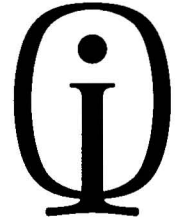




CHICAGO HOUSE BULLETIN

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THE CHICAGO HOUSE SEASON OCTOBER 2004 TO APRIL 2005: A MONTHLY DIARY

By W. Raymond Johnson, Field Director

OCTOBER

Luxor is still hot as a six-shooter in the upper 90s Fahrenheit, but we are all very well and quickly settling back into the Chicago House routine. The season paperwork went smoothly in Cairo, thanks to the kind assistance of Amira Khattab and the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE). Our permissions all came through in good order, and I signed the contract for our six-month field season at the Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA) headquarters in Zamalek with director of Foreign Missions Magdi Ghandour. On arrival in Luxor I delivered the contract to our local SCA director Dr.

Holeil Ghaly, and a copy to west bank director Ali Asfar. We reopened the small Amun temple at Medinet Habu Monday October 18, and transferred most of our ladders, scaffolding and equipment the next day. Over the next two days Brett McClain and I collated the red-painted inscription on the red-granite naos, recently cleaned by conservator Lotfi Hassan. Brett, who penciled the inscription (inked by Margaret De Jong) teased out the devilishly difficult-to-see names and titulary of Ptolemy IX Soter II, first noted by former Chicago House Director Lanny Bell during the 1982-83 season. The painted inscription was intended to be a guide for carving the inscription in sunk relief, but the carving was never even started. Brett and I needed to finish the collation so that stone cutter Dany Roy could move the whole naos to the other side of the room for restoration; special scaffolding is being erected in the naos room now in preparation for the move. Earlier in the week Dany and his workmen Ali, Sayid, and Hassan removed the tile floor laid in the two southern sanctuaries. Now the original, very well-preserved stone floor is exposed, something the local SCA officials have been wanting us to do for years, and I will admit that it looks terrific. Some isolated patching will be necessary, but most of the paving stones are intact.

Several days later we resumed our activities at Luxor Temple, with staff photographer Yarko Kobylecky and assistant Gharib taking our annual reference photographs of the Colonnade Hall walls and column bases to document the salt efflorescence and progressive decay of the sandstone. This year the salt and staining from high groundwater were exceptionally pronounced all over the temple, and we extended our documentation to include parts of the Ramses II court as well, interior and exterior, and the alleyway of sphinxes (all 70+ of them) in front of the temple, whose bases were particularly affected. Word is that the groundwater lowering project for Luxor and Karnak Temples is going ahead in the new year, and not a moment too soon; I have never seen the salt and decay look so bad.

Tina Di Cerbo and our workmen did an outstanding job this year cleaning and opening the house for the season; Tina started a bit earlier to do some painting in the front offices and



Margaret and Brett collating at the Medinet Habu small Amun temple (MHB).

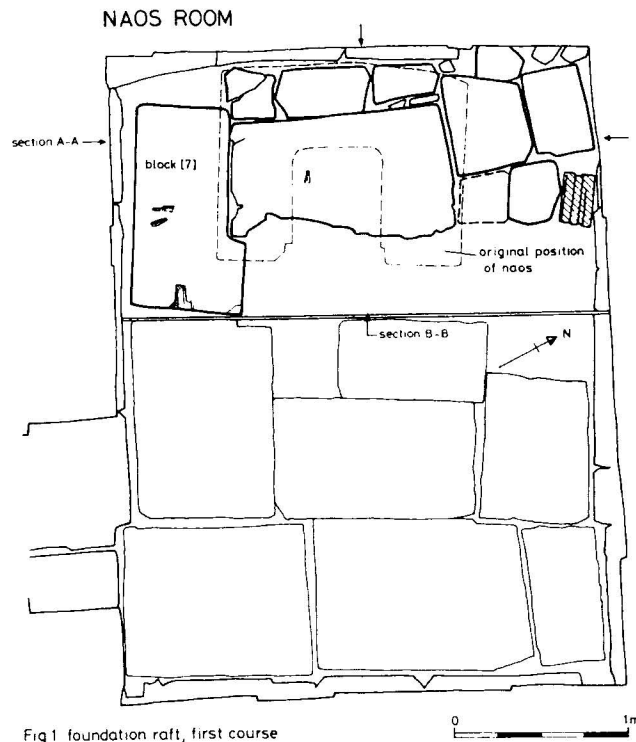


Fig 1 foundation raft, first course

Plan of Naos Room, MHB. Drawing by Lisa Giddy.

hall, and to finish before the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan (October 15). The house and grounds were spic and lush by the time we arrived, and the gardens were green and lush. As I said, the heat has been intense, but it's been a pleasant change from our cool summer in Chicago! I am pleased to welcome new staff member Marie Bryan, who started work as Chicago House librarian this past Monday, when we reopened the library for the season. Jen Kimpton, who has very capably minded the library half-time for the last two seasons will now join epigraphers Brett and Harold Hays at the Medinet Habu small Amun temple full time.

Because of Ramadan, the archaeological activity in Luxor is at a minimum for the time being, but there are a number of groups working: Daniel Polz at Dra Abu El Naga, the French at the Ramesseum, Andrzej Niwinski and his Polish team high in the Deir El Bahri cliffs, a group from Pisa also working in Dra Abu El Naga, Ted Brock in the Valley of the Kings, and the Franco-Egyptian Center at Karnak. Most of these mission members joined us for our annual Halloween party last night (the 30th), the opening gathering of the season. Wednesday afternoon I met with the Karnak inspectors, SCALuxor director Dr. Holeil, Ted Brock, and Franco-Egyptian Center directors to look at a road the city is constructing right over the site of Akhenaten's Aten temple complex east of Karnak. We explained why this was not a good idea, and they will now effect to bring the project to an end. Constant vigilance, and consciousness raising, is necessary out here, even around the major antiquities sites, to protect them from "progress." Balance-

ing the old and the new is one of Egypt's greatest challenges.

One other important milestone: Yarko and our engineers Nashet and Sammy have finished a prototype flat-bed blue-print box which utilizes black-light tubes instead of natural sunlight. During the last few years we have experienced fewer and fewer of the really clear days needed for the best blueprinting with natural sunlight, the effect of increased humidity and greatly changing times. Yarko has been testing the time needed for proper black and blue prints, and the device works beautifully. No longer are we slaves to the daylight, but are able to blueprint at any time of the day or night. This is progress at its best!

NOVEMBER

On November 27, Dany Roy successfully moved the red-granite Ptolemaic naos in the small Amun temple Naos Room sanctuary from its original location against the western wall to the eastern side of the chamber. The weight of the naos, estimated at about five and half tons, had caused considerable subsidence of the flooring beneath it, and the naos itself had suffered some damage in the medieval period from burning, particularly on the right side. Moving the granite naos will now allow us to restore the floor to its original height while adding a more substantial footing for the naos at the correct floor level. Dany began the restoration of the naos itself before moving it, for stability (and balance) which would facilitate the move. He



Dany jacking granite naos into position for restoration and moving, MHB.

NOVEMBER 2004

erected special, floor to ceiling I-beam scaffolding in the chamber, and carefully removed several large sections of the right-hand side of the shrine (stuck together with cement in the late 19th century). He then drilled two dowel emplacements in the back section, reattached the largest broken section with two stainless steel dowels and epoxy, a large fragment which attached to the first with another dowel, and the smaller front sections with epoxy alone. Dany then was able to jack and winch the naos up in preparation for the move, a process which took several days, and move it across the room, which took about an hour. Hats off to Dany and his workmen Ali, Hassan, and Sayid; the naos looked big enough before from the front; from behind it looks absolutely enormous. And it is. (You will recall that it is so much bigger than the door to the chamber, the back wall had to be taken down in the Ptolemaic period to insert it). The backside is extremely interesting: roughly shaped and unfinished, and preserving quarrying marks invisible from the front, all of which can now be documented. Dany secured and stabilized the naos in its new position in preparation for the next phases of work and dismantled his scaffolding.

Now that the back wall is fully exposed for the first time since at least the reign of Ptolemy IX, photographic documentation and conservation of the Thutmoside-inscribed wall area formerly hidden behind the naos is now possible and has already begun. Photographer Yarko Kobylecky spent all day Monday photographing large- and small-format condition and record shots of the wall and naos foundation area. Archaeologist Lisa Giddy (contracted by us especially for this phase of the project) and Tina Di Cerbo carefully cleaned and planned the naos foundation area, which was sunk through Hatshepsut's original flooring (sandstone slabs on packed sand), and have begun to excavate. So far they have found that the foundation emplacement was more carefully laid than we previously thought and consists of stone slabs set in brown, artifact-rich mortar. I should remark that the contract for the two-year extension of our ARCE/Egyptian Antiquities Project (EAP) grant supporting the conservation and documentation of the Medinet Habu small Amun temple has been finished and sent by EAP to the University for signing. This extension will support the Naos Room work, the ongoing cleaning of the painted reliefs outside of the main sanctuaries, and the epigraphic documentation of those reliefs, and is most gratefully acknowledged here.

We discovered recently that while we were away during the summer the SCA had cleaned out the King's bark sanctuary in the main temple, utilized as a locked storage magazine since at least the 1960s. They even removed the iron grill door, so the chamber is now accessible to the public. This room



Lisa and Tina taking measurements in the Naos Room excavation.

housed a hodgepodge of material from western Thebes excavated by the SCA – very little from Medinet Habu (we checked) - including numerous sculpture and relief fragments excavated at Amenhotep III's mortuary temple by Labib Habachi in 1965. Our colleagues Hourig Sourouzian and her husband Rainer Stadelmann are currently undertaking the excavation of Amenhotep III's mortuary complex, and last season at our invitation, Hourig reviewed all of the material in the room and catalogued every piece from the Amenhotep III excavations. All of this material was isolated and moved to the adjoining locked storage room immediately to the north for eventual moving to their on-site magazine. We found that the remainder of the material had been moved this past summer to three locations: the locked room next door, to a series of open-air display platforms to the south of the God's Wives chapels, and to the main Medinet Habu blockyard to the south and east of Ramses III's mortuary temple. Because much of this material is fragile limestone, some of it pocket-size, Yarko and Tina have been photographing and cataloguing it, and the smaller bits have been moved into the small temple for safekeeping. Later I will request permission to transfer all of the material to the locked storeroom in the mortuary temple until more permanent storage arrangements can be made.

The epigraphic recording at the small Amun temple is going very well, aided by the creation of our flatbed blueprint machine, which has made blueprint-making (for collation) a much faster process. Epigraphers Brett McClain and Harold Hays and artists Margaret DeJong and Sue Osgood are presently working inside the bark sanctuary, while epigrapher Jen Kimpton is working in the ambulatory collating Akoris column drawings done by Tina Di Cerbo. Tina herself has been continuing her documentation and database of the graffiti in the small Amun temple (MHB), as well as the mortuary temple



Thutmosis III & Atum, MHB109. Drawing by Susan Osgood.

of Ramses III (MHA). In reviewing the material for our proposed Volume 2, which we originally envisioned as comprising the Eighteenth Dynasty temple bark sanctuary, ambulatory and exteriors, the epigraphic team pointed out to me that we have enough material for a publication twice the size of the first volume of our Luxor Temple series dedicated to the Opet reliefs in the Colonnade Hall (OIP 112), our largest publica-

tion to date! The density of information in the small Amun temple is truly extraordinary, but the thought of a publication larger than the Opet volume is pretty horrifying. Therefore, we are now considering dividing this part of the Eighteenth Dynasty temple into two volumes, one (Volume 2) dedicated to the decorated pillars, architraves, exterior scenes, façade, marginal inscriptions, and Akoris modifications; and the other (Volume 3) dedicated to the bark sanctuary proper (interior and exterior scenes), upper marginal inscription of Ptolemy VIII, and ceiling decoration. Priority during the next seasons will be given to the Volume 2 material, already mostly collated, which should closely follow the publication of Volume 1, currently in production.

At Luxor Temple stone conservator Hiroko Kariya has been hitting the blockyard at 6:00 AM to take advantage of the cooler temperatures for her treatment of deteriorating sandstone blocks and block fragments with the silicate Wacker-OH. Throughout the month of November Yarko photographed in 35 mm (black & white) a corpus of reused talatat blocks of Akhenaten scattered through the blockyards which I have identified as coming from the side walls of the 8th, 9th, and 10th Pylon courts at Karnak. This material was originally quarried and used by Akhenaten for the construction of his Aten temple complex at Karnak and was dismantled and reused after Akhenaten's death by Horemheb, who hid them away in his mammoth construction projects at Karnak, primarily the 2nd, 9th, and 10th Pylons and their side walls. The blocks were quarried yet again from Horemheb's monuments in the medieval period and transported to Luxor for reuse in house and church constructions around the temple where they were recovered during the clearance of the fore area of Luxor Temple during the late 1950s and early 1960s. So far we have identified over 300 blocks of this type in the blockyards, inscribed with ritual procession scenes from the inner walls of Horemheb's courts, or inscribed by Ramses II in yet another version of his great Kadesh battle narrative from the exterior west wall of the 8th - 10th Pylon courts. The Franco-Egyptian Center at Karnak is in the final phases of documenting the surviving lower walls of those courts for publication, and it is clear that some of our blocks preserve upper details of scenes still preserved on the standing walls. Our goal this season is to document the fragmentary material in our blockyard which came from the upper walls of those courts so that the French can include it in their study. Eventually we would like to transfer the material back to Karnak, making it the first of many stone block groups reused in medieval Luxor to be taken back "home."

We had a warm Thanksgiving celebration this year, made even more pleasant by the presence of Ginny Hays, Harold's mom, and the University of Memphis Hypostyle Hall crew headed by our colleague Peter Brand. We've also been visited by Steve Harvey and his Abydos team, as well as former Chicago House epigrapher Hratch Papazian who is working with Steve at Abydos and will return to Luxor next week. On November 17th we had a small celebration of the Epigraphic Survey's 80th year in Luxor. Cook Tayib baked a special birthday cake inscribed for Chicago House, and while Brett cut the



ARCE/EAP visit to MHB, 11/30/04.

cake, I read Breasted's own description of the conception and founding of CH from his *Oriental Institute* book: the first day of work (with one epigrapher, one artist and one photographer), and director Harold Nelson wiring Breasted on November 18, 1924: "Work began yesterday." We have come a long way since then, but there is a long way to go. Here's to the next 80 years!

On November 18, Chicago House hosted a Congressional Delegation visit to Luxor of the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee Bill Thomas, his wife Sharon, and several other committee members. On November 30, ARCE Director Gerry Scott, EAP Director Chip Vincent, and Egyptian Antiquities Conservation (EAC) Project Director Michael Jones reviewed the EAP-funded work at MHB.

Finally, I am sorry to report that our finance manager Safi Ouri's assistant Marlin Sarwat has moved to Cairo with her growing family for the better opportunities for her children's education there. We will miss her very much. But every cloud has a silver lining. I am very pleased to announce that we have found an excellent replacement, our old friend Samir El-Guindy, who for many years worked at the American Express office in Luxor. Many of you may remember that Samir's wife Michelle, who passed away two years ago, tutored Meg and Emily Dorman in French during Peter's directorship at Chicago House. Samir has recently remarried, he and Ekbal are expecting their first child, and it is a great pleasure to have him back with his Chicago House family.

DECEMBER

With the Christmas and New Year's holidays over, the Chicago House 2004-2005 season has lurched into high gear. At the Medinet Habu small Amun temple the epigraphic team continued documentation of the wall reliefs in the bark sanctuary and ambulatory which will appear in volumes 2 and 3. Con-

servation and cleaning of the painted reliefs of the sanctuary façade is in its final stages. These beautiful scenes, which will appear in the first volume in the small Amun temple series, are now considerably brightened. Dany Roy has prepared sandstone slabs for floor restoration in the sanctuaries and for the new foundation emplacement of the red-granite naos in the naos room. Lisa Giddy and Tina Di Cerbo will resume their excavation and documentation of the naos emplacement in early February; they finished the northern half in December, and still have the southern section to complete. (I might note here that Lisa Giddy's daughter Nanou, vacationing in eastern Asia, providentially had left the area just prior to the earthquake and tsunami). At Luxor Temple conservator Hiroko Kariya finished the first phase of her field season, treating 102 wall fragments in the main treatment area, 17 fragments on the isolation

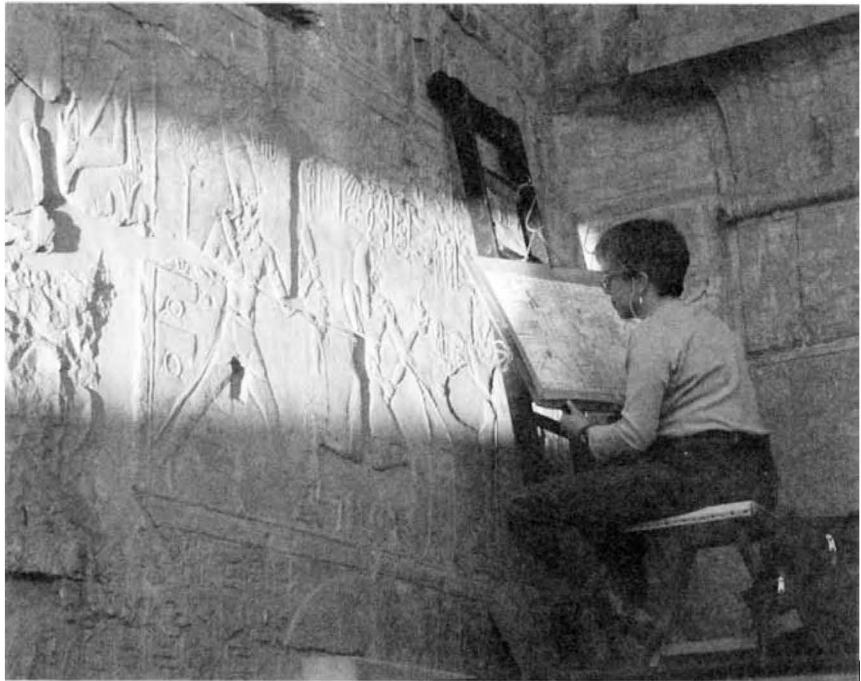
("hospital") mastabas around the precinct, and five large blocks in the southern area with Wacker OH silicate. She monitored previously treated blocks, condition-surveyed all of the rest, and continued to prepare two fragment groups for reconstruction on two wall surfaces, one in the northeastern corner of the Amenhotep III sun court, and one in the eastern wall of the Colonnade Hall. Hiroko will return at the end of this month for Phase 2. This week Dany and I started planning the strat-



Samir and Safi in the Finance Office, Chicago House.

egy for our stabilization program of the Colonnade Hall eastern wall before fragment restoration. Yarko Kobylecky and Ellie Smith have continued the photography of reused talatat around the blockyard, and are preparing for large-format photography of the socle inscription around the back of the Luxor Temple sanctuary.

This season has been noteworthy for the steady stream of visitors and colleagues passing through, including some of our own from the Oriental Institute. Steve Harvey and his Abydos crew passed through Luxor several times, and we had an excellent on site visit of the Ahmose funerary complex and briefing of their work on December 12. Hratch, having finished his work with Steve, also came by, and it was great having him back. Richard Jasnow has been with us working with Tina on the documentation of Demotic graffiti in the MII complex. Lorelei Corcoran has been working with the Italian mission of Francesco Tiradritti at the tomb of Harwa in the Assasif, and Peter Lacovara is presently in town with a group from Atlanta. We have given site briefings to many groups, including some of our ARCE friends, and we had the pleasure of hosting British Museum director Neil MacGregor at Chicago House over the holidays.



Sue penciling interior southern wall of bark sanctuary, MHB.

JANUARY

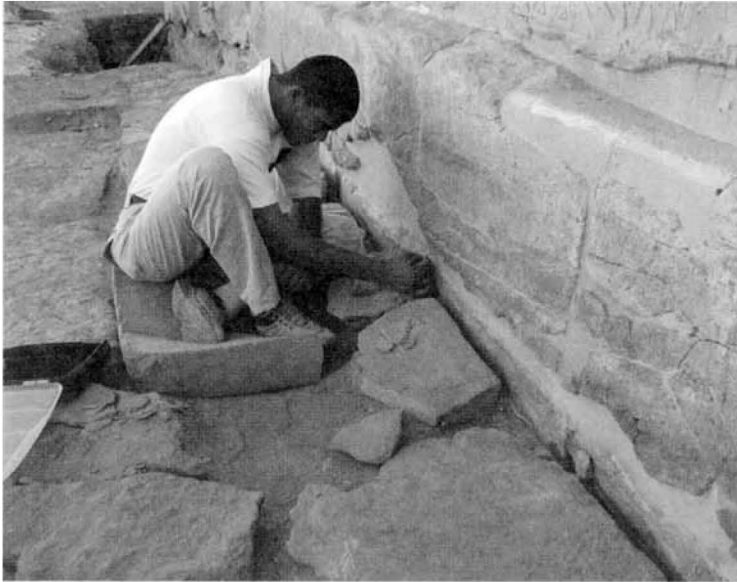
Archaeologist Lisa Giddy returned this week to continue working with Tina Di Cerbo on the excavation and recording of the Ptolemaic naos emplacement in the Medinet Habu small Amun temple Naos Room sanctuary. They excavated the northern half of the emplacement in December, and removed several layers of carefully laid sandstone slabs, baked bricks, and rubble core, all of which had subsided due to the tremendous weight of the red-granite naos. Imagine our surprise when at the very bottom of the emplacement they found the missing granite floor section of the naos itself! Hello? It became clear that although made up of ancient materials, the emplacement was modern, 19th century, probably made by Georges Daressy when he worked in the complex. There is evidence that the southern part of the emplacement is far more complex, with the modern foundation, parts of the Ptolemaic footing, and a section of Hatshepsut's original flooring. Work is scheduled for the rest of the month, so stay tuned.

The epigraphic team supervised by Brett McClain continued the drawing and collating of the reliefs in the small Amun temple ambulatory and bark sanctuary. Sue Osgood assembled 1:1 tracings of a pillar scene mostly obscured by a later Ptolemaic wall, and is re-tracing it complete with a fine point marker. When she is finished Yarko will photograph it for drawing enlargement production and inking over the summer. Lotfi Hassan and his conservation team are in the final stages of cleaning the façade of the sanctuary, whose painted reliefs are partially obscured by dirt, dust, and some soot. One interesting detail has emerged. It appears that parts of the façade portal inscriptions were gilded at some point in their long history, probably in the Ptolemaic period. The names and titulary of Thutmose III form the main inscribed decoration of the façade doorways, all in beautiful raised relief. Cleaning has exposed bits and



Harold collating exterior bark sanctuary wall, MHB.

JANUARY 2005



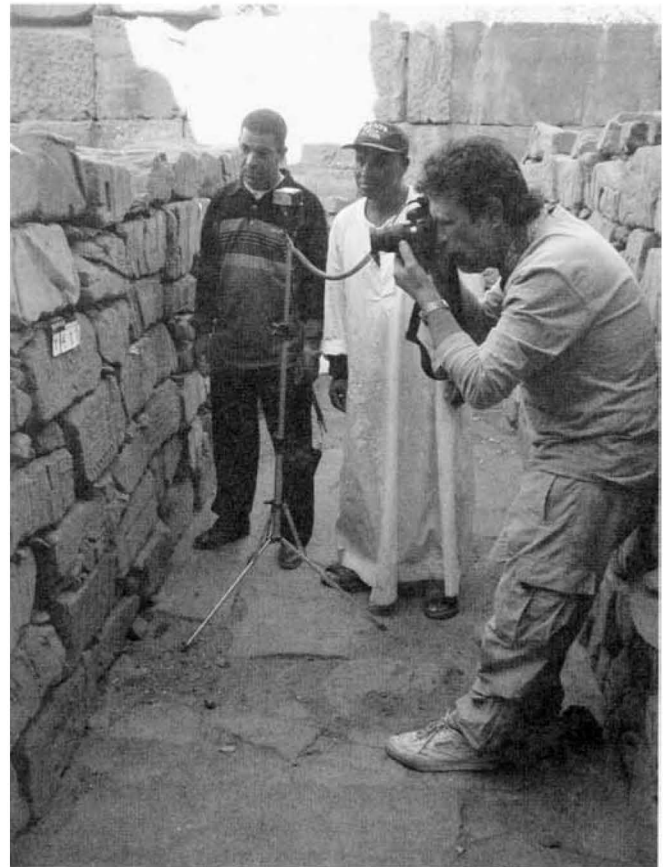
Hamada consolidating southern exterior wall, MHB.

pieces of the gold leaf on some of the hieroglyphs of the central doorway, and within one cartouche on the doorway of the king's chamber; it must have produced quite an effect. Once the façade cleaning is finished later this month, Yarko Kobylecky will do final publication photography in color and b&w for volume I. Lotfi, Nahed, and Hamada have also been consolidating some of the deteriorating lower wall blocks along the southern, exterior wall. Ground water salts in this area have caused the stone blocks to split and fracture along the natural stratigraphic lines of the sandstone, and this decay has accelerated of late, requiring our attention. Trenching along that wall has revealed that Hatshepsut and Thutmose III's small Amun temple was built on a platform more than two meters high, now mostly buried. When Ramses III raised the level of the area in a broad gravel terrace to support his mortuary temple, the platform of the small Amun temple platform was mostly buried, and the effect of the sanctuary upon a platform was lost.

Conservator Hiroko Kariya returned to Luxor after the holidays and resumed her consolidation work in the Luxor Temple blockyard on January 31. Yarko Kobylecky and Ellie Smith continued photographing selected fragment groups, and also began documentation of the badly decaying socle inscription of Amenhotep III which wraps around the lower exterior of the rear sanctuary. This inscription consists mostly of Amenhotep III's names and titulary and dedication prayers to the god of the temple, Amun-Re inscribed in exquisite sunk relief with extraordinary interior detailing. Because of its proximity to the ground, what the Atenists didn't destroy, over time the groundwater salts have attacked, and some of the inscription is literally flaking off the wall. The first order of business is to thoroughly record the long, low-to-the-ground inscription with large-format negatives, after which conservation can take place.

Since late January Dany Roy and his workmen have been preparing for the stabilization of the eastern wall of the Colonnade Hall, a project supported by the World Monuments Fund (WMF). Last week he erected scaffolding along the inside of the wall for the lifting of bricks and mortar, and laid in supplies for the work. The outer section of the Colonnade Hall eastern wall at this point projects more than twenty feet above the present preserved solid wall surface, forty feet above the ground level, and is precariously balanced. In its present state, any seismic activity in the area would bring it crashing down, and part of the interior relief decoration with it. Our plan is to construct a solid brick and sandstone buttress against the outer spur which will inhibit any lateral movement, into which we will later restore 48 joined wall fragments which complete a representation of the divine barge of Khonsu and its towboats on the Nile during the Opet festival, the lower part of which is preserved on the wall. This way we will be killing two birds with one stone, as it were. The bricklaying began today under the supervision of Dany and our Bash Mohandis / Chief Engineer Girgis Samwell, and this first phase of the operation is expected to take three days. Structural engineer Conor Power was here for several days at the end of January, continuing his study of the structural condition of Luxor Temple, and consulted with Dany and me on the stabilization project for the Colonnade Hall wall.

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Yarko photographing reused talatat, Luxor Temple. He is assisted by SCA Inspector Ahmed Dawi and CH Photographer's Assistant Gharib

JANUARY 2005

The new year 2005 has seen an increased level of archaeological activity in Luxor, as the high season begins and friends and colleagues return to resume their work: the library has never been so full as it is on Fridays now. There are three Polish teams presently at Deir El Bahri, including Andrzej Niwinski finishing up his work in the cliffs; Janosz Karkowski, working in the Hathor sanctuary of Hatshepsut's mortuary temple, and Zibigniew Sfranski with the mortuary temple archaeological and architectural team. A Spanish team from Madrid is working with José Galan at Dira Abu El Naga, as was Daniel Polz and his German Archaeological Institute crew, and Elena Pichikova of New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art (MMA) has just finished her season at the 26th Dynasty tomb of Nespekashuty above the Assasif. Betsy Bryan is here putting the finishing touches on her Sw-em-niwt tomb study, and Hourig Sourouzian and her team have resumed their work in the Amenhotep III mortuary temple. We are particularly happy to welcome back Richard Fazzini and his Mut Temple team after a hiatus of several years (due to Richard's successful battle with lung cancer and then a brain aneurism); the crew includes wife Mary McKereher, Hermann Te Velde, Bill and Elsie Peck, Jaap van Dijk, and conservator Ellen Pearlstein. Former CH Director Peter Dorman stayed with us for a week, while Alain Zivie and his family, Donald Redford, and Leonard and Barbara Lesko have all passed through. Ursula Kaplony-Heckel is here now for a few weeks studying Demotic administrative texts from Karnak. Renée Friedman passed through Luxor last week on her way back to resume her work at Hierakonpolis, and her husband Vivian Davies is expected through here next week, on his way to El Kab. Take a number!

Finally, I am happy to report that on Sunday, January 16th, the Supreme Council of Antiquities, the city of Luxor, and the US and Swedish Embassies hosted a ceremony at Luxor



Eastern wall buttress from south, Colonnade Hall



Projecting eastern wall, Luxor Temple Colonnade Hall.

Temple officially inaugurating the de-watering project for Luxor and Karnak temples, five years in the planning. A great blue and silver tent was set up on the rise in front of and facing Luxor Temple, and speeches were made by SCA Chairman Zahi Hawass, the Governor of Luxor Samir Farag; the Swedish Ambassador Stig Elvemar; and US Ambassador David Welch. Zahi said that this project was one of the greatest in the history of USAID's work in Egypt, and would allow the survival of both Luxor and Karnak temples for future generations. Ambassador Welch spoke of his pleasure at this collaboration which would preserve so much of our common cultural heritage. After the speeches the SCA hosted the group to a luncheon at the Sonesta St. George Hotel, and after lunch an organizational meeting of all parties was held in one of the Sonesta conference rooms. Participants: the Swedish water engineers from SWECO, contractor reps, USAID officials, SCA and antiquities folk - about 50 people total. By the end of the afternoon game plans had been set out, and the next meetings scheduled. There is a long way to go, but it is an encouraging beginning. The project is scheduled to last 18 months, after which the USAID support money dries up (real incentive to stay on schedule!). Chicago House will continue to consult with all parties

involved and share its resources in an effort to smooth the way for this crucial project.

FEBRUARY

Stonecutter Dany Roy returned from Cairo on February 27 to resume the Colonnade Hall eastern wall stabilization project. Dany was in Cairo with his wife Nada for the birth of their son, Mark, born on February 12. Mother and the almost ten-pound baby are doing very well. While Dany was away our workmen prepared the materials for the completion of the buttressing project, laying in bricks and sand and preparing the lime for the mortar. During this time I created and set up a sign explaining the project, illustrated with cross sections and views of the stabilization and restoration process. Last week the brick masons returned to work, and as of this writing the brick buttress against the projecting outer wall section consists of 20 cubic meters of bricks (8,000 bricks total) and rises six meters high. With this in place the wall is now stable, al hamdu lillah. The stone veneer blocks are scheduled to arrive by week's end, and next week Dany and local stone mason Gamal from Karnak will prepare the stone for application as a "skin" concealing the brick core and will distress the surface of the blocks to look like the original, ancient blocks all around it. Stone conservator Hiroko has isolated all 48 wall fragments from the Khonsu Barge scene and is preparing them for joining and restoration to the top of the inner wall. Once in place, they will complete the Opet register in that section to its original height and will form the bottom facing of the buttress. Restoration of the group will begin this month but probably not be finished until next season.

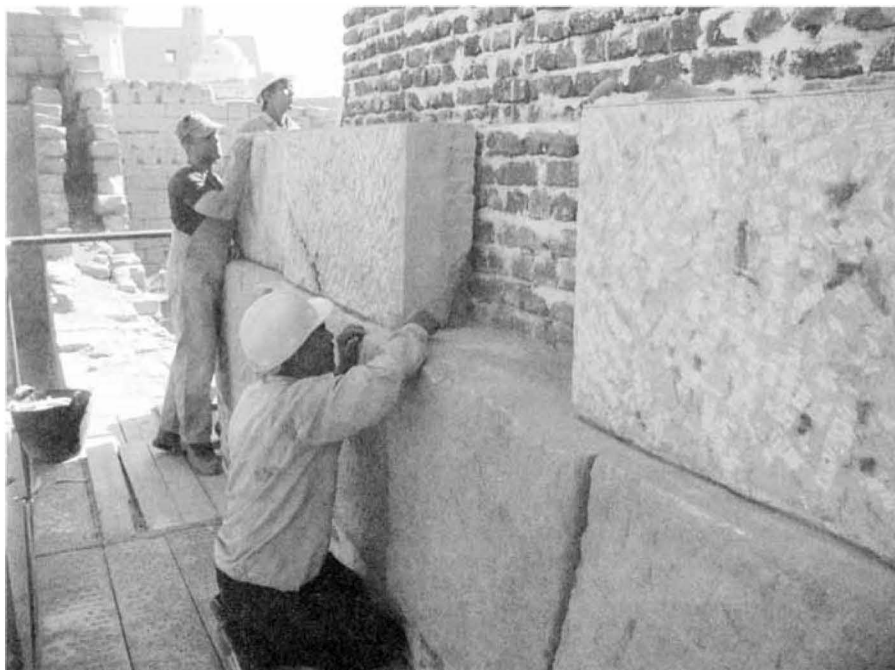
Hiroko continues to treat and assess the fragmentary material in the blockyard. She treated 38 fragments with Wacker



*Stone cutter Gamal shaping a veneer stone,
Luxor Temple blockyard.*

OH 100 silicate, and 10 large Amenhotep III sanctuary blocks in the southern blockyard. Lately she has been condition-surveying the decaying fragments in the covered "hospital" platforms, in preparation for moving some to the treatment area east of the Amenhotep III suncourt. Photographer Yarko Kobylecky assisted by Ellie Smith finished the painstaking, large-format photographic documentation of Amenhotep III's socle inscription which wraps around the back sanctuary, parts of which are decaying terribly now. This area will be one of the first areas we focus on for major consolidation work once the groundwater is lowered in the temple vicinity.

At the Medinet Habu small Amun temple Brett McClain, Harold Hays, Jen Kimpton, and Sue Osgood continued the epigraphic documentation and collation of the bark sanctuary and ambulatory areas in the 18th Dynasty core temple. Lotfi Hassan, Adel Azziz, and Nahed Samir finished the cleaning and poulticing desalination of the sanctuary façade, and Yarko assisted by Ellie will begin the final photography of this section for the first volume of the small Amun temple series this week. This past month Lotfi and his team also began the consolidation of decaying foundation stones around the 18th Dynasty temple. This is more accurately described as the platform on which Hatshepsut and Thutmose III built their temple, presently half-buried. We have uncovered, as Uvo Hölscher did earlier, the back, western courses of the southern exte-



Veneer placing - Dany, Ali, and Saber; eastern wall, Colonnade Hall.



Nahed consolidating Ptolemaic wall, MHB.

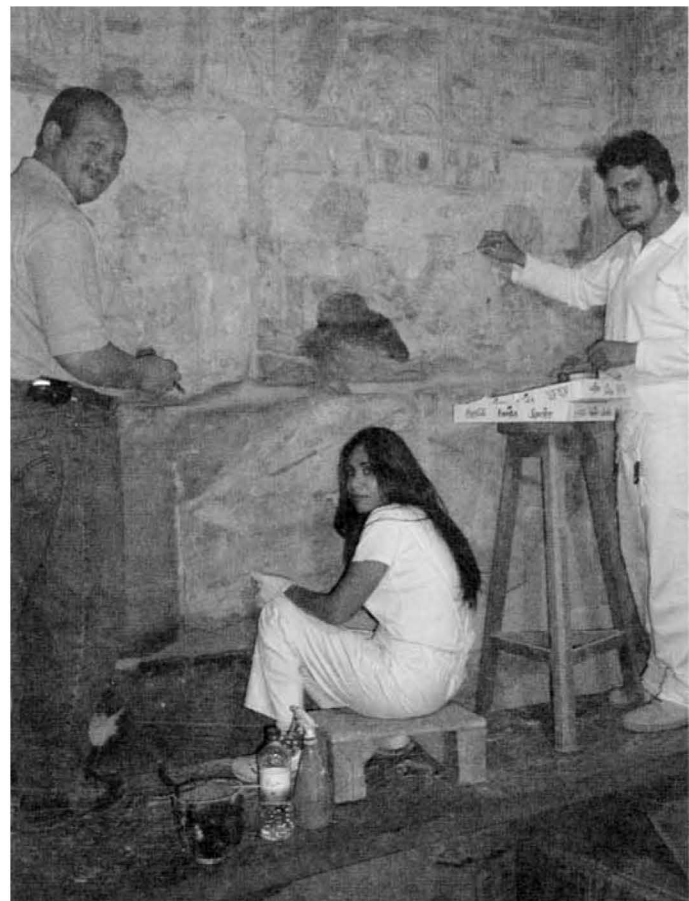
rior wall, and are consolidating the decaying, fractured stone at the ground line. The same sort of consolidation has been deemed necessary on the interior, northern Ptolemaic wall between the Kushite Pylon and 18th Dynasty temple façade, and also began last week. Lisa Giddy and Tina Di Cerbo are finishing up the excavation and recording of the naos emplacement in the Naos Room sanctuary this week, and Dany will begin the careful backfilling and new emplacement footing for the naos by week's end. I have resumed work analyzing the smaller fragments of the granodiorite dyad of Thutmosis III and Amun in the central sanctuary. On the first day Tina, Reis Badawy, and I made 8 major joins!

I have participated in several groundwater meetings with the SCA, SWECO, and USAID in Luxor during the past month. Excavation in the areas of two pumping stations at Luxor Temple are due to begin this Sunday, and the Epigraphic Survey will store in the LT blockyard any fragmentary architectural or inscribed material encountered during this project, and will incorporate that material into its program. WMF Director of Conservation Dr. Gaetano Palumbo is in Luxor now for a review of our Luxor Temple work - presently supported by WMF - and to review other projects supported by WMF, such as the German work in Amenhotep III's mortuary temple, and Renée Friedman's stabilization work of the Dynasty 2 mudbrick enclosure at Hierakonpolis. (Eight of us journeyed to Hierakonpolis and its sister city El Kab yesterday to see Renée's painstaking work and that of her husband Vivian Davies in the 17th and early 18th Dynasty tombs at El Kab.) In late February we hosted the ARCE grand tour of Egypt with site visits, library briefing, and a courtyard reception, and we are looking forward to the imminent arrival of Robert Ritner, Oriental Institute Development Director Monica Witczak, and the Oriental Institute tour here at the end of this week. Carlotta Maher arrived at the end of February and has once more resumed briefing visitors and groups passing through; she and I spoke to a group from Fulbright Egypt this morning. This is our busiest time of the season, and it is a great boon to have her here.

MARCH

As I write this the Chicago House team is preparing for the 2004-2005 season's end on April 15, and we have begun the process of concluding our operations. What this entails is not a gradual slowing down of our activities, but rather a speeding up of all our levels of operation in a (sometimes frantic) effort to accomplish our season's goals, and get as much done as possible in the limited time remaining. So the last few weeks are always exciting! But everything is going very well, although every season I am at a loss at this time of the year, because I still feel like we have just arrived!

Artists Margaret De Jong and Sue Osgood are already home, working on the inking of penciled drawings for summer work, and as most of you know, epigrapher Harold Hays is back in Chicago teaching Old Egyptian at the Oriental Institute. Epigraphers Brett McClain and Jen Kimpton are finishing up the last of the collations of the season, mainly on the second volume drawings of the small Amun temple, the ambulatory and façade of the Eighteenth Dynasty temple. Tina is already preparing for the closing of the house and offices, and the storage of temple equipment which we will be transporting back to the house magazines next week from both temple sites: scaffolding, ladders of all sizes, lighting, etc. All of the ladders must be cleaned and oiled against the incredible heat of the

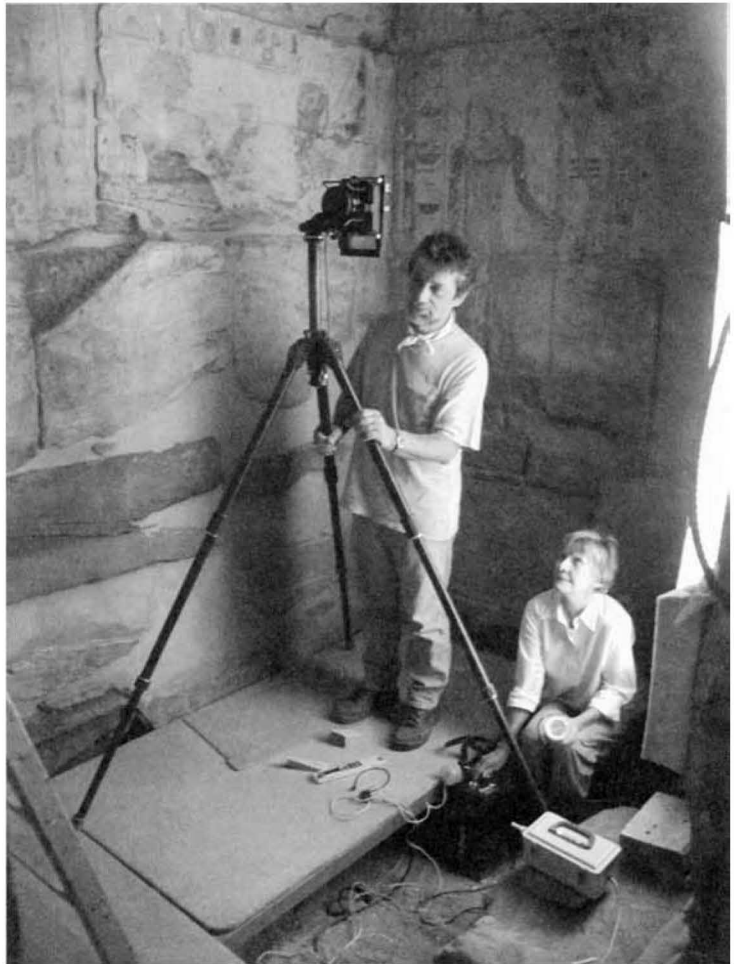


Adel, Nahed, and Lotfi cleaning the western wall in the Naos Room, MHB.

summer so they will keep their flexibility, and it is done again at the beginning of each season. Most of the ladders, particularly the larger one-, two-, and three-story ladders, have been in use by Epigraphic Survey for 80 years, a testament to the quality of the equipment and our careful maintenance of it, all supervised by Tina.

Conservators Lotfi Hassan, Adel Azziz, and Nahed Samir finished the cleaning of the painted façade of the small Amun temple sanctuary in early March, after which photographer Yarko Kobylecky assisted by Ellie Smith did the final publication photography in large format (4x5 inch) color transparency and b&w. This was more of a challenge than one might think, as columns from the Akoris-period restoration of the temple and the bark sanctuary itself are impediments to full-on photography and proper lighting of the reliefs. They also continued the 35 mm b&w photography of miscellaneous architectural and tomb fragments from SCA work in western Thebes in the '50s and '60s, stored at MHB, which we will be arranging to have moved to the west bank central magazine. In an attempt to limit access to the fragmentary material in the MHB blockyard, which although surrounded by a mud-brick wall has always been open to casual visiting (and use as a bathroom by the gafirs), we installed locked wooden gates at the north and south-eastern sides. Next season we will start the systematic sorting, documentation, and cataloging of the fragmentary material there, some of which we suspect relates to the later additions of the small Amun temple. Lisa Giddy and Tina Di Cerbo finished the excavation and recording of the naos emplacement in the Naos Room at the beginning of the month, after which Dany Roy carefully backfilled the area, which allowed the conservation team to start the cleaning and infilling of the back wall. Their work is scheduled to be completed today, after which, starting tomorrow, Yarko and Ellie will do the final large-format, publication photography of that wall and the western ends of the two side walls (formerly hidden by the naos and now exposed for the first time in over 2000 years) for the first volume of our small Amun temple series. All of this work, including part of the epigraphic documentation, is supported by an EAP ARCE grant, which will take us through next season.

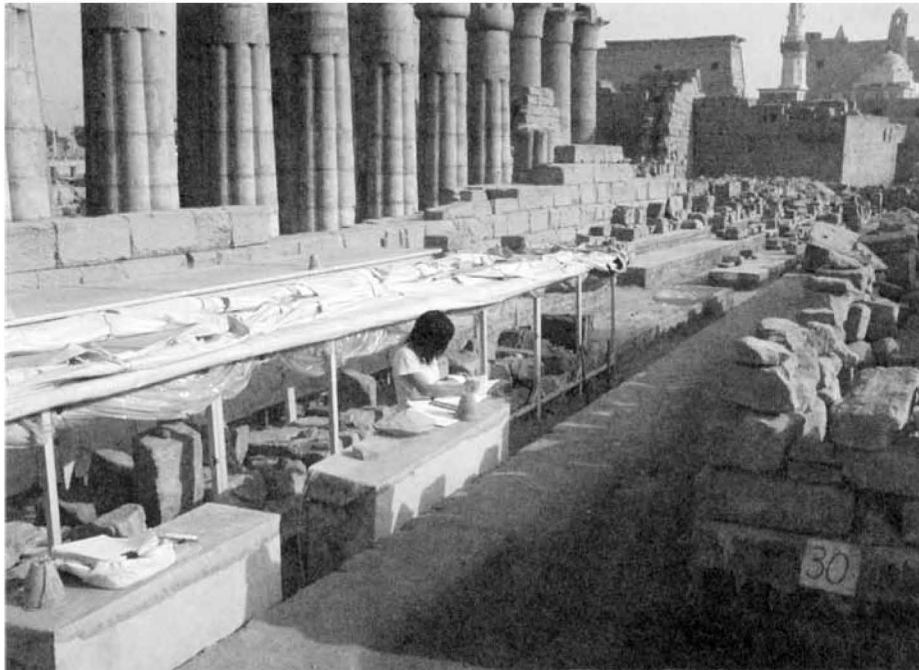
The second phase of the Luxor Temple Colonnade Hall eastern wall stabilization project, supported by the WMF, began on March 18 when Dany and his workmen winched the first of the sandstone veneer slabs into place over the solid brick buttress core. At this writing the first row of veneer blocks has been secured with galvanized steel anchors and mortared in place (7 blocks total, 25-30 cm thick, 74 meters in height, and between 1 and 1.4 meters in length), and the row above that (65 cm in height) is in progress, with one block in place and one being winched into place as I write this. We had hoped to have all of the sandstone veneer in place by the end of this season, but delays in the delivery of the sandstone unfortunately made that impossible. Mafesh. The two lower rows of veneer slabs will be finished by next week, but the two upper rows will be put into place at the beginning of next season.



Yarko and Ellie setting up for photography in the Naos Room, MHB.

Each of the sandstone slabs has had its surface carefully, variably chiseled or distressed in a manner reminiscent of the original wall blocks in an attempt to aesthetically integrate the restoration with the original ancient fabric of the wall. Because the newly quarried stone is considerably lighter in color than the wall, Dany and Hiroko have carefully painted the white stone surface with a mixture of fixative, water, and dirt which quite effectively matches the new with the old stones. The 48 Khonsu Barge fragments which reassemble to complete the Opet register in that wall section will be mortared into place in a brick matrix after the veneer stones are finished at the beginning of next season. We will be hauling up and assembling dry some of the fragments which stack on the wall next week as a preview of what's to come, and I am making application now to leave our scaffolding place over the summer.

Conservator Hiroko Karya has been coordinating the final treatment for the season of the deteriorating fragmentary material in the LF blockyard and monitoring the condition of all of the material in the blockyard. In addition, she has been coordinating the painstaking removal, consolidation, and storage of fragmentary wall material reused in medieval foundations south of the ES blockyard currently being cleared by the SCA in anticipation of the ground water lowering engineering project for Luxor Temple. She has been working closely with



Hiroko condition-surveying fragments in Luxor Temple blockyard.

become a major part of our job here, as conditions continue to change faster than one could ever imagine.

APRIL

On April 15, 2005, the Epigraphic Survey completed its eighty-first, six-month field season in Luxor, and most of the staff departed Luxor at that time for home. As I write this, Tina Di Cerbo is in the final stages of closing and mothballing the Chicago House facility for the summer. She tells me that a terrific wind, rain, and lightning storm hit Luxor last week and brought down a number of old trees along the Corniche, including one which fell on our front enclosure wall. That has already been repaired, but we will miss the old trees.

It was an amazing season. The conservators at Medinet Habu supervised by Lotfi Hassan finished the cleaning and infilling of the painted

Ted Brock, who with our SCA colleagues Mansour Radwan and Attiya Radwan has been supervising excavation of an area where a pumping station is planned, and drainage trenches. The Epigraphic Survey, as our contribution to this project, has promised to protect, conserve, and integrate into our program any and all fragmentary inscribed material recovered during this work, which will continue into the summer and next season. WMF Conservation Director Gaetano Palumbo had a very good review visit with us during the second week of March, which gave us the opportunity to discuss continued funding of the blockyard work.

March is always a particularly busy time for tours and visitors, and it was a godsend to have Carlotta Maher back with us for that month. It was also a great pleasure to have the OI tour led by Robert Ritner and Monica Witezak with us in Luxor for several days. During that time we had the opportunity to show them our work at both temple sites and host the group to a reception and library briefing at the house. Robert had a good week's stay with us afterward, during which we shamelessly picked his brain on some of the Ptolemaic material we are presently recording at the small Amun temple. Other guests included Janet Richards from the University of Michigan, Adela Oppenheim from the MMA, and a Congressional Delegation from the House of Representatives, including Carolyn Kilpatrick from Michigan, who is on the House Appropriations Committee. Raising consciousness of preservation issues has

reliefs of the sanctuary façade of the 18th Dynasty temple, and consolidated deteriorating exterior wall blocks on the southwestern side of the sanctuary and on the northern interior Ptolemaic wall adjacent to the Kushite Pylon. Dany Roy winched the 5-ton granite naos across the Naos Room sanctuary to the opposite (east) side, after which Yarko took large-format condition photographs of the back west wall which had not been fully exposed for more than 2,000 years. Archaeologist Lisa Giddy and Tina Di Cerbo excavated the subsided foundations



Brick buttress from north, eastern wall, Colonnade Hall.

APRIL 2005

of the naos in preparation for a new footing and restoration of the stone floor in that area. When the excavation and recording were complete, the area was filled in with sand and gravel and the conservators cleaned, desalinated, and infilled the back wall, after which Yarko, assisted by Ellie Smith photographed in large-format color and black and white the back wall and the western scenes on both adjacent side walls for the final publication.

In April we finished analysis of the 370 loose fragments belonging to the 3-meter high granodiorite dyad of Thutmosis III and Amun, the seven largest pieces of which we had restored in the front central chamber several seasons ago. Most of the 62 additional small joins to the statue were made by everyone but me, including the conservation staff and reis of the MH temple workmen, Badawy Mohamed Abdel Rahman, who made many joins and actually found the upper part of the king's double crown in the MH blockyard!

With the completion of epigraphic recording in the six inner chambers and façade for the forthcoming publication *Medinet Habu IX. The Eighteenth Dynasty Temple, Part I: The Inner Sanctuaries* (64 facsimile drawings total) the artists and epigraphers devoted almost the entire season to work in the ambulatory and bark shrine and on the Eighteenth Dynasty temple façade. The decision to divide the remaining portions of the core temple into two volumes determined the focus of this season, with an emphasis on completing the drawings for *Medinet Habu X. The Eighteenth Dynasty Temple, Part 2: The Bark Sanctuary Ambulatory* as soon as possible, although work on *Medinet Habu XI. The Eighteenth Dynasty Temple, Part 3: The Bark Sanctuary* continued at the same time.

Breakdown of the facsimile drawings for volumes 2 and 3 worked on this season is as follows:

Penciling completed: 18 drawing enlargements
 Inking completed: 10 drawing enlargements
 Collation Completed: 26 drawings
 Transfer Check Completed: 8 drawings
 Director Check Completed: 10 drawings

Total drawings worked on during the 04-05 season: 72

Tina Di Cerbo assisted by Richard Jasnow continued the systematic documentation and mapping of the graffiti throughout the Medinet Habu complex, primarily in the mortuary temple of Ramesses III and small Amun temple. After cleaning the grounds around the small Amun temple of construction and restoration debris, and erecting rope fencing around the

treated outer walls of the sanctuary, on April 12 we cleaned and inspected the sanctuaries, then with our inspector Gamal carefully locked and sealed the two doors with the lead seals of the SCA and blocked up the doors with stone for the summer.

The Luxor Temple conservation project was supervised by conservator Hiroko Kariya in two phases between Novem-

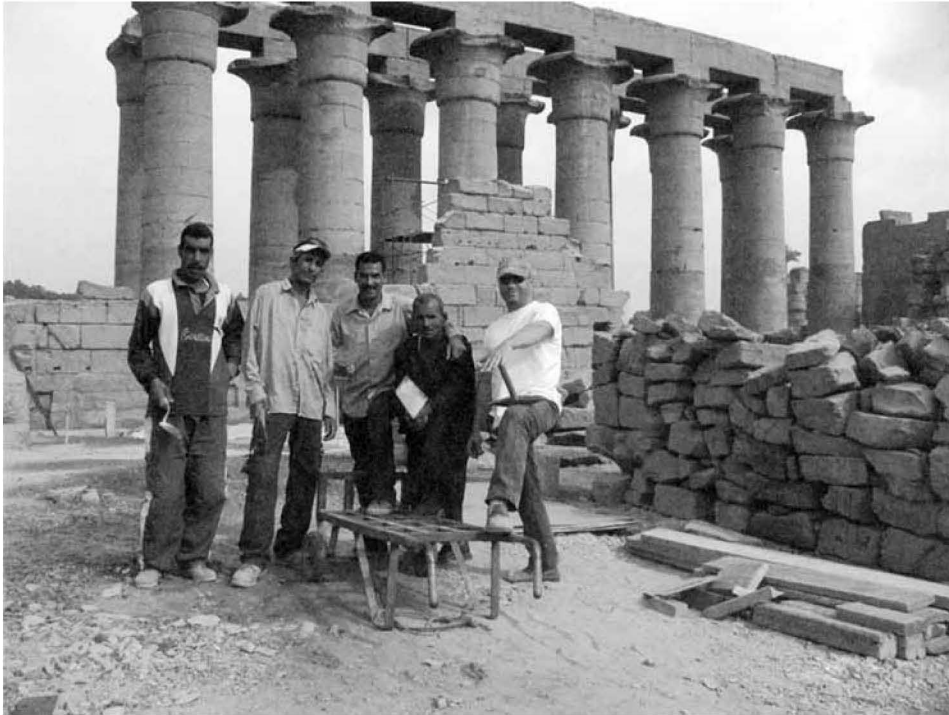


Ali, Ray, and Saber placing Khonsu barge fragments on wall, eastern wall, Colonnade Hall. Photo by Hiroko Kariya.

ber 4 and December 18, 2004, and January 31 and April 15, 2005. Three phases of treatment were carried out during this season; 82 fragments during the first phase, 37 during the second, and 42 during the third. Two phases of treatment of large blocks of Amenhotep III were carried out in the southern blockyard; 5 during the first phase and 10 during the second. These blocks were too large to move to the treatment area, thus, were treated on mastabas (*in situ*) under awnings constructed by Hiroko and our engineer Nashet. Forty-eight fragments which will be reconstructed on the east wall of the Colonnade Hall - the Khonsu barge scene - were located and condition studied with written and photographic documentation. The uninscribed faces were coated with a dilute solution of acrylic resin for protection during reconstruction.

Forty-three fragments were uncovered from medieval foundations south and southeast of the temple wall and moved to protective storage in the Epigraphic Survey blockyard. Many fragments which were exposed in excavations two years ago exhibited severe signs of decay and needed to be stabilized *in situ* before removal from the site. Most of these fragments join to form two blocks which join the Colonnade Hall façade, west side, and preserve elements of a colossal Amun figure originally carved by Ay in raised relief and recarved by Ramses II in sunk relief. As the Luxor Temple de-watering project continues, as such material is uncovered, Chicago House will con-

2004-2005 SEASON SUMMARY



Buttress-Builders Sayid, Ali, Saber, Hassan, and Dany. Luxor Temple.

continue to protect, store, and treat the fragmentary material uncovered during that work.

This season the Epigraphic Survey inaugurated an exciting new phase of its preservation work in the Luxor Temple Colonnade Hall. Stone cutter Dany Roy supervised the construction of a brick buttress against a projecting section of the eastern outer wall in March, seven courses high, a little over 6 meters in height. In late March and early April, 12 veneer stones were cut and shaped by Dany and stone cutter Gamal, and the surfaces were distressed to resemble the ancient stone blocks of the Colonnade Hall wall. The two lowest rows of sandstone veneer blocks corresponding to courses 4 and 5 were finished during this 2004-2005 season. The upper two (smaller) veneer rows 6 and 7 will be put into place and finished next season 2005-2006, and the 48 fragments of the Khonsu Barge group will be restored and infilled below (courses 1, 2, and 3), which will complete the Opet Register in that section. On April 10th and 11th nine sandstone fragments from the Khonsu Barge group were laid dry on the wall, where they will be permanently restored in November. This will give the public a preview of what is to come. Permission was received by the SCA to leave the red scaffolding in place against the wall, which will protect the wall until it is finished, and also make it clear that the stabilization and restoration work is not finished yet. Rough-cut, unprocessed sandstone veneer slabs for the continuation of the project in October were left outside the eastern enclosure wall, placed near the wall so they would not be in the way of the archaeological work in that area related to the groundwater lowering project sponsored by the SCA, USAID, and SWECO.

After April 15, when the temperatures in Luxor have

soared above 100 degrees F, Chicago House crew members scatter to the four winds for the summer: Chicago, California, New York, Vermont, Baltimore, Florida, Massachusetts, Germany, Beijing, Cairo, Canada, all over. My summer is spent at the Oriental Institute on the University of Chicago campus analyzing and processing material documented during the field season; writing reports to the Egyptian government, the University of Chicago, and our numerous granting agencies; and writing applications and proposals for the season to come. AND putting new publications together, such as *Medinet Habu IX. The Eighteenth Dynasty Temple, Part I: The Inner Sanctuaries*, our next volume for publication. While the IS does not have the resources to keep everyone employed fulltime during the sum-

mer (yet), most staff members do have some summer work to do. The artists ink drawings penciled at the temple site during the winter; the senior epigrapher works on publication translations and commentary for publications in progress, the photographers work on publication photos, archiving, optimizing scanned CH negatives on CD-ROM, and supply buying for the season to come; and the librarian researches grants and materials for the maintenance of the Chicago House library. This summer epigrapher Harold Flays has assisted me with the administration and supply buying in the Epigraphic Survey office, while back in Egypt finance manager Safi Ouri keeps an eye on the closed up Chicago House facility and our Luxor workmen who guard and tend to the grounds during the summer months. At the moment we are all deep in preparations for the 2005-2006 field season, which will begin on October 15, and which already looks to be one of our busiest and most interesting ever. This season we are taking out two new epigraphers and two new artists - young Egyptologists all - for training in our epigraphic documentation program. It takes a long time to learn the techniques, skills, and conventions that allow us to maintain the Epigraphic Survey's highest standards of scientific documentation. It is time to start laying the foundations for the future epigraphic team.

The professional staff this season, besides the field director, consisted of J. Brett McClain, Harold Flays, and Jen Kimpton as epigraphers; Christina Di Cerbo, Margaret De Jong, and Susan Osgood as artists; Yarko Kobylecky as staff photographer; Susan Lezon as photo archivist and photographer; Elinor Smith as photo archives registrar and photography assistant; Lisa Giddy as project archaeologist; Carlotta Maher as assistant to the director; Safinaz Ouri as finance manager; Samir

2004-2005 SEASON SUMMARY

Al-Guindy as accountant; Marie Bryan as librarian; Dany Roy as stone cutter; Lotfi Hassan, Adel Aziz Andraws, and Nahed Samir as conservators at Medinet Habu; and Hiroko Kariya as field conservator at Luxor Temple. Conor Power worked as structural engineer; Helen Jacquet-Gordon and Jean Jacquet continued to work and consult with us in the library and photo archives; and Girgis Samwell worked with us as chief engineer. It's a fabulous team.

To the Supreme Council of Antiquities we once again owe a great debt of thanks for our fruitful collaboration this season: especially to Dr. Zahi Hawass, Secretary General of the SCA; Dr. Magdy El-Ghandour, General Director of Foreign Missions; Dr. Sabry Abdel Aziz, General Director of Antiquities for Upper and Lower Egypt; Dr. Mohamed Abdel Fattah Abdel Ghani, Director General of Upper Egypt; Dr. Holeil Ghaly, General Director of Luxor and Southern Upper Egypt; Dr. Ali Asfar, General Director for the West Bank of Luxor; Dr. Mohamed Assem, Director of Karnak Luxor Temples; Mr. Ibrahim Suleiman, Director of Karnak Temple; Mr. Taha, Director of Luxor Temple; and Mme. Sanaa, Director of the Luxor Museum. Special thanks must go to our SCA

inspectors over the course of our six-month field season; at Medinet Habu: Mr. Omar Yousef Mahmoud, Mr. Yahia Abdel Aleem Kassem, and Mr. Gamal Salem Ahmad Aly. And at Luxor Temple: Mr. Ahmed Dawi Hassan, Ms. Sanaa Yousef El Taher, and Ms. Asmaa Mahmoud Fesal. It was a pleasure to work with them all.

Finally, sincerest thanks to everyone who has supported our preservation work in Luxor. You know who you are, and you also know that our successes are all due to you. Bless you all. Anyone who wishes to stop by and see Chicago House and the activities of the Epigraphic Survey should contact us in advance to arrange the best time for all. Chicago House is open from October 15, 2005 until April 15, 2006, and is closed Saturday afternoons and Sundays. To arrange a visit during the season, please call the Oriental Institute Membership Office at 773-702-9513, or e-mail Director Ray Johnson directly at wr-johnson@uchicago.edu. Please see the back cover for our contact information in Egypt and Chicago.

All photographs, except where otherwise noted, are digital images taken by Ray Johnson.



Epigraphic Survey Staff 2004-2005. Photo by Yarko Kobylecky.

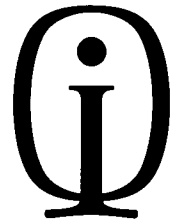
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