



THE EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY

Lanny Bell

THE 1977/78 SEASON marked the fifty-fourth year of the Epigraphic Survey at Luxor. Since its founding by Breasted in 1924, the Epigraphic Survey has been engaged in making facsimile drawings of scenes and inscriptions on the endangered monuments of ancient Egypt. Our present project in the Processional Colonnade at Luxor Temple, begun in 1974/75, is scheduled to conclude next year. We have already begun planning our next campaign, a return to the Medinet Habu complex to record the largely unpublished Eighteenth Dynasty Temple, as part of our long-time commitment to that site. From the work of the last ten years four volumes are currently awaiting publication: *Kheruef*, *Khonsu I-II*, and *The Seti I Battle Reliefs on the North Wall of the Hypostyle Hall at Karnak*. This year should finally see the appearance of *United with Eternity*, our guide book to the mortuary temple of Ramesses III at Medinet Habu.

In addition to my wife, Martha, and myself, our professional staff this year consisted of Dr. William Murnane and Mr. Mark Ciccarello, Epigraphers; Messrs. Reginald Coleman, Richard Turner, and Francis Howard, Artists; Mr. Eric Krause, Photographer; Ms. May Trad, Librarian; Mr. Sallah Shehat Suleiman, Chief Engineer; and Dr. Labib Habachi, Consulting Egyptologist. At the beginning of the season we were joined by Mr. Charles C. Van Siclen III, former Acting Director; and for the last three weeks we were assisted by Ms. Ann Roth and Messrs. W. Raymond Johnson and Richard Jaeschke of the Quseir Expedition. As in recent years, the funds for most of our operating expenses in Egypt came from a Smithsonian Foreign Currency Program grant, as administered through the American Research Center in Egypt.

Much of the Luxor colonnade, which is deteriorating rapidly, remains unpublished. Its decoration represents the major architectural monument of the reign of King Tutankhamun. The ancient Egyptian name of Luxor Temple, *Opet*, was applied to a great annual festival, the Feast of Opet, during which Amun was transported from his sanctuary at Karnak to Luxor. Amenhotep III (1386–1349) constructed the colonnade as part of his extensive building program, but did not live to realize its decoration. During the Amarna Period the temple was shut and deprived of its income; the figures of Amun were defaced and his name was hacked out. When Tutankhamun (1334–1325) resumed work on the structure, his depiction of the newly reinstated festival symbolized the return to the old orthodoxy. King Eye (1324–1321) completed the decoration on the Eighteenth Dynasty facade; then Horemheb (1321–1293) went systematically through the colonnade and usurped the cartouches of Tutankhamun and Eye, substituting his own name. The fact that he overlooked several occurrences of Tutankhamun's name, and the traces left during his erasure and recutting, allow us to reconstruct this sequence of events. The subsequent history of the colonnade down to Roman times has also been reconstructed by a painstaking study of the rest of the evidence presented by the inscriptions themselves.

Our base at Chicago House, opened in 1931, is now nearly fifty years old, and maintenance and repair are a constant concern. In preparation for our golden anniversary, we must initiate a comprehensive program of renovation and modernization of the facilities: the original electrical wiring is hazardously brittle and breaks at the touch; we need a voltage regulator to control the tremendous surges in the local current; water pipes burst regularly, and must all be replaced; many volumes of our world-renowned library, containing approximately 15,000 items, need immediate conservation; many of the 13,000 negatives in our equally famous photographic archive are disintegrating and need to be copied; and the photo lab needs to be updated to adequately care for even our most basic needs, with an eye to eventually being able to replace our antiquated 8" × 10" large-format camera and our crucial enlarger.

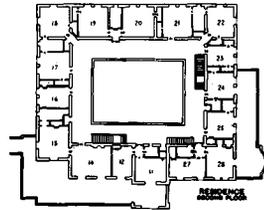
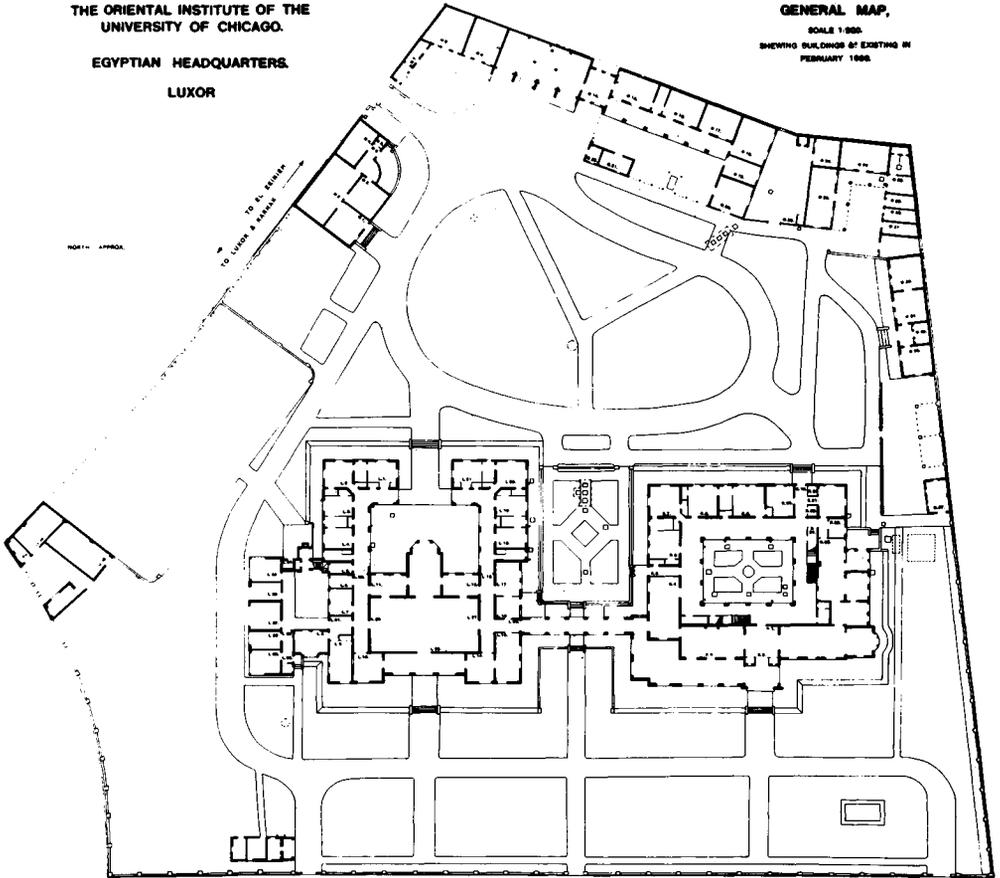
THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO.

EGYPTIAN HEADQUARTERS.

LUXOR

GENERAL MAP,

SCALE 1:500.
SHOWING BUILDINGS AS EXISTING IN
FEBRUARY 1906.



Architects' plan of Chicago House

This year we cleaned out most of the magazines and storehouses scattered over our three-acre estate, installed supplementary fluorescent fixtures in the library to improve the lighting conditions, and brought back into service the small engineer's house in the garden, disused since 1952, to provide work space for the Oriental Institute's Quseir Expedition. Over the summer our chief engineer is occupied with replacing the garden piping and the leaking water tanks which provide water pressure for the house.

We were pleased to be able to continue to provide vital services and extend our facilities to visiting scholars and the members of other Egyptological missions working in the Luxor area; this season we served as a staging area and base camp for the Quseir Expedition. We also welcomed four Oriental Institute/Field Museum Egyptian tours at Chicago House, as well as several Oriental Institute members traveling individually in Egypt. Our doors are always open to our friends.