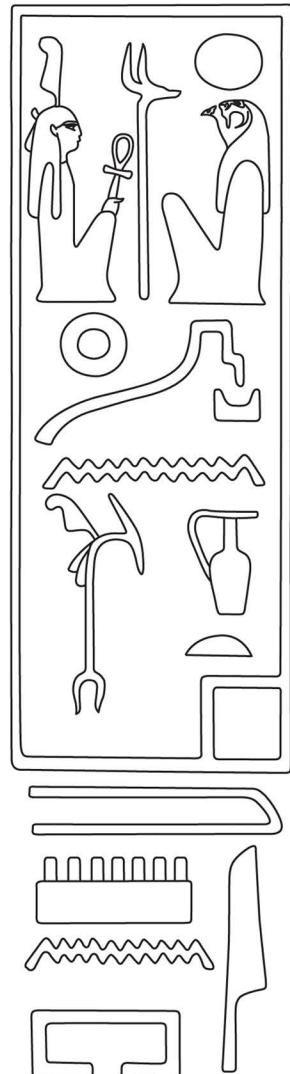


MEMNONIA

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I - 1990 / 1991



Miroslaw Barwik

Fragments of columns from the Ramesseum at Deir el Bahari

Le Bulletin MEMNONIA traite, en priorité, des études et recherches effectuées sur le temple de Ramsès II longtemps désigné sous l'appellation de *Memnonium*. Périodique annuel d'archéologie et d'histoire régionales, il contient également des études spécifiquement consacrées à Thèbes-Ouest, aire géographique connue sous le nom de *Memnonia* à l'époque gréco-romaine. Financé et édité par l'Association pour la Sauvegarde du Ramesseum, il est adressé gratuitement aux Membres d'honneur, aux Membres donateurs, bienfaiteurs et titulaires.

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FRAGMENTS OF COLUMNS FROM THE RAMESSEUM FOUND AT DEIR EL-BAHARI (Pl. I-II)

Miroslaw BARWIK*

Among the remains of the coptic monastery at Deir el-Bahari were found fragments of two drums from sandstone columns, reused as basins⁽¹⁾ (Pl. I-IIA). The most interesting is that they are inscribed with the titulary of Ramesses II. After putting together two large fragments constituting the bottoms of the basins and 20 fragments from their walls⁽²⁾ (Pl. II B) it was possible to reconstruct not only their original form, but also the texts inscribed on the drums (fig. 3-4). The drums are circular in shape with four flat surfaces (fig. 1) on which inscriptions were engraved. Inscriptions bordered by vertical lines were originally painted blue, although only faint traces of paint are preserved in some places.

The characteristic form of the drums as well as their measurements⁽³⁾ correspond to those of the sandstone columns in one of the rooms of the brick buildings (storehouses) surrounding the Ramesseum on the west (room with four columns)⁽⁴⁾. Only the bases of the N-E and S-E columns (cf. fig. 2) are preserved, but the lowermost drums of the N-W and S-W columns are still standing on the bases. The last two are inscribed with hieroglyphs bordered with vertical lines and painted blue (traces of the paint are still visible in some places), as in the case of drums found at Deir el-Bahari. Not only the dimensions of those columns, but also the width of inscribed surfaces and bordering lines as well as distance between them are comparable to the respective measurements of Deir el-Bahari drums⁽⁵⁾.

There is no doubt that the two drums from Deir el-Bahari belong to the columns from the Ramesseum. Moreover, it is possible that drum "A" originally stood directly on the lower part of the S-W column preserved *in situ* in the Ramesseum. Upper parts of signs *sw* and *w* in the name of the god Khonsu written near the bottom of the drum "A" (cf. fig. 3, A 2) fit very well to the lower parts of these signs in the inscription on the west surface of S-W column in Ramesseum, which undoubtedly form a continuation of the text inscribed on the drum from Deir el-Bahari

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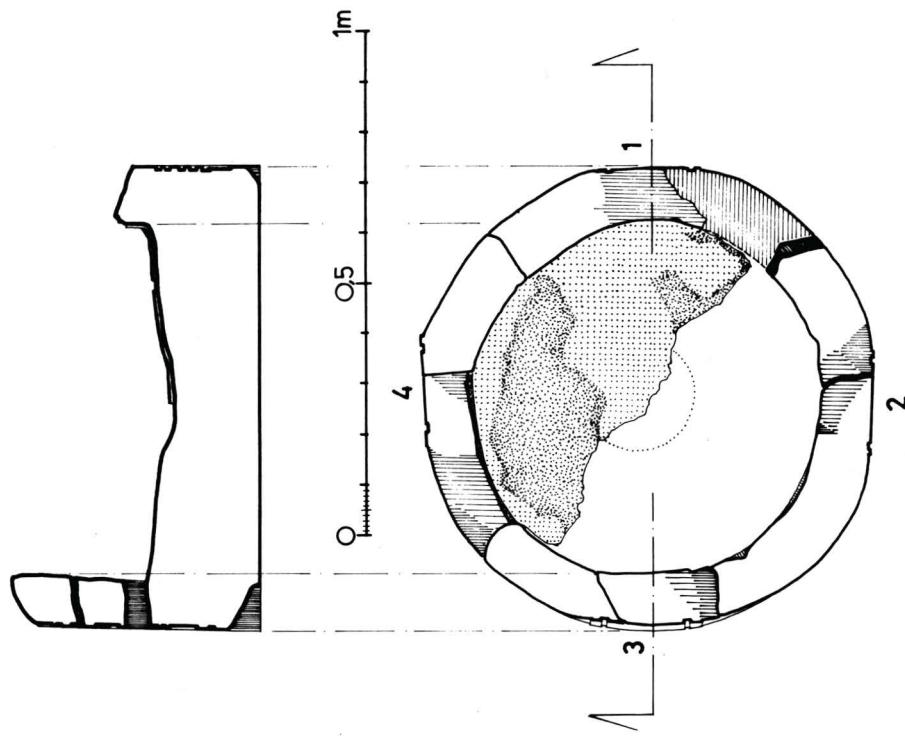


Fig. 1 - Longitudinal and cross-sections of the drum "A" (drawn by R. Czerner).

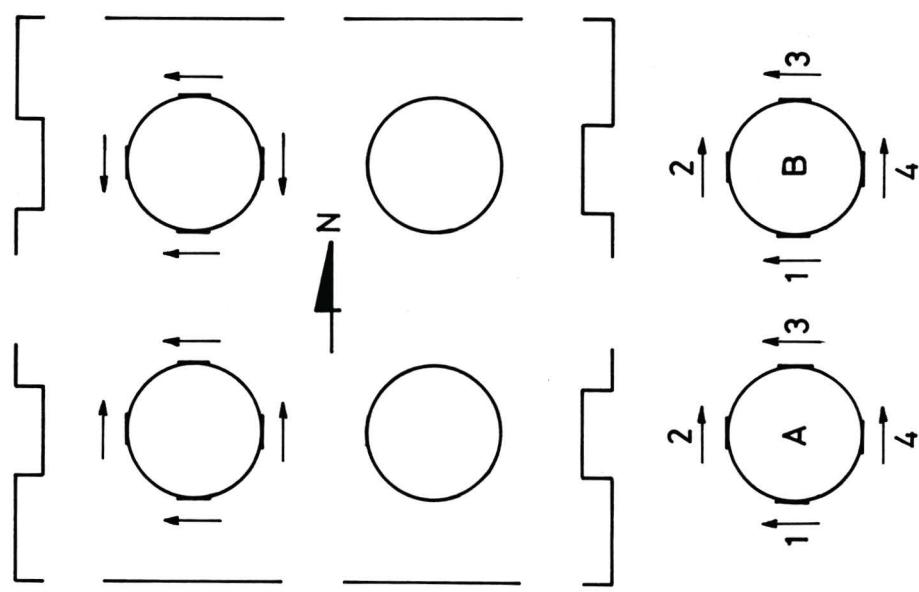


Fig. 2 - The lay-out of the columns in Ramesseum and schema of distribution of inscriptions on the drums found at Deir el-Bahari (below). Arrows show the direction of hieroglyphs (drawn by the author).

All the measurements confirm the idea of linking together these two inscriptions. In such a case the orientation of the inscriptions on the drum “A” from Deir el-Bahari would be as follows: A 1-south, A 2-west, A 3-north and A 4-east (cf. fig. 2). Thanks to this it is also possible to reconstruct the ending formulas written after the titulary of Ramesses II on the S-W column:

south: Ramesses, *mry Mnw- 'Imn-K3-mwt.f, di 'nh.*

west : Ramesses, *mry Hnsw, di 'nh dt.*

north: Ramesses, [*mry*] *'Imn-[R^c nb nswt t3wy], di 'nh dt.*

east : Ramesses, *mry [...] nb pt, di 'nh dt.*

Instead of these deities connected with Amun, in the inscriptions on N-W column the king is beloved by the gods of the osirian circle: Ptah-Sokar (south), Horus, avenger of his father (west), Osiris (north) and Isis, god's mother (east).

Unfortunately, it is impossible to deduce an exact location of the drum “B” from Deir el-Bahari, but it provides the important data for the reconstruction of the inscriptions on the Ramesseum columns in their entirety. On the first drum—counting from the top—must have been inscribed the Horus-name of the pharaoh. The bottom of the *serekh*-facade is visible on the upper part of drum “B” constituting undoubtedly the second layer with *nbty*-name and the beginning of the golden Horus-name (cf. fig. 4, B 1), which was inscribed on the third drum. The *prenomen* and *nomen* of the king were written on the fourth drum (“A” is an example), whereas the ending formulas were inscribed on fifth (lowermost) drums still preserved *in situ*.

NOTES

- (1) W. Godlewski, *Le monastère de St Phoibammon*, Deir el-Bahari V, Warsaw 1986, p.116, n°s. 7-8.
- (2) Drum “A”: inv. n°s 1145, 1144, 1135, 1133, F. 174, F. 191, F. 201 and nine fragments without inventory numbers.
Drum “B”: inv. n° 1146 and five unnumbered fragments.
- (3) Drum “A”: diameter = 90,8 cm. and 89,5 cm.; width of inscribed surfaces = 20,1-21 cm.; breadth of bordering lines = 1,1-1,2 cm. and distance between them = 15,3-15,5 cm.
Drum “B”: diameter = 91,5 cm. and 89,2 cm.; width of inscribed surfaces = 20,3-21 cm.; breadth of bordering lines = 1,1-1,2 cm. and distance between them = 15,1-15,3 cm.
- (4) Cf. J.E. Quibell, *The Ramesseum*, London 1898, pl.I, n° 88; cf. also PM I/2², pl.XII, chapel 88.

- (5) N-W column: diameter = 92,7 cm. (south-north) and 92,9 cm. (east-west); width of inscribed surfaces = 23,5-24 cm.; breadth of bordering lines = 1,1-1,3 cm.; distance between bordering lines = 15 - 15,6 cm.
- S-W column: diameter = 91,5 cm. (south-north) and 89,5 cm. (east-west); width of inscribed surfaces = 20,8-23,4 cm.; breadth of bordering lines = 1-1,3 cm.; distance between bordering lines = 15,1-15,4 cm.

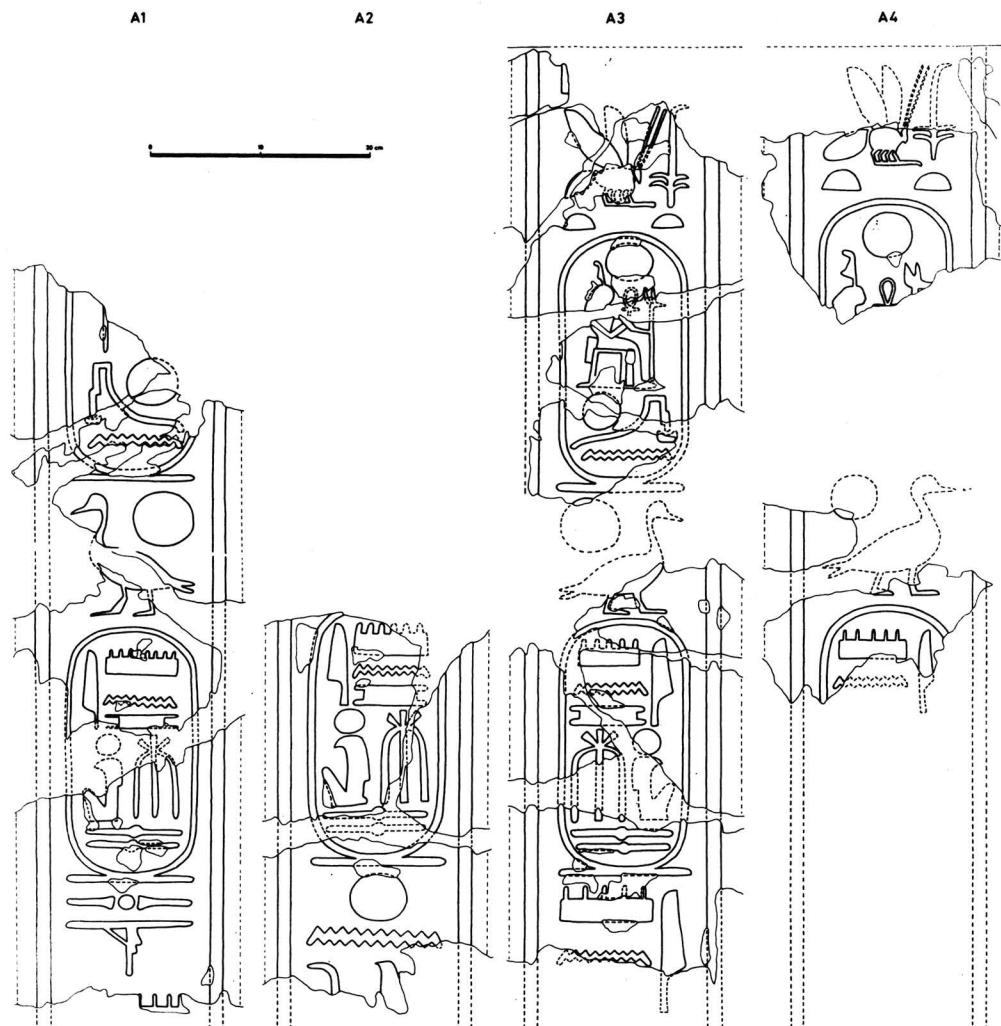


Fig. 3 — Inscriptions on the drum "A" found at Deir el-Bahari (by the author).

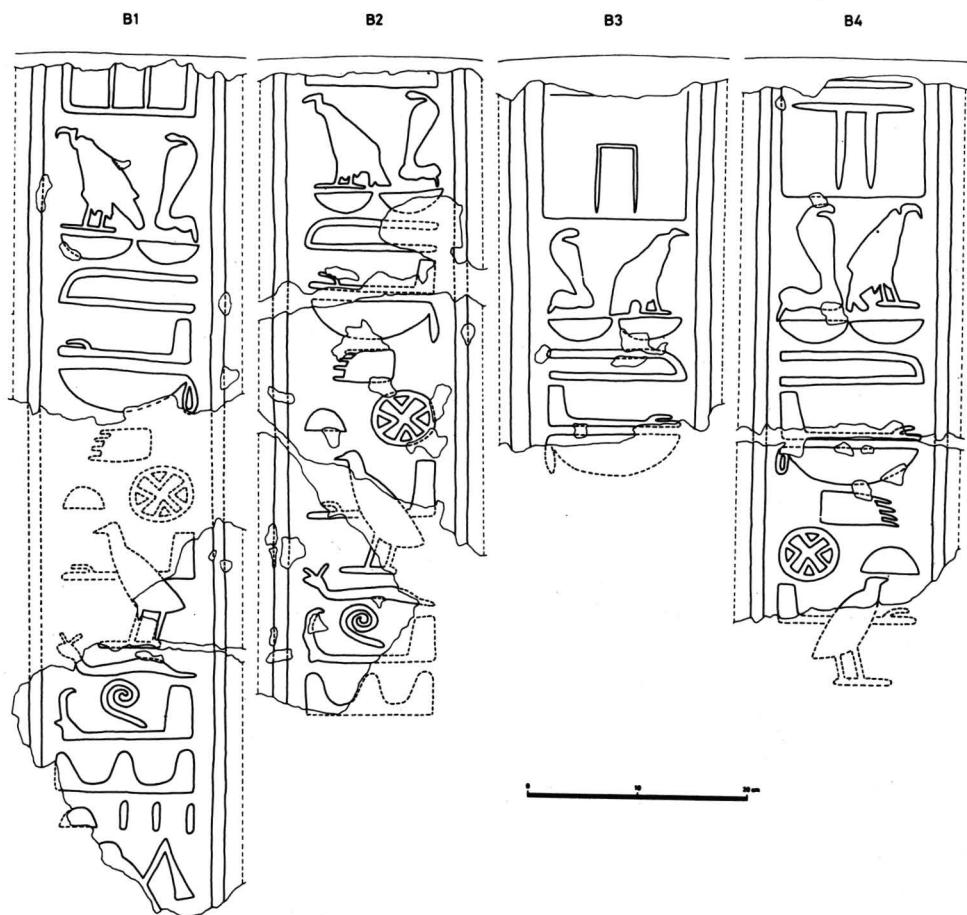


Fig. 4 — Inscriptions on the drum “B” found at Deir el-Bahari (by the author).

p l a n c h e s

FRAGMENTS OF COLUMNS FROM THE RAMESSEUM

Pl. I



Drum "A" found at Deir el-Bahari (photo S. Sadowski).



A. — Drum "B" found at Deir el-Bahari (photo S. Sadowski).



B. — Some examples of reconstituted parts of inscriptions-drums "A" and "B" (photo S. Sadowski).

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