Visual Reflections on and Designations of Material Culture in the Reliefs and Paintings of Middle Kingdom Tombs

Research
Object of investigation: decorative programme of private tombs and the material culture of the Middle Kingdom

Visual reflections
Study of two-dimensional representations (icons) in relation to the three-dimensional artefacts (objects) which they were intended to illustrate

Designations
Philological investigation of the accompanying captions and the nomenclature of icons/objects

Crowd sourcing
MEKETREpository – online database for public use, still in progress
Systematic collection of Middle Kingdom private tombs and their decorative programme (plans and images, descriptions, references)
Thesaurus: controlled vocabulary used for the descriptions of icons

Difficulties
- Out-dated and insufficient publications
- Images of poor quality or restricted by copyright

Citizen science approach
Extension of the MEKETREpository by utilising crowd sourcing technologies in order to improve its usability
Upload – new interactive platform
Involvement of interested public and scholars who can provide unrestricted high-quality photographs, annotate the scenes and suggest terms for the Thesaurus
Data of suitable quality will be transferred to the MEKETREpository

- Which artefacts were represented in art and how?
- Was the development of the material culture reflected in art?
- Were some artefacts or images of them specific to a particular region or period of time, etc.?
- What were the object designations?
- Do the designations provide additional information on the objects' nature and their specific features?
- How do depiction and caption complement one another?
- Did icons and designations have a deeper symbolic meaning?

New interactive platform
upload.meketre.org