrobe".
- (7)  "Overseer of the two houses of gold."  
var, 
- (8)  "Eldest of the chamber."
- (9)  "First under the King."
- (10)  "Overseer of the house of silver."

From the titles of that man depicted here we can say that he had a greater position than Seshemw. He was the first under the king and overseer of the houses of silver and gold (Minister of finance ?) ...etc

If we examine the diagram, we find that the copper implements were placed near the sarcophagus without special arrangement:

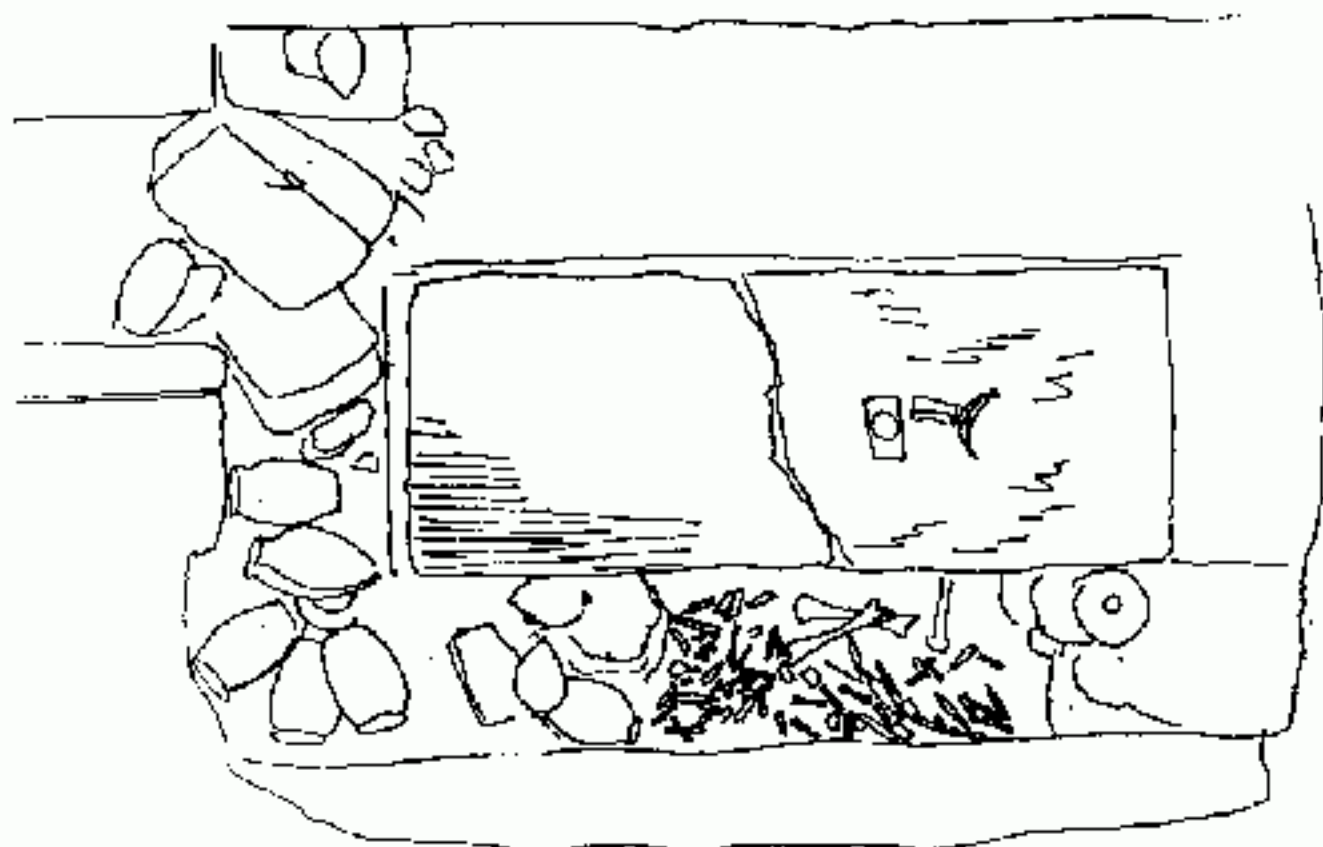


FIG. 2.—Contents of the burial Chamber<sup>(1)</sup>

### The Implements

Now we are going to describe the various types of tools and implements in the Mastaba of 'Ankh-Ha-F.<sup>(2)</sup> — "as quoted by the late Dr. Selim Hassan" a set of 68 pieces of copper tools and implements. They are very corroded and fragile, some being found broken from the effect of the layer of mud which had covered them." The following pages will also contain our own views about their uses and handling.

(1) Dr. SELIM HASSAN, Vol. III, fig. 117.

(2) *Ibid*, figs. 117, 118 and pl. XLIV.

## GROUP "A"

This group consists of 4 tools, three of them have "threads" wound near their blunt ends. When examined microscopically these threads were found to be plaited like a string.



*Thread under the  
microscope (x50)*

FIG. 3

No. 1.—*Implement* (No. 2509).<sup>(1)</sup>



FIG. 4

Description :  $75 \times 7 \times 2$  m/m.

Slightly corroded, thickest at the right end which is rounded, near that end we find the threads still attached to the metal.

The left end is sharp and in a good condition and when viewed sideways, it looks like a chisel, i.e. chisel bevelled.

(1) The number between brackets is the Register No. of Dr. Selim Hassan's Store at Giza.

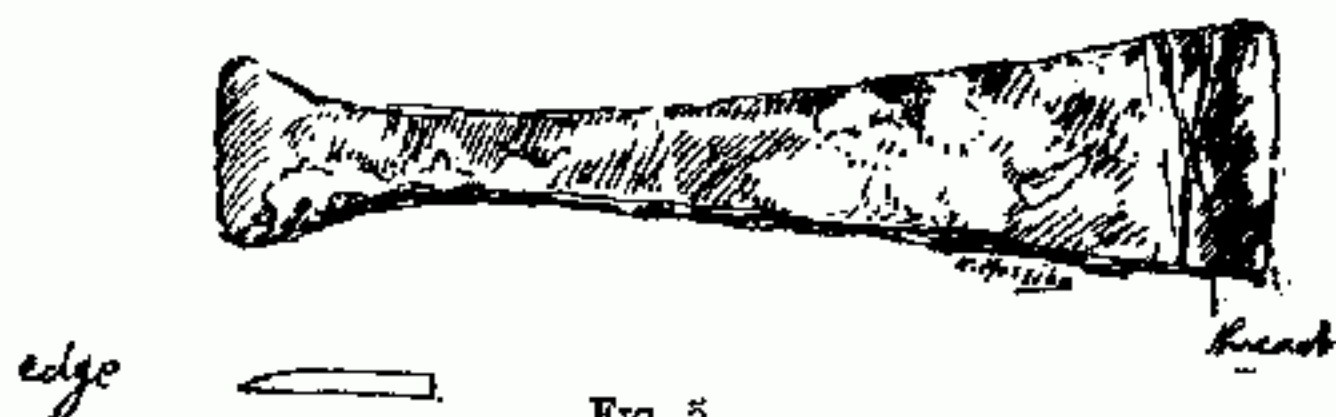
No. 2.—*Implement* (No. 2517).

FIG. 5

Description : 92 × 20 m.m.

Slightly corroded.

Right end not sharp with marks of thread, there is a piece of thread still attached to the metal near the lower right angle.

It is called in arabic "tool for opening the mouth" (أداة فتح الفم), is in fact one of the tools used for shaping the mouth of a statue.

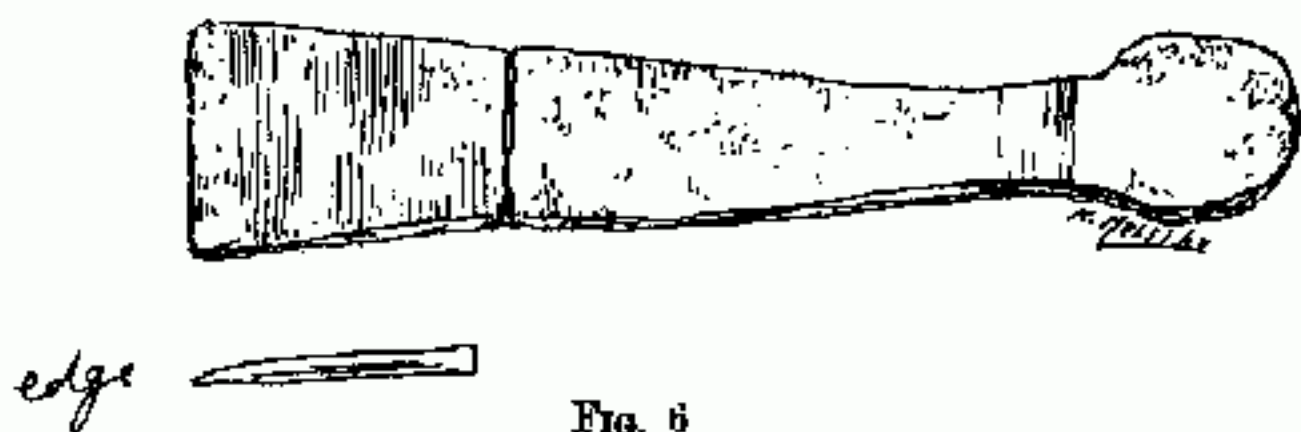


FIG. 6

No. 3.—*Implement* (No. 2518).

Description : 90 m.m. long × 15 m.m. broad at the right rounded end, and 18 m.m. broad at the left sharp end.

It is broken into two parts one surface is corroded, the other surface (shown in the figure) is in a good condition.

Near the right rounded end there are marks of thread.

The left end is sharp (chisel like) and in good condition.



No. 4. — *Implement* (No. 2521)

FIG. 7

Description : 80 m.m.  $\times$  15 m.m. broad, about 2 m.m. thick at the centre.

Corroded especially at the right end.

The left end is sharp and chisel like.

## GROUP "B"

This group is formed of 4 implements. Their sharp ends are stout, bevelling angles short, most probably to bear the hammer action of hammer-like tools.

No. 5.—*Implement* (No. 2489).

Description : 20  $\times$  3 m.m.

The smallest tool found.



FIG. 8

The right end has a short bevel, the left end is pointed and sharp.

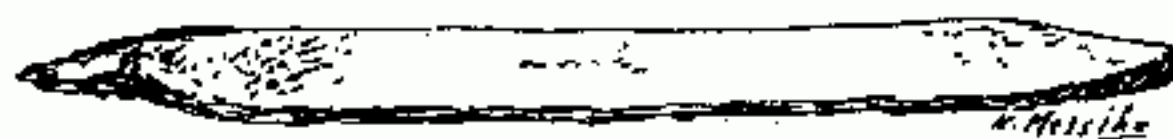
No. 6.—*Implement* (No. 2504).

FIG. 9

Description:  $85 \times 5 \times 3$  m.m.s.

Corroded, the sharp "working" edge is seen on the right with side-views.

The left end is sharp, irregular and corroded.

No. 7.—*Implement* (No. 2494).



FIG. 10

Description :  $93 \times 3 \times 3$  m.m.s.

Right end is sharp

Left end is irregular and sharp.

As a whole, this tool is corroded.

No. 8.—*Implement* (No. 2513).



FIG. 11

Description :  $80 \times 6$  m.m.s.

Very corroded.

The right end is corroded and swollen, but when examined sideways, it is found to be the sharp.

Left end is blunt.



## OTHER IMPLEMENTS

No. 9.—*Implement* (No. 2587).



FIG. 12

Description :  $75 \times 3$  m.m.s.

Sharp and pointed at the right end.

Blunt and rounded at the left end.

No. 10.—*Implement* (No. 2524).



FIG. 13

Description :  $60 \times 42$  m.m.s.

Very thin (about  $\frac{1}{2}$  millimetre thick) metal piece, corroded.

Upper edge straight, lower edge has rounded angles.

There is a hole 1 cm. away from the upper edge.

Some of these implements had this hole others have not.

## COMMENT

After we have finished description of the implements in detail, we are going to give evidence of their use as engraving tools.

As an example of surgical tools, look at figs. 14, 15 and compare them with the previous figures of the engraving tools



FIG. 14

## Surgical Tools for Comparison

(1) When we examine those tools of group A, we find two constant features, the first is the sharp chisel-like end and the presence of thread near the other blunt end. When we look at the Fig. 16.<sup>(1)</sup> we find a saw, chisel and gravers, these tools belonged to the Sculptor (and architect also) Apy.

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(1) After Davies Two Ramesside tombs at Thebes. Page 71 "Apy's equipment." The tomb of Apy is one of a series cut in the slope of the hill beyond the Sculptor (and architect also) Apy.

We found it useful to analyse two wall-paintings of Apy's tomb because they show clearly several artists working with engraving and decorating tools.

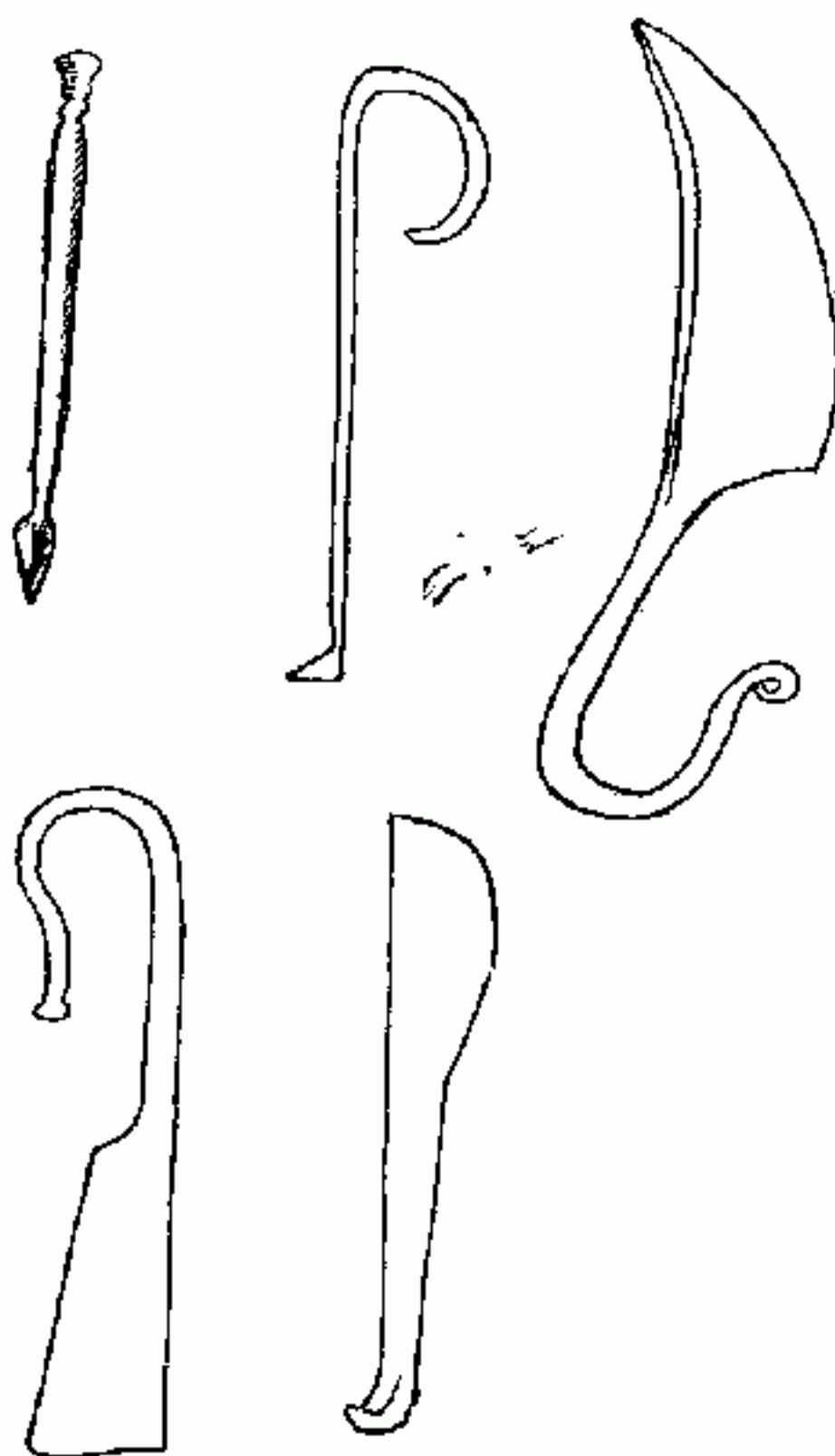


FIG. 15

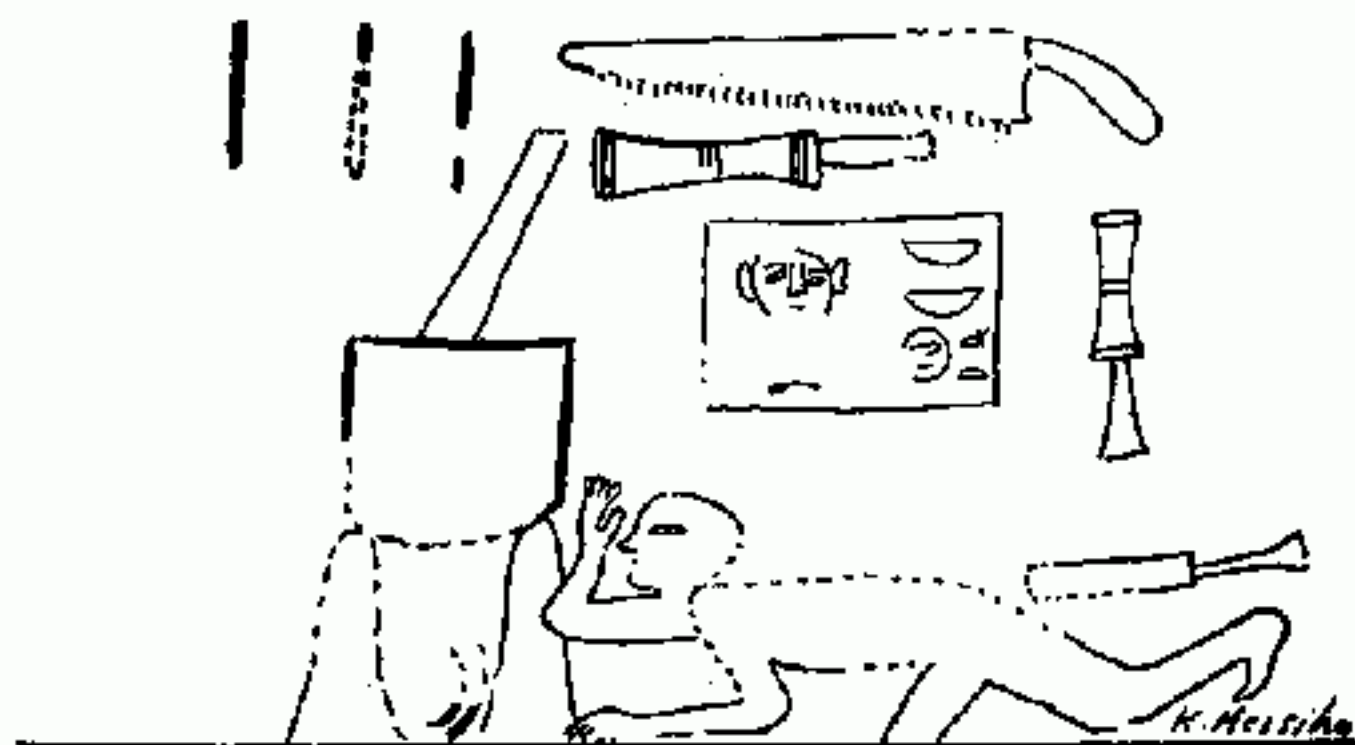


FIG. 16

Figs. 17, 18, are enlarged. <sup>(1)</sup>



FIG. 17

The fig 17. is taken from the upper part of the painting, it shows the artist holding an engraving chisel and a hammer, the chisel is formed of two parts, a wooden handle and a metal part. The sack behind the artist contains a saw and 3 chisels.

(1) Davies : Two Ramesside Tombs plate XXXVII, North wall Lower " The artist is working a piece of furniture to equip a temple of Amenhotep I ".

In fig. 19 "a" and "b" we see two chisels, the modern chisel and the ancient Egyptian chisel as imagined by the writers of that article.

Fig 18, shows the artist using a graver to inscribe the names of the king in the cartouches as usual. We can see that the engraver is standing on one leg, balancing himself so as to move freely to and fro, in doing so, he can press

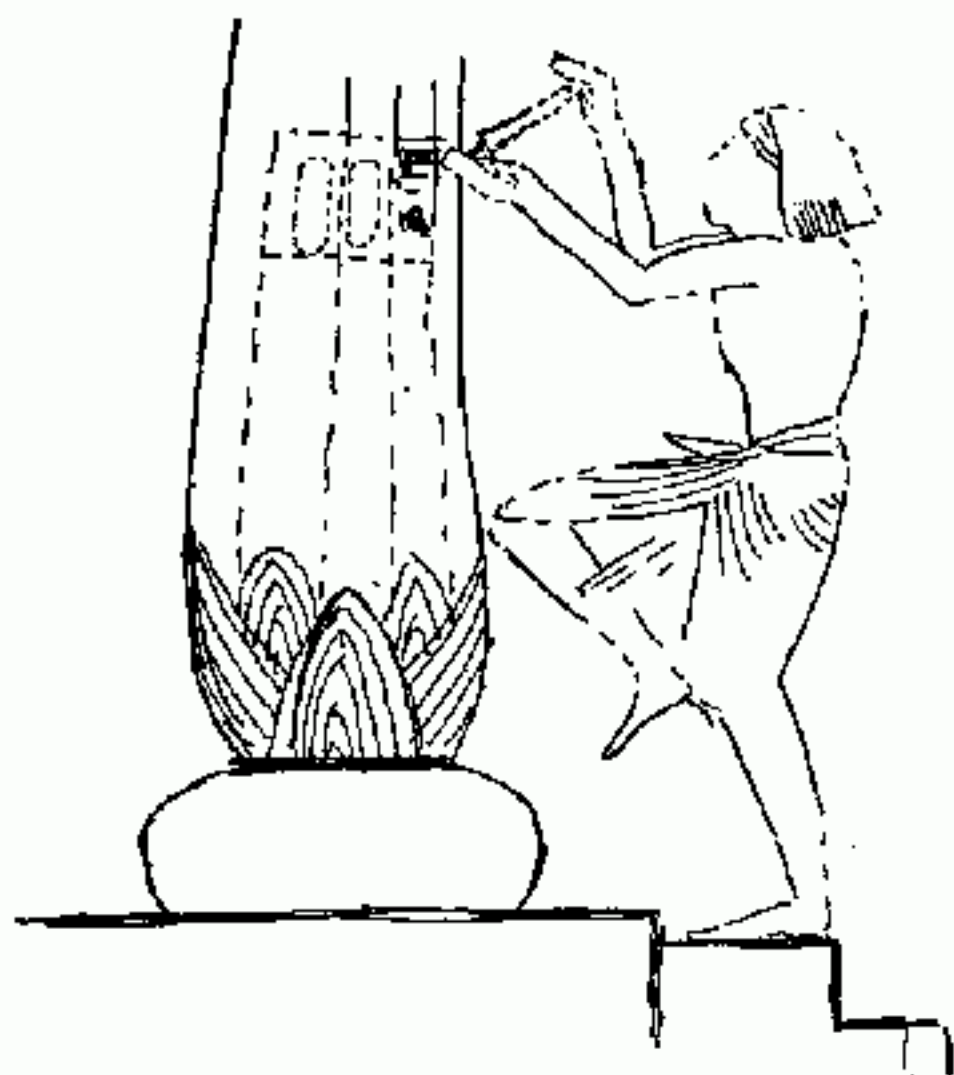


FIG. 18

lightly or with the weight of his body on the graver. Looking at his hands, we find that he is delivering light knocks at the handle of the graver, his left hand is leading the point of the tool which is most probably of "Group B tools".

The opposite drawing is part of the wall painting (North wall upper part). The figures drawn here show the preparation of the funeral equipment of Apy (the lower panel of the above mentioned wall).

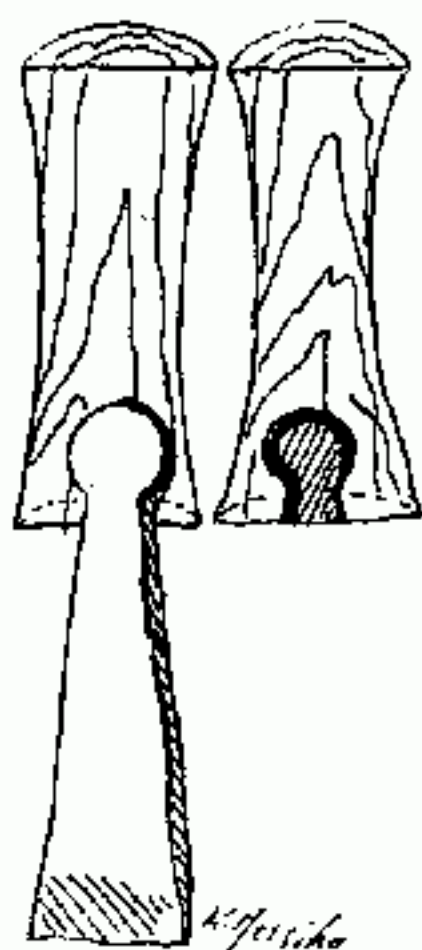


Fig. 19. a.

*Ancient Egyptian chisel*

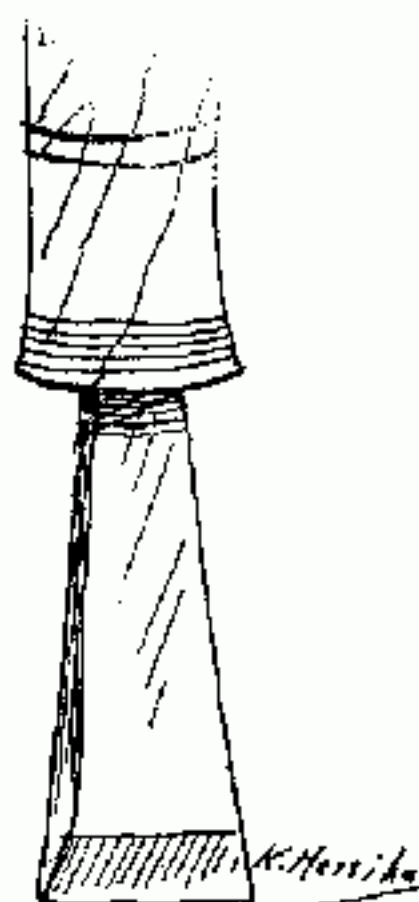


Fig. 19. b

*The ancient Egyptian chisel.*

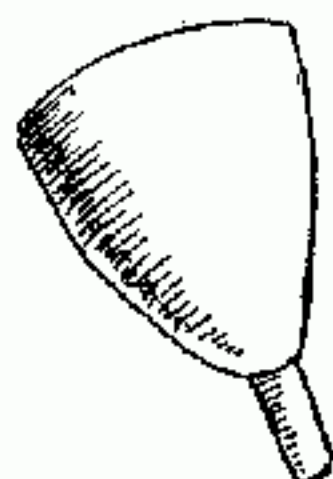
*Modern chisel*



The artist, in the upper part of Fig. 21 is holding a sharply pointed tool, perhaps similar to that found in the excavations (see fig. 12), we can also note that the point of the tool corresponds exactly to the line of the forehead of the mask. The other artist is sitting down holding a piece of furniture with his left hand and a chisel like-tool with his right hand with which he engraves (most probably on wood).

The implement fig. 13 is thought to be used for spreading plaster or scarping.

Ancient Egyptian hammer made of stone or wood (see Fig. 17 ).



Modern hammer still used by some woodengravers in Egypt.

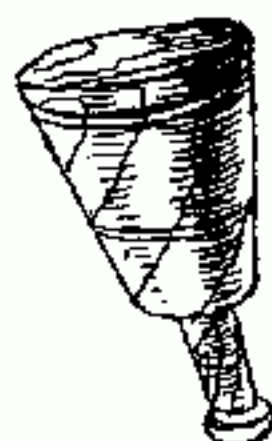


FIG. 20

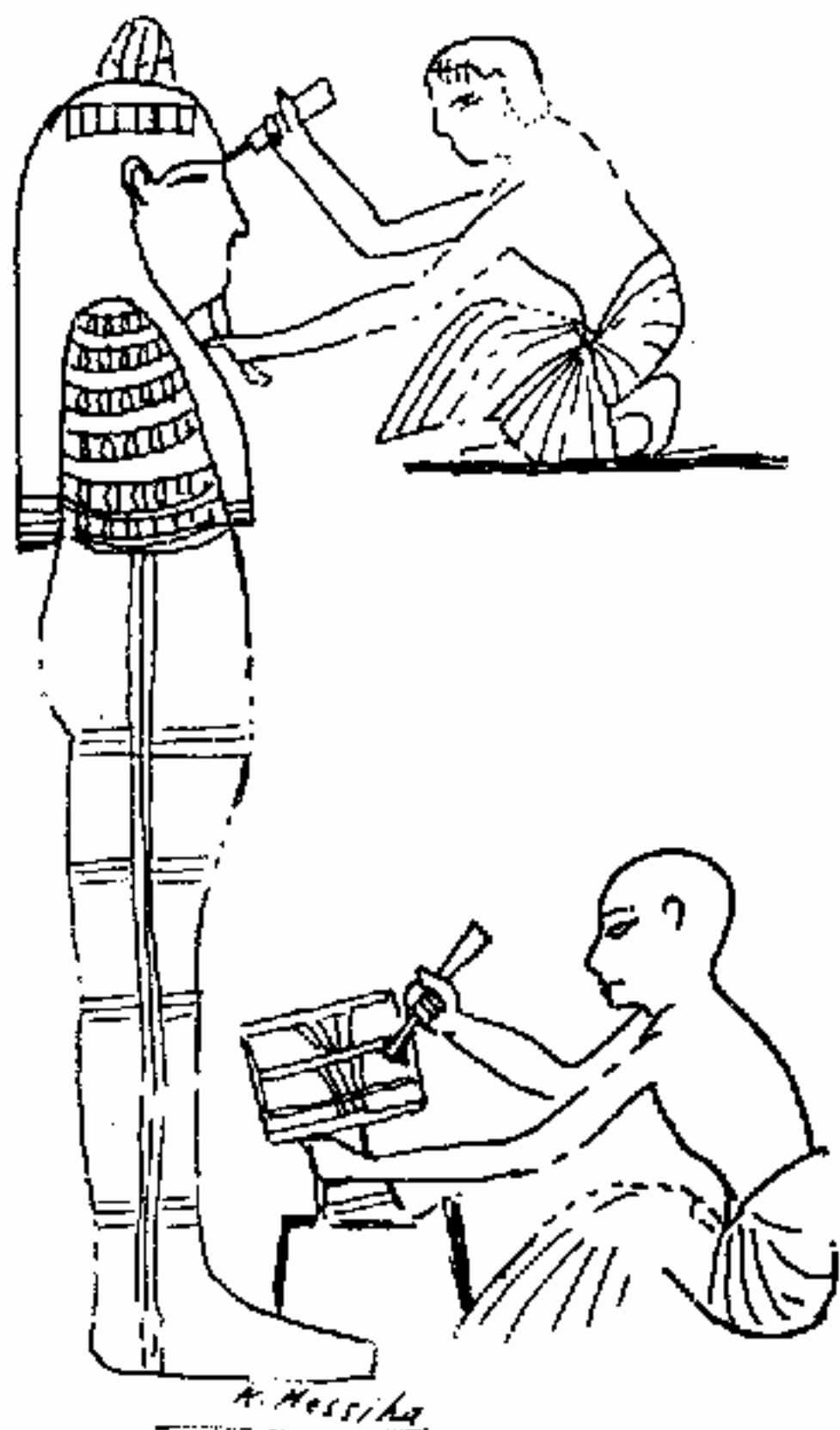


FIG. 21

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