

ABUSIR XXXI

**BUILDERS AND PRIESTS
OF THE PHARAOHS**

**Selected Aspects of the Administration
and Economy of the Old-Kingdom
Pyramid Complexes**

Hana Vymazalová

Charles University
Faculty of Arts
Prague 2024

Contents

Preface	11
1. INTRODUCTION	13
The Abusir Papyrus Archives	14
The Archaeological and Historical Background	17
The Aim of the Study	21
2. THE KING OF EGYPT AND HIS PYRAMID COMPLEX	25
The Concept of Kingship and the Royal Funerary Monument	25
The Pharaoh's Divine Origin	26
Kingship and Rituals	27
The Pharaoh Living and Deceased	29
Kingship and Funerary Beliefs	30
Funerary Establishments in the Old Kingdom	32
Royal Monuments	32
Non-Royal Tombs	34
3. THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PYRAMID-CONSTRUCTION PROJECT	37
The Responsibility for the Pyramid-Construction Project	37
The Role of the House of Life	43
Project Preparation and Planning	49
The Selection of the Construction Site	49
The Position within the Site	53
The Foundation Ritual	54
The Orientation of the Pyramid	57
The Architectural Plan	59
Mathematical Calculations	62
Project Implementation	65
Material Acquisition	68
Workforce Organisation	78
Other Participants in the Project	90
Settlements of the Pyramid Builders	92
The King's Residence or Palace on the Site	92
The Pyramid Builders' Settlements in Written Sources	95
The Pyramid Builders' Settlements in Archaeology	97
4. THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE ROYAL FUNERARY CULTS	109
The Priests' Pyramid Towns	110
The Priests' Towns in Written Sources	112
The Priests' Towns in Archaeology	115
The Old-Kingdom Priests' Pyramid Towns	131
The Attendants of Royal Funerary Cults	132
The Priests of Kings and the Priests of Their Pyramid Complexes	133
The Priests' Phyles	136
The Members of the Priests' Phyles	139
Other Attendants of Royal Funerary Cults	144

The Pyramid-Complex Attendants in Abusir	146
The Cultic Life in a Pyramid Complex and the Priests' Duties	151
Cultic Rituals	151
The Activities Associated with Cultic Rituals	157
Profane Activities	159
Administrative Tasks	160
5. PYRAMID COMPLEXES AND ROYAL FUNERARY ESTATES	165
The Produce of Royal Estates in Archaeological Finds	167
The Royal Funerary Estates in the Titles of Officials	170
General Titles Related to Estates	170
The Titles Related to Royal Funerary Estates	172
The Royal Funerary Estates in Textual Evidence	172
The Royal Annals	173
The Abusir Papyrus Archives	173
The Wadi el-Jarf and Gebelein Papyri	175
Funerary Estates in the Pyramid Complexes of Kings	176
Funerary Estates in the Royal Pyramid Complexes of the Fourth Dynasty	177
Funerary Estates in the Royal Pyramid Complexes of the Fifth Dynasty	179
Funerary Estates in the Royal Pyramid Complexes of the Sixth Dynasty	187
Funerary Estates in the Pyramid Complexes of the Old-Kingdom Kings	189
The Two Types of Funerary Estates	193
Funerary Estates in the Monuments of Queens	195
Funerary Estates in the Monuments of the Queens of the Fifth Dynasty	195
Funerary Estates in the Monuments of the Queens of the Sixth Dynasty	199
Funerary Estates in the Monuments of the Old-Kingdom Queens	199
The Scenes of Funerary Estates in Non-Royal Tombs	200
The Royal Funerary Estates in Non-Royal Tombs	202
The Funerary Estates of Queens in Non-Royal Tombs	203
The Funerary Estates of Non-Royal Individuals	204
The Funerary Estates with General Names	206
The Function of the Royal Funerary Estates in Non-Royal Tombs	206
Estates with Divine Names	211
The Divine Estates on the Palermo Stone	212
The Divine Estates of the Sun Temple of Nyuserre	213
The Divine Estates in Royal Decrees	214
The Divine Estates in the Old-Kingdom Pyramid Complexes and Tombs	215
The Royal Funerary Estates of the Old Kingdom	218
The Number of the Royal Funerary Estates Attested	218
The Function of Royal Funerary Estates	222

6. THE ECONOMIC BACKGROUND OF ROYAL FUNERARY CULTS	227
The Records of the Income of Royal Funerary Cults	229
Regular Daily Deliveries	229
Monthly-Overview Accounting Tables	236
Irregular Deliveries	238
The Deliveries of Food Associated with Festivals	241
One-off Records of Deliveries	248
Animal and Meat Deliveries	249
Grain Deliveries	252
Linen Deliveries	254
Consumption Overviews	260
The Suppliers of Royal Funerary Cults	268
The Sun Temples and the Royal Funerary Cults in Abusir	269
The Suppliers of the Royal Funerary Cults in Abusir	271
The Records of the Expenditure of Royal Funerary Cults	276
Offering Overviews	276
The Accounting Tables of Regular Rations	277
Grain Distribution	285
Meat Distribution	291
Linen Distribution	297
The Abusir Papyrus Archives and the Economy of the Royal Funerary Cults of the Old Kingdom	301
7. CONCLUDING REMARKS	303
The Construction Project of a Pyramid Complex	303
The Royal Funerary Cult in a Pyramid Complex	306
The Ruling King and Royal Funerary Cults	307
Future Prospects	308
List of Abbreviations	311
Bibliography	315
Index	355
Appendix 1	359
The Attested Funerary Estates of Old-Kingdom Kings and Queens	
Appendix 2	428
الفصل السابع : ملخص	