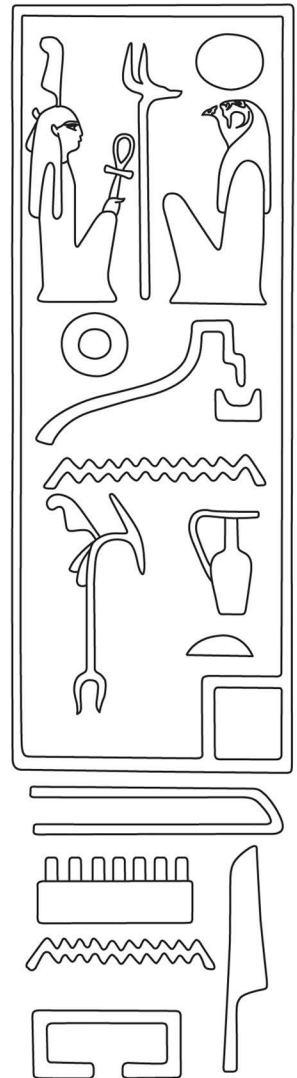


MEMNONIA

BULLETIN ÉDITÉ PAR L'ASSOCIATION POUR LA SAUVEGARDE DU RAMESSEUM



IV-V [1993-1994]



*Jadwiga Lipinska.
Deir El-Bahari. Tuthmosis' III Temple.
Report on the works in season 1994.*

**DEIR EL-BAHARI. TUTHMOSIS III TEMPLE. REPORT ON
THE WORKS IN SEASON 1994 [17.01.1994—28.03.1994]
[Pl. XXXIV]**

Jadwiga LIPINSKA *

The Mission members were as follows : Prof. Jadwiga Lipinska (chief), Dr. Rafal Czerner (architect), M. Leonard Bartnik (restorer), Miss Magdalena Gawlowska (restorer), M. Stefan Miszczak (restorer), Miss Janina Wiercinska (egyptologist), Mrs Monika Dolinska (egyptologist), Mrs Jadwiga Rembiewska (artist). From the E.A.O., the inspector attached to the Mission was M. Salah Bayoumi Bassiouni. Great gratitude of the Mission is due to two unfailing friends : Dr. Mohamed El-Saghir, Director of the E.A.O., Inspectorate in Luxor, and Dr. Mohamed Nasr, Director of the Inspectorate in Gurna.

Following the programme approved by the Permanent Committee of the E.A.O., the activity of the Mission was concerned with two main subjects :

- 1. Restoration of the polychrome reliefs originating from the walls of the temple and found broken into pieces ;
- 2. Conservation of the temple elements *in situ*.

At the same time the studies of the fragmentary reliefs were continued and their results recorded. The main subject was the Bark Hall (clearing the sequence of scenes in the upper registers of northern and southern walls), as well as the wall decorations of the shrines in the western part of the temple, mainly the rooms marked "G", "H" and "I".

I. — RESTORATION OF THE WALL RELIEFS

Restoration of the wall reliefs proceeded with three more blocks originating from the eastern wall of the sanctuary (n. 8-9-10). The block

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marked 8 is decorated on both sides, and its other side (marked 8 [a] on Pl. XXXIV-B) belongs to the rear wall of the niche.

Fragmentary reliefs, of which the blocks were reassembled, were first strengthened (with stone-hardener Wacker OH), cleaned, then fixed together with stainless steel clamps. Missing parts were filled in with kind of artificial stone (mixture of sand, lime and small quantity of white cement).

Block 8-8 [a] is 72 cm. high, 87,5 cm. wide and 40 cm. thick. The side 8 belongs to the offering scene in which the king, wearing the *khat*-headdress is offering to black-faced Amun-Kamutef. The surface of the block is restored with *ca* 70 fragments assembled together. The side 8 [a], which presents the upper part of the figure of Royal Ka, is restored with *ca* 75 pieces.

Block 9 is almost complete, with only part of the Amun's crown missing. Face of Amun is painted blue, typically for the decoration in this temple. The block was reassembled with 31 fragments and is 73 cm. high, 86,5 cm. wide and 38 cm. thick.

Block 10 is the largest of the three, and is 105,5 cm. long, 82,5 cm. wide and 38 cm. thick. It originates from the upper part of another offering scene, and is composed of 20 pieces.

Fragments from two more blocks [n. 11 and 14] were prepared for mounting at the beginning of next season.

It is planned to complete the restoration of the better preserved portion of the sanctuary wall during the next three years in view of re-erecting this wall, then 6,52 m. long and 2,56 m. high, in a kind of exhibition hall organized in the easternmost part of the present storage shed at Deir el-Bahari. Together with other finds from the temple, and more restored reliefs it can attract both specialists and tourists.

II.— CONSERVATION OF THE TEMPLE ELEMENTS *IN SITU*

Conservation of the temple elements *in situ* was conducted, as previously, in the northern half (the only existing) of the Hypostyle Hall (cf. fig. 1 et Pl. XXXIV-A). Three kinds of subjects were treated :

- A.— Sixteen-sided, polygonal columns and their bases,
- B.— Stairs leading to the granite doorway (situated on the temple axis and leading originally from the Hypostyle to the Bark Hall),

C.— Pavement of the Hypostyle Hall and elements of the kind of step between the levels of that hall and higher situated western shrines.

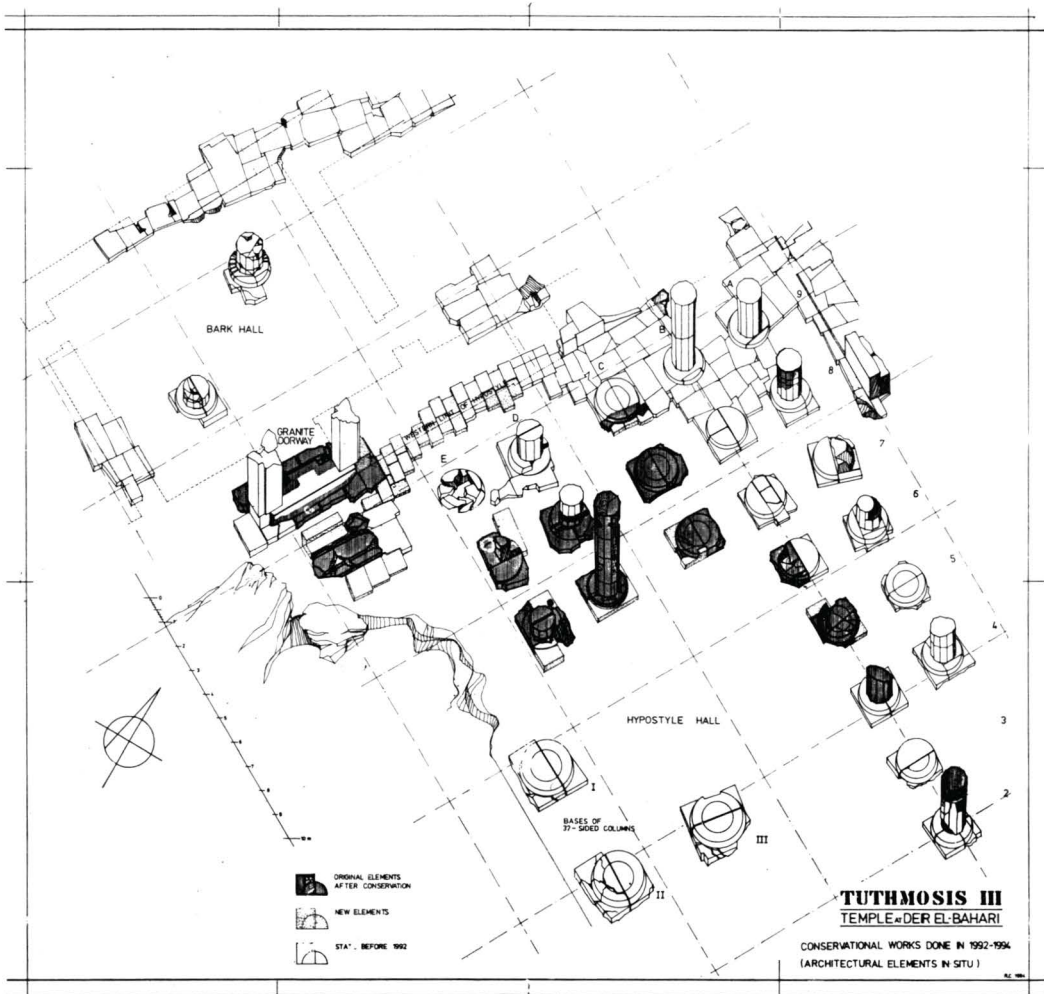


Fig. 1— Deir El-Bahari. Tuthmosis III Temple. Architectural works done in 1992-1994 by the Polish Mission. [Plan, Rafal Czerner, 1994].

A.— The routine restoration treatment of the partly preserved and crumbling sandstone bases consisted, as before, of :

- inserting a concrete foundation slab underneath the base ;
- consolidation (with ethyl silicate) of the original parts ;
- sealing fissures and minor holes with mortar ;
- replacing the missing parts with new sandstone elements.

Whenever they are preserved the existing lower parts of the columns were also consolidated, if necessary. In some cases, to mark the missing columns, the drums or their parts were placed on empty bases, without fixing them permanently. In one case [D.7] four lower drums were re-erected.

The following bases and columns were treated during the season 1994 (cf. fig. 1) :

Column [A.8] is one of few columns partly preserved *in situ*. Three lower drums survived the destruction of the temple, and on a thick layer of whitewash hieratic graffiti of the Ramesside Period pilgrims are preserved, written in black ink. The lime whitewash is full of salts and peels off. To protect the graffiti it was, after desalinization and preconsolidation, treated with Paraloid B.72 (10% in Toluene).

Column [B.2]. On the preserved lower part, another drum was placed. Though of similar dimensions and appearance, it does not belong to this column. It can be removed any time.

Column [B.4]. A consolidated drum was placed upon the base.

Columns [B.5 - B.6 - C.7 and E.7]. Routine conservation of the bases.

Column [D.7] . Four almost complete, inscribed drums were found during the excavations buried in the debris one beside the other. The exhaustive study confirmed the original emplacement of the column and direction, in which the inscription faced. The base had to be reconstructed before the restored drums were re-erected. After anastylosis, the column became the tallest element in the ruined Hypostyle Hall, being in its present state almost 3 m. high.

B.— Stairs leading up to the granite doorway were treated in a similar way to the described above conservation of the bases.

C.— The missing pavement in the western part of the Hypostyle Hall was partly reconstructed by means of new sandstone slabs 60 x 40 cm. In the vicinity of the stairway mentioned above, the original ground level is restituted with gravel and stone chippings.

For the future works a detailed programme for the conservation and re-erection of the granite doorway was prepared. It is planned to complete the protection of the architectural remains in the Hypostyle Hall by proceeding with conservation of the three great bases, remaining from the original double

colonnade of 32 sided columns, arranged eight in a row, and occupying the centre of the Hall.

planches



A.— Restoration works in the Tuthmosis III Temple in 1994. In the foreground a column re-erected recently. [Cliché Jadwiga Lipinska].



B.— One of the three decorated blocks restored in 1994. Polychrome relief, limestone. [Cliché Jadwiga Lipinska].

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Supervision montage et impression : Moustapha Fayçal Soliman.
