



CHICAGO HOUSE BULLETIN

Volume IV, No. 2
April 30, 1993

Privately circulated

Issued by The Epigraphic Survey
of The Oriental Institute of The University of Chicago

THE CHANGING FACE OF CHICAGO HOUSE

By Peter Dorman, Field Director

Chicago House
April 4, 1993

Dear Friends,

With the end of another season, the house seems eerily silent and a bit forlorn; the normal sounds of activity have begun to fade away as our artists, photographers, and epigraphers leave for their homes in America and Europe. In Luxor the signs of spring, which we greet with such relief and anticipation in Chicago after the hard freezes of winter, are instead harbingers of the end of our field work, and they presage the frenzy of last-minute work and harried packing. On our own compound, the *bauhinia* trees burst into small, purple orchid-shaped flowers and the fourteen processional palms that line our front walk extend long green shoots that terminate in tendrils of white—these will have ripened into small, hard dates by fall. In the evening, the garden is flooded with the heavy aroma of jasmine, orange and tangerine blossoms. As our staff members take final leave, the tradition is to pelt the departing taxi with whatever flowers happen to be on hand, normally roses, marigolds, or lantana. In the spring, however, the most impressive bloom is that of the bombax tree, which produces a bright red, fruity, trumpet-like blossom that weighs as much as a wet washcloth. Hurlled from the near distance, bombax flowers make a very satisfying (and moist) splat! against a taxi windshield.

The departures of the staff have been observed in the traditional way, but otherwise the spring has been anything but traditional. I am writing this letter from the director's suite, which has been converted into a temporary office for the summer months. Our administrative offices have been stripped of their contents.

We are entering the final phase of the Chicago House renovation, which is scheduled to end (inshallah) on October 1st of this year. The normal ceremonies associated with closing the house for the summer have been completely overturned: instead of locking and sealing all the buildings, we have been hatching plans to keep them completely open and accessible. Only in this way can the contractors proceed with the necessary updating of our facilities.

The residence building was largely completed last summer, and the adventures of our resident staff, Sue Lezon and James Riley, were partially recounted in the *Bulletin* of August 1992. During last season, work proceeded on the storerooms and garages in the rear of our property, a process that allowed us (perhaps for the first time ever) to completely unload the contents of every magazine on the compound. We unearthed fascinating treasures from the beginning years of the Survey, as well as moldering and not-so-fascinating personal belong-

(continued on p. 2)

CURRENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK IN LUXOR: THE WEST BANK

By Ray Johnson, Senior Artist

(Concluded from the Winter Bulletin)

Busy as the east bank seems, the west bank is even busier these days.

The director of the Canadian Institute in Cairo, Ted Brock, and his wife, Lyla Pinch Brock, resumed their work in the Valley of the Kings in the tomb of Merneptah this month, where they are cleaning and recording the fragments of an enormous shattered sarcophagus. Also in the Valley of the Kings, Drs. Otto Schaden and Earl Ertman managed to gain entrance into the lower chambers of the poorly understood tomb of king Amenmesse and recorded in photograph and in hand copy some of the ruined wall paintings there. Nearby, Dr. Hartwig Altenmüller and his crew from Hamburg University continued their difficult excavation of the tomb of Bay, a chancellor whose tenure seems to be bound up with the succession of the kings of Dynasty 19; several large sarcophagi were discovered in the rubble at the end of their season. Dr. Kent Weeks of the American University in Cairo (and a former director of Chicago House) led the Berkeley Theban Mapping Project in January, resuming mapping and clearance work in the Valley.

The Getty Conservation Institute, which recently finished the cleaning and consolidation of Nefertari's tomb in the Valley of the Queens, is scheduled to begin the much-needed conservation of the tomb of Tutankhamun in the Valley of the Kings in February. The Getty's Nefertari crew was a delightful and eclectic international group, and their return to Tutankhamun is eagerly awaited. The photographic documentation of Tutankhamun's tomb is a task that Chicago House will share with the Getty this coming fall.

At Dra' Abu el-Naga, the northern extremity of the Theban tombs of the nobles, Karl Seyfried and Frederika Kampp from Heidelberg University have labored since October in the cliffside tomb of a High Priest of Amun, Parennefer, whom they have discovered held office during the reign of Tutankhamun. The decoration of the badly damaged tomb is a wonderfully curious mix of Amarna and traditional artistic styles and iconography, very similar to some of the anomalies we have encountered in the Colonnade Hall at Luxor Temple, which was also mostly decorated during Tutankhamun's reign. They succeeded in finishing the total documentation of the tomb this season, a formidable task indeed. The Heidelberg team resided in the old residence of Nina and Norman de Garis Davies at Khokha, just south of Deir el-Bahri.

Above and slightly to the south of Parennefer's tomb, Dr. Boyo Ockinga and his epigraphic team from Macquarrie University in Sydney, Australia, were working until early January clearing, cleaning, and recording the later rock-cut tomb of the Ramesside High Priest of Mut, Amenemope. Although badly

(continued on p.3)

Chicago House Renovation (continued from p. 1)
ings of people who have long ago shuffled off this mortal coil. As for older equipment and furniture that were deemed unusable, our chief engineer, Saleh, piled it into one great heap in our driveway and held one of the biggest garage sales Luxor has ever seen. [Special note to field directors of other missions: fear not—whatever equipment you have stored at Chicago House is safely accounted for.]

Healey House, the picturesque guest house named after the Survey's first chief engineer, was demolished in October, and a larger building is rising in its place, more accommodating and certainly more modern in its furnishings. Special attention has been paid to ensure that its architecture will blend in with the existing buildings of the compound.

Just last week, Tom Van Eynde stripped the darkroom of all equipment and supplies, and the lab now lies ready for the removal of old wooden sinks that have served several generations of photographers in the tasks of bleaching, developing, and printing. Some ancient chemicals have been disposed of and others have been carefully stored for the summer.

The library has proved the greatest organizational challenge. For the last three weeks, Richard Jasnow and Tina Di Cerbo have been steadily emptying the library building of all of its furniture. The books went first: 17,000 volumes and most of the shelving were transferred in just eight days to the residence, into two living suites that Sue Osgood and Margaret De Jong had to vacate. Desks, tables, chairs, and files followed later, stacked into our storerooms and garages. The entire photographic archives managed to fit into Sue's sitting room, with space left over for some camera equipment as well. The

last visitors to the empty library this spring were several of the garden cats, whose interest in the library seemed to grow with the outward flood of books and furniture.

Without the high surrounding bookshelves, the empty library is a magnificent space, looking like a small railroad station with its high vaulted ceiling; only the ticket windows are missing. In addition to the plaster wall medallions that represent the ancient Egyptians' idea of the major races of mankind, other fine architectural details in the room can now be seen clearly: the arabesque ceramic plaques set into the walls, the art deco door frames, the wall moldings that meet the original height of the shelving, and curve gently up toward the ceiling, and two additional doorways that have been sealed for decades. These splendid features will be preserved in the restoration of the library to its original appearance.

To those of us living at Chicago House this winter, the upgrading of the residence has been a positive boon, particularly the availability of reliable heat, light, and hot water. But the exterior aspect of the buildings have thus far remained very much as we have always known them: weathered and cracking plaster, discolored areas of patching, and badly worn walkways. With the last phase of the renovation begun, this will change drastically, and in October we will be returning to a completed facility, new both inside and out, and one more suited to the task of our mission. I hope that those of you who read this brief note will have the chance to see how the face of Chicago House has changed in the last eighteen months, to meet the challenges of the next decades of epigraphy in the Theban area.

END



Statue of Horus, Temple of Edfu 10x12 in.

LOST EGYPT

Limited Edition Portfolios

Each 21 x 17-inch handmade portfolio case contains ten prints taken from original glass negatives created in Egypt between 1880 and 1930. Presently, the negatives are stored at Chicago House in Luxor, Egypt, where they will be reproduced in the 19th century manner on printing out paper in Egyptian sunlight. Mounted on archival museum board and gold-toned for permanence, they will be ready for framing and suitable for gifts. Available for the pre-publication price of \$2000 until August 1, 1993. Visa and Mastercard accepted. For more information contact:

Oriental Institute Publications
University of Chicago
1155 East 58th Street
Chicago, IL 60637

telephone (312) 702 9508 fax (312) 702 9853

The Friends of Chicago House Tour 1993

November 26 & 27, 1993

Dear Friends,

Help us celebrate our seventieth season in 1993-1994! The seventh annual FOCH tour, held for the benefit of the Epigraphic Survey, is scheduled for Thanksgiving weekend this coming November. Plan on arriving in Luxor the evening of Thursday, November 25th, followed by a two-day program of touring selected archaeological sites in the area of ancient Thebes. The program will include:

- *Visits to monuments not frequently seen by tourists, with lectures given by Chicago House staff*
- *On-site demonstrations of epigraphic work in Luxor Temple and Medinet Habu*
- *Tour of the renovated Chicago House Library, Artists' Studios, and Darkroom*
- *The Annual Black-Tie Dinner and Dance in the courtyard of Chicago House*

The requested donation is \$100 per person.

For more information on hotel and travel arrangements, contact:

The Epigraphic Survey, 1155 E. 58th Street, Chicago, IL 60637
telephone (312) 702-9524 facsimile (312) 702-9853

Archaeological Work

(continued from p. 1)

denuded of decoration, the tomb preserves some fine painted relief work, now being cleaned for copying, that must rank among the best executed from that time, and some startlingly large seated statues of the tomb owner carved into the living rock at either end of the transverse hall.

Directly beneath these hillside tombs in the desert plain, yet a third team is at work at Dra' Abu el-Naga. Dr. Daniel Polz of the German Archaeological Institute in Cairo has been clearing an earlier necropolis of private tombs from the early Eighteenth Dynasty. His careful excavation last year revealed that these small tombs had mud-brick pylon entryways leading to walled courts and chapels at the back. In the center of these courts, deep shafts were sunk into the desert marl for the deposition of the owners' sarcophagi and grave goods. Although most of the organic material in these tombs has decayed by the intrusion of heavy flood waters during the millennia, much of the nonperishable funeral equipment was found intact. This year's work, starting in January, saw more of this important necropolis emerge, as well as an exploration of hillside tombs that, in Daniel's opinion, may be the royal sepulchres of Dynasty 17.

Additional tomb work was resumed by the Hungarian team led by Prof. László Kákósy of Bucharest University. His group continued the clearance and documentation of the Ramesside tomb of Djehutimose on the hill of Gurna, and took up their traditional residence in Howard Carter's dig house, perched on the hill overlooking Dra' Abu el-Naga and the Valley of the Kings road. Close by is the Japanese expedition house of Waseda University, whose members usually work during the month of December and sometimes also for a short season in the spring on a variety of projects. In recent years the Japanese mission has worked in the concession of the sprawling jubilee palace of Amenhotep III at Malkata—once the concession of the Metropolitan Museum of Art at the turn of the century—and is slowly reassembling precious wall and ceiling painting fragments recovered in the course of the clearance. Another of their projects, directed by Dr. Jiro Kondo, is the

clearance, restoration, and publication of Amenhotep III's tomb in the western branch of the Valley of the Kings, extremely interesting for its underworld texts and painted wall scenes.

The German Archaeological Institute's excavation and documentation of the mortuary temple of Sety I (the Sety "Gurna" Temple) also resumed this winter under the supervision of the institute's director, Dr. Rainer Stadelmann. Last year they discovered some odd features in the small sacred lake of the temple that relate it to Sety's enigmatic island cenotaph at Abydos. The German Institute has a permanent dig house that is located a bit to the north on the desert hill of Gurnet Murai, behind the Colossi of Memnon, and which is noted for its white domes, lush gardens, and generous hospitality.

To the west of Sety's temple, the Polish Archaeological Institute's mission continued their work at Hatshepsut's great mortuary temple at Deir el-Bahri. Dr. Janusz Karkowski and his crew have been documenting the reliefs of the third terrace, which include an earlier version of the Opet procession found in the Colonnade Hall, as well as the decoration of the Hathor Shrine on the second terrace. Janusz's team resides in the grand old Metropolitan Museum expedition house, still a beautiful sight in the lee of Khokha hill southeast of Deir el-Bahri.

Dr. Jadwiga Lipinska arrived in January with another Polish Institute mission to continue the ongoing reconstruction and documentation of shattered limestone blocks from Thutmose III's Deir el-Bahri temple, situated just south of Hatshepsut's own monument, and which was carried away in a landslide millennia ago. Jadwiga's task of reassembling literally thousands of tiny flakes of painted limestone has resulted in the reconstruction of entire blocks and wall surfaces from Thutmose's temple, an inspiration to all of us who have ever worked with fragmentary material. She and her crew comfortably occupy the turn of the century dig house of Theodore M. Davis in the western Valley of the Kings, far from the noise and tourist bustle of the Nile valley.

The joint Franco-Egyptian Documentation Center is currently involved in two long-term projects on the west bank.

(continued on p. 4)

Archaeological Work*(continued from p. 3)*

The architectural study and documentation of the Ramesseum, the mortuary temple of Ramesses II, continues under the supervision of Christian Leblanc and Jean-Claude Golvin, while the ongoing clearance of the Valley of the Queens, including the exploration of side valleys also utilized for burials, continues under the direction of M. Leblanc and Mme. Desroches Noblecourt. The Documentation Center normally works split seasons in the late fall and early spring, and occupies a dig house built on the site of Amenhotep III's jubilee palace at Malkata, on the edge of the desert due east of the Valley of the Queens.

To the south of the Ramesseum lie the remains of the mortuary temple of Ramses II's son, Merneptah, the concession of the Swiss Archaeological Institute in Cairo and director Horst Jaritz. Their work, starting in February this year, is of particular interest to us because Merneptah utilized blocks from the mortuary temple complex of Amenhotep III, who built most of Luxor Temple, for his own construction. Merneptah helped himself to the statuary of Amenhotep III as

well, examples of which are being painstakingly reassembled by Hourig Sourouzian of the German Institute, while Suzanne Bickel is carefully analyzing and reassembling all the reused blocks. The Swiss are therefore uncovering vital new information pertaining to the mortuary complexes of both kings (the best sort of two-for-one arrangement!).

This is hardly a complete list of all the work going on in Luxor, but it should suffice to convey the variety of projects which abound all around us here each year, especially during the cool months. Far from existing alone in a vacuum, the Epigraphic Survey/Chicago House is only a single member of a multinational "family" of Egyptologists dedicated to the rediscovery, documentation, preservation, and ongoing study of Egypt's past as preserved in Luxor. Like Chicago House, which celebrates its seventieth anniversary of work in Egypt in 1994, many of these missions are continuing work that was initiated long ago. In other cases new missions have replaced old ones, but often continue to utilize the older facilities, thoughtfully kept operational by the EAO.

END

ADDRESSES OF THE EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY:**October through March:**

Chicago House
Luxor,
Arab Republic of EGYPT
tel. (011) (20) (95) 372525;tel./fax 581620

April through September:

The Oriental Institute
1155 E. 58th Street
Chicago, IL 60637
tel. (312) 702-9524; fax 702-9853

**THE EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY
THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE
1155 EAST 58TH STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60637**

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Bulkrate
Chicago, Illinois
Permit No. 1505