

THE EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY

Charles Francis Nims, Field Director

As in recent seasons, in 1964–65 work was continued on the recording of the High Gate at Medinet Habu and the Tomb Chapel of Kheruef, steward of Queen Tiy. In the latter some sections of the wall have suffered from ancient wilful destruction of the reliefs and from the exudation of salts, and special attention has been required on the part of both the artist and the Egyptologist to recover what remains of the original design. In other areas parts of the relief have been cut away by modern vandals. A bit of this destruction can be seen in the accompanying photograph, on the right of the enlargement on which artist Leslie Greener is pointing out a problem in epigraphy to Egyptologist Leonard Lesko on a cold February day. Fortunately, Professor Adolph Erman made a sketch drawing of the wall in 1886, before the damage, and this will serve as a guide in our restoration of the figures and inscriptions.

The grant of United States government funds, originally for the season of 1963–64, was extended for a period sufficient to use the unexpended balance. This extension made it possible to retain Mr. Alexander Floroff for six months beyond his retirement so that he might complete his drawings and to bring Mr. Labib Habachi to Luxor for two months so that he could continue his research into the history of Kheruef.

When the clearance of the tomb of Kheruef was being completed at the very end of the 1958–59 season, there was found a small chest containing artist's pigments. It was then too late in the season to study these, and the chest was placed in one of the storerooms of the Department, with which the Epigraphic Survey was co-operating in the clearance. In the late winter of 1965 this chest and its contents were brought out from the storeroom, measured, photographed, and the contents

Leslie Greener and Leonard Lesko checking copy on relief in Tomb Chapel of Kheruef ↻

weighed. The pigments were taken to Cairo in the technical laboratories of the Department. Preliminary verbal reports indicate that we have new discoveries concerning ancient Egyptian pigments. When the analysis is complete, Professor Edward Wente will join the technician in publishing the report.

Mr. Michael Barnwell and our new artist, Mr. John Hacker, continued work on the High Gate. The latter decided not to return to Luxor for the 1965-66 season, and his successor has not yet been selected. Mr. Lesko returned to the Oriental Institute at the end of March to continue his graduate studies. The third Egyptologist for the coming season will be Dr. Carl DeVries, at present with the Trinity Theological Seminary.

Since the invaluable publication of the late Professor Harold H. Nelson, *Key Plans Showing Locations of Theban Temple Decorations*, has been out of print for some time, and since demand for it continues, it will be reprinted soon with a few corrections and additions made by the writer with the help of our senior artist, Mr. Reginald Coleman.

An increasing number of scholars, including many Egyptians, are making use of the outstanding library on ancient Egypt at Chicago House. The library also attracts many other visitors, a gratifying portion of whom are members and friends of the Oriental Institute. Some of these have made use of our limited facilities and have spent short times with us at Chicago House. Whenever possible, on due notice, rooms are available there for members of the Oriental Institute, and we trust that those who travel in the Near East will come to Luxor to meet and visit with the members of the staff.

