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Deir El-Bahari: The Epigraphic Mission to the Hatshepsut Temple, 1994

Polish Archaeology in the Mediterranean 6, 48-52

1995

Artykuł został opracowany do udostępnienia w internecie przez Muzeum Historii Polski w ramach prac podejmowanych na rzecz zapewnienia otwartego, powszechnego i trwałego dostępu do polskiego dorobku naukowego i kulturalnego. Artykuł jest umieszczony w kolekcji cyfrowej bazhum.muzhp.pl, gromadzącej zawartość polskich czasopism humanistycznych i społecznych.

Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach dozwolonego użytku.

**DEIREL-BAHARI
THE EPIGRAPHIC MISSION
TO THE HATSHEPSUT TEMPLE, 1994**

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The epigraphic program of the mission¹ centered on the wall with the niches. The wall constitutes a monumental facade of the main sanctuary of Amun. Apparently, the niches served as shrines of the royal cult. This is shown clearly in the decoration. The Osiride statues of Hatshepsut in the taller niches depicted the queen as an eternal ruler. On the side walls pairs of gods of the Ennead granted favours to the queen. The smaller niches were provided with double doors. The side walls constitute a sort of abbreviated version of the side walls in the offering halls of Hatshepsut and Tuthmosis I in the royal complex of the upper terrace. They show the queen and the male members of the royal family enthroned at the offering table, addressed by Iunmutef of Thot, who recite the *htp-di-nsw* formula. These scenes always include the offering list. Since the pavement of the smaller niches shows no traces of a permanent setting of the stone statues, what could have been worshipped here were

¹ Members of the mission: Dr. Janusz Karkowski (director), egyptologist; Mr. Bolesław Kobielski, architect; Mr. Marek Klaczyński, topographer; Miss Justyna Konopka, artist; Mr. Sławomir Rzepka and Mr. Piotr Szpanowski, students of archaeology; Miss Katherine Spence, architect and student of egyptology, and Miss Anna Szymańska, student of egyptology. For a short period the mission was joined by Dr. Nathalie Beaux and Prof. Andrzej Niwiński. The Antiquities Organization delegated Dr. Talaat Abd el-Aziz to act as the inspector of the mission. During his absence the mission was also aided by Mohammed el-Bialy, the Chief Inspector of the Central Sector of the West Bank and by other Egyptian colleagues as well. The mission could always count on the help of Dr. Mohammed el-Sughaier, Director of Pharaonic Antiquities of Upper Egypt as well as of Mr. Sabri Abd el-Aziz, the Director of the West Bank.

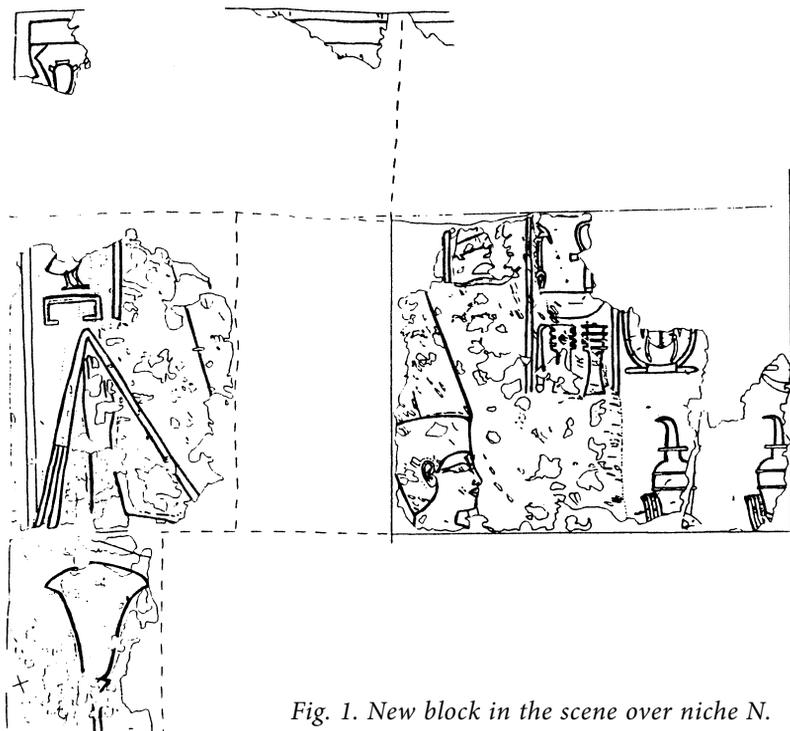


Fig. 1. New block in the scene over niche N.

portable statues of the same kind that were depicted on the upper court walls as part of the procession with the bark of Amun. The southern part of the wall has been recorded in 1:1 scale. A number of fragments from this wall in temple stores was traced already in the previous year (Fig. 1). This season some additional blocks were recorded and most of them were ascribed to particular niches.

The mission also recorded the fragments in the temple stores that could have come from the walls of the colonnade of the Hathor shrine. Over 30 such blocks were selected and fully

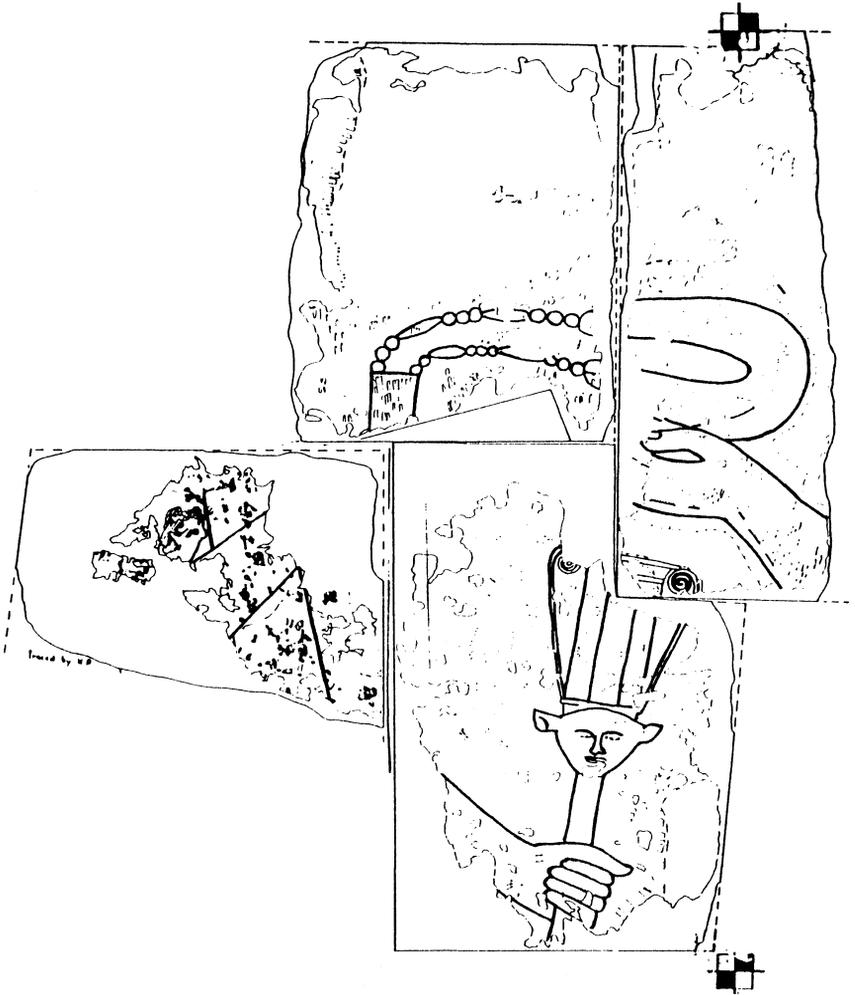


Fig. 2. New blocks from the northern wing of the eastern wall of the outer colonnade in the Hathor Shrine. Hathor presenting a menat to Hatshepsut.

recorded. A number of them have been ascribed to particular scenes on the colonnade walls (Fig. 2). The main difficulty in restoring the scenes results from repetition of the same element in different scenes. Thus, missing in the walls are four depictions of Hatshepsut facing right and four other facing left destroyed and changed into Tuthmosis II. The distribution of selected fragments between these depictions is advanced. During the season also the four architrave blocks replaced in the front row of the Hathor shrine by Emile Baraize were recorded and studied. It has been established that none of them belongs to the Hathor shrine.

The documentation and texts of a volume concerning the solar complex were verified. Also further research was carried out on the decoration of two barks of Amun restored under Horemheb after the Amarna persecutions. The aim of this research carried out by K. Spence was to interpret the traces of different stages of the post-Amarna restoration and to study the details of the rich decoration of the two depictions of the bark of Amun.

The architects of the mission completed the last of the measurements and studies of the southern part of the upper terrace and on the access to the Hathor shrine for publication as a monograph on temple architecture.

Prof. Andrzej Niwiński examined and recorded fragments of painted sarcophagi of the Late Period stored in the tomb of Neferu, which is accessible from the middle court of the Hatshepsut temple.

Heavy rain in October and then in November caused comparatively little damage to decorated temple walls and loose fragments. However, in a few places water cascading down the walls affected the decoration: on a single pillar of the Punt portico, on the western part of the southern wall of the same portico, in the central part of the southern wall of the southern

chapel of the upper terrace and on the southern wing of the east wall in the Hatshepsut offering hall. Puddles formed in a few places, especially on the upper court and altar court of the upper terrace. In the latter case two small cascades from rocks over the temple found their way to the court. Water even covered the elevated floor of the sanctuary of the upper Anubis shrine. Overall, the configuration of the rocks over the Hatshepsut temple directed the main water streams to the sides. Thus, the platform of the Tuthmosis III temple was more affected both by water from over the Hatshepsut temple and by a few more natural water ducts directly over the western part of the king's temple.

Excessive humidity also affected the considerable number of fragments in the temple open stores. Some of them cracked and in a number of cases they urgently require chemical consolidation.

The new stone used in modern restorations was affected even more. In many cases, the edges have cracked and the mission had to remove such fragments, especially from the cornices over the middle porticos, to prevent accidents.