

Detail of the decoration inside the rock-cut tomb of Merssankhw M. M. Barta)

## Giza Plateau

## Mark Lehner

Ecavation of the Giza Necropolis has taken place over som Efour thousand years. Ancient Egyptians themselves began to mine the monuments on the Giza Pateau for vestiges of their
own past. The Middle Kingdom ruler Amenemhet I scavenged ieces of temples and tomb chapels from Giza and in corporated
nto the core of his pyramid at Lisht (Goedicke 1971 . New King an to the core of his pyramid at Lisht (Goedicke 1971). New King
dom pharaohs continued to quarry parts of the temples an yramids of Giza and incorporate pieces other temples, even as they excavated and restored the Great Sphinx (Zivie-
1976: 212-213; Sauneron 1953; Hölscher 1912: 66-67, 71-72).
The frst systematic survevs of the Giza Necropolis. from the turn of the
/6t to the 1yb centuries, focused mainly on the three main pyramids, their easurements and internal structures. True-to-scale maps of Giza started ith the Napoleonic Expedition at the turn of beginning of the 19"4. Centur
 Museum of Fine Arss, Boston, Hermann Junker and selim Hassan. In the
و90s, Zahi Hawass resumed excavation on an ambitious scale in the Giza cemeteries.
George Reisner's (1931) excavation of houses in the Menkaure valley Temple
1910 and selim Hassan's (1943) excavation of the planned housing atache
 site of ancient settlement. Larger scale settlementarchaellogy with nanalysis

 ,
This chapter locates some of the maior archaeological objects discovered at
Giza. (An overview of the sites sesesarch han be found in lanosi 2005 , Lehner Giza. (An overvien
and Hawass 2015).
Designating Archaeological Areas
 Egyptians started a carefully designed cluster
ated cemeteries of mastaba and rock-cut tombs.
Because of this design, major cemeteries may be in closer proximity a
nore denselt packed than at Abusir rand Dahshur The there principy per
 alley temple - estabished zones for the development of the cemeteries



different features. mostly rock-cut, call for a sub-zone, Eastern Field North

(EFr). Another planned series of mastabas (Gl-S) runs along the southern | (EFN). Anoter |
| :---: |
| side ofl |
| The area |





 1999: $282-288$ ) the Central Field, and Kharres caus
along the north a separate 2 one, central Field North
Because the quarry southeast of the Menkaure Pyramid (GIII) retains fea-
turesesthat Lures that are important for the archaeology of quarries, as well as inscribed
rock-ut tombs, it has been designated as a separate zone, the Menkaure Quarry (MQ).
The Ciza archaeological site spans outcrops of two separate geological for-
 ers, the Mogatam Formation slopes from northwest to southeastanat tat degegrees
down into down intoa natural wadi, widened by quarrying and filled with deep sande. As
a distinct, major topographical feature, that has been litte investigated, we



 archaeological site ends. On the east facing slope of the Madid Formation, we
can designate the concentration of Old Kingdom tombs and some Late Period

 give to the 13 ha of low desert, where about T Ta o f Fourth Dynasty settlement
has been mapped and sampled.the name teit l-Gurab Hect, rabaic for
"W
 ston- wal th
$176-180$ ).
Large-scale Excavations of Giza


 1942), directed the Hearst Eypptian expedition of the University of California
In 1905 the American ooncession at
Giza was transferred to to tarvard sity and the Museum of Fine Arsts. Boston. The story of how Giza was alloted
to and transferred amon the various missions has been published $\ln$ numbe of times. Se sesum maries by Reisner (1942: 21-26), Brovarski (1.166: 28-30), and
Manuulian (1999).




 Reisner (1942) was ken to typologize all attributes of mastaba tombs -
superstructures, casing, shatts, chapels, and more. However, he was not able to synthesize alication of ail the categries, and he did not come close
to descriptive publicaba tombs he excavated. Dows Dunham (1890-1984) and William Kelly simpson (1929-2017), started pub-
lication of the individual mastabas of Reisners concession for the Egyptian


 net (lhttp/Isizizad fas harvyard edu).

Schiaparelli worked on behalf of the Turin Museum from 1903 to 1905
(Curto 19663). Steindorffled excavations in the western end of the German con cession from 1903 to 1906 -07 (Steindorff Hollscher and Grimm 1991). In 1911,

 of he Khufu pyramid, cemetery $\mathrm{Gl-S}$, representing the Vienna Academy of Science and the Roemer- und eiiraeu-Museum, Hildesheim. Junker workee
from 1912 to 1919 and 1926 to 1929 . Between 1929 and 1955 , Junker published 12
 antura history of the Old Kingdom.
Clarence Fisher (187--1941) excavated on behalf of the Eckley B. Coxe Jr.


In 1928 , on behalf of Cairo University, Selim Hassan (18886-1961) began to
excavate mastabas and rock-cut tombs of the Central Field, south of the Kha-
 Worked until 1938 , finding the Amenhotep II Temple a the Sphinx. He cleared
and the Kharte pyramid boat pits and Khuutus upper temple. Like Junker Hassan published a series of volumes on the tombse and areas he e ecraveated
(Hassan $1936-1900)$ Abd el-Moneim Abu Bakr (1907-76) excavated from 1949


 houses and workshops
pyramid (Sale 1974 .





By the terms of the Ciza partitioning under Maspero, the Sphinx was frst
in the German concession and later transfered to the Austrians, but the
ind
 area in front from 1925 to 1936 under the euthority of Pierre Lacau (1873-1963)
虽
Designating Archaeological Objects
The numbering and description of tombs at Giza started with Carl 1 Richard
Lepsius 1 (1810-1884). When they surveyed Giza from 10 November 1842 to 10
 nother 37 tombst. They copied scenes and inscripioions. In the the order that the the




The numbering system that Reisner devised is still used. As mentioned, he
designated the three main pyramids sII, GII, GIII, and Khufuts sueens y yraz






 designated these tombs).
Manuelien 20065 1088 .
When he moved up onto the plateau and began to excavate larger, more
orderly mastabas at the western edge the Western Field, Reisner started his



Reiser applied his G +number designations, "to avoid documentary chaos
(Manuelien 2015: 2 ). In one of his earliest publications, Reisner (1905) stil) Hefers to Mastaba G 2000 (the largest at Giza) under ins is Lel Lepisus number astabas. He devised his numbering to reflect the logic of cemetery planning nd development. To describe his system, we ch
eter Der Manuulian's (2015:317-318) description




 fron to f the alphabet $(A, B, C)$ while exterio

When Junker pulished tombe of the midadle concession in the Western
Field in the frist ten of his wwelevevolum publications he occasionally re-
ferred to and sometimes ssed Reinerse






Starting in his frrst volume, when Junker (1929) presented masta-
tombs he gave them Roman numerals and he supplied either the tomb





When Junker (1944, Giza 7 ) published tombs on the east end of his strip
 Wner names, and 5 tnumber for mastabas and shafts. Unfortunately at som
hter point Reisner switched some of these numbers he changed certain tomb


some of Reisners oldar set of numbers, so that, for example, the mastaba of
Sheshemnefer II changed from 2200 which Unker uses to 55080 In
 All this variability in designating "objects" ${ }^{\text {" }}$ - with correspondence between
excavators here, umentary chas, certainly documentary complexitys not least because, all
around the larger mastaba tombs, in both the western and eastern fields
 28). How, then, to make tractable a cemetery site designed to pack as many
large, elite mastabat tombs as possiblde intoregimented order but whose spaces
 his Miteleleld Junker found
graves Junker $1950: 6-13)$.
The division of the Giza Necropolis into excavation concession strips and

 ical sequence). It was precisely to describe the necropolis coherently that Re
inser sounhta nuifeed numbering system that tincluded the tombs excavated
snd
. and published by his colleagues. Reis ser's consistent numbering proves mos
useful, ore example in Jnonosis (2005) study of Giza in the Fourth Dynasty.
At the end of his work, Reisner's (1942) ) overall maps of the Western Ceme-
tery as published in $A$ History of the ciza Necropolis Vol. $I$, retained only some
 cavated between 1903 and and 1907 in the western part of the midadele concession
strip retained their $D$.ner
 lise Reiterner keeps stomunker's
south of the Khutu Pyramid.
In recent years, Peter Der Manuelian has "tried to extend the logic of feis
 the tombs excavated by Selim Hassan in the Central Field. In his compre
hensive 200 stuyd, for rock-cut toms in the central Field, Janosi used LC
numbers or touns




 er and Late ereriod shaff tombs west of the sphinx, most prom
bells Tomb (Porter and Moss $197:$ : $20-291)$, now $G$ 9500.

Remaining to be designated with Reisner rumbers are many of the numer-
ous rocc cut tombs ont the escarpment of the Eastern field, some excavated
in in recent years by the thussian Armentoof the Eastern fild, some excavated
ra Kormysheva Russian mission numbered otherwise unidentifed tiombs with $G$ L + number Asoo lacking Reisner numbers are mall mastabasa in the Central Field West,


- The pyramids of Giza
of the Abu Bakr Cemetery (Abu Bakr 1953; Manuelian 2009: 320), re-exam
ined and re-published by Edward Brovarkk ind Tohfa Handoussa (2021); Ol Kingdom tombs of the "Workmen's Cemetery" in the eastern Maadi Forma
 Af: chap. 14; and allo other tombs of the South Field, dating to the Early D Late Period (Porter, Moss and Mále
There exists no single, best, unified map of the Giza Plateau that bring
togethe all the maps of the various cemeteries produced by the various ex





In fact, because of the complexity, density, and differences in the sizes of
tombs and their features, there is no one ideal such map. Any map can onl be an extraction. To display detail at various scales, vector maps are ideally 2oomable, and based in a Geographic Information System (GIIS) that can store
hyers of information of various classes and from which researchers can de ers of information of various clasese and from which ree
Topographic Maps of Giza Were Lacking
Any vector map is san abstraction. General mapp of the whole Ciza Necropo.
is published by the early 20 C Century expeditions were to abstract and too shematict to undersarnd the henerupony expeditition tin were to to abstract and and too nnd geomorphology. It is surprisising how shetchy is Reisner's published ove
nu ceneral Map of the Ciza Plateau. Reisner, Juker, Hassan and other exc


What is most consequential for understanding the cemeteries and pyr $20^{\text {"ch Century expeditions } \text { lack any vertical information, in the way of contouss }}$ spot heights. Junker demonstrated the importance of topographical ints-
 different terraces influenced ceme.
graphical maps have been lacking.
In fact, until the photogrammetric survey of 1977 that produced the MHR
$: 5,5000$ map sheets see below), the maps that bestrendered the overall C Cestalt
.







Was out over the tow desert and even Late Period mudbrick walls and a pro.
Over the following 150 years, professional survey focused on the pyramids,
with a special fixation on the Great Pyramid of Khufu (II). When Sir Finders Petrie surveyed on the plateau during $1880-1882$, graat mounds of debris still
obscured the sides of Gl . Petrie measured obscured the sides of GI . Petrie measured its exterior thrugh an elaborate
set of triangulatains
the that encompassed alt tree Ciza pyramids, resslving
the



 $\left.{ }_{20}^{(1981 ;} 2,2005\right)$, Lehner and $G 0$
MHR 1:5,000 1977 Map Sheets

 While they are no longer available for purchase, these are still the best maps
for the topogarahby of

Each of MHR map sheets cover $350 \times 250 \mathrm{~m}$ at scale 1.5.000. They were pro-
duced by the Consortium SFS/CIN, France from aerial photogrammetry flown ducea by the Consortuum
in $A$ Ppril 19 PT7 for the Esyptian Ministry of Housing and Reconstruction. They cover the Cair area and adjacent desert, east and west from northwest of the
Rosetta-Damietta split to south of Dahshur. The valley foor and high desert

 ing, for the Giza Plateau, most of the larger mastabas of the Eastern and West
ern Fields. These maps are a real boon for archaeologists who wish to study the pyramids of Abu Roash, Giza, Zawivet el-Aryan, Saqqara, or topics slike ancient Memphis and movement of the Nile. MHR map sheets $\mathrm{F} 17-18$ cover the
Giza Ilateau from north of the Khufu Pyramid to south of the South $F$ Fiel. Giza Plateau Mapping Project (GPMP)
Whilie the MHR $1: 5.000$ map series is a real boon for the topography unpyramids, tombs, and temples. Only those features are drawn which could
seen in the eerial hotosranhy from which the map se sen in the aerial photography from which the map sheets were com
the plotting was not done with a
a eye to to the archaeology of the site.
In 1984 Mark Lehner and David Goodman, Surveyor and Civil Engineer
with the California Degatment launchec the Ciziza Plateau Mappining Project (GMMP). The aim was to establish a control network from which a topographic map at a scale as large as $1: 50$ Lehner 1986; Goodman 2007; Goodmanm and Lehner 2007; Lehner 2007). ${ }^{\text {Pr }}$ Basic horizontal survey control was established in an 11-course, $6,000-\mathrm{me}$
er long, closed-lop traverse around the necropolis from the Gebel el-Qibl (GP1), suth to the South Field ridge above the southern wadi $($ GPP2-3), west
along the Madi Formation knolls rising south of the Central Wadi (GP4-7) northwest to the high point of the Moqqatam Formation (GP8), northeast




 | and rever. |
| :--- |
| 3l, 1984. |

The GPMP vertical datum is based on sea level at Alexandria, with val-
ues taken from a single bench mark located in the north face of the Khufu

 ment of Egypt is a hex exaonal cast iron disk with "Survey Dept." embossed on
its surface in Arabic and English. The diskk is cemented into one of the second course of pyramid stones, a acecimeter or so below the top of that stone. It pro-
trudes about 1 cm from the face of the pyramid stone and has an integrall cast trudes about 1 cm from the face of the prramid stone
nipple, 16 mm in diameter and 7 mm high in the top.
The top of this niple is the actual elevation point of the benchmark. This
datum was published in 1936 as Part Fiva of Descriptions and Elevations of


The established horizontal control matrix, the "GPMP Griap" is astronomi-
cally oriented. Coordinate values of the CPMP Grid are based on a calculated cally oriented. Coordinate values of the GPMP Grid are based on a calculated
horizontat center of the base of the Great Pryamid, which was assigned coor

 the (astron
$205-207)$.
Two survey monuments are documented as existing atop the Great Pyra-
mid. One monument bears frst-order and the other second-order geographic




 0 meters west (in the Western Field).
In 2018 Survevor Joel Paulson and Clen Dash used GPS (Clobal Positioning
Systems) to determine that the first order Survey of Egyot monument (the

 ${ }^{2}$ Ls Latitud
2018).
Before LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging. 1aser scanningy and widespread
use of GPs, the protocol that David Goodman broughto the CPMP was the pro-




 maps include the Khufu (GI) Upper Temple, Sphinx, Sphinx Temple, Khaf
(GIII Valey Temple, and Menkaure (GIII) valley Temple. In addition we hav mapped parts of the C Ciza Plateau for the Supreme Council of Antiquities, for
Zahi Hawas and for the Ciza Inspectorate: the AMBRRC trenchest that hit the



In 1992 Mark Lehner enlarged twenty-five of the $500 \times 500$-meter grid
squares of the MHR 15,500 map sheets (fl1-18) for Ciza and dlarified and

 twenty-five suares were completed these files were processed to extract th
 Plateau. This file of point proveniences was then used to generate a three-d.
 This surface terrain model, augmented by on-site survey, became a basis a generous grant from the charles and Lisa Simonyi fund for Arts and Scied
 Miracle, AERA's Gis incorporates all it it excavation and survey datat. In 201
funded by the clien Dash Foundation, ARRA team members began a concerte effort to bring all previous maps and plans of the crmp and ARR Arojects, in
cluding the temple maps 1 isted above, into the In our 2012 field season an ARRA survey team launched the Crund Trut
Survey Proiet, as we called it then, as payt of the clen Dash Foundation Sul


As prrt of this work, starting in 2 2ll, AERA collaborated with Peter
Hanuulian to geo referenee 6 historical maps produced by the early 20


 of the digitited plateau contour data).
the whole e plateau (Manuelian 2013).
More and more, topographical, archaeological and architectural data caa
be captured with GPS, photogrammetry, both terrestrial and aerial flow
 ninded of forge Luis borges story where cartography becomes so exact, $t$ soever, except that we can turn and zoom to the $3 D$ models to ony scall, and








 same eira Plitean as appured by the ele7\% photogram meryy. The



 Designating Giza Plateau Areas and Objects
on the Satellite Images on the Sateliite Images









 been given only to foeatures that heretoforerelackeed alphanumeric designations. Within areas GI , GII, , GII and S, features not previously designated with
alphanumeric code are given CIInumber, GIItrumber, GIIInumber, and $S+-$ number. Features and structures previously given an identifcation tag keep
that tag, so, for example, the subsidiary pyramids are alabellec Gl-a, GIIl-, ett. that tag, so, for example, the subsidiary pyramid sare labeled d Gl-a, GIIL-, etc
Tombs keep numbers previously asigned by Reisner, or by those who car-
320), who assigned 8000 numbers for Central Field tombs and 9000 numbers
for tombs in Area $($ (fg\% 6 ) and CFN (north of the Khafre causeway). Here




 etery by Handoussa and Brovarski (2021) became available. They give ABC
number to some, but not all of the tombs (e.g. ACC 263 , ABC 886 . So, the de number to osme, but not all of the tombs (e.g. ABC 263, ABC 8866 . So, the de
ignations give in fig. 8 can be amended.











 before e personally started excavating mastabas in the Western Field (Ma-
nuelian 200obb).

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