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Limestone relief slab from the tomb of Rehotep

From Meydum, Egypt
4th Dynasty, around 2600 BC

Rehotep seated at an offering table

Rehotep was a prince of the Fourth Dynasty, the son of King Sneferu. He served as high priest at Heliopolis, the cult centre for the sun-god [Re](#). Rehotep married Princess Nefret, and their twin [mastabas](#) were built near the Meydum pyramid. Stunning limestone statues of the pair are now in the Cairo Museum. The British Museum contains this fragment of an offering niche or [false door](#) from the tomb.

Rehotep is seated in front of a table of bread, above which are the [hieroglyphic](#) names of some important offerings, such as incense, eye-paint, wine and dates. To the right of that is a list of linen, surmounted by three hawks. Other offerings are named at the bottom.

Traces of paint on the stone show that the relief was originally very colourfully decorated.

Length: 114.3 cm
Width: 83.8 cm

[EA 1242](#)

[Room 64](#), Early Egypt, south-east wall

A.J. Spencer, *Early Egypt, The rise of civilisation in the Nile valley* (London, The British Museum Press, 1993), p. 111

W.M.F. Petrie, *Medum* (London, D. Nutt, 1892), plate XXVIII

S. Quirke and A.J. Spencer, *The British Museum book of ancient Egypt* (London, The British Museum Press, 1992), p. 36, plate 23

T.G.H. James (ed.), *Hieroglyphic texts from Egyptian stela, etc. in the British Museum*, Part 1, 2nd edition (London, The British Museum Press, 1961), p. 1, plate I

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