

A NOTE ON PYRAMID RESEARCH FROM THE ARCHAIC TO THE SECOND INTERMEDIATE PERIOD

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Ancient Egyptian pyramids are funerary and religious monuments which appear to us as being related to geometrical shapes. Famous as they are we have not reached a good level of understanding them. The reason for my judgement is that the greater number of these monuments are far from being sufficiently investigated. The larger portion of pyramid research is directed to independent pyramid investigations while a slender portion goes further; towards studying them in relation to each other; the data considered has to some extent served isolated items rather than pyramid subjects.

As the case may be in other fields of archaeology I believe that the debility of the present state of pyramid research can be dealt with when we: determine the scope of the study, assess our perception, clarify the aims, and reconsider the tool used for our research.

THE SCOPE OF PYRAMID RESEARCH can be determined by some lists of: funerary pyramids, religious pyramids, funerary pyramid like monuments, religious pyramid like monuments and other pyramid like monuments. A total of 148 monuments.

THE ASSESSMENT OF OUR PERCEPTION OF PYRAMID RESEARCH is based on gauging the data we possess. For this reason the elementary components of pyramids have to be compiled and classified. These items should furnish the bases of a pyramid catalogue. The data we possess needs to be recorded in this catalogue. By doing so we can realize the gaps which need to be fulfilled.

THE AIM OF PYRAMID RESEARCH should hopefully allow a better understanding of: pyramid concepts, pyramid construction, pyramid history and pyramid developments. The first deals with: the origin, definition, composition, function and nomenclature of a pyramid. The second deals with: planning, material-logistics, building techniques and administration of pyramid construction. The third deals with: the history of erecting the pyramid, how much of it was completed? For how long did it serve its purpose? And the history of the episodes of neglect, plunder, destruction, discovery, excavation and restoration of a pyramid. The fourth deals with observing changes in pyramid components and trying to understand the technological, economical, political and religious reasons which had caused these changes.

THE TOOLS USED FOR PYRAMID RESEARCH are conventional and technological methods of archaeology, and academic examination of classical documents. This work is achieved by scholars who are working with limited resource and scientists who are not entirely devoted to archaeology. With some exceptions, they are not working in harmony; their backgrounds, concepts, terms and goals are surprisingly apart. If they were closer, data would be obtained easier and quicker.

I am currently working on a the classification of pyramid components, a pyramid list and catalogue.