

the dead shall bathe. Also interesting is the plastic presentation of a frog in the overflow channel which can be understood in connection with this interpretation. (Berlin Museum No. 2305) The flowers which are often pictured on the tables are probably representative of the marshy ground at the edge of the lakes.

## II The Monumental? Hotep Altar. (Figures 4 to 7)

While the Hotep tables are, in the majority of cases found in the grave chambers, we find the three types of hotep altars, step altars and bowl altars, which we will now describe in the temple area. Let us take a glance at the Egyptian temple. Through the pylon, the gate which is flanked with two towers. One enters an open courtyard, surrounded by rows of pillars. In the middle of this court of pillars, a large altar generally stood. The wide area gave room for the participants, even in the case of large festivals. After this a covered hall of pillars followed to the Holy of Holies, the chamber with the reproduction of the god. In the side chambers there were reproductions of other gods. Generally the Wives of the chief god and His sons. The individual rooms of the temple from front to back gradually decreased in height and brightness, so that the sanctuary, the last room, is in complete darkness. Almost every temple also had side rooms which served as storage chambers and also sometimes there were special cult rooms in which are found altars. Those are either in front of reproductions of gods or of statues of kings and other notables. The dead were supposed to receive an advantage from the offerings and therefore the right of putting up a statue, which was given by the king as a very special favor, represented a great honor. In addition to the chief altar and to the other altars which we have just mentioned, movable offering tables could be put up in the temple rooms, and in accordance with the need these could be increased in number or could be put back in the store rooms. There were also offering stands of other types, containers for liquid offering gifts and finally the utensils for incense.

a The Altar in the Sanctuary to the Sun at Abusir.