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Craft specialization through predynastic and Protodynastic Egypt

A thesis Submitted to the Department of Egyptology in Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Master Degree in Prehistory.

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1442 A.H. - 2021 A.D.

Abstract

This MA- thesis deals with the “Craft specialization through predynastic and protodynastic Egypt.”, which sheds light on the development process and Organization of Specialized Production in the Nile Valley in relation to Progress of Complex Societies, which is considered one of the major topics in Current archaeological discussions. The development process of Specialization may be deduced from Analyses of Production Sites, as well as of Products themselves. Although The Excavations have been mentioned also in a number of Works on the Pre- and Protodynastic Period in the Nile Valley, an overview about the development has not yet been obtained. This presentation is an attempt to review previous and to Provide a Working hypothesis for understanding the nature and characteristics of development of specialization in the Nile Valley during the 4th millennium B.C.

Studies of Craft Production are a fundamental part of archaeological inquiry in that they are central to the reconstruction of ancient lifeways and explication of sociocultural evolution. Most recent investigations of Craft Production are integrated into larger studies of Social, Economic, or Political Organization and Change; This is due to its association with Social Complexity. Studies of Craft Production are also integral to investigations of the role material culture plays in daily life whether on the social or ritual side.

Among the many factors, or subsystems, that Scholars take into account when examining an ancient Culture or a Society's path toward State Formation and Social Complexity, Craft Production plays an important role and Should be Considered part of an integrated System together with such other factors as Social Stratification, Long distance trade and Economy, Centralisation and Urbanisation, Bureaucracy and Ideology.

Takamiya identifies three stages of development in Craft Specialization:

- a ' Part-time Specialist Stage' form Naqada I to Naqada IIA.
- an 'Attached Full-time Stage' form Naqada II.
- a 'Mass- Production and Developed attached Stage' form Naqada III.

Scholars have also suggested Several models of development in the process of Specialization: a Commerical model, an Adaptationist model and a Political model.

Such Study deals with both Descriptive and Analytical approach. First, a Study ought to describe the technological, human, and organizational aspects of production, including the ways production articulates spatially, temporally, and socially with other activities. Second, One attempts an explanation of each of these aspects of production, both within the specific cultural- historical context of the case under study.

According to recent Studies, There are a wide variety of types of Specialization, which can be classified and described multidimensionally in terms of, for example, Intensity (Part-time or Full time), Relationship between Produces and the Consumers (Independent or Attached), Kind of Products (Utilitarian goods or Wealth), Scale of Production (Household Production, Workshop, or Large Factory), Geographical distribution of Production (Dispersed or Concentrated); These Factors will be taken into consideration when examining Specialisation in the Nile Valley.

Archaeological Evidences of Specialisation in manufacture are facilitated by a principle that makes a basic distinction between explicit and implicit evidence. Explicit (or Direct) Evidence is represented on the Analysis of Production Sites, which contained the Production Output, which refers to the Technology of Production, the degree of Standardization, the Quantity and Quality of manufacture and the Distribution of such Products in addition to the Kilns, Raw materials, and tools used in manufacturing. Implicit (or Indirect) Evidence, on the other hand, Constitutes the input in a production process, that is the relative degree of Standardization or Variability, Labour investment, Procuring of raw materials and the distance to resources, Technological complexity, measures of Skill, Efficiency, and Experience in making special and distinctive products. Sometimes Inscriptions were depicted on these Luxury goods gave us a good idea of the Political, Social and Economic life in Society during this Period.

This Study is divided into an Introduction that includes

the general framework of the subject followed by Previous Studies and the preview of the Concept, Stages, Origin, Models and Criteria of Craft Specialization, and The most important of its Sites in Pre- and Protodynastic Egypt, as well as Parameters of The Emergence of Craft Specialization.

Then come Five Chapters as follows:

Chapter One deals with Craft Specialization in Stone and Ivory Industries Such as Stone Tools, Vessels, Beads, Other Stone Industries, and Ivories.

Chapter Two deals with Craft Specialization in Pottery and Clay Products.”, which deals with Pottery Such as Very Fine textured untempered Pottery (Untempered Fine Ware), Marl- tempered Pottery, and Pottery for Utilitarian. Also Clay Products Such as Human Figures, Animal Figures, and Clay Rattles.

Chapter Three deals with Craft Specialization in Plant Products such as Brewing, Baskets and Textiles.

Chapter Four deals with Craft Specialization in Metal and Gold.”, which deals with Metal Such as Needles, Pins, Fish hooks, Awls, Axes, Adzes, Chisels, Bracelets, Rings, Earrings, Daggers, Blades, Knives, Harpoons , Nails, Arrow-heads, and Miscellaneous Objects. Also Gold such as Figurines covered with sheets of thin gold foil, Rivets, Beads, and Flakes.

Chapter Five deals with The relationship of the Craft Specialization With The Emergence of The State.”, which deals with Parameters of The Emergence of State, and The roles did Craft Production and Specialization play in the Origins of Civilization.

This MA- thesis has been appended to the conclusion that included the most important Results and Statistical Analyses, Bibliography, Appendix and Figures.