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# KEY PLANS <br> SHOWING LOCATIONS OF THEBAN TEMPLE DECORATIONS 

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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO ORIENTAL INSTITUTE PUBLICATIONS VOLUME LVI

# KEY PLANS SHOWING LOCATIONS OF THEBAN TEMPLE DECORATIONS <br> BY HAROLD HAYDEN NELSON 



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\text { Reprinte1 } 196 \text { wits cerret, } 16 \text {, pl, XIV }
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## PREFACE

THE PLANS of the Theban temples here reproduced include not only the temples proper, in so far as they survive at the ancient Egyptian capital, but also a number of minor structures which are found within their precincts and can be conveniently included in this work. The area here designated Theban includes on the east side of the Nile the temples of Karnak and Luxor and on the west side extends from the Kurnah temple of Seti I on the north to the Ptolemaic temple known as Kassr el-cAguz on the south. Loose inscribed blocks, not fixed in position, are omitted from the plans, as such stones are constantly shifted from place to place and locations assigned to them at one time may be totally incorrect shortly afterward. The plans therefore show only such remains as are still in situ or have been set by excavators in what appear to be fairly permanent positions. ${ }^{1}$
The plans here reproduced were prepared originally not for publication but merely as a convenient means of locating the photographs of these temples taken by the Epigraphic Survey of the Oriental Institute at Luxor. Soon after the photographing of the temple of Ramses III at Medinet Habu was begun a sketch plan of the temple was prepared, and on it were indicated by numbers in series the locations of the various reliefs on the walls of that building. At first this numbering was not absolutely inclusive, for such elements of the decoration as the long inscriptions in large hieroglyphs that appear above and below the reliefs on the outside of the temple and in the great courts were omitted. Only the scenes proper and the many-lined inscriptions were brought within the scheme. As each of these items was photographed, the number assigned to it on the plan was noted on the back of the print, which was then filed in its proper numerical order. Before long these location numbers became incorporated in the various field records of the Survey to such an extent that it was impossible to change them without introducing confusion into the records. When later it was found desirable to assign numbers to units of the temple decorations which had been omitted from the original census, it was frequently impossible to number them within the series earlier used. As a consequence, on some of the plans, especially those of the temple of Ramses III at Medinet Habu and portions of the great temple of Amon at Karnak, the numbers do not run in unbroken series in any given portion of a temple. Moreover, groups of numbers have been omitted here and there to provide for possible future needs. In dealing with such a mass of material, often very fragmentary, errors, chiefly of omission, must inevitably occur; a not inconsiderable number of small remains of decorative elements would without doubt reward a further checking with the originals.
These plans are published with two objects in view: first, to facilitate reference to any particular scene or inscription
${ }^{1}$ One tomb, that of Ramses III (Biban el-Muluk No. 11), appears on PI. XXX. It was inserted for the benefit of the Oriental Institute's Epigraphic Survey before publication of the plans was contemplated. Although it is not a temple, it is felt that its retention can do no harm and that it may be of some use.
either for a student's private notes or for publication; second, as a necessary preliminary to a catalogue of the decorative material, both scenes and inscriptions, on the walls of the Theban temples, a work on which the writer has been engaged at odd moments for some years with the hope of its eventual publication.
The plans, in most instances, are not based on exact surveys of the various buildings. Architecturally correct plans exist for only a few of the temples, ${ }^{2}$ a notable exception to the general inexactitude being furnished by the excellent plans prepared by Professor Hölscher and his assistants at Medinet Habu. On many plans minor corrections have been made where errors were plainly apparent, though these corrections do not pretend to be architecturally exact. The plans will, however, suffice as frames upon which to locate the temple decorations.

Certain large units-the vast Karnak precinct of Amon, the Karnak precinct of Mut, the Luxor temple, and Medinet Habu-have for convenience been subdivided into sections. Each section is designated by a capital letter, and its decorations are numbered in a separate series beginning with $1 .{ }^{3}$ Even when, as at Karnak, scenes and inscriptions by thousands cover the surviving walls, it has thus been possible to avoid use of four-place numbers and consequent increase in size and complexity of the plans.
The following abbreviations for various areas are suggested:

| Karnak. Precinct of Amon** | K |
| :--- | :--- |
| Karnak. Precinct of Mut* | K Mut |
| Karnak. Precinct of Monthu | K Monthu |
| Temple of Luxor* | L |
| Medinet Habu* | MH |
| The Ramesseum and its precinct | R |
| Deir el-Bahri. Temple of Mentuhotep III | DB M |
| Deir el-Bahri. Temple of Hatshepsut | DB |

To these or the unabbreviated names one need add only a number or (in the case of the four areas that are starred) a letter and a number to define the location of any given item of wall decoration. To include the plate number is unnecessary, since it can easily be found in the brief Index. A reference, therefore, to the northernmost relief in the lowest register on the east face of the south tower of the second pylon of the great temple of Amon at Karnak can read merely "K B 65." Similarly the inscription in large hieroglyphs above the reliefs on the north wall of the first court of the temple of Ramses III at Medinet Habu would be identified as "MH A 816."

Lower-case letters are added for differentiation where a single number applies to more than one decorative element. Such usage can be seen, for example, on Plate XXVI, which shows the rear halls and rooms of the temple of Ramses III at Medinet Habu. Thus in Room 4, that of the Sokar Bark, the inner face of the doorway was given the number 402.

[^0]
## PREFACE

Later it was decided to give numbers to the king's titulary which appears on the thicknesses of the door passage at either side. As there was no unassigned number in the series used for that portion of the temple, the two inscriptions were designated $402 a$ and $402 b$. Again, on the same plate, in Room 37 appear the numbers $527,527 a$, and $527 b$. The latter two represent mere fragments not included in the original numbering. When they were added to the plan, the subletters $a$ and $b$ were employed rather than numbers outside the series applied in that or adjacent rooms. On Plate V numbers 48,50 , and 148 are followed by the letters $a$ and $b$ and, in the case of 48 , by $c$ also. Originally these numbers had each been assigned to a group of two or three small scenes one above another which were photographed in each instance on one negative. Afterward it seemed desirable to refer to each unit separately, and subletters were introduced for the different reliefs in preference to separate numbers. This use of lower-case letters may at first be confusing; but if it is remembered that each subletter refers to a separate decorative element and is the equivalent of an independent number the confusion should disappear.
The numbers of the reliefs in any given register have, as far as possible, been kept on the same horizontal level. If a number refers to the lowest register, in cases where more than one register is preserved, a line has been placed above the number. If it refers to the middle of three registers a line appears both above and below the number, while if the relief is in the top register a line is drawn below the number. On any particular wall the numbers have been placed in the same relative position above or below one another as are the reliefs to which they refer. Thus on Plate II (the first court of the great temple of Amon at Karnak) the numbers 218-224 appear one directly above another since the reliefs on the wall are similarly placed; 218 refers to the uppermost relief and 224 to the lowest. In this case 218, referring to the topmost register, is nearest the wall line on the plan, while 224 , referring to the lowest register, is farthest away from the wall line on the plan. In contrast to this arrangement numbers 207-217, on the adjacent wall of the vestibule, read downward toward the wall line, 207 and 208 applying to scenes in the uppermost register, 217 to one large scene which occupies all of the lowest register. This discrepancy in the order of the numbers with reference to the walls is due to the fact that the wall faces toward the reader in the first instance and away from the reader in the second instance. It must therefore be kept in mind that the relation of a group of numbers to a wall line has no bearing on the registers in which the corresponding reliefs are to be found. The registers are shown only by the positions of the numbers in relation to one another, above or below; whether a series reads down from or down to a wall line depends merely on the direction of the lettering, which determines how the plan is to be held when in use.

The presence of an inscription in large hieroglyphs, such as often extends along the top or bottom of a decorated area without forming an integral part of the main decoration, is generally indicated by a long line in the middle of which is placed the number assigned to the inscription. An arrow at one extremity of such a line marks the beginning of the inscription, the point from which it is to be read. Lines beginning with arrows show the extent of many of the inscriptions on the sides of architraves also, especially where such inscriptions extend around a corner from one architrave to another at right angles to it. In other cases merely the number, without a line, has been placed beside an architrave. Numbers applying to decorative elements on the lower faces of architraves and on ceilings are inclosed in ovals.
Round columns have usually been distinguished from square pillars by being numbered in separate series, each series independent of that used for wall decorations. ${ }^{4}$ The various reliefs or inscriptions on each column or pillar are distinguished in most cases by small letters ( $a, b$, etc.) placed beside it. Thus a reference to the relief carved by Ramses II on column 67 of the hypostyle hall at Karnak would read "K B col. 67 b ." In some cases, such as the pillars in the first court of the temple of Ramses III at Medinet Habu, the sides of the pillars have been given letters referring to the cardinal points of the compass: $n, w, s$, and $e$, as required.
For the temple of Ramses III at Medinet Habu the room numbers are those used by the Oriental Institute in its publication of that building. ${ }^{5}$ Room numbers used for other structures are taken from the plans in the Topographical Bibliography of Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphic Texts, Reliefs, and Paintings. II. Theban Temples (Oxford, 1929) by Miss Bertha Porter and Miss Rosalind L. B. Moss.

In the preparation of many of these plans the compiler has had the assistance of his colleagues of the staff of the Epigraphic Survey, especially Drs. Siegfried Schott, Charles F. Nims, and Richard A. Parker. All of these as well as others have, at one time or another, assisted in placing the numbers and in checking the plans when completed, thereby eliminating a considerable percentage of error. Thanks is due to them for what was mainly mere drudgery. Mr. Walter W. Komig of the Oriental Institute staff at Chicago has cheerfully assisted in the final correction of the drawings--a contribution plainly visible on every plate in the contrast between his skilled draftsmanship of titles and numbers and the author's own efforts in the same field.

Harold H. Nelson
Chicago, Illinots
January 10,1941
${ }^{4}$ Differences in time of preparation of the plans account for some differences in treatment. Thus the columns and pillars at Medinet Habu are numbered in a single joint series.
${ }^{5}$ Fpigraphic Survey, Medinet Habut I-IV ("Oriental Institute Publications" VIII, IX, XXIII, and LI [Chicago, 1930-40]); Uvo Hölscher, The Excavation of Medinet Habu HII ("Oriental Institute Publications" LIV [Chicago, 1941]).

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Fig. 5. West wall. south hale


Tige 6 south wall




Fig.9. WEST wall. nooth half

fig. .1. north wall

hypostyle hall walls and clerestory

























Section A Great Temple of Ramses ill
rear halls and rooms



KKMVIITS
west

outh



Section C Tomb Chapels of Saite Princesses



## K K K InII

NORTH






FACADE OF SANCTUARY

SANCTUARY

DEIR SHELWIT
IUTUATERES


[^0]:    ${ }^{2}$ PIs. I and XIII 1 are based on the plans of M. Henri Chevrier.
    ${ }^{3}$ The Deir el-Bahri temple of Hatshepsut also is divided into sections, but for reproduction only; its decorations, regardless of section, are all numbered in a single series

