



The Scenes of the Private Tombs of the Post-Amarna Period at Thebes and Memphis, A Comparative Study

By
Emad M.A. Ghaly
Assoc. Lecturer, Fayoum University

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Tourism Guidance Dept.,
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Supervision Committee

Prof. Dr. Abdelhalim N. Eddin

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Former Dean of Faculty of
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Fayoum University

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African Cultural Archaeology
Director, Costen Institute of Archaeology
UCLA

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Dedication

Abstract

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The ancient Egyptian dreamed about being honored in life by his king, being mourned in death by his family and friends, and being welcomed in the hereafter by his gods. The artists and tomb workers did their best all over Egypt to make this dream reality by depicting pictorial scenes accompanied by texts to immortalize whatever the tomb owner likes to have at his tomb. The tomb workers dug rock-cut tombs in Thebes and they built up freestanding tombs in Memphis necropolis for the high officials. The wall scenes of private tombs depicted the daily life of the deceased, his relations with gods, the awards and titles he held, the final judgment proving that he was innocent, as well as the family of the deceased. The women were given significant part on wall scenes as well.

The scenes of private tombs in Thebes and Memphis are excellent sources on which one can read full chapters of ancient Egyptian civilization. The private tombs are more important than the royal ones, when it comes to talk about the wealth of scenes that are covering the daily life side of the tomb owner and his religious side. It is clear that each tomb owner had the full right to select the scenes and the texts he would like to immortalize with him. The tombs and its plans reflected the social state of tomb owners. Some of the tomb owners began establishing their tombs once they got to their career, hence they could get their tombs done before their death. Most of them didn't get their tombs finished before death.

The private tombs of the Theban necropolis were rock-cut tombs, which were dug in the matrix of the cliffs in western Thebes. The high

officials buried in the Theban necropolis selected distinguished spots close to the mortuary temples of their kings. They benefited establishing their burials in the capital of Egypt during the New Kingdom. The high officials benefited from the significance of Thebes as the first city and capital of Egypt during the New Kingdom; hence they prepared their burials on the western bank of river Nile.

The private tombs of Memphis necropolis were in the form of freestanding buildings of mud bricks inclined with stones on the inner surfaces. The inner surfaces received decorations. The tomb owners didn't establish their burials close to mortuary temples, however each tomb is considered to be a mortuary temple. The high officials built up their tombs in Memphis necropolis for the significance of Memphis as a second city, Military capital, commercial center, and a religious center in the New Kingdom.

This dissertation presents a comparative study about scenes of private tombs in the Post-Amara period either in Thebes or in Memphis. It studies scenes of about thirty two tombs dating back to the reign of Tutankhamen, Ay, Horemheb, Ramases I, Seti I, till the first third of the reign of Ramases II.

The dissertation catalogues scenes, plans, and maps of the private tombs in Thebes and Memphis. It follows up the art style of each tomb and studies the quality of work. This dissertation presents a compared study, which makes it unique among the work of the same approach.

The dissertation is written in English. It is presented in the form of an introduction, four chapters, discussion, results, references, and appendices.

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