



The Epigraphic Survey

Lanny Bell

The 1983-84 season of the Epigraphic Survey was our sixtieth. The anniversary was celebrated with an open house, reception, and photographic exhibition mounted in the Chicago House library in March, in conjunction with a tribute to the late Dr. Labib Habachi, whose death in Cairo, on February 18, was a great loss for all of us. The last two months of the season were deeply colored by arrangements for Labib's funeral and burial west of Medinet Habu and the subsequent memorial services.

The fieldwork of this season took us once more to both Luxor Temple and Medinet Habu. In the Small Temple at Medinet Habu our conservators finished cleaning the last section of decorated wall behind the red granite naos in Room P, as well as the naos itself. Tests conducted in several places around the barque sanctuary indicated that these areas could also be cleaned up very well. The bulk of the season, however, was devoted to filling cracks and gaps in the walls of the six roofed chapels at the back of the temple, in order to prevent further damage by birds, bats, and wasps, to eliminate air-borne dust, minimize erosion, and support the walls and consolidate their foundations. The same concerns led us to install a translucent skylight to replace the missing roofing slab in the central room (L), and a wooden door across the main entrance to this suite. The gapfilling was done in cooperation

with the skilled masons and plasterers of the Antiquities Organization's Qurna Restoration Section. The holes were carefully cleaned of dirt and debris, and crumbling sandstone surfaces were consolidated with resin before filling. Previous modern repairs which were still solid were left in place, but unstable patches were removed. The foundations and large holes were filled with new fired red brick and white cement mortar, the small holes with mortar alone. The surface of the repairs was tinted and recessed 0.5cm below the level of the preserved wall decoration.

Several decorated stone fragments recovered from gaps and in the earth next to the repaired walls were replaced in their original positions on the walls; and the plaster fragments containing a demotic graffito published by William Edgerton in 1937, found fallen on the floor in 1982, were repositioned. The three fragments of a broken over life-sized alabaster dyad, now located just to the north of the roofed chapels, were also restored. The upper bodies of the seated gods were reattached to the base with Sintolit polyester adhesive. The edges of the joins were consolidated with a thin coat of Paraloid 872 acrylic resin, and gapfilling was done with plaster of Paris, tinted on the surface with Cryla acrylic paint. In March we were pleased to be able to welcome the members of the Permanent Committee

of the Antiquities Organization for an inspection and discussion of our work at Medinet Habu.

At Luxor Temple the cleaning and consolidation of stone fragments continued. At the end of the season four fired red brick mastabas were constructed at the southeast of the temple precinct, and all the fragments so far moved to our study yard were piled onto these to protect them from tourists and the wet earth which threatens to disintegrate them. Asphalt and polyethylene damp courses will prevent infiltration of the salty ground water. Our conservators also monitored the plaster breaks placed atop the achi-traves of the Portico (Hypostyle) and eastern colonnade of the Court of Amenhotep III in the spring of 1983, as part of a continuing program to detect any shifting of the columns there. A report on the breakage patterns was submitted to Mr. Mohammed el-Sughayyir at the Luxor Inspectorate, and a further check on

the stability of these columns will be made during the next season.

Our epigraphers working at Medinet Habu have now completed hand copies of approximately 90% of the decoration of the whole Small Temple; only the high places on the Ptolemaic pylon and gate remain to be done. The copies will guide the artists in drawing these walls, and will permit making a complete dictionary file and assembling all the inscriptional evidence for the building history of the complex. Only 35% of the Ethiopian pylon has been published previously in any form, and scarcely 15% of the Ptolemaic pylon and the first court. The Graeco-Roman material at this site is crucial to understanding contemporary Theban theology, particularly the cult of Montu, the associations of Amun and the Ogdoad,

Visitors at sixtieth anniversary photographic exhibition in Chicago House library. Photo by Susan Lezon.

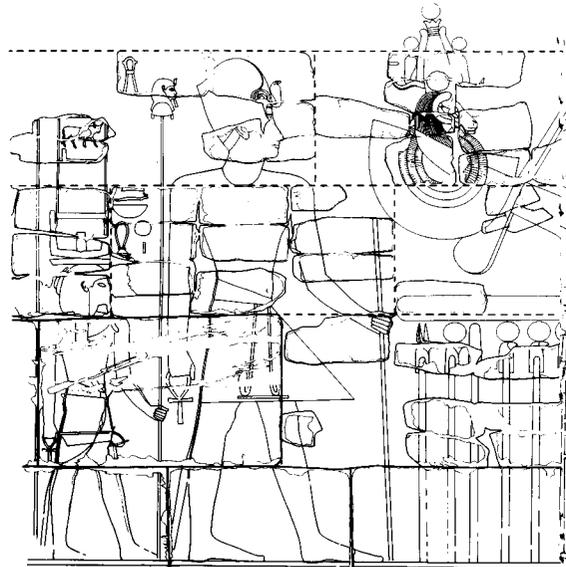




and the Decade Festival linking Medinet Habu and Luxor Temple by the periodic visit of the Amun of Luxor to the Amun of Medinet Habu.

A special aspect of our research at Medinet Habu is the study of the reused blocks built into the walls of the Small Temple. Of the 428 stones with visible decoration identified so far, fewer than 70 have been published; and only 55% have ever been photographed. almost all these stones came originally from the Ramesseum. The published pieces are nearly all from the great Ramesseum offering calender and the divine birth reliefs from the destroyed chapel of Queen Mut-Tuy, the wife of Seti I and mother of Ramesses II. Most of the remaining pieces are parts of battle scenes and victory processions, including rows of princes and princesses, and the

Offering scene on column one in the Luxor Colonnade, mentioning Amenhotep III as Tutankhamun's father. Drawing by Richard Turner and Barbara Garfi.



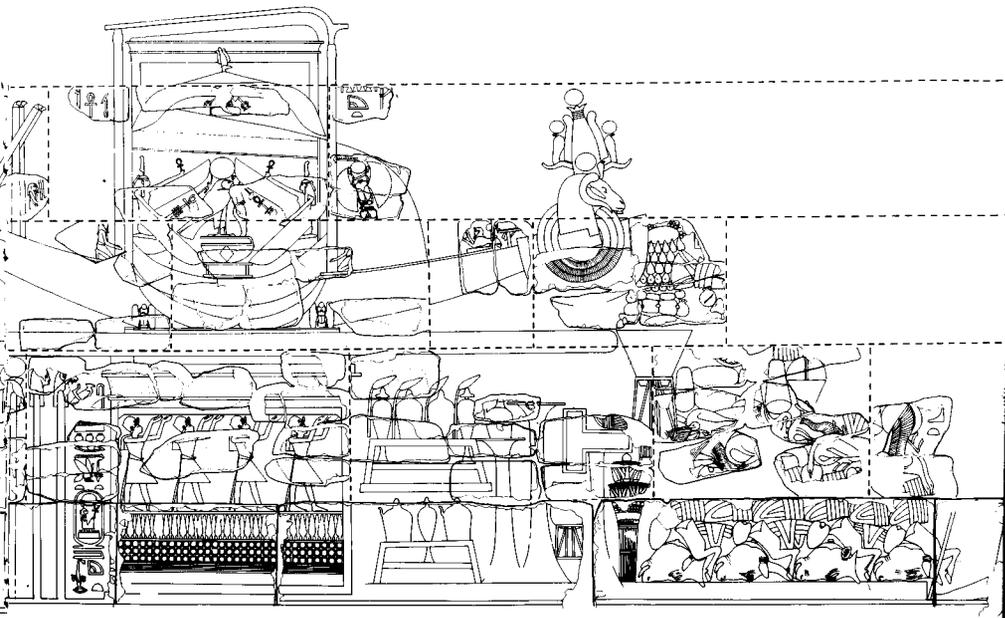
presentation of booty. The stones at ground level face a serious threat from the damp soil; this season we recovered a few displaced surface fragments, but some blocks attested in old Chicago House photographs have already lost their decoration completely.

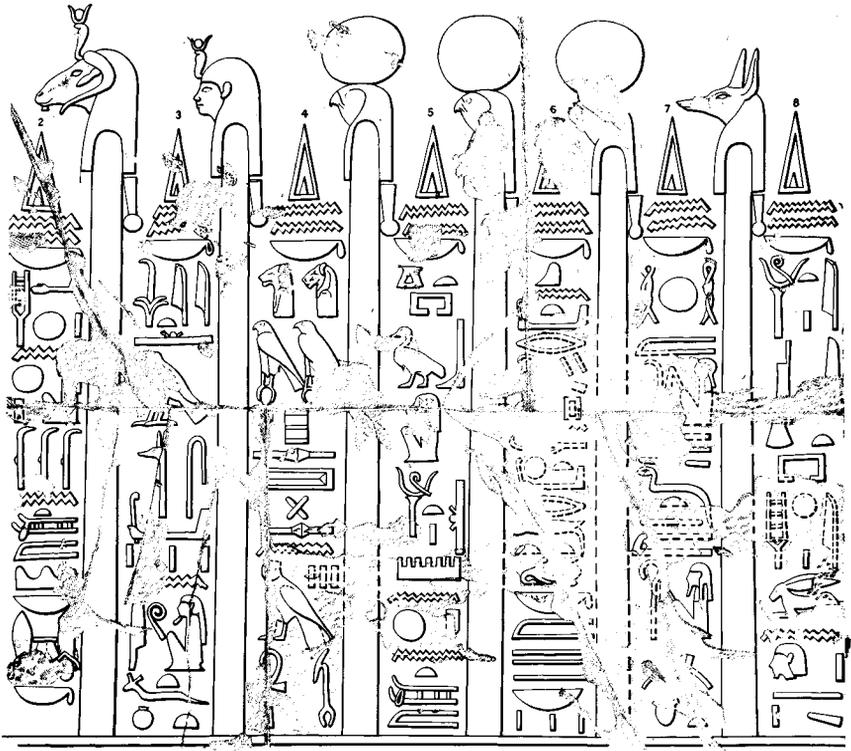
At Luxor Temple the checking and correction of drawings was continued. Two drawings serve to illustrate the results of this season's work. One is on column number one at the northeast of the Colonnade: decorated by Tutankhamun and usurped by Horemheb, a damaged inscription on this column contains an important unpublished reference to Amenhotep III as the father of Tutankhamun, previously mentioned only by Edward Wente in *JNES* 28 (1969), pp. 278-79. The finalizing of our drawings of the side

walls of the hall involves comparison of the traces in badly preserved areas with earlier photos and previous copies. In the second drawing the dotted lines represent details restored on the basis of the series of photographs published by Georges Daressy in 1894, just two years after the completion of the Colonnade's clearance. The shocking fact is that about 20% of the inscription on this small patch of wall (near the southeast corner) has been lost in the past 90 years. Through the courtesy of Dr. Elke Blumenthal, we have just received from the Egyptian Museum of Karl Marx University in Leipzig prints of the unpublished photos of the Colonnade taken by Friedrich Koch for the Ernst von Sieglin Expedition shortly before the First World War. These will be collated against our drawings in the next season.

Thanks to Dr. Jean-Claude Degardin, we have received copies of the Luxor material from Daressy's unpublished notebooks in the Collège de France. An analysis of these reveals

Reconstruction of fragments representing the king and the royal ka standing behind the barque of Amun in the court of Amenhotep III at Luxor Temple. Drawing by W. Raymond Johnson.





Divine standards depicted at the south end of the east wall of the Luxor Colonnade, showing dotted-line restoration based on 1894 photograph. Drawing by Reginald Coleman and Helena Jaeschke.

that Daressy, who worked at Luxor Temple during its clearance from 1885-92, had already seen at least some of the fragments of the Hatshepsut way station now built into the Triple Barque Chapel of Ramesses II in the First Court. He seems not to have recognized what they were, however, and their rediscovery and identification was thus left for us in the spring of 1983. His papers also include the first record of the socle inscription reexcavated and consolidated by the Antiquities Organization at the south of the Court of Amenhotep III in 1982-83. His version preserves part of the text which has since vanished, aiding us in explaining some of the doubtful traces in our own hand copy. Our examination of the reused fragments of the Hatshepsut shrine this season led to

the discovery of an undefaced Amenhotep II fragment depicting the resting barque of Amun. Its significance for the architectural history of this chapel is not yet clear.

We were also assisted this season by Dr. Jaromír Málek of the Griffith Institute and Professor Edda Bresciani of the University of Pisa in the identification of the spurious "cartouche of an Amarna princess" (on column number nine, near the southeast corner of the Colonnade) as a graffito of Edwin Smith, an American antiquities dealer and Egyptologist who resided in Luxor from the 1850's until approximately 1876. In addition, Professor and Mrs. Vitaly Shevoroshkin of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor helped us to collate our preliminary copies of the Carian graffiti on the façade of the Eighteenth Dynasty temple above the roof of the portico of Ramesses II. Our study of the theology of Luxor Temple progressed, with my own articles on the cult of the royal *ka* and aspects of the deification of Tutankhamun scheduled to appear next year in *JNES* and *Mélanges Moukhtar*, respectively. Bill Murnane analyzed the significance of false doors in the temple for the *Mélanges Moukhtar*.

The total number of fragments currently under study in connection with all aspects of our work in the Colonnade now exceeds 700. Our most recent work has resulted in the identification of 196 new fragments, with 177 photographed this season in preparation for reconstructing and drawing them. The searching and restacking of stones was pursued in cooperation with a project of the Luxor Inspectors under the supervision of Mr. Mohammed el-Sughayyir. The total number of pieces we have so far been able to place in major groups from the walls of Luxor Temple has now reached 420. Three separate

drawings containing 71 fragments from one stone course join together to form a sequence 11m long, which complements the preserved Opet Festival reliefs on the west wall of the Colonnade: five towboats (pulling the royal barge), the king accompanying the barque of Amun being carried on the shoulders of priests, and the portal of Luxor Temple. From the east wall, 48 fragments from two stone courses have been combined into a 5m group depicting the Khonsu barge with its towboats and the inscription accompanying the barge of Amun. Of the larger scale reliefs from the second register of the dismantled upper portions of the north and west walls, 178 fragments from two stone courses have been grouped into a strip 21m long, allowing us to reconstruct three offering scenes and the Min Festival (this scene itself now totaling 69 fragments). The overall length of the side walls of the Colonnade is 52.3m (W) and 51.4m (E). In the northeast corner of the Court of Amenhotep III just to the south of the Colonnade, 105 fragments from three stone courses have been associated in Ray Johnson's drawing of a group 9m long. This latter relief tells practically the whole history of the temple at the end of Dynasty XVIII and the beginning of Dynasty XIX: it was carved by Amenhotep III, defaced by Akhenaten, recarved by Tutankhamun, usurped by Horemheb, and surcharged by Seti I.

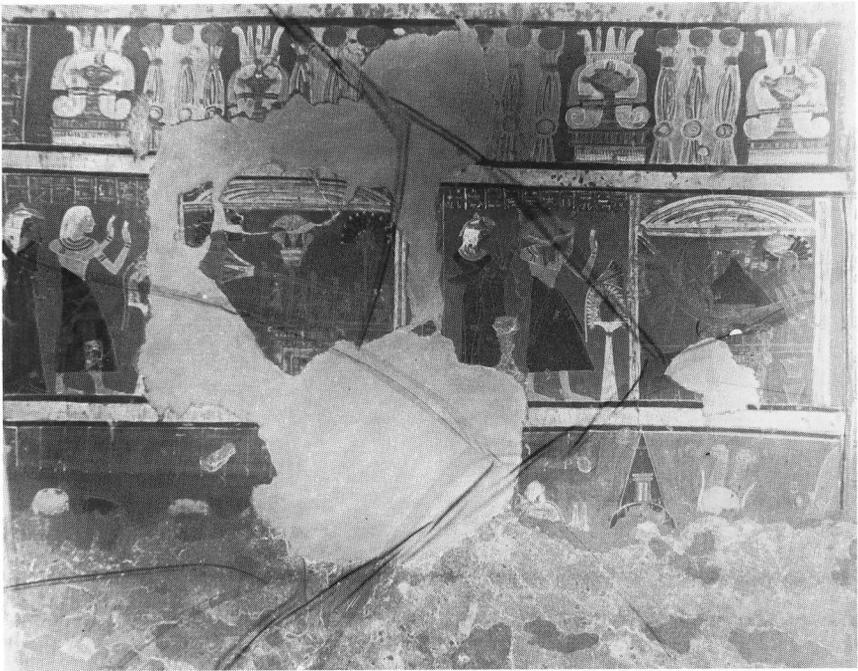
Although the publication of the Luxor Colonnade is still some years away, our volume on the Seti I battle reliefs from the north exterior wall of the Hypostyle Hall at Karnak is now with the printers; and Bill Murnane's volume of historical commentary, *The Road to Kadesh*, is being typed this summer. This season the photographs for the remaining illustrations for *Khonsu III* (the architecture) were pre-

pared in Luxor and are presently in Chicago awaiting receipt of Françoise Traunecker's text for editing.

Besides her fieldwork, our photographer continued to supervise the reorganization of the Chicago House photo archive, and pursued the duplication of our rapidly decomposing cellulose nitrate or acetate based negatives. This season she successfully copied, and thereby preserved, another 100 of the most unstable images in our collection; these were then filed in acid free envelopes stored in archival boxes away from the remaining cellulose negatives which could recontaminate

them. She now makes weekly spot checks on previously identified problem negatives, describing their rescue as a race against time. In the darkroom itself Richard Jaeschke helped our carpenter repair and consolidate a leaking antique wooden, lead-lined sink; and our chief engineer found a Cairo source of supply for the blueprint paper we have had to import for several years to use in reproducing our India ink line drawings for collation.

In the library, 261 new items were accessioned, in addition to current periodicals. The librarian undertook major repairs on 42 volumes, recased 8



Theban tomb wall, print made from a deteriorated safety-film negative in the Chicago House photo archive. Supposedly stable, this negative has been contaminated by prolonged storage near decomposing cellulose negatives.

books, made mylar covers for several others, and applied near's-foot oil and lactate to 113 leather bindings. Helena Jaeschke repaired one of the tattered fold-out plates of our much used copy of Wolf's *Schöne Fest von Opet*, and helped institute a new policy whereby users now must don clean white cotton gloves prior to examining folios, the Cairo *Catalogue général*, and all volumes over 100 years old. The Chicago House library is a major research resource for the members of the many expeditions which work in Upper Egypt during our six-month field season. On one Friday in March, for example, I counted ten visiting scholars at work in the library at the same time; many of them accepted our invitation for a quick lunch at the house to minimize the interruption to their research.

This season 515 visitors from 19 nations signed our guestbook, including 12 Oriental Institute members traveling individually or living in Egypt, in addition to those who accompanied the Oriental Institute's Egyptian tour in March, including University of Chicago Board Chairman Ed Bergman and his wife Lindy. Also from the University we received Jan Johnson and Don Whitcomb, Klaus Baer, Larry and Susan Stager, and Joan and Herb Barghusen of the Oriental Institute, and Argonne National Laboratory Director and Vice-President for Research Programs Walter Massey and his wife Shirley. Other special visitors were actress Shirley MacLaine and Congressman Les Aspin of Wisconsin. Let me repeat here our invitation to friends who come to Egypt to include Chicago House in your itinerary; please remember to let us know your plans as soon as possible, and contact us when you arrive in Luxor, so that we can arrange the most convenient time for your visit.

Four expeditions borrowed equipment from us this year, notably scaffolding, ladders, and a theodolite; and one expedition used our darkroom facilities. Our conservators were available for consultation with two expeditions, one individual scholar, and members of the Egyptian Antiquities Organization. Other services which we performed freely ranged from car repairs to collecting sand samples and providing both cut flowers for bouquets and living plants for neighbors' gardens.

Our professional staff for the 1983-84 season consisted of myself as Field Director; my wife Martha as Chicago House Librarian; Dr. William Murnane and Mr. Steven Shubert, Epigraphers; Mr. W. Raymond Johnson and Mr. and Mrs. Salvatore and Barbara Garfi, Artists; Mr. Richard Jaeschke, Conservator; Mrs. Helena Jaeschke, Conservator and Artist; Ms. Susan Lezon, Photographer; Mr. Charles Van Siclen, Administrative Assistant; Dr. Labib Habachi, consulting Egyptologist; and Mr. Saleh Shehat Suleiman, Chief Engineer. In addition to those already cited for their specific contributions in making this past season a success, we would also like to acknowledge MM. Jean-Claude Golvin, Claude Traunecker, Alain Bellod, and Jean Larronde of the Franco-Egyptian Centre at Karnak; Mr. Maciej Witkowski of the Polish Archaeological Mission to Deir el-Bahari; Drs. Janet Johnson and Donald Whitcomb of the Oriental Institute's Quseir Project; Mr. Richard Fazzini of the Brooklyn Museum's Mut Temple Project; Prof. Ricardo Caminos; Ms. Katherine Rosich; Ms. May Trad; Mr. Fathi Salib; Dr. Betsy Bryan; Prof. Ellen Davis; Mr. Peter Dorman; and Mr. Henry Precht. We were assisted in our conservation effort by a grant from the Chase National Bank in Cairo. Our

other expenses in Egypt and our international travel were covered by a counterpart grant from the Foreign Currency program of the Smithsonian Institution. Both of these funds were administered through the offices of the American Research Center in Egypt. Special mention is due to the members of the Egyptian Antiquities Organization with whom we worked most closely and whose encouragement and support contributed substantially to the successes of this past season: Dr. Ahmed Kadry, Chairman of the Egyptian Antiquities Organization; Mr. Mutawia Balboush, Supervisor of Antiquities for Upper Egypt; Mr. Mohammed el-Sughayyir, Director of Antiquities for Southern Upper Egypt; Mr. Sayid Abd el-Hamid, Chief Inspector for Karnak and Luxor; Mr. Abd el-Hamid Marouf, Inspector at Karnak; and Mr. Mohammed Nasr, Chief Inspector of Qurna.

Less than thirty years ago the ground water at the time of the annual inundation of the Nile was so high that Luxor Temple was flooded to the height of a man's waist, leaving salt crystals growing on the monument when it subsided. At the turn of the century the flowing waters of the Nile used to be directed into the temple to leach out some of this salt. With the construction of the Aswan High Dam underway more than twenty years ago,

it was hoped that control over the inundation would result in lowering the level of the subsoil water. Unhappily, this has not happened. The temple's foundations are now wet year around, promoting the migration of dissolved mineral salts which crystallize on the decorated surfaces as the ground water moves upward and evaporates. As with the preservation of our own priceless negatives—many monuments now much more extensively damaged than when these pictures were taken—there is a greater urgency to our salvage work than ever before. The time remaining for the fragile monuments located on the flood plain is extremely limited.

The Epigraphic Survey was designed sixty years ago not only to meet the scholarly interests of that era, but equally in anticipation of other needs which did not even exist yet. The plans of the founding fathers have stood the test of time remarkably well. Those of us who have served with the Survey for any period realize that to be a member of the Epigraphic Survey is not just a job; it is a commitment to a whole way of life. We continue to be most appreciative of the dedication of our skilled team members who continually demonstrate that they share James Henry Breasted's goal "to save for posterity the enormous body of ancient records still surviving in Egypt."