

In addition to the regular Hotep there are also found two other forms, the round table and the oblong table (pictures 2 and 3.) The round table has nothing to do with the Hotep table in its origin. It is a round eating dish without any hollowing out, from which, later, through the addition of food, a table came into being. (See fig. 14) The Berlin Museum has a sample of this type from the time of the fifth dynasty (No. 1161). A single instance from a later period (18th or 19th dyn.) is found in the Museum at Cairo. (Fig. 2) The upper surface, which is surrounded by inscriptions, shows two hotep signs placed opposite one another. Each of which has two round loaves of bread. In order to make it possible to use the table also for libations, someone has chiseled out one-quarter of the table and thus has produced a hollow in which liquid could be held.

The oblong offering tables are characterized in the majority of cases by rectangular troughs which are connected with the over-flow channel by means of grooves. In some cases only one large hollowed-out place is found which fills the entire surface of the table, but the preference seems to have been to have two such hollowed out places, to the right and to the left of the table, parallel and beside one another. The oblong offering tables are also decorated with the Hotep sign and are thus designated as a variety of the regular Hotep tables. The Hotep projection is turned in and on the surface there is available, there are the relief reproductions of the pitcher and the round loaves of bread.

The offering tables are intended for presentations of food and for libations. In some cases, hollowed-out places are also used for ointments.

(On an offering table for the priest, Meri-ptah, the offering formula is as follows "Oh, priest, Meri-ptah, receive this, your bread, which is still warm and your beer." It is the wish of the living for the dead that his offering table shall flow over.

The hollowed out places are also represented as lakes in which