

# EL KULA

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## *A brief history of the layer monument el Kula*

H. Vyse and J. Perring described the layer monument in 1842. Later in 1882 G. Maspero, K. Brugsch, E. Naville, and C. Wilbour made an investigation that led to the destruction, seen today on the north side. They discovered a graffiti indicating that a Frenchman named J. Rifaud, who was an agent of the Consul of France Drovetti, worked at the pyramid in 1820. J. Capart 1946 made the investigation, which followed, his Architect J. Stienon made some sketches in brief article in 1949. Maragioglio and Renaldi; Lauer; Kaiser and Dreyer; and Swelim added a little in their research between 1962 and 1983.

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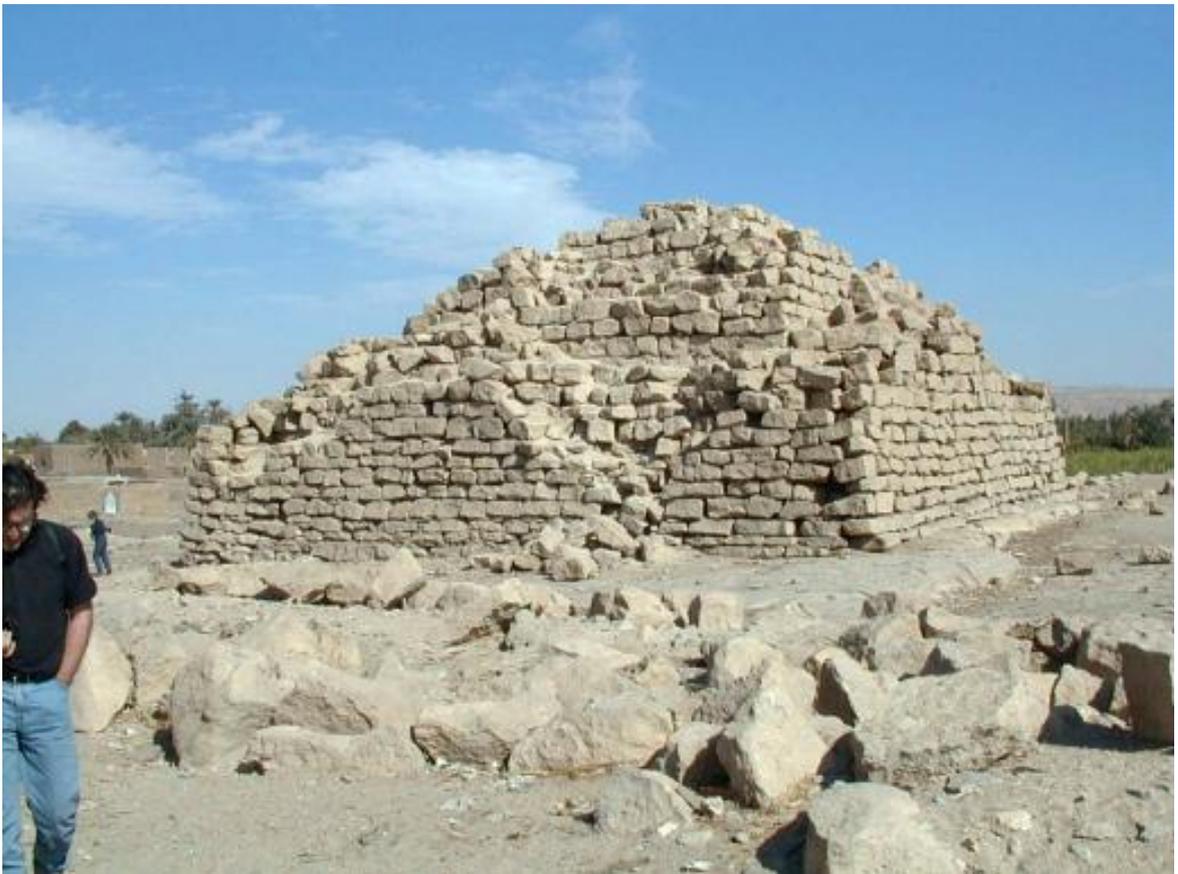
West corner and Wilbour's trench

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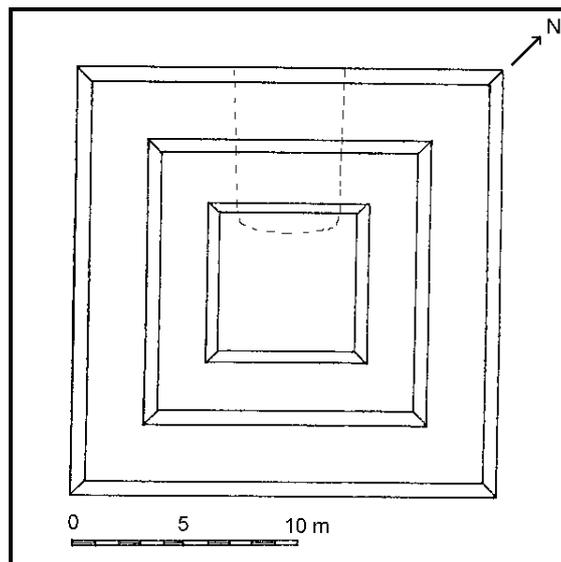
<sup>1</sup> Randall-Maciver D., Mace A. C., *El-Amrah and Abydos* (1899-1901) London 1902, 75-76.



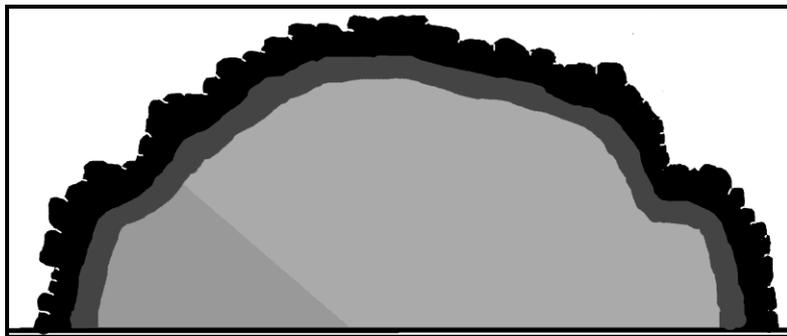
South east side



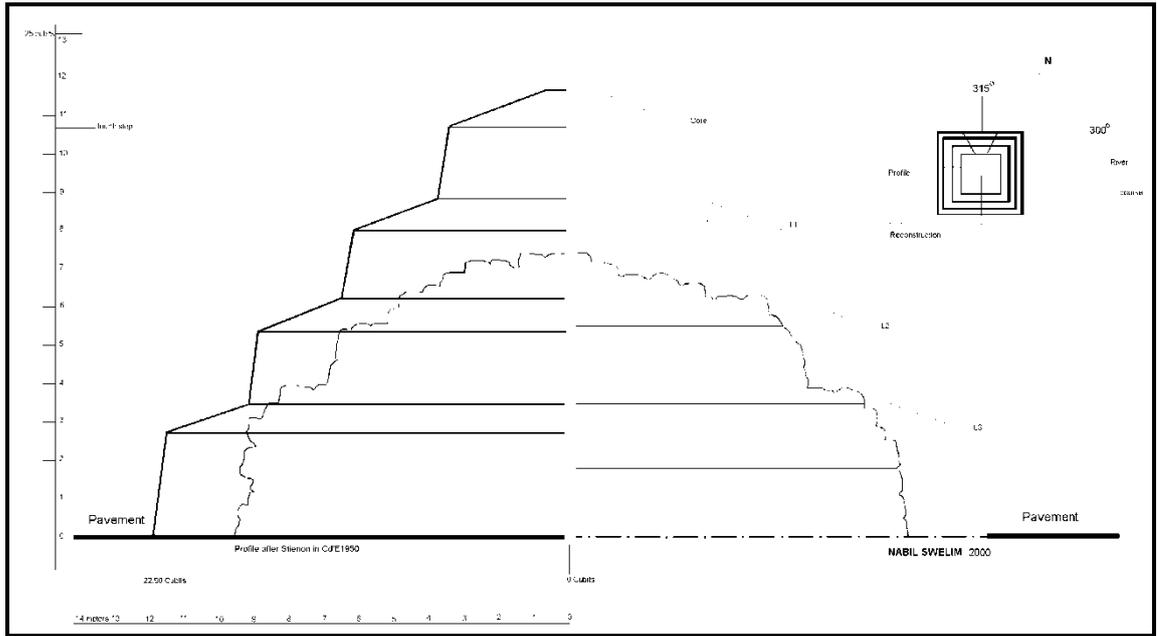
South west side



A sketchy aerial view of el Kula



El Kula profile



Reconstruction of el Kula over the profile of Stenon it shows a level ground which is not the case



El Kula on Google earth

### BASIC DATA ON EL KULA

It is located north of the 3rd nome of Hieraconpolis.

The monument is built on the edge of the western cultivation.

It is located 200 m SE of the village of Nag El Miamaria at a distance of 500 m from the Nile where the cultivation on the west bank is narrow. The course of the Nile between the islands of El Hellah and El Kalh is  $300^\circ$  for 30 km. The layer monument is oriented by its NS axis  $315^\circ$  thus deviated  $15^\circ$  east of the river course. It is recorded as the pyramid of El Kula on the maps of Egypt.

- Reference maps

(1:25 000) EL SIBAIYA, portions of sheets: 27/780 and 27/765 of 1987

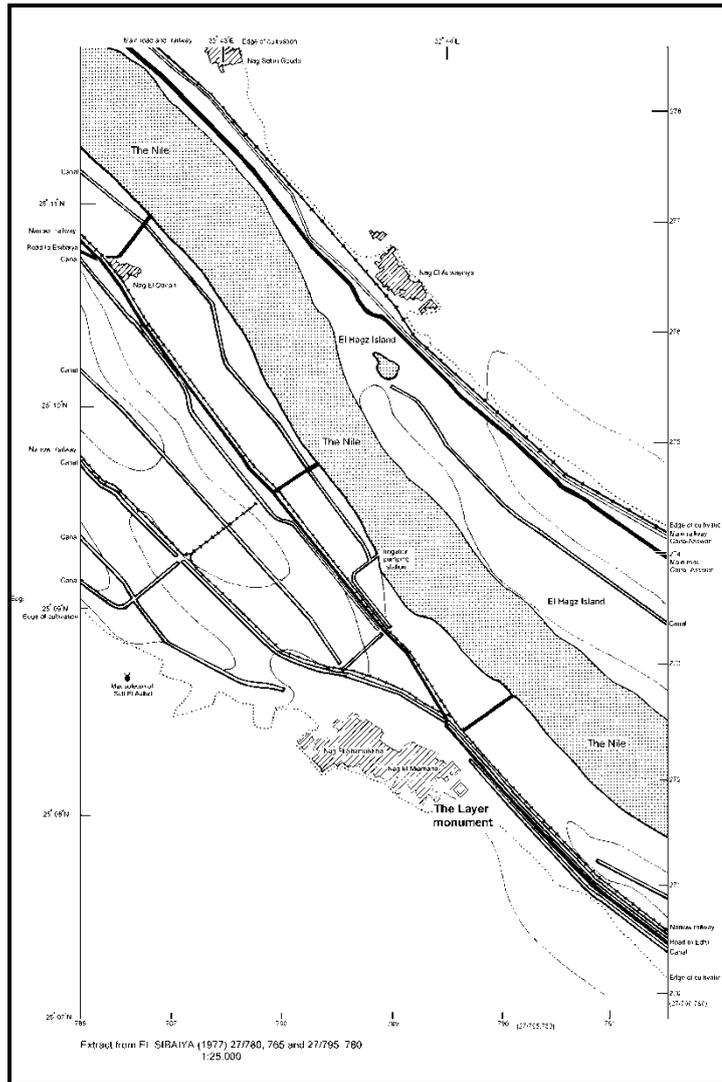
Map overlapping 27/795 and 27/780

1:100 000) IDFU, portions of sheets: 24/72 and 24/78 of 1943.

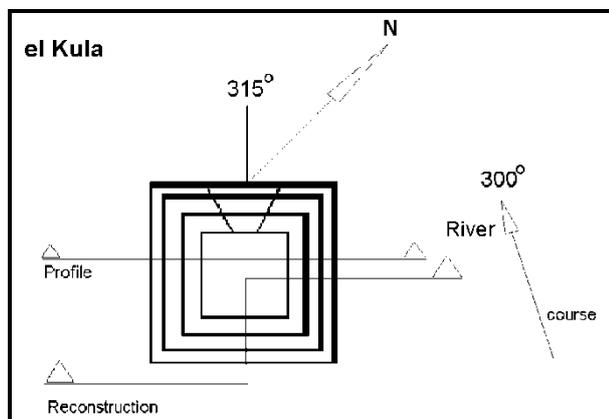
- Coordinates of el Kula by Google

$25^\circ$	08'	00.55''	N
$32^\circ$	44'	00.48''	E

- The region of the monument



- Icon of the monument and the river



- The axis is bearing 315°
- The pavement would have surrounds the monument at the highest level of the foundation of layer 3 which no longer exists

- The final monument (step pyramid option) would have had 4 steps
- At present the height is: 8.25 metres above the surrounding area
- The base length is 45 cubits, 23.6 metres, in the reconstruction
- The layer thickness is not uniform approximately 4.5 cubits, 2.36 metres
- The side angle of: Seked 4 – 7,  $20 - 8^\circ$  off the vertical
- Originally a height of 22 cubits, 11.5 metres above the pavement level, in the reconstruction
- Built on an unlevelled limestone surface, see the images above of the south east and south west sides

# EL GHENIMIYA

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## *A brief history of the layer monument el Ghenimiya*

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outh west corner of el Ghenimiya



South side of el Ghenimiya



Masonry on the east side of el Ghenimiya



West side of el Ghenimiya



El Ghenimiya on Google earth

### BASIC DATA ON EL GHENIMIYA

It is located south of the 2nd nome of Apollinopolis magna.

The monument is built on the edge of the western cultivation.

It marks the beginning of a desert track leading to Wadi Halfa on the northern border of the Sudan. The site is fairly flat, but disturbed and two places overlooking the cultivation are used as modern cemeteries. Hills can be seen 2 km north and 1 km south of the layer monument.

The site is located 5 km SW of the temple of Edfu, 1.5 km north of the village of Nag el Ghenimiya, 50 m west of the cultivation and 2 km west of the Nile. The course of the river between the el Ghenimiya and Edfu is bearing  $25^\circ$  for 5 km.

This monument is recorded on the maps of Egypt as 'Ancient antiquities'.

- This monument has never been excavated however, some information can be presented:
- While all the other monuments are built of limestone, elephantine or granite; el Ghenimiya is built of sand stone; the only pyramid built of that material in Egypt
- Reference maps

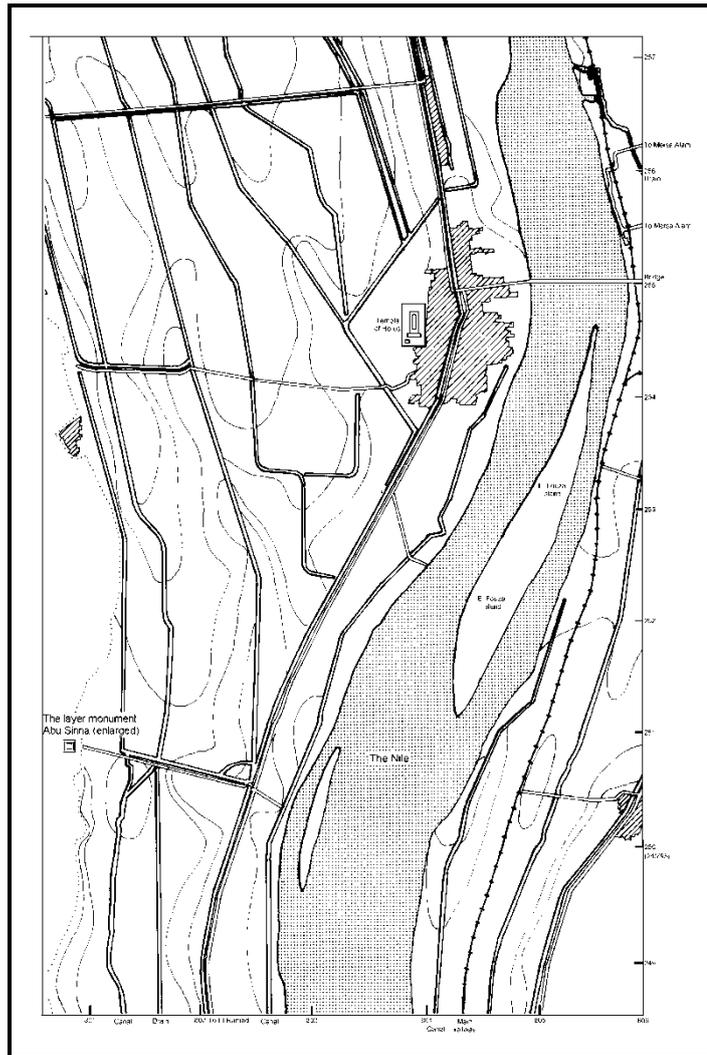
(1:25 000) IDFU sheet 25/795 of 1957

(1:100 000), IDFU portions of sheets 24/72 and 24/78 of 1943

- Geographical coordinates by Google

$24^\circ$	$56'$	$37.41''$	N
$32^\circ$	$50'$	$31.42''$	E

- The region of the monument



- It has an axis bearing roughly north
- The final monument (step pyramid option) would normally have had 4 steps
- At present the height is 5.5 metres above the surrounding area
- An estimated base length would be 42 cubits, 22 metres
- The layer thickness is approximately 4 cubits, 2 metres
- A side angle of seked :7,  $14^\circ$  off the vertical
- Originally the height of the reconstruction would have been estimated as: 20 cubits, 11 metres
- Built on a desert surface see images

# ELEPHANTINE

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## *A brief history of the layer monument Elephantine*

Early in the 20th century, this layer monument was thought to be the foundation of a temple of Jehovah established by a Jewish community on the island. Subsequently it was noted as a *granitmassiv*. The monument was never introduced to pyramid research until G. Dreyer investigated it in 1979 and published a plan and section showing that it was indeed an accretion layer monument. Dreyer's logical reconstruction of a step pyramid shows one of a few possibilities these ruins can lend themselves to

Early in the 20th century, the layer monument of **Elephantine** was thought to be the foundation of a temple of Jehovah established by a Jewish community on the island. Subsequently it was noted as a *granitmassiv*. The monument was never introduced to pyramid research until G. Dreyer investigated it in 1979 and published a plan and section showing that it was indeed an accretion layer monument. Dreyer's logical reconstruction of a step pyramid shows one of a few possibilities these ruins can lend themselves to.



North side of Elephantine



South side of Elephantine



East side of Elephantine

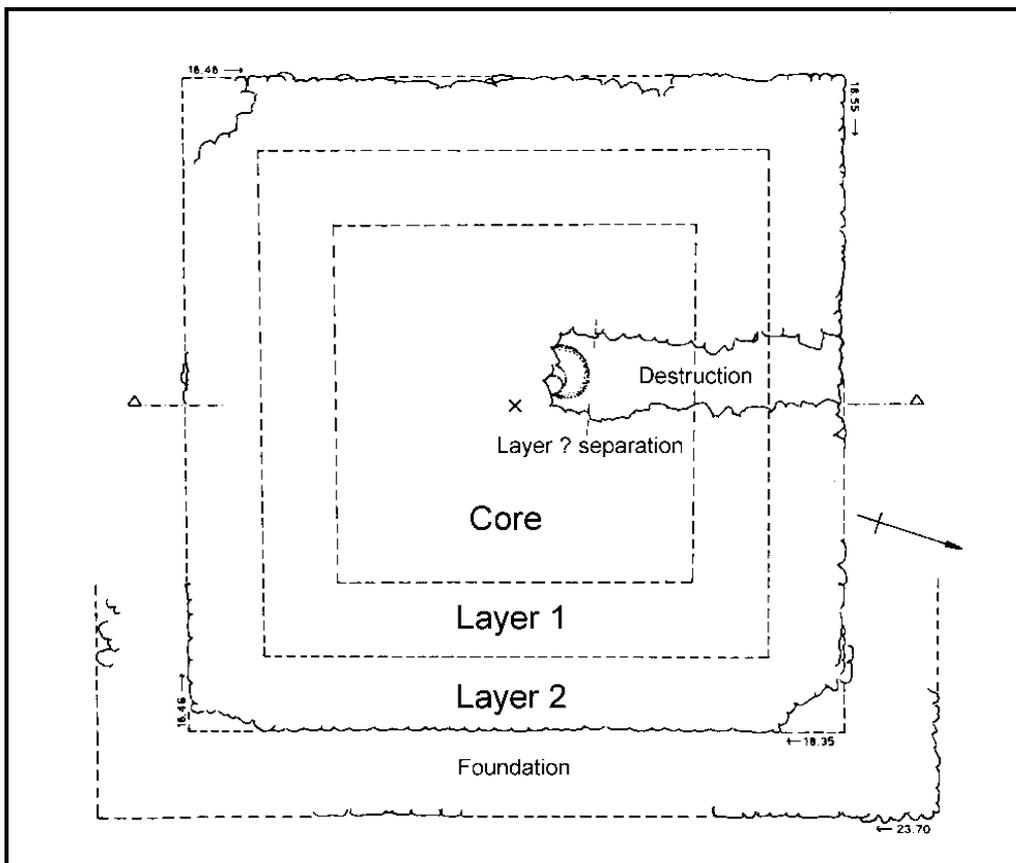


West side of Elephantine

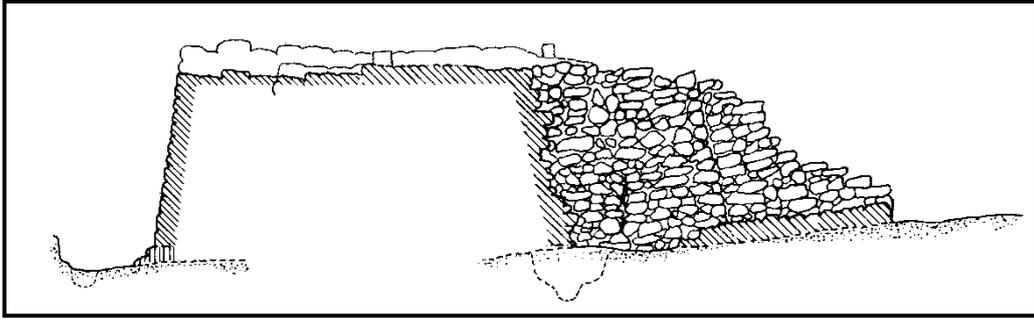
## RECONSTRUCTION OF ELEPHANTINE

At Elephantine, in addition to a bird's view, Dreyer has presented a profile and a section of some destruction down to the bed granite rock along the north south axis. The granite bedrock slopes toward the east and south. The platform, which was constructed on some of the lower parts of the bedrock, extends beyond the nucleus. It was not intended to create a level foundation for the builders to place the monument on but perhaps to reduce the irregularities beneath the building. Some of the lowest courses of layer 3 must have been rough, but brought this layer to a continuous level on which the outer facing was constructed; and a pavement surrounding the monument was considered. This situation created a base length of 22 meters (42 Cubits), at a level of 102 meters above sea level. The core and layer 1 are sloping at angles, which becomes more upright with layer 2. Not only here but also at some of the other monuments the faces of layer 2 are more precise with their orientation and side angles than the inner ones. This is achieved at the expense of changes in thickness along the horizontal and vertical axis of layer 2. The ultimate reason for this is to add outer facing with no irregularities.

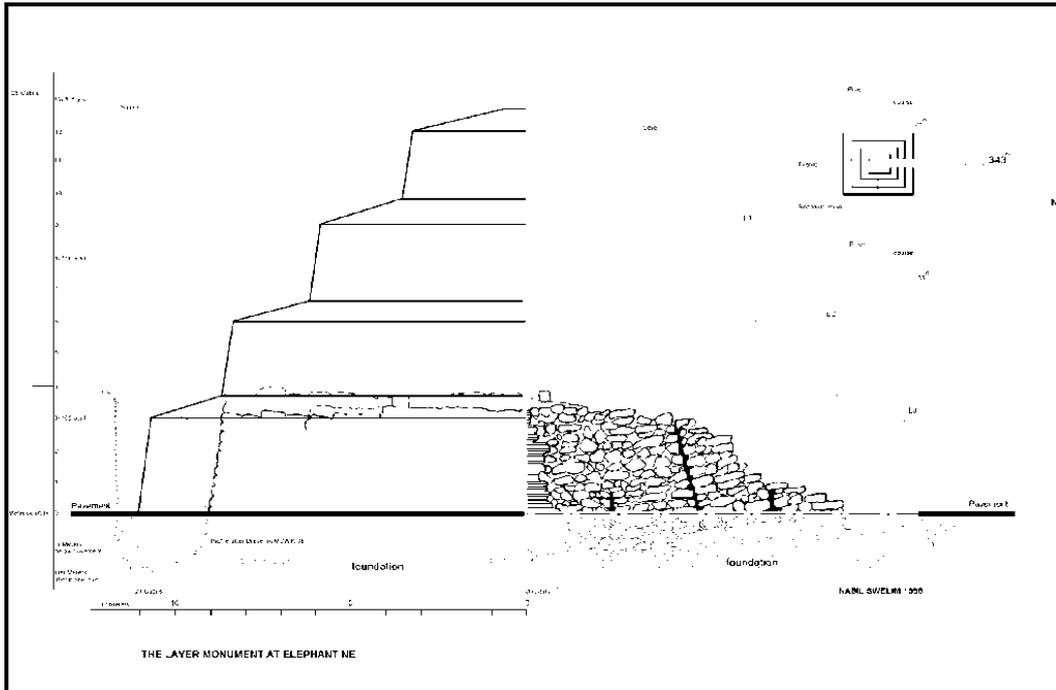
The step pyramid option of the reconstruction this monument results in 4 steps and a height of 12.8 meters (24-25 Cubits); 114.8 meters above sea level



Aerial view of Elephantine



Profile of Elephantine



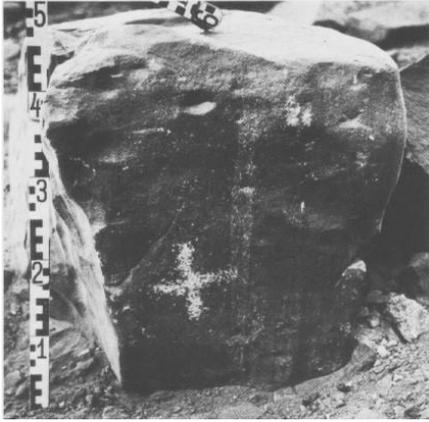
Reconstruction of Elephantine



Elephantine on Google earth



Close to the pyramid in 1909 J.E. Gautier found the famous granite cone bearing the name of King Huni of the Third Dynasty (now in the Cairo Museum JdE 41556). Kaiser and Dreyer thought that it came from the pyramid, but there are some difficulties in that respect.



Two marked boulders at the monument site

## BASIC DATA ON ELEPHANTINE

It is located at the first Nome of Elephantine.

The monument is built on the island of Aswan.

On the east bank of the river lies the city of Aswan, on the west bank are sandy cliffs and in between the island of el Nabatat (Kitcheners or botanical garden). The course of the Nile in this area between the mountains of Sluga in the south and Quubet el Hawa in the north is  $35^\circ$  for a distance of 5 km. On the island the archaeological site is 120 m NW of the Old Kingdom city and south of the present Nubian village. The river is some 250 m. to the south, east, and west. This monument is not recorded on the maps of Egypt

The assumption that Elephantine dates to Huni is questionable. Architecturally a large rough granite cone (135 cm. long) bears the name of Huni. This granite object will never architecturally fit anywhere in the nucleus or is dressed for an outer facing, which is completely lost except for its foundation. Ongoing research at Elephantine tends to date this monument to an earlier date than Huni who was the last king of the third dynasty.

Elephantine is the only one of the layer monuments which stands in a context of earlier, contemporary and later relics. The ongoing investigations at this location will be able to give us better dating than we possess at present.

While all the other monuments are built of limestone, el Ghenimiya in sand stone; Elephantine is built with granite boulders and becomes the only pyramid built of that material in Egypt

- Reference maps

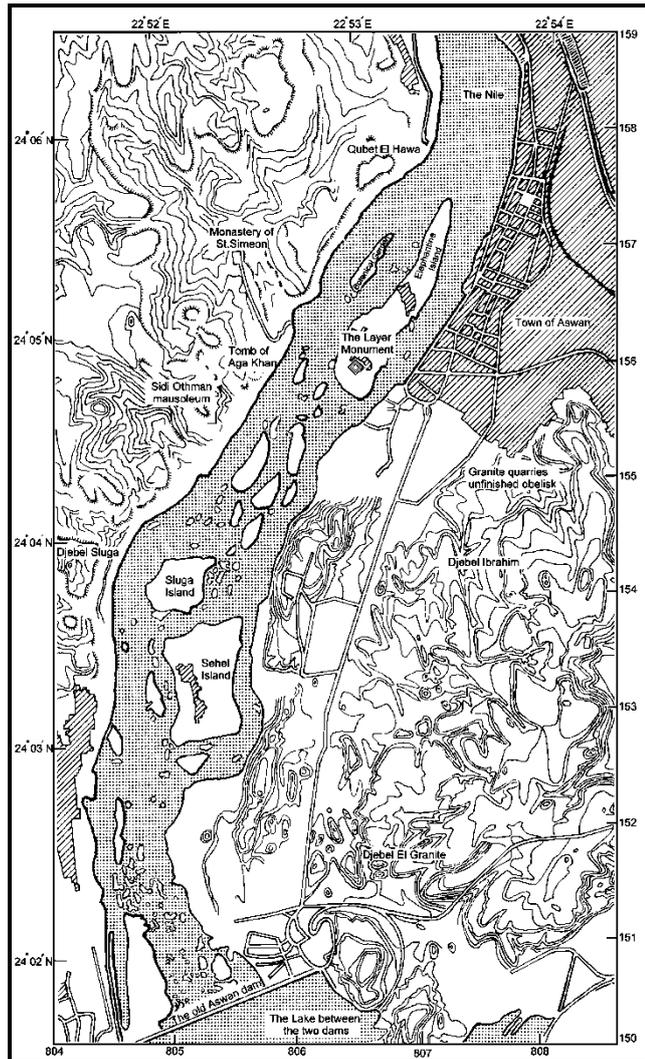
(1: 25 000) ASWAN, portions of sheets: 15/795 and 15/810 of 1988

(1: 100 000) ASWAN sheet 12/78 of 1940

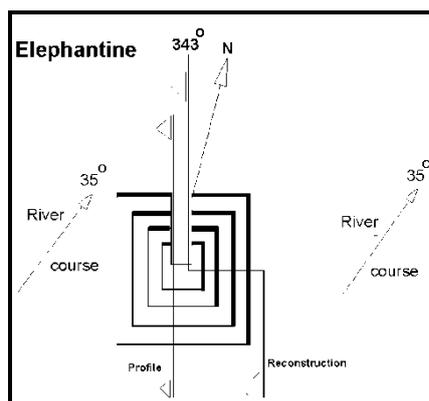
- Geographical coordinates by Google

$24^\circ$	$05'$	$08.25''$	N
$32^\circ$	$53'$	$08.01''$	E

- The region of the monument



- Icon of the monument and the river



- The axis bearing is  $343^{\circ}$
- The pavement would have surrounds the monument at the highest level of the foundation of layer 3 the width cannot be estimated
- The final monument (step pyramid option) would have had 4 steps
- At present the height is: 5.1 metres above the surrounding area
- The base length is: 45.23 cubits, 23.7 metres in the reconstruction

- The base of the core is: 19 cubits, 10 metres
- The side angle of the core is: seked 5 – 6,  $13^\circ$  off the vertical
- The layers thickness is approximately :> 4 cubits, >2 metres
- The side angle of the layers is: seked 5,  $10^\circ$  off the vertical but varies with layer 2
- The height of the reconstruction: > 23 cubits, 12.7 metres above the pavement level, in the reconstruction
- Built on an unlevelled granite surface see the profile and images