

THE EPIGRAPHIC AND ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY

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The fifty-second season of the Survey in Luxor was an extremely profitable one that saw the completion of two major projects and the beginning of two others.

The second volume of the Survey's long-term study of the Temple of Khonsu has been readied for the printer and will contain photographs, drawings, and translations of materials in the court, portico, and hypostyle hall. The volume contains over one hundred plates, and to make it and its companion, *Khonsu I*, more useful, it will also offer an index of words occurring on the more than two hundred plates these two volumes will contain.

Work on the historical scenes of Seti I, carved in the Nineteenth Dynasty on the outer face of the north wall of the Hypostyle Hall at Karnak, also came to a close; and work on its publication has already begun. The Seti I volume will include nearly sixty plates, translations of texts, indices of words and paleographic features, a discussion of the paints and pigments found in surprising quantity on the wall, and a study of several significant architectural features. We think that it will be one of our most attractive and important volumes to date. (A brief discussion of several of its most interesting features is to be found in *News & Notes*, Number 27, May, 1976.)

A good start has already been made on the recording of the scenes of the Feast of Opet in the Processional Colonnade at Luxor Temple, and the artists will be devoting their summer to the inking and correcting of over two dozen Opet drawings. A thorough examination of other materials in this impressive architectural feature of the Temple has led us to include all the inscriptions in the Colonnade, and we feel confident that in doing so we shall be in an excellent position



A detail of an Epigraphic Survey drawing of the Seti wall: a herdsman of Kadesh fleeing the army of Seti I. Drawing by H. Martyn Lack.

to trace its complex history of building and decoration. Thus, the Opet publication will also include the columns and architraves of the Colonnade, all of its walls, and the facades and interiors of its north and south doorways.

The archeological map of the West Bank of which we have spoken in the past got off to a start this season, although for financial reasons the start was not as grand as we would have liked. Nevertheless, a sample sheet was prepared to demonstrate both the need for such a map and the form that map might take; and it has shown that, in one small area where only four tombs had been noted previously, over twenty-five tombs in fact exist. Many of these tombs are inscribed, all are in poor condition, and the recording procedure we are using to map and describe each tomb interior will make it possible for archeologists and conservators to establish priorities for future West Bank recording. We hope that next year several large areas can be completed and an archive of tomb cards established.

Mr. H. Martyn Lack, who has served as artist at Chicago House for eight years and who, long before that, worked with the University's project at Saqqara, has retired this season; and he will be sorely missed. Also leaving, to return to Chicago and work on his doctoral dissertation, is James Allen, who has served as an epigrapher since 1973. To these, and to the others of our staff, William Murnane, Frank Yurco, Reg Coleman, John Romer, Frank Howard, Andree Bichara, our *ra'is* Hagg Ibrahim Mohammed, and, of course, all our local staff, goes the credit for an extremely productive year. Our work was again aided by funds from the Smithsonian Institution (through the American Research Center in Egypt).