

## TUTHMOSIS III TEMPLE AT DEIR EL-BAHARI

Jadwiga Lipińska

This season's work lasted from October 15, 1991, to March 19, 1992, and was confined entirely to studies and documentation of the Tuthmoside materials, both in the store and *in situ*.<sup>1</sup> The following subjects were in progress:

**Fragmentarily preserved wall-reliefs.** The work on joining together and recording the assembled scenes was continued. The first drawings of the walls of the Sacred Bark Shrine were checked against the original fragmentary reliefs and a new, corrected and much augmented version was drawn for three of the Shrine walls and a part of the fourth one. The remaining part (southern half of the western wall), which has been causing some problems as far as the arrangement of scenes is concerned, will be studied further. The total length of the graphically reconstructed decoration of this Shrine constituted about 24 m and is 4.50 m high in sections. Also the southern wall of room H has been redrawn with many additions. This wall measures 9.35 m, and the height of the decorated part was c. 4.50 m, too. All the drawings were then reduced to 1:4 scale.

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<sup>1</sup> The mission, led by Prof. Jadwiga Lipińska, consisted of Dr. Rafał Czerner (architect), Ms Joanna Aksamit, Ms Kamila Baturo, Ms Janina Wiercińska, Mrs. Monika Dolińska, Mr. Dariusz Niedziółka, egyptologists, and Mr. Zbigniew Nowak, student of egyptology. Mr. El-Nubi Taya Ahmed was assigned to the mission by the EAO and greatly facilitated our work. Expressions of gratitude are due Dr. Muhammad Saghir and Dr. Muhammad Naser for their unfailing helpfulness and kindness.

This season's progress has left little original material still not assembled. Nevertheless, even though only small fragments have remained it is still possible to fit them into the gaps in the reconstructed scenes or inscriptions. The mission prepared a three-year conservation program on the assembled fragmentary reliefs.

Temple architecture. The theoretically reconstructed wall-reliefs and decorated doorways help in revising the plan of the temple, much of which was hypothetic in view of a lack of surviving architectural remains. For example, the reconstructed decoration of the Bark Shrine has led to the establishing of two additional side entrances to adjacent rooms, beside the main doorway leading from the Hypostyle Hall and a smaller door giving access to the Offering Table Shrine. In existing ancient Egyptian temples there is no evidence of a Bark Shrine with entrances in every one of its walls.

Studies were carried out on the drums of columns, which had been dismantled in antiquity and then were recovered from the debris. Egyptological studies of the inscribed fragments of columns resulted in joining together scores of fragmentary inscriptions, originating both from the 16-sided and 32-sided columns. The inventory of the assembled inscriptions contains presently more than 160 items. It was also possible to assemble several undecorated fragments of the drums, in some cases adding to the partly preserved sections.

Architectural research concentrated mainly on preparing a full documentation of the columns, their bases and larger parts of the architraves. A new conception clarifying the original layout of architraves was presented.

The architect also prepared the guidelines for a three-year program to safeguard the preserved, but disintegrating architectural remnants of the temple in situ (bases of columns, floor pavements, stairs leading to the granite doorway, and the thresholds and lower parts of the door-jambes).

**Collection of tools.** The stonecutters dismantling the temple in the Third Intermediate Period left behind a great number of wooden tools such as mallets, hoes, rollers and levers. They have been studied over a period of five weeks this season by a student who will present his findings for an MA degree in archaeology at Warsaw University. His scope of interest included also the effects of the stonecutters' work, namely crudely shaped bowls and small, rectangular pieces of stone, probably intended for building purposes.