

## THE EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY

*Charles Francis Nims, Field Director*

We might try to summarize the work of each season by calculating the area of wall surface for which drawings were completed. Yet this would not give a true picture; a square yard of relief at the High Gate at Medinet Habu is generally less difficult than a square foot of relief in the Tomb Chapel of Kheruef. At both we are approaching the end of the work.

On the High Gate the reliefs as yet uncopied are in relatively inaccessible positions, and it is necessary to erect scaffolds of 30 to 45 feet in height to gain access to them. The supply of scaffolding limited the work in the last season to one artist and one epigrapher at a time, and the same limitations will apply to the remaining work. In the Tomb Chapel of Kheruef there are only a few smaller areas on which the work is not completed or well advanced, but the remaining parts need extensive study by the artists and epigraphers working together to recover the record.

One of the problems at Kheruef was the sizable number of fragments which had fallen from the walls and which were found in the various clearances. Though at first the locating of these in relation to the extant reliefs seemed almost hopeless, careful study by members of the staff has determined the location of most of them, and it is expected that few if any will have to be published separately. The one remaining problem in this regard is the more than a hundred fragments of vertical inscriptions from the shattered columns in the transverse hall. It is believed that the relative position of most of these can be determined even though it may be impossible to ascertain from which columns the inscriptions came.

It is expected that the work on the Temple of Khonsu at Karnak will be resumed in the 1966-67 season. Approximately one-fourth to one-third of the reliefs executed under Herihor in the court and the first hypostyle hall were drawn before 1948, when the work there was suspended to give full attention to Medinet Habu. The additional commitment for the recording of the Beit el-Wali Temple of Ramses II took the major part of the time of three artists for two seasons early in this decade, and the additional

commitment for the Tomb Chapel of Kheruef has added to the delay in resuming work at the Temple of Khonsu. By the end of the coming season we should be able to give our full attention to it.

The staff for the past season, in addition to the Field Director, consisted of Edward Wentz and Carl DeVries as Egyptologists, Reginald Coleman, Leslie Greener, Michael Barnwell, and Eric Morby as artists, and John Healey, our maintenance engineer and senior staff member. Barnwell and Morby have left the expedition, and their replacements will be appointed during the summer. David Larkin, a graduate student in Egyptology, will join the staff as Graduate Assistant during the season. Labib Habachi, whose visit to America precluded any work with us the past season, will spend another two months with us in his study of certain problems in connection with the Tomb Chapel of Kheruef.

The pigments mentioned in the previous report have not as yet had their final analysis. This is because of accidents which could, by those sensationally minded, be used as a basis for another "curse" story. One sample was to be tested by spectrographic analysis by the laboratory of the Department of Antiquities. In the process the retort broke and the electronic apparatus was burned out. The specimen was then taken to the National Scientific Laboratory in Cairo, with a similar result in the analyzing equipment.

During the season we had a considerable number of visitors, some staying at Chicago House, who were friends of the Oriental Institute and the University of Chicago. We hope that others who are in the Near East will visit Luxor to see its unparalleled antiquities and to meet our staff and see the progress of our work.