Abstract

THE LAYER MONUMENT OF SNOFRU AT SEILA

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During 2 seasons, the remains of the monument of Snofru at Seila have been excavated exposing the present measurements and heights above sea level. The original measurements are known from the reconstructions suggested.

The reconstructions options are: a step pyramid or a benben. They have been drawn from information of a plan of the aerial view of the monument, 2 elevations of the north and west sides and 3 profiles sections east west and one profile section on the south side.

Important stone objects from the nucleus and the outer facing were mixed with the rubble accumulated around and above the monument. The study of their shapes made us realize that they were key factors in the reconstruction. The shape of the steps of the pyramid or benben options became clear.

Other stone objects found were used to correct building irregularities and adjust the sloping angles of the accretion layers.

Among the many finds were fragments of a seated statue of king Snofru and 2 stele one completely defaced and the other bearing a serekh and a cartouch of that king.

Religious objects found seem to have been used in rituals performed at a north and an east chapel. These may help us understand the purpose of this monument.

No indications of a substructure have been found