

## The Epigraphic Survey

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The recording of scenes and inscriptions in the court and first hypostyle hall of the Temple of Khonsu at Karnak has had an extended history in the annals of Chicago House. Already before and just after the Second World War important scenes, including those of the Feast of Opet, were copied and collated. Subsequently the work of the Epigraphic Survey was diverted to other monuments, and it was only in 1966 that the expedition under the field directorship of Professor Charles F. Nims returned to the Temple of Khonsu to complete the documentation in those portions of the temple that had been decorated under Ramesses XI and Herihor at the end of the New Kingdom. If we had been dealing with a monument of a more renowned king like Ramesses III, we might in many cases have been content to render some of the more commonplace inscriptions, such as the royal titulary, in translation only, but because there are many problems connected with Herihor's unusual career as military commander, high priest of Amon, and king, it was deemed desirable to provide accurate copies of even minor inscriptions so as to make our record as complete as possible. Consequently much of this season's activity has been devoted to the recording of various odds and ends that will be included in the first two volumes of the publication of the Temple of Khonsu.

*Façade of the  
Temple of Khonsu.  
Photo by Richard  
Turner.*



During the first half of the season our major concern was to complete the material for the initial volume, which will contain drawings of the scenes of King Herihor located on the walls and columns in the court. In the course of preparing the translations and commentary of the approximately 110 plates of this volume, it was in some cases necessary for us to recheck the wall. With the discovery of earlier parallel texts it is now possible for us to complete certain of the lacunae which presented problems a quarter of a century ago, when the Feast of Opet was recorded by the expedition. Although it will be impossible to insert these new restorations on the drawings of the scenes, the text portion of the publication will provide adequate information to support the restorations that will be given in the translations.

A considerable amount of our time this season was devoted to the collation of the architraves in the court and first hypostyle hall as well as scenes of the Twenty-first Dynasty high priest Painutem I located in the gateway of the pylon. Few texts recorded by the Epigraphic Survey have received as much attention as the oracle stele of Herihor on the north wall of the portico. Many epigraphers have participated in the collation of this important document, and this season, after one more final collation, we believe that we have achieved an accurate facsimile copy of this difficult text. By careful examination of the scene and texts on the upper part of this stele Mr. Charles Van Siclen has succeeded in determining its original width, something that is quite important to know in making restorations. Mr. Van Siclen has also taken charge of the work undertaken in recording a second oracle inscription of fifty lines that was carved on one of the columns in the court during the pontificate of Menkheperre of the Twenty-first Dynasty. Hours spent scrutinizing traces of damaged signs and study of the content of the inscription have enabled him to propose valid restorations in the text which concerns the divine oracle functioning in a property settlement.

During his first season with the expedition Mr. William Murnane has devoted himself to the preparation of the remaining material to be included in the second volume, which should be ready to go to press in the summer of 1974. This second volume will contain drawings of scenes and texts in the first hypostyle hall, decorated under Ramesses XI and Herihor as high priest, as well as architrave inscriptions, which are frequently informative statements concerning the construction and architecture of the temple. In connection with the recording of the

architraves Mr. Murnane has copied and studied parallel material in other monuments at Karnak, such as the Great Hypostyle Hall, in which he has a keen personal interest.

In terms of quantity of drawings that have been completed this past season the results have been gratifying. Fifty-three new drawings have been finished. Our staff of four artists, Mr. Reginald Coleman, Mrs. Grace Huxtable, Mr. H. Martyn Lack, and Mr. Richard Turner, have labored valiantly in the recording of material that at times is very tedious to copy. Frequently we Egyptologists must seek the advice of our experienced artists on how to reproduce the various styles of ancient relief, ranging from the Twentieth Dynasty to the Ptolemaic period. Our engineer, Mr. Werner Fliege, has seen to the continued operation of our facilities at a time when replacement parts are very difficult to obtain. The success of our work this season owes much to the services of our able foreman, Rais Hagg Ibrahim Mohammed.

Once again the work of the Epigraphic Survey in Luxor has been generously assisted by a substantial grant awarded by the Foreign Currency Program, Office of International Activities, of the Smithsonian Institution through the American Research Center in Egypt, Inc. Especial thanks must go to the Cairo director of the Center, Mr. John Dorman, and its business manager, Mr. Z. Misketian, for their generous assistance in handling the problems of an expedition based so many miles from the capital of Egypt. We are pleased to learn that a renewal of this Smithsonian-American Research Center grant has been approved for next season.