

If this was done in the ordinary way so that the pieces were piled high upon one another, the surface of the altar with its area of approximately two hundred square feet could hold tremendous masses of flesh. It is uncertain whether the round plate in the middle remained free or whether it bore the best pieces. Even so we are in ignorance as to whether ~~XXXXX~~ vegetable offerings were also placed on the altar in addition to the flesh. In accordance with the ancient custom, surely decorations of lotus flowers were not lacking. On the hotep points, most likely, metal jars were placed, as is evidenced by their ~~XXXX~~ worn condition. The altar can be dated by the temple. The sanctuary of the sun was built by the king Ne-Woser-Re, the 6th Pharaoh of the 5th dynasty on the occasion of a jubilee of his accession to the throne (about 2700 B.C.) and dedicated to the sun god, Re. The cult of the sun is the explanation of the placing of everything in the north and south directions and probably also provides us with the explanation of the round middle section of the altar.

B. The Altar of the Temple of the Dead at Abusir.

The same king, Ne-Woser-Re, erected a mortuary temple in front of his pyramid at Abusir. It was excavated 1901-04 (L. Borchardt. Das Grabdenkmal des Königs Ne Woser Re, 1907.) In the open part of the pillar court the broken pieces of an alabaster altar were found. It is now preserved in the Berlin Museum (17931). Judging from the fragments that must have been a splendid work. The sides were decorated largely with sacrificial inscriptions: "Representatives of the nomes of Egypt, the times of the year, of the Nile, and of the sea, bringing gifts." Unfortunately a complete ~~xxx~~ reconstruction~~x~~ of the altar is not possible. It seems to have been a rectangular block. It stood in the right hand corner of the court. Like the pyramid and the temple it also was ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ oriented according to the ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ points ~~XXXX~~ of the compass. See the altar in the mortuary temple of Lischt (fig. 5). The French excavators have found the foundations of the mortuary temple or chapel of King Sesostris I (12th dynasty, about 1950 B.C.) immediately in front of the east side of the pyramid of Lischt. It