

side a small projection which is generally rectangular. The form of the sign hotep, which represents the mat, the bowl and the bread, from the side, can be taken as standard for the foundation plan of offering tables. The original arrangement is established and the development is significant. (Note that according to Egyptian perspective, the mat is viewed from above, while the bread and the bowl are seen from the side.) (The Large collection of offering tables of the Cairo Museum is described in the two volumes of the Catalogue Generale and some instances are pictured. Tables d'Offrandes Nr. 23001 - 23256; Bd. I Text 1909; Bd. II Tafeln 1906 - Abbreviation Cairo number) - In earliest times, the art of making reliefs came to be used in the service of the sacrifice tables. At first there was the upper surface flattened out and upon it a projection upon which was engraved the bowl and the loaf of bread which soon became so schematized as to be almost unrecognizable. On the flat surface itself the bowl and the bread are never replaced, but only some details of the mat, such as the twistings of the bundles of grass or straw are replaced. On this mat (that is to say, according to Egyptian art, above them) are represented symmetrically arranged two pitchers and two breads. This is the oldest and always remained the most common decoration of the offering table.

Picture I shows a larger representation (with long breads, shoulders of beef and fowl) the foods of the daily meal were thus put together on the mat. The projection of the sacrificial table is hollowed out in the form of a groove. This is a change which was made necessary by the libations, was a step away from the original properties of the reproduction of the projection. The bread and bowl came to be offset with a canal for the flowing away of refuse. An interesting detail of offering deserves to be mentioned. On the bread, one sees the dents, impressions as of fingers (cf. Cairo 23099). Almost always, the sacrificial gifts are pictured in excellent workmanship. The remaining surface of the table is more or less hollowed out so that the groove projects from the natural preparation.