

EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY

W. Raymond Johnson

On April 15, 2012, the Epigraphic Survey, in collaboration with the Egyptian Ministry of State for Antiquities (MSA), completed its eighty-eighth, six-month field season in Luxor. This season's projects continued normally and included epigraphic documentation, conservation, and restoration work at Medinet Habu (funded by a grant from USAID Egypt); documentation at Theban Tomb 107, that of Nefersekheru; one month's salvage documentation at Khonsu Temple at Karnak (in cooperation with the American Research Center in Egypt/ARCE); and documentation, conservation, and maintenance of the Luxor Temple blockyard and open-air museum (funded by the World Monuments Fund/WMF), as well as documentation of blocks from the Basilica of St. Thecla in front of the Ramesses II eastern pylon (funded in part by a grant from Nassef Sawiris).

Medinet Habu

Epigraphy

Epigraphic documentation supervised by senior epigrapher Brett McClain continued in the small Amun temple of Hatshepsut and Thutmose III at Medinet Habu in the bark sanctuary ambulatory (interior and exterior) and facade. The epigraphic staff consisted of epigrapher Jen Kimpton, senior artists Margaret De Jong and Susan Osgood, and artists Krisztián Vértés and Keli Alberts. A significant portion of the remaining drawing enlargements for *Medinet Habu* Volume 10 (the facade, the pillars, and interior architraves) were corrected, revised, and submitted for director's check. Krisztián continued his study of the changing color scheme of the reliefs in the square-pillared ambulatory and facade, ranging from their original decoration under Thutmose III through the final paint revisions in the Ptolemaic period (fig. 1). These

observations will form the basis for a chapter on the history of the multi-phase color programs in the ambulatory and on the facade, to be published in *Medinet Habu* Volume 10. Keli perfected her aluminum-foil-rubbing technique of reliefs of Thutmose III and Ramesses III hidden by later Ptolemaic walls, with some wonderful results. We now expect that all materials for *Medinet Habu* Volume 10 should be ready for publication production by the spring of 2014.

Penciling completed this season: 29
 Inking completed: 11
 Collation completed: 13
 Transfer Check completed: 5
 Director Check completed: 6



Figure 1. Krisztián penciling at the small Amun temple facade. Medinet Habu. All photos by Ray Johnson unless otherwise indicated



Figure 2. Tina recording graffiti in the southern Ptolemaic Annex. Small Amun temple, Medinet Habu

Epigraphers Tina Di Cerbo and husband Richard Jasnow continued their digital documentation and analysis of late-period and medieval graffiti in the Ptolemaic additions of the small Amun temple, and on the rooftop and upper walls of Ramesses III's mortuary temple. This season they finished the graffiti recording in the southern Ptolemaic annex with key plans and block-by-block details of each wall (fig. 2).

Work at Medinet Habu was supervised this season by MSA inspectors Mr. Abd-el-Nasser Muhammad Ahmad Saad, Mr. Muhammad Ahmed Hussain Abu-Gad, Ms. Rehab Muhammad Elwany Ibrahim, Mr. Essad Muhammad Galal, and Ms. Hanaa Mahmoud Muhammad Soliman.

Medinet Habu Blockyard

The Medinet Habu conservation team supervised by Lotfi Hassan assisted by Nahed Samir Andraus and Mohamed Abou El Makarem continued work in the new Medinet Habu blockyard built along the southern Ramesses III enclosure wall, continued to prepare an open-air museum component of the facility along the front exterior, and constructed additional



Figure 3. Re-erected column and Medinet Habu conservation team. January 27

EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY

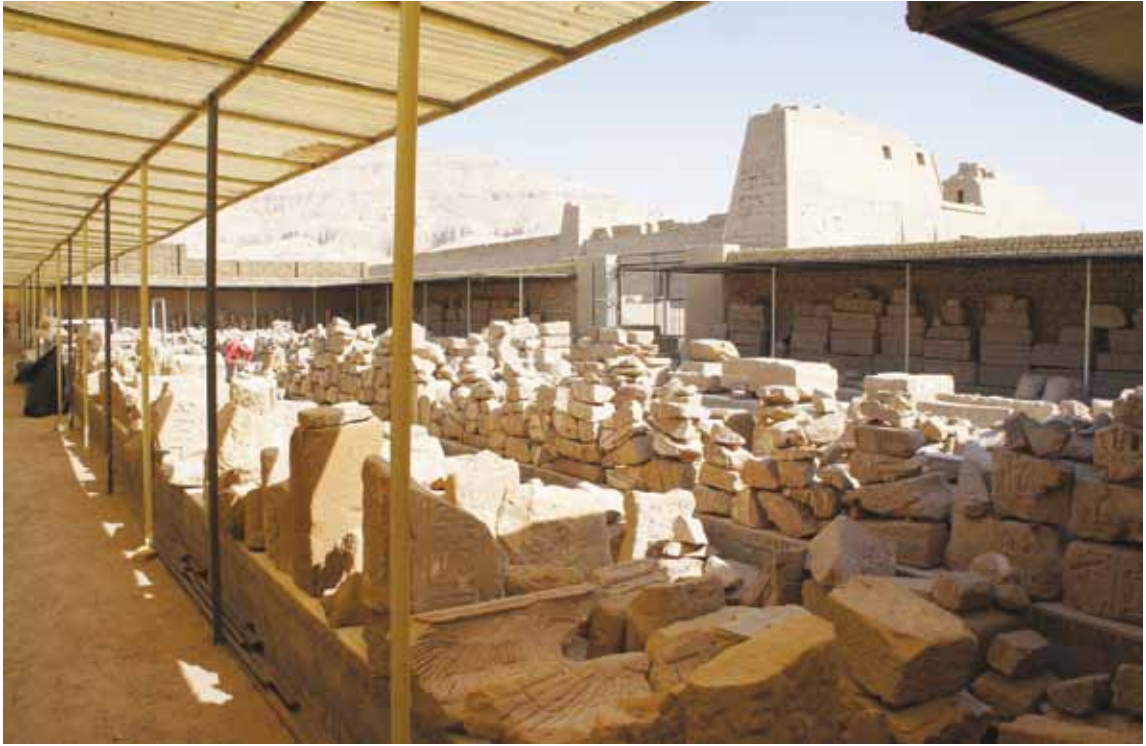


Figure 4. Julia Schmied (left middle) numbering blocks. Medinet Habu blockyard with new roofing

protective roofing inside the blockyard. Lotfi restored and with the aid of the stone team test joined five sections of a 5.5-meter-tall palm column from the formal palace on the southern side of Ramesses III's mortuary temple (fig. 3). This column and sections of others like it will eventually be restored to the palace itself in a future season.

Inventoring, documentation, and database updating of the miscellaneous architectural and sculpture fragments was coordinated by Julia Schmied assisted in April by Christian Greco (fig. 4). This season Yarko Kobylecky and Ellie Smith photographed 138 architectural blocks and fragments from Third Intermediate Period houses built within the Medinet Habu complex that will be featured in the first monograph of the blockyard publication series. The transfer of material from the old blockyard was finished last season, and the walls of the old blockyard were demolished, which now exposes the original walls of Ramesses III's palace south of the first court.

Domitian Gate

This season, blocks from the last three courses of the monument were dismantled by stone mason Frank Helmholtz and the Chicago House workmen and stored on platforms to the north of the gate for conservation next season. The nineteenth-century rubble foundations were removed, and a new reinforced concrete footing was installed that will cure over the summer (fig. 5). Frank also started shaping replacement blocks out of newly quarried sandstone from the gate's original quarry at Gebel Silsileh. The ground is continuing to show signs of drying out, thanks to the USAID-funded, west-bank dewatering program that was inaugurated a year ago September (in 2010). The water level in the sacred lake to the north of the small



Figure 5. Poured, reinforced-concrete foundation for the Domitian gate. Medinet Habu. Photo by Frank Helmholz



Figure 6. Sue Osgood, MSA Inspector Mahmoud Abdel Wahab Mohamed, and Margaret De Jong penciling. Theban Tomb 107, February 9

EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY

Amun temple has stayed down, back to levels recorded during our first work at Medinet Habu in the 1930s. Re-erection of the gate is scheduled to begin next season. The majority of the Medinet Habu work is generously supported by a grant from USAID Egypt.

TT 107, Theban Tomb of Nefersekheru

Epigraphic documentation of the inscribed northern wall and one column of the sunken court of the Theban Tomb of Nefersekheru (TT 107) continued and was mostly finished this season (fig. 6) by senior artists Margaret De Jong (upper register) and Susan Osgood (lower register and column) assisted by MSA inspectors Ms. Hekmat Araby Mahmoud, Mr. Muhammad Abd-el-Wahhab Muhammad, and Ms. Zeinab Muhammad el-Sayyed Muhammad. Yarko Kobylecky photographed a group of small, inscribed wall fragments for later incorporation with the reliefs. The reliefs depict Amenhotep III's steward of the jubilee palace at Malkata, the noble Nefersekheru, and are of very high quality and significance, but were carved in very bad limestone, whose condition was made worse by a series of subsequent floods. The drawing is scheduled to be finished and collation begun next season.

Luxor Temple

World Monuments Fund (WMF)-supported conservation and monitoring continued in the Luxor Temple blockyard supervised by conservator Hiroko Kariya and assisted by MSA inspectors Mostafa Ali Hashem, Hanaa Morsy el-Desouky, Marwa Abdel-Naby, and Randa Mohamed Ibrahim. The Luxor Temple blockyard open-air-museum joined fragment groups and displays were condition-surveyed, and cleaning was initiated on selected fragment groups.

Hiroko condition surveyed and photographed 101 talatat blocks of Akhenaten buried along the eastern outer wall of the Colonnade Hall and, after confirming their stability, reburied the group with clean sand (fig. 7). Ray, Hiroko, and the



Figure 7. Hiroko Kariya desalinating Luxor Temple Thecla blocks. December 9



Figure 8. Yarko photographing Ptolemy I blocks at Luxor Temple. March 13. Photo by Sue Lezon



Figure 9. Sayid, Mohamed, MSA Inspector Marwa Abdel-Naby, Saoud, and Jay joining Thecla Church arch blocks. March 14

Chicago House workmen moved 135 Ptolemy I blocks, which seem to relate to our Bentresh text blocks, to a special mastaba platform for photography and study, after which photographer Yarko Kobylecky photographed the entire group with large-format film and digital photography (figs. 8, 9).

Thecla Church Project

Architect Jay Heidel continued his documentation, study, data entry, and collation of blocks from a dismantled sixth-century AD basilica (“The Church of St. Thecla”) in front of the Luxor pylons, thanks to a gift from Nassef Sawiris. Jay identified, drew (with AutoCAD), and reconstructed on paper twenty-two blocks from Arch 1 of the sanctuary (fig. 10). Four of these decorated voussoir blocks exhibiting salt-related staining were desalinated by Hiroko using acid-free paper-pulp poultices and distilled water. This arch, blocks from a second decorated arch, associated granite columns,

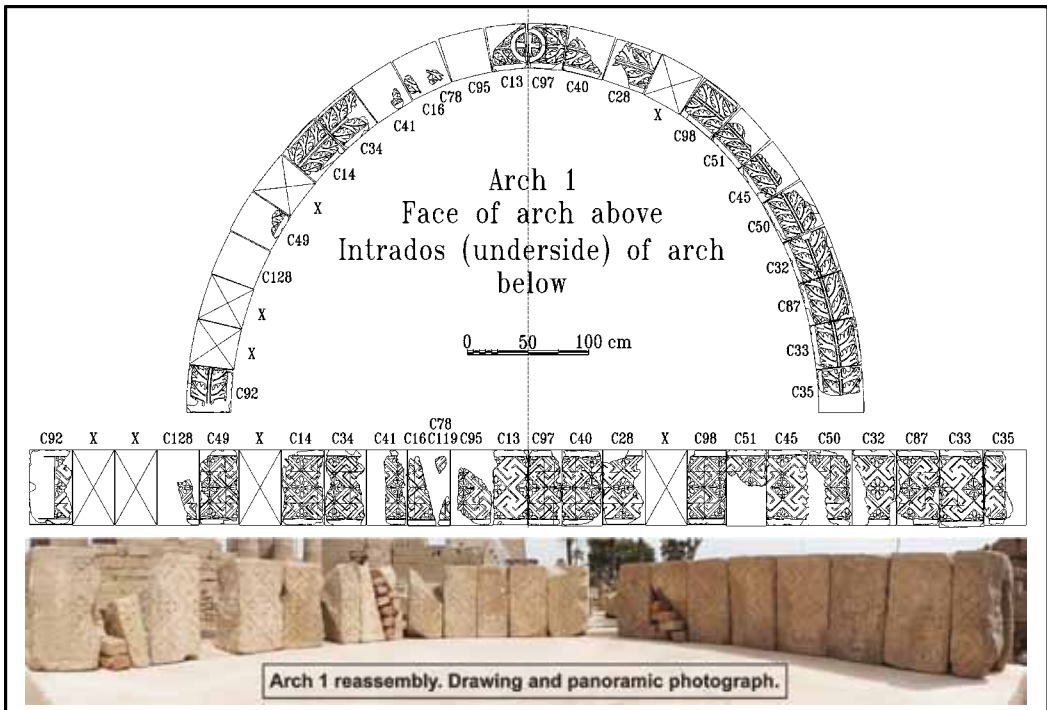


Figure 10. Thecla Church Arch 1 reconstruction drawing (AutoCAD) and photo montage by Jay Heidel, March 14

EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY

sandstone capitals, and painted apse blocks will be studied for possible reconstruction on the in situ lower walls and foundations of the site, along with the other blocks (138 total so far) from the church sanctuary.

Luxor Temple Structural Condition Study

This season structural engineer Conor Power continued his condition study of the Luxor Temple structure and found that the temple continues to be stable, with no discernible movement or destabilization of the Ramesses II pylons or Colonnade Hall columns. Based on a comparison with photographs taken in the year 2000, Conor found that there continues to be a noticeable reduction of moisture levels in the temple, and that moisture wicking has subsided. His conclusion is that the USAID-sponsored groundwater lowering engineering project, activated in 2006, continues to have a positive effect on Luxor Temple with an overall reduction of salt efflorescence and moisture levels in the structure, and can be deemed a great success.

Khonsu Temple

In February/March, Chicago House continued recording reused blocks in the floors and foundations of Khonsu Temple in cooperation with the American Research Center in Egypt (as part of its USAID-funded Luxor East Bank Groundwater Lowering Response Project). The Khonsu team consisted of artists Keli Alberts and Krisztián Vértés, along with epigraphers Jen Kimpton and Brett McClain (fig. 11), director Ray Johnson, and MSA inspector Mr. Salah el-Masekh. The main area this year for floor restoration was Room II. The north half of this chamber held a number of pieces, the recording of which had not been possible during previous seasons, the most significant of which was a large block bearing a name frieze of Ramesses II (fig. 12), usurped from an earlier (Eighteenth Dynasty) *kheker* frieze. Keli Alberts focused on copying the blocks in this room using 1:1 tracings on foil and/or plastic; several small loose fragments from this

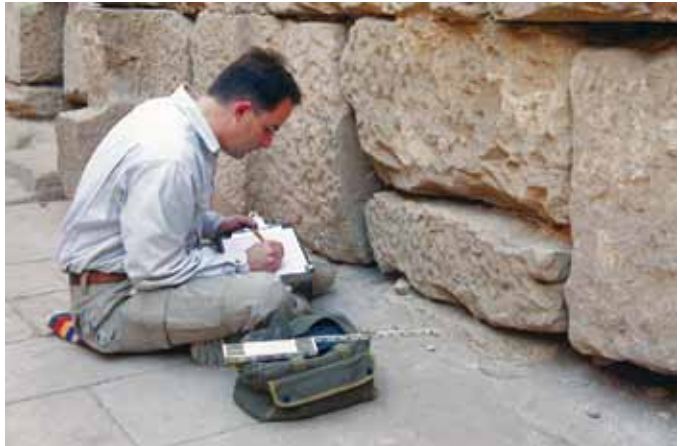


Figure 11. Brett collating a reused block. Khonsu Temple, March 7

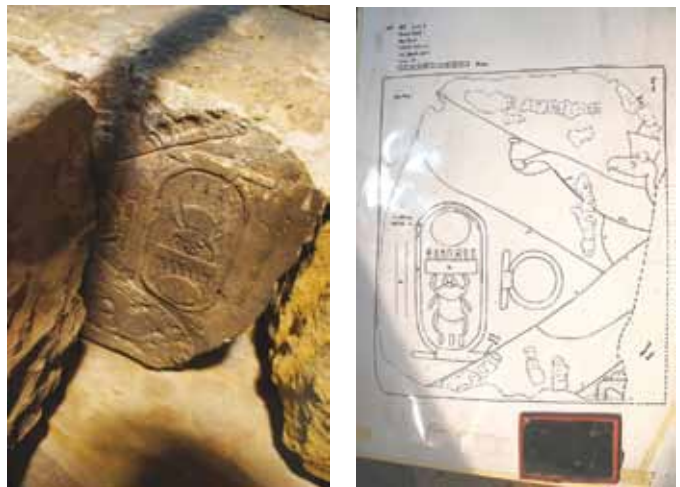


Figure 12. Left: Reused Thutmose IV name-frieze block. Room VII, Khonsu Temple. Right: Keli's drawing of the Thutmose IV name-frieze block

area were also documented. Also completed were fragments in the Bark Shrine, in Rooms III, IV, V, and VII, and on the outside wall of Room X, noted in previous seasons. Krisztián Vértés and Keli Alberts documented these pieces, while Jen Kimpton, aside from supervising the on-site work and record keeping, also copied another in situ block in Room III, and continued her isometric drawings of each block using Adobe Illustrator.

We took the opportunity to fill in other minor gaps in our record of blocks from previous seasons, including measurements, isometric drawings, and digital photographs still needed for several fragments. Tina Di Cerbo and Richard Jasnow continued their study of the two inked hieratic graffiti texts found by the American Research Center (ARCE) and MSA conservators in the Khonsu Temple court, high on the west wall and adjacent column.

Chicago House

The Marjorie M. Fisher Library, Chicago House

The Chicago House Marjorie M. Fisher Library opened for the season on October 24, 2011, and closed on April 10, 2012, under the capable direction of Librarian Marie Bryan (fig. 13) assisted by Anait Helmhoz. During that period we had 881 library users, up 103 (13.2%) from



Figure 13. Librarian Marie Bryan at work

the previous season. We noted a significant increase in use this season, especially by Egyptian graduate students working on advanced degrees, very heartwarming to see. 205 titles (216 volumes) were added to the library collection, of which 99 were monographs/books, 72 were journals, 28 were series volumes, 3 were pamphlets, and 3 were parts of sets. A total of 74 of these were gifts; donors included Peppy Bath, Ken Ostrand, Zbigniew Sfransky, and Marie herself. Sincerest thanks to all who donated books. Some 190 volumes were repaired during the season by Anait, and 25 spine labels were repaired or replaced. Oriental Institute Visiting Committee member Andrea Dudek returned in November and March to kindly assist with the conversion of the collection from the old Chicago House library classification system to the Library of Congress system. Her efforts combined with Marie's and Anait's resulted in a grand total of 1,422 titles/1,719 volumes that were completely converted this season, a real record. Thanks to Andrea's inestimable help, we expect to be able to complete the conversion process next season.

The Tom and Linda Heagy Photographic Archives

Photo Archives Registrar Ellie Smith registered 251 large-format photographs generated this season at Medinet Habu and Luxor temples, entered them in the Chicago House Photo Archives database, coordinated the packing of duplicate negatives for the Oriental Institute (with Tina), and assisted Yarko in the field with the large-format photography itself. Ellie also

EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY

very generously donated forty-four archival boxes for the storage of our Metropolitan Museum of Art historic photograph collection of Theban Tombs and temples: ninety-nine Nobles Tombs, ten Royal Tombs, and eight west bank temples (fig. 14). The collection is now more accessible and better protected at the same time; thank you, Ellie, for this great gift.

Yarko was responsible for this season's site photography as well as photographic drawing enlargement production, collation blueprint production, bleaching of finished inked drawings, and archiving/processing our digital reference photographs with Tina. Yarko also digitally photographed tracings produced by Keli of reliefs of Thutmose III and Ramesses III hidden by later Ptolemaic walls at the small Amun temple of Medinet Habu, after which he digitally stitched them together for drawing enlargement production. Photo archivist Sue Lezon joined us in March for a review of the Photo Archives work with Ellie and checked 550 photographs that had been scanned by Tina (including most of this season's output) for accuracy and clarity. Alain and Emmanuelle Arnaudès worked for three months in the new year and joined us in Luxor for two weeks in March, tweaking our master Chicago House Photo Archives database, entering more Medinet Habu and Luxor Temple documentation, enlarging/refining the Helen and Jean Jacquet database, and working the bugs out of the Chicago House internal wireless network system (fig. 15). Tina filled gaps in the data noted by Egyptologist Emmanuelle and corrected incorrectly labeled photo numbers where necessary. Architect Louis Elia Louis finished the redrawing of the Nelson key plans in AutoCAD of all the temple sites in Luxor for easier reference. 21,092 photographs are now recorded in the large-format photograph database, 2,537 references have been added to the database bibliography, and 751 PDF files are now part of the virtual library, 167 added this season. The Jacquet collection — spanning fifty years of archaeological work in Egypt and Nubia — is now made up of 7,449 records, including more than 1,000 slides scanned by Tina and Sue, with more to come. This season the Chicago House Special Collection archive, 796 glass plate negatives mostly produced by Attaya Gaddis and Girgis Seif between 1910



Figure 14. Ellie repackaging MMA photos. Tom and Linda Heagy Chicago House Photo Archives



Figure 15. Alain Arnaudès and Louis Elia Louis working on Photo Archives database maps. March 24

and 1930 were scanned by Tina and added to the database by the Arnaudière. Working with Tina, Alain streamlined access to the 15 TB Lacie network external storage drive, where the Photographic Archives and the digital library are now available internally.

Chicago House

Work got off to a bang before we even arrived in Luxor on October 15, 2011. From October 10 to 11, new U.S. ambassador to Egypt Anne Patterson and new USAID Egypt director Walter North were in Luxor for the formal inauguration of the USAID Egypt-funded west bank dewatering program (activated the previous year) with our MSA/SCA Cairo and Luxor and ARCE colleagues. Since this event occurred before the team's arrival back in Luxor, Tina – who with the Chicago House workmen was supervising the reopening the house for our



Figure 16. *Chicago House professional staff 2011-2012 group photo, by Sue Lezon and Yarko Kobylecky. Back row, left to right: Hiroko Kariya (conservator), Ellie Smith (photo archives registrar), Julia Schmied (epigrapher), Krisztián Vértés (Egyptologist/artist), Andrea Dudek (library volunteer), Keli Alberts (artist); 2nd row from top, left to right: Tina Di Cerbo (epigrapher/artist), Jen Kimpton (epigrapher), Marie Bryan (librarian), Anait Helmholz (librarian), Frank Helmholz (stonemason), Margaret De Jong (senior artist), Girgis Samwell (chief engineer); 3rd row from top, left to right: Brett McClain (senior epigrapher), Jay Heidel (architect/artist), Ray Johnson (director), Nidaa el Sayed, Samir Guindy (administrator); Bottom row, left to right: Lotfi Hassan (conservator), Joia Andraus, Nahed Samir Andraus (conservator), Bismalla el Sayed, Essam el Sayed (senior accountant) and son Abdel Rahman, Samwell Maher (assistant administrator), Sue Lezon (photo archivist/photographer), and Yarko Kobylecky (photographer)*

EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY

return — kindly acted as Chicago House representative and accompanied the party, showing them our work at Luxor and Karnak temples. Tina was also successful in convincing the army engineers who were finishing off the new Corniche pedestrian area outside of Chicago House to put in new soil, grass, and trees in front of our front gate instead of bare concrete. Thank you, Tina! Senior accountant Essam El Sayed, administrator Samir Guindy, and assistant administrator Samwell Maher very capably monitored the Chicago House finances this season. Essam's duties involve not only tracking and recording all expenses recorded by Samir, but also regularly reporting to USAID and the University of Chicago — monthly and quarterly — on our grants and accounts. He also arranges, prepares for (with Samir), and supervises our annual audit each July. Congratulations to him on a very good year — his first full year working with us — and to him and Nidaa on the birth of their third child, little Salsabeel, just before this year's audit!

The Epigraphic Survey professional staff this season, besides the director, consisted of J. Brett McClain as senior epigrapher, with Jen Kimpton, Christina Di Cerbo, and Christian Greco as epigraphers; Boyo Ockinga and Susanne Binder as archaeologist/epigraphers; Margaret De Jong, Susan Osgood, Krisztián Vértés, and Keli Alberts as artists; Julia Schmied as blockyard supervisor; Jay Heidel as architect/artist; Yarko Kobylecky as staff photographer; Susan Lezon as photo archivist and photographer; Elinor Smith as photo archives registrar and photography assistant; Carlotta Maher as assistant to the director; Essam El Sayed as senior accountant; Samir Guindy as administrator; Samwell Maher as administrative assistant; Marie Bryan as librarian; Anait Helmholz as librarian assistant; Frank Helmholz as master mason; Lotfi K. Hassan as Medinet Habu conservation supervisor; Nahed Samir Andraus and Mohamed Abou El Makarem as conservators at Medinet Habu; and Hiroko Kariya as conservation supervisor at Luxor Temple. Alain and Emmanuelle Arnaudière worked on the Chicago House Digital Archives database, Louis Elia Louis Hanna worked as database architect, Conor Power worked as structural engineer, Helen Jacquet-Gordon and Jean Jacquet continued to consult with us from Geneva, and Girgis Samwell worked with us as chief engineer (fig. 16).

To the Egyptian Ministry of State for Antiquities and Supreme Council of Antiquities we owe sincerest thanks for another productive collaboration this season: especially to Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim, Minister of State for Antiquities; Dr. Mustafa Amin, chairman of the SCA; Dr. Mohamed Ismail, general director of foreign missions; Dr. Abdel Hamid Maruf, head of the Pharaonic Sector for the SCA; Dr. Mohamed El Bially, general director of Upper Egypt; Dr. Mansour Boraik, general director of Luxor and southern Upper Egypt; Dr. Mohamed Abdel Azziz, general director for the West Bank of Luxor; and Dr. Mohamed Assem, deputy director of Luxor; Mr. Ibrahim Suleiman, director of Karnak Temple; Mr. Sultan Eid, director of Luxor Temple; and Mme. Sanaa, director of the Luxor Museum. Special thanks must go to our inspectors this season, with whom it was a great pleasure to work, all noted above. It is another pleasure to acknowledge the many friends of the Oriental Institute whose loyal support allows Chicago House to maintain its documentation, conservation, and restoration programs in Luxor. Special thanks must go to the American ambassador to Egypt, the Honorable Anne Patterson; former American ambassador to Egypt Margaret Scobey; Andrew Mitchell, Cultural Affairs Office of the U.S. Embassy; Walter North, director of the United States Agency for International Development in Egypt, and former directors Jim Bever, Hilda (Bambi) Arellano; Ken Ellis; and Bill Pearson; Dr. Marjorie M. Fisher; David and Carlotta Maher; O. J. and Angie Sopranos; Misty and Lewis Gruber; Nassef Sawiris; Mark Rudkin; Dr. Barbara Mertz; Daniel Lindley and Lucia Woods Lindley; Eric and Andrea Colombel; Piers and Jenny Litherland; Dr.

Fred Giles; Tom Van Eynde; Helen and Jean Jacquet; Marjorie B. Kiewit; Nancy N. Lassalle; Tom and Linda Heagy; Shafik Gabr, ARTOC Group, Cairo; Judge and Mrs. Warren Siegel; Stephen Lash; John Barbie; Barbara Breasted Whitesides and George Whitesides; Miriam Reitz Baer; Andrea Dudek; Khalil and Beth Noujaim; James Lichtenstein; Jack Josephson and Magda Saleh; the Secchia family; Emily Fine; Nan Ray; Anna White; Janet and Karim Mostafa; Waheeb and Christine Kamil; Caroline Lynch; Polly Kelly; Howard and Diane Zumsteg; Louise Grunwald; Lowri Lee Sprung; Andrew Nourse and Patty Hardy, Kate Pitcairn; Drs. Francis and Lorna Straus; Donald Oster (who, sadly, passed away this year); Dr. William Kelly Simpson; Dr. Ben Harer; Dr. Roxie Walker; Tony and Lawrie Dean; Mr. Charles L. Michod Jr; Dr. Gerry Scott, Kathleen Scott, Mary Sadek, Amira Khattab, and Jane Smythe of the American Research Center in Egypt; Dr. Michael Jones of the Egyptian Antiquities Conservation Project; and all of our friends and colleagues at the Oriental Institute. Special thanks must go to Tom Urban, Leslie Schramer, and Zuhail Kuru of the Oriental Institute Publications Department for their inestimable help with the *Chicago House Bulletin* and the Epigraphic Survey publication program. I must also express our special gratitude to USAID Egypt, British Petroleum, the Getty Grant Program of the J. Paul Getty Trust, LaSalle National Bank, Mobil Oil, Coca-Cola Egypt (Atlantic Industries), Vodafone Egypt, and the World Monuments Fund (and especially Robert Wilson) for their support of our work. Sincerest thanks to you all!

ADDRESSES OF THE EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY

October through March:

Chicago House
Luxor
Arab Republic of Egypt
tel. (011) (20) (95) 237-2525
fax. (011) (20) (95) 238-1620

April through September:

The Oriental Institute
1155 East 58th Street
Chicago, IL 60637
tel. (773) 702-9524
fax. (773) 702-9853