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Deir El-Bahari: The Epigraphic Mission : Hathor Project

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DEIR EL-BAHARI

THE EPIGRAPHIC MISSION: HATHOR PROJECT

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The team working on the project for the publication of the decoration and architecture of the Chapel of Hathor in the Temple of Hatshepsut in Deir el-Bahari completed the most recent season in 2005.¹ Extensive recording of the Hatshepsut temple by the Epigraphic Mission started in 1989. Since 1992 the Hathor Chapel project is being run as a joint effort of the PCMA and the IFAO in Cairo, co-directed by the present author and Dr. Nathalie Beaux-Grimal.²

- 1 The work lasted from January 25 to February 14. Taking part in fieldwork were: Dr. Janusz Karkowski, egyptologist, Director; Dr. Marianna Michałowska, artist and photographer; Mrs. Helena Zacharias, artist; Mr. Mostafa Ali Hashem, inspector representing the SCA. The Mission is grateful to the Authorities of the Supreme Council of Antiquities for permission to continue work on the project. At the same time we are very much obliged to Dr. Holeil Ghaly, SCA representative in Luxor, and the staff of the Gurna Office of the SCA for facilitating the smooth running of the mission.
- 2 For early reports see: J. Karkowski, *PAM II, Reports 1989-1990* (1991), 1; *PAM IV, Reports 1992* (1993), 72f.; *PAM V, Reports 1993* (1994), 79f.; *PAM VI, Reports 1994* (1995), 48f.; *PAM VII, Reports 1995* (1996), 61; *PAM VIII, Reports 1996* (1997), 46f.; *PAM IX, Reports 1997* (1998), 43f.. See also: N. Beaux, J. Karkowski, "La chapelle d'Hathor du temple d'Hatchepsout à Deir el-Bahari. Rapport préliminaire", *BIFAO* 93 (1993), 7-24. Seasons starting from 1999 have been recorded in: B. Mathieu, "Travaux de l'Institut français d'archéologie orientale", *BIFAO* 100 (2000), 495; *BIFAO* 101 (2001), 527; *BIFAO* 103 (2003), 547; *BIFAO* 104 (2004), 638. Cf. also J. Karkowski, "Well known monuments rediscovered - publication of the Hathor Shrine in the temple complex of Queen Hatshepsut at Deir el-Bahari", Polish Academy of Sciences Annual Report 2000, 20-23.

THE HATHOR SHRINE

For the past few years the Mission has concentrated on recording the Hathor Shrine and this project is entering a final stage. The publication will follow the pattern established in the recently published volume on the Solar Complex of the Hatshepsut Temple.²

The extant architectural documentation includes the plan of the shrine [*Fig. 1*], the main cross-sections, the documentation of the access to the shrine and its changes.³ The epigraphic documentation is very much advanced. The plates of the scenes for the inner part of the Hathor Shrine have been completed. Also, most of the drawings of scenes in the colonnade walls have been completed. Remaining to be done are the plates of the façade of the shrine and the reconstruction of the decoration of the pillars.⁴

The main objective of the mission during the 2005 season was to correct the drawings of scenes of the inner part of the Hathor Shrine for the planned publication of the first volume. The corrections of the scenes on the walls of the Sanctuary and the Bark Room of Hathor were completed and the correction of drawings of the vestibule and its four adjoining chapels progressed. Many details were restudied to detect all the existing remains of outlines of figures and texts destroyed by Tuthmosis III (figures and names of Hatshepsut – *Figs 2, 3*, and Senenmut) and by Akhenaten with the Ramesside restorations (figures and names of Amen-

Re and some other gods, and some divine symbols, *Fig. 4*, left). A few details corrected by Hatshepsut's craftsmen (e.g., *Fig. 4*, right) constituted a special case. In addition, some details were restudied to improve the clarity of the graphic convention of the plates.

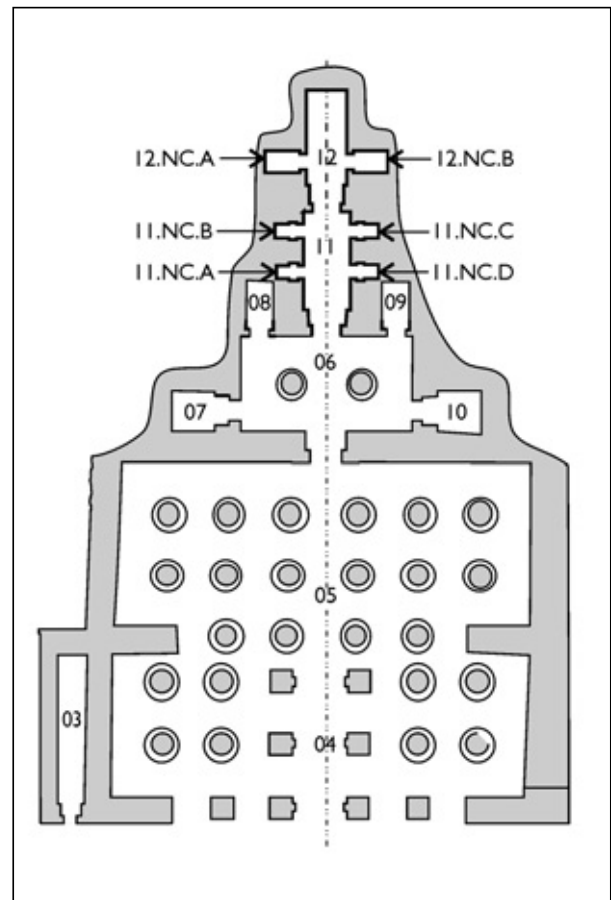


Fig. 1. Plan of the Hathor Shrine (revised plates are marked in bold): 96-10 - Vestibule and the adjoining chapels; 11 - Bark Room with niches A-D; 12 - Sanctuary with niches A-B

2 J. Karkowski, *The Temple of Hatshepsut: The Solar Complex, Deir el-Bahari VI* (Warsaw 2003); cf. 79-83 for comments on the solar significance of the Hathor Shrine.

3 Cf. preliminary report in N. Beaux, J. Karkowski, "La chapelle d'Hathor du temple d'Hatchepsout à Deir al-Bahari", *BIFAO* 93 (1993), 7-24.

4 The drawings were made by Liza Majerus-Janosi.

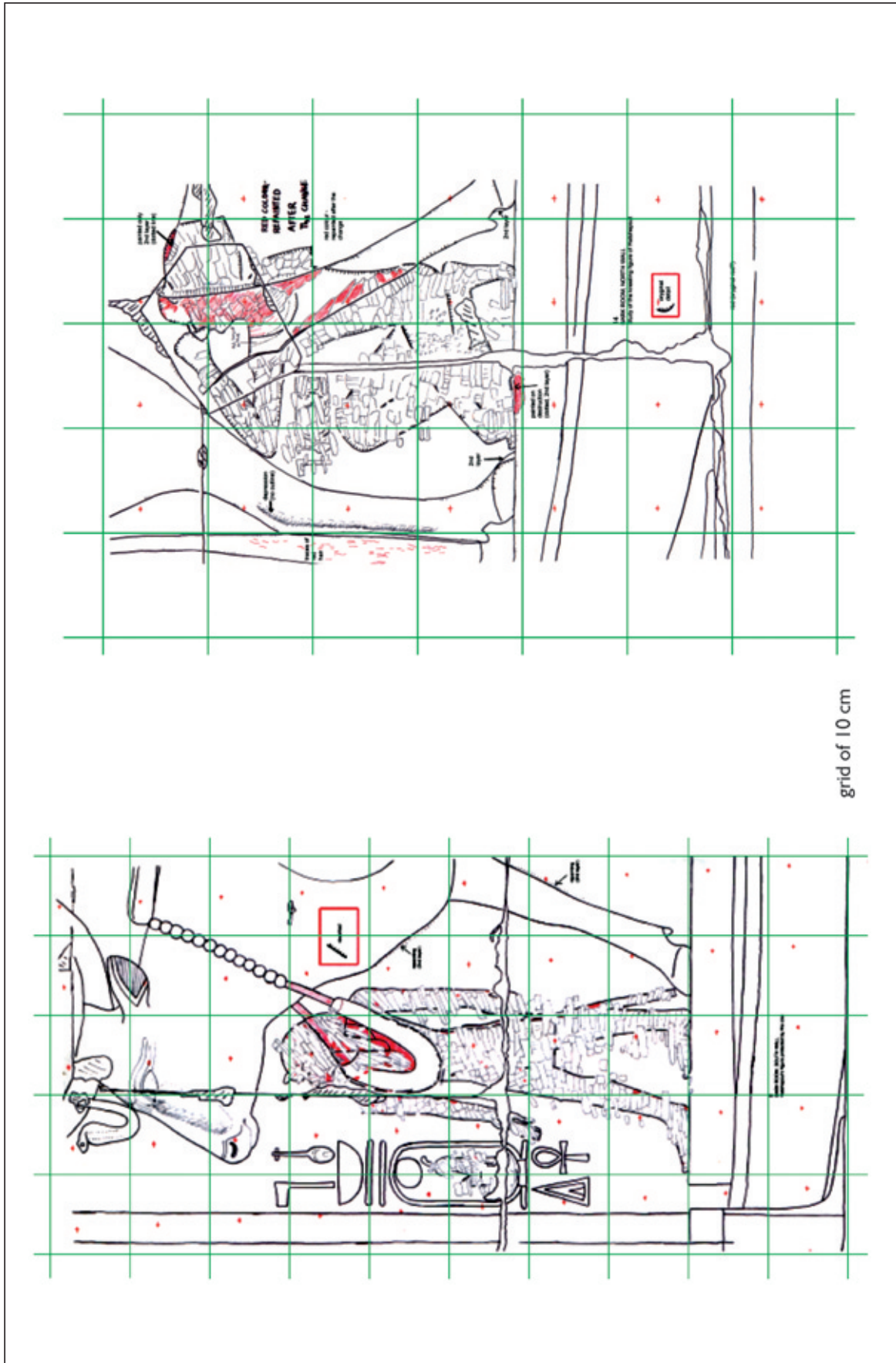


Fig. 2. Studies of the removed figure of Hatshepsut and subsequent alterations made in paint (left) and of the removed figure of Hatshepsut suckling a cow from the north wall of the Bark Room

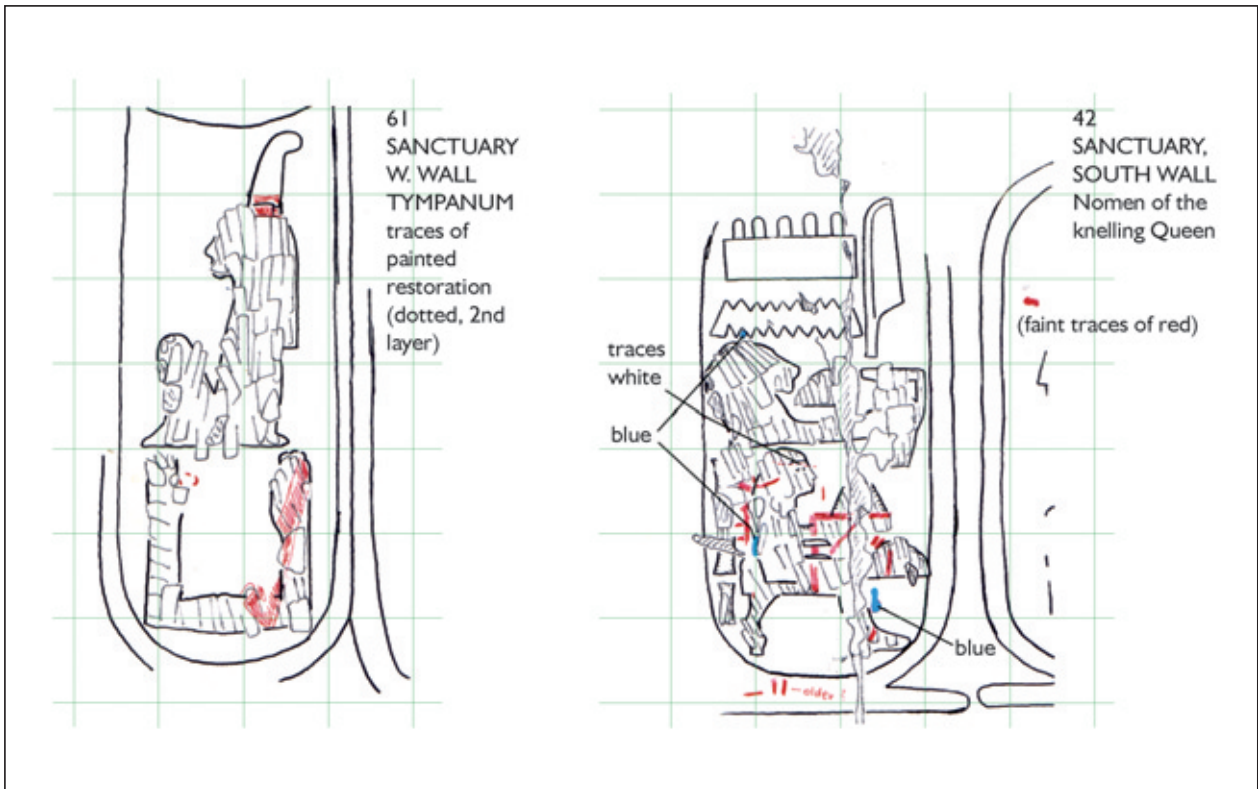


Fig. 3. Examples of destroyed names of Hatshepsut with traces of new names added in paint

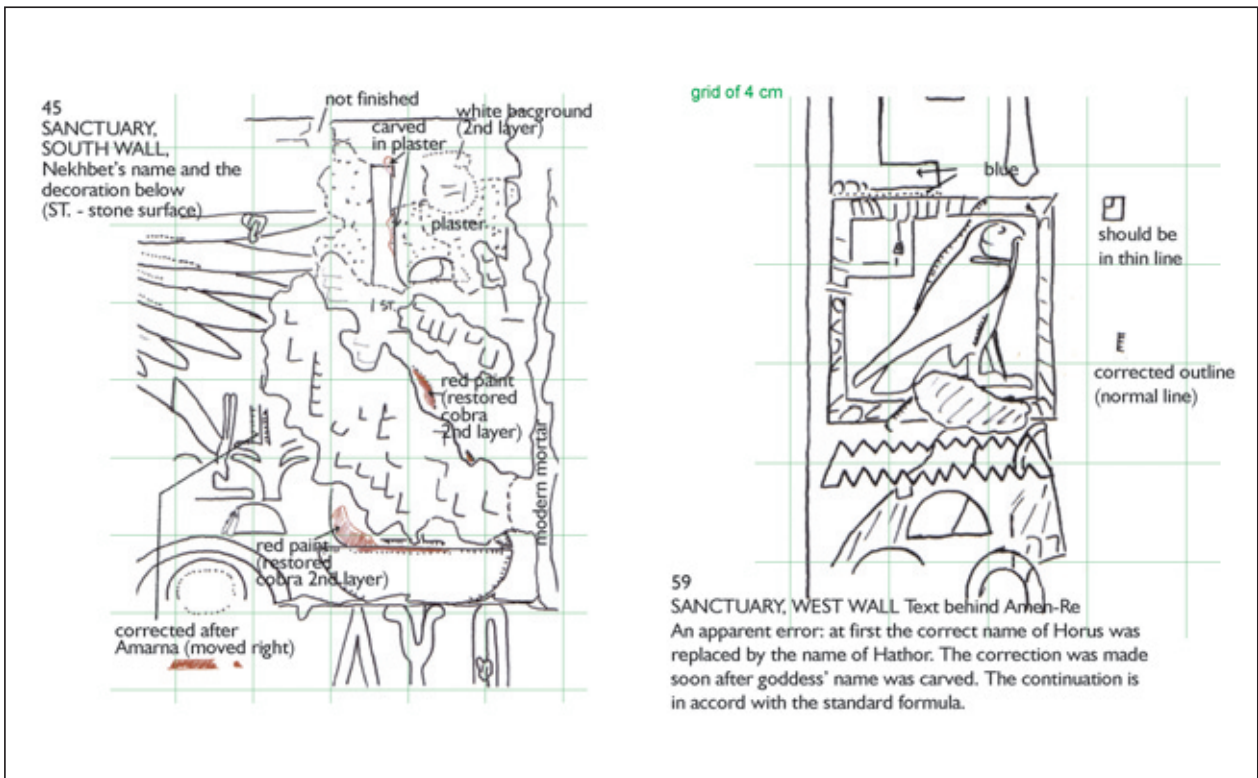


Fig. 4. Error in the Ramesside reconstruction of the relief: traces of the original vulture and a new painted cobra (left) and correction of an error from Hatshepsut's time (right)



Fig. 5. Sacred objects accompanying the processional bark of Hathor from the north wall of the Bark Room. Photo to serve as color proof for publication purposes (Photo M. Michałowska)



Fig. 6. Detail of scene from the east wall of the Vestibule showing Tutmosis III helped by two priestesses playing ball in front of Hathor. Photo to serve as color proof for publication purposes (Photo M. Michałowska)

To enable a description of colour patterns of the decoration for the planned publication, the details of the decoration in the inner part of the Hathor Shrine were photographed using a digital camera (e.g., *Figs 5, 6*). Moreover, some details were photographed with a traditional camera to

be included in the photographic plates of the publication.

A selection of small fragments from the temple storage areas belonging to the Colonnade of the Hathor Shrine was also documented in the temple storage area to be included in the plates.