

TEMPLE OF TUTHMOSIS III – DEIR EL-BAHARI
REPORT ON THE 1990 SEASON
Jadwiga Lipińska

According to the programme, work concentrated on studying the broken temple elements stored, since the excavations, in a shed near the temple of Hatshepsut. Since 1978 a special team has been sent there regularly to deal with the finds from the ruined temple.¹

The main task of this season was to complete the already assembled scenes and to find proof for linking the representations provisionally attributed together. A special study was undertaken on fragments of decorated doorways in order to determine their exact dimensions. This was especially important in cases when there were no traces left in the ruined building to allow a reconstruction of the plan.

Comparatively few new assembled scenes were registered, as most of the newly identified parts of the decoration and inscriptions were joined to already registered scenes. In rough estimation, about 80% of the fragmentary material stored at Deir el-Bahari is now joined into 501 numbered scenes. 62% of these are now firmly attributed to particular walls of the temple, in many cases allowing for the complete reconstruction of the iconography of the temple halls and rooms.

In the Hypostyle Hall the wall decoration is ascertained for the western, northern and part of the eastern walls; only a few scenes

¹ During the 1990 season the mission was headed by Assist. Prof. Jadwiga Lipińska and consisted of: Miss Janina Wiercińska, Mrs. Monika Dolińska and Miss Joanna Aksamit, archaeologists, Miss Kamila Baturo, archaeologist and documentalist, and Mr. Stefan Sadowski, photographer. The EA0 assigned two Inspectors: Mr. Reda All Sultan and Mr. Nur Abd el-Gafer, who greatly facilitated the work and were of considerable assistance to the Mission. Deep gratitude should also be expressed to Dr. Muhammad Saghir, Director of the EAO in Luxor and Dr. Muhammad Nasser, Director of the Gurna Inspectorate.

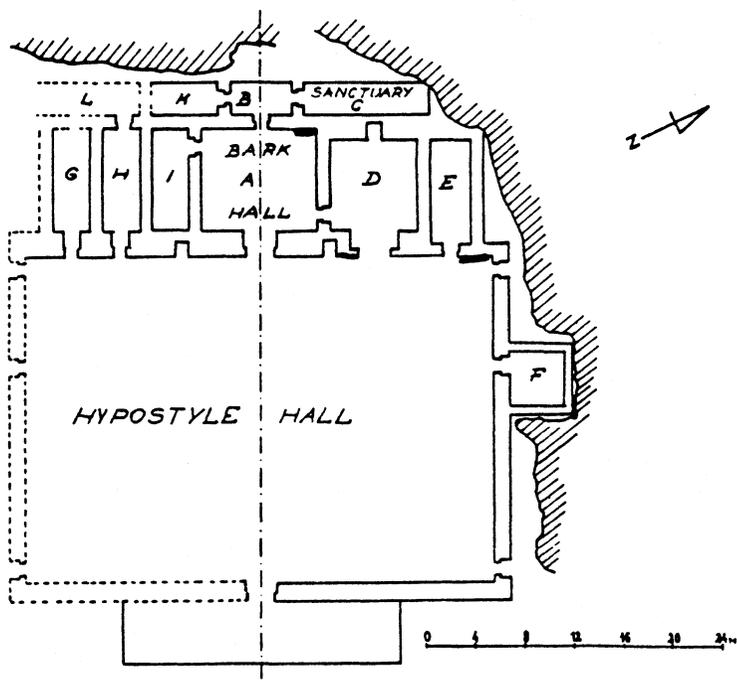


Fig. 1. Plan of the temple.

have been attributed to the southern one, probably destroyed earlier, and there is little hope to complete its theoretical reconstruction. The documentation of the reconstructed walls of this hall is now finished, and a set of original drawings, made to 1:4 scale, is now reduced to 1:12 for the purposes of publication.

The decoration of the Bark Hall, consisting of two registers on each wall, is almost fully ascertained, with the exception of its southwestern corner. The studies resulted in establishing the fact that except for two normal doorways: one leading into the room from the Hypostyle Hall and one leading to the vestibule of the sanctuary, there were two other entrances, one in each of the side

walls. This feature is unusual and there is no parallel arrangement known. This Hall has other unusual features, but their interpretation will be possible only after the drawings are completed and verified during the next season.

The work on the decoration of the main sanctuary is not finished yet, but the drawings of the eastern wall and separate scenes from other walls will be completed shortly. The work on the reconstruction of wall decoration in a series of long, narrow shrines in the western part of the temple is under progress. Three of them (marked D, H, I) have almost been finished, with iconographic schemes established for all of their walls. For Room G one wall is still missing, and for rooms E, K and L only single representations have been attributed. With about 38% of the assembled scenes still awaiting attribution, there is hope to fill the gaps, and the work should be much speedier now, as a result of a process of elimination.

It is planned to complete the first volume of the publication of the temple decoration soon, and it will contain the reconstruction and studies on the Hypostyle Hall.

Another field of activity during the 1990 season consisted of extensive studies on the hieratic graffiti found on fragmentary columns and walls of the temple. In 1974 Dr. M. Marciniak published a volume on them, but left for publication countless smaller parts of the texts. With progress on the piecing together of the wall decoration, it was possible to join many hitherto scattered fragmentary texts and prepare another volume. Also, a number of the hieratic texts on broken columns were successfully connected; Mr. M. Barwik, who undertook this task, prepared a complete documentation of the subject.