

at the service, while a number of priests are pictured in the courtyard, bowing themselves.

(Hallo, who has arranged the Egyptian monumental altars chronologically - Gotlinger dissertation 23, pp 19 ff. ) thinks that he can explain the high altars from the usage in the cult of the sun god, as due to the desire to separate the one offering from the earth and to bring him nearer to the heavenly receiver of the sacrifice. Hallo considers this erroneous since step altars are found in the other cultural groups without relation to the divinity of the sun. He thinks it much more likely that the step altars serve the purpose of lifting the offering person out of the festival crowd. He says that considerations of cult and not of theology are at the foundation of this type of altar.

#### IV The Bowl Altar (figs 11 and 12)

The bowl altar derives its name from the simple gray bowl. The only completely preserved bowl altar was found in 1884 in Mennechia and is now in the Museum in Cairo. A round basin hollowed out in the shape of a bowl, made of white limestone of about a meter in diameter is carried on a pedestal in the form of a long obtuse cone, which is very small in comparison with the basin. Basin and pedestal are made of two different stones. The pedestal is stood on the four corners or in the bottom of the bowl and stands upon a low foundation. Since the pedestal is so slender it is no wonder that only one such bowl altar has been preserved to modern times. Of others, large or small bases are preserved. The oldest one from the 5th dynasty. The simplest form of the bowl altar, simple a stone block with a bowl shape hollowed out, was discovered by Neville in 1910, in a mortuary temple of the 11th dynasty. The square cornered block of limestone is about a meter square and is .4 of a meter high. On the upper surface there is a round, hollowed out place about one-half a meter in diameter and a few centimeters in depth. Strangely, this sacrificial stone did not stand directly before the stand in the sanctuary, but was some meters away in the room in front, though clearly in