

2 Archeology

The Epigraphic Survey

Lanny Bell

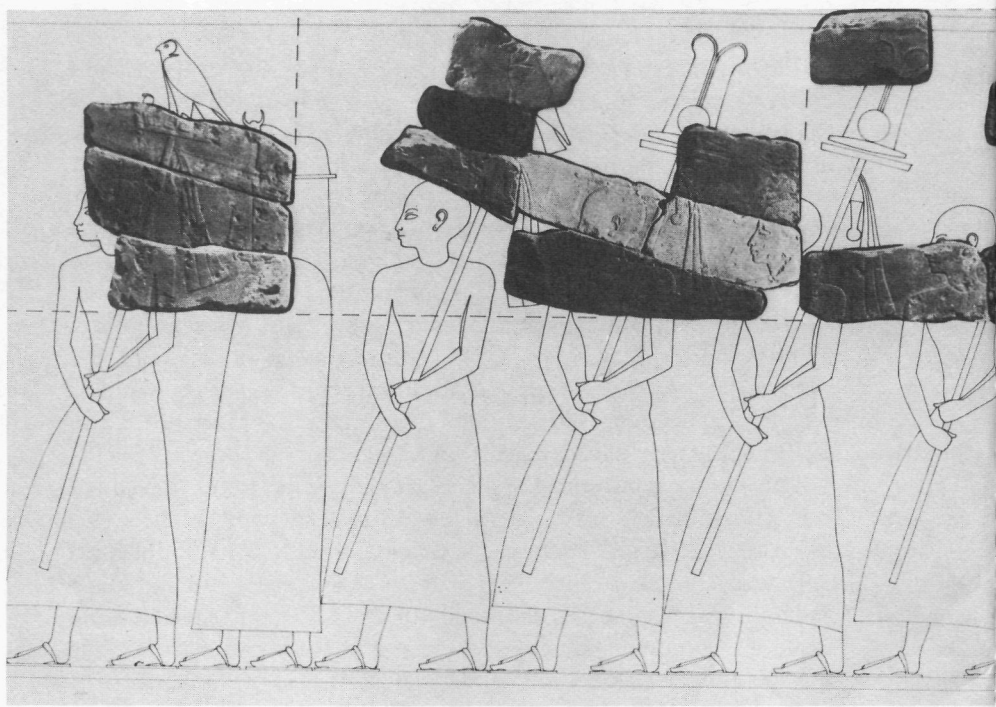
The 1980–81 season of the Epigraphic Survey, our fifty-seventh, extended, as usual, from October 15 to April 15. The season began ominously when a live scorpion was found in one of the bathtubs, probably having entered while the room was open during the re-plumbing described in last year's Annual Report. Then the truck transporting expedition food and supplies, as well as library books, caught fire on the Cairo-Luxor road. Damage was minor, with the exception of a brand new typewriter, whose plastic cover was melted.

Maintenance this year included the installation of a new central hot water heater, miraculously built by our Chief Engineer, Mr. Saleh Shehat Suleiman, in only three days, when the old one rusted through in the week before Christmas. Although the local electrical current available to us at Chicago House is now much more stable than reported earlier, we are still dependent on our own generator during periods of unusually heavy usage and frequent blackouts. So when the generator suddenly stopped working one night, we were greatly relieved to discover the next day that it was only a loose connection. We put a new tank on the darkroom roof to help settle out some of the sediment in our water supply and raise the water temperature for processing during the winter months. Minor refurbishing included the recaning of all the chairs and sofas in the residence wing. In addition, we rebuilt the brakes of our 1950 Chevrolet (driven out by George Hughes in the fall of 1949) with spare parts carried from America.

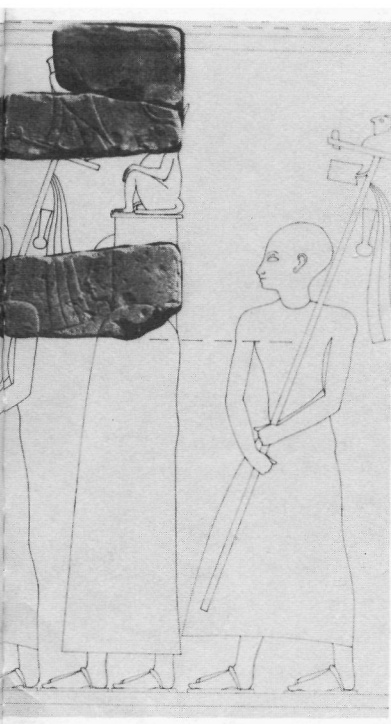
The library continues its steady growth, with some reorganization called for next season, so that additional shelving can be added to accommodate new acquisitions in a logical fashion. We put locks on the oversized cabinets this year to restrict usage of our most valuable and more easily damaged volumes. We also increased our insurance, doubling the fire insurance and tripling the theft; even so, the property is terribly undervalued. Many books are irreplaceable, and should be photo-copied or microfilmed. Research on

one particularly rare volume (only one copy is known in America), containing a collection of plates made from the drawings of Jean Jacques Rifaud during his travels in Egypt in 1805–27, revealed an apparently unique list of subscribers (many royal) to one of the early editions of the work.

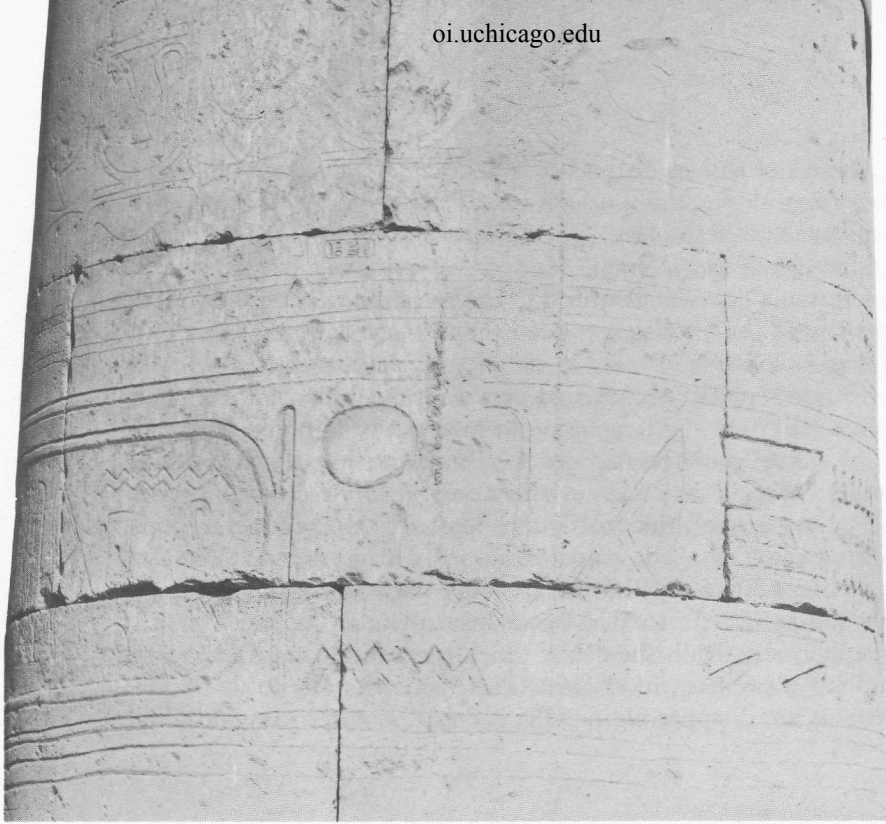
Freed from the necessity of constant attention to the condition of the physical plant of Chicago House, I was finally able to assume a more active role in the scientific pursuits of the expedition. This was especially timely, since our professional staff had to be reduced this year due to strictures in our dollar budget. Nevertheless, everyone on this season's staff had at least one year's prior experience with the Epigraphic Survey, so we were able to make the most of the available manpower. Besides our Engineer, Saleh Shehat, mentioned above, my wife Martha, and myself, the staff this year consisted of Dr. William Murnane and Mr. Bernard Fishman, Epigraphers; Messrs. Thad Rasche and W. Raymond Johnson, Artists; Ms. Karen Krause, Photographer-Artist; Ms. May Trad, Librarian; and Dr. Labib Habachi, Consulting Egyptologist.



The major thrusts of this year's fieldwork revolved around questions raised during the course of work described in previous Annual Reports. Next season will see the final check of all the drawings produced in Luxor Temple for accuracy and readability. Already this season a flaw was identified in the proportions of our measured drawings of the offering scenes on the fourteen enormous columns of the Colonnade. We have completely eliminated the error in three representative scenes, and have controlled it in the rest, but will refrain from the temptation to invest the additional time and effort which would be required to redraw these, too, as strict fac-similes. Work continued on the nearly invisible Roman period scenes and hieroglyphic inscriptions located in the passageway connecting the Colonnade with the Court of Amenhotep III to the south. Last noted by the French archeologist Gayet in 1886-87, the best-preserved area has never been reported, apparently still lying buried beneath the debris which encumbered the Colonnade until its excavation in 1888-92. These messages left to us by the ancients are disappearing rapidly, and ours is the last opportunity



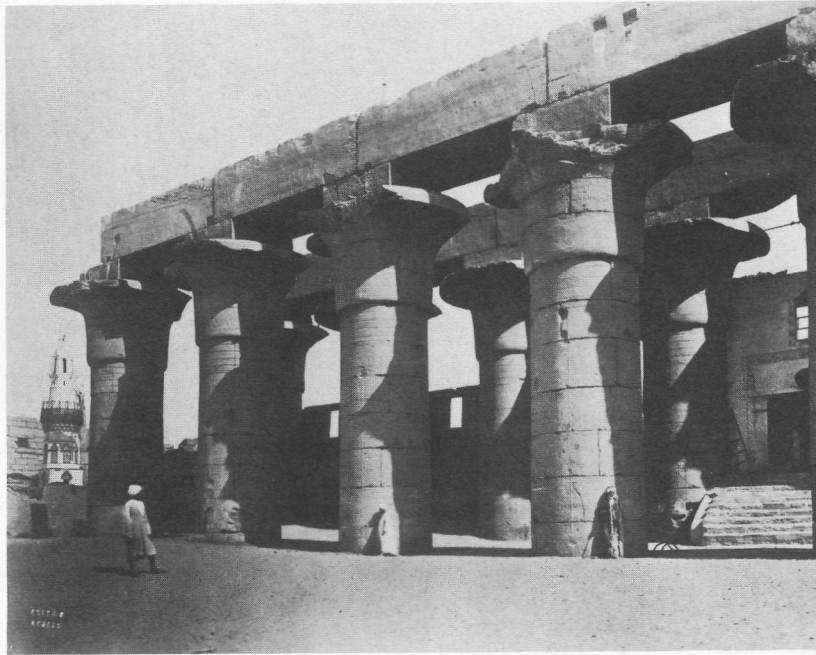
A portion of a reconstructed scene showing the festival of the god Min (see p. 16). Here the priests carry standards bearing divine emblems. (photographs by Karen Krause, drawing by Ray Johnson)



A column from the Tutankhamun colonnade

to make accurate copies of them before they perish. We have confirmed the reading of the traces of the royal names as those of the Emperor Tiberius, making these the latest surviving inscriptions *in situ* in the temple still associated with the pharaonic cult of Amun.

We have examined old prints and photographs of Luxor Temple in the last century to establish the height of the occupation debris prior to its removal, and the existence of modern mud brick structures whose traces are still visible in the Colonnade. We have been intrigued by the well documented house of one Mustafa Agha Ayat, American Consular Agent by 1857, later representing British, Belgian, and Russian interests, before his disgrace in the Theban tomb robbery scandals not long before his death in 1887. His house stood among the columns for at least thirty years, though it was not yet in existence at the time of a photograph taken by Maxime du Camp in the early 1850s. We have coordinated the height of the debris, and the position of the houses, with the graffiti of



The Luxor Colonnade about 1870, being used as a monumental portico fronting the mud-brick house of Mustapha Agha—note the level to which the columns have been buried by debris (photo no. 99 from the Frith Series, Oriental Institute collection)

the Colonnade. The ancient Greek, Coptic, and Arabic graffiti (there are no demotic ones) lie beneath the nineteenth-century ground level, whereas the notices left by the modern European travellers (dated 1804–1865), plus some modern Arab ones, lie on or above the seventh stone course of the column shafts, with most concentrated on the eighth and ninth courses—all easily reached from the ground level prior to 1888. A mystery exists in regard to a hieroglyphic cartouche scratched onto a column at the top of the tenth course. Described as being the name of an otherwise unknown “Amarna princess,” it is surely a modern fabrication. The highest graffito discovered so far, it could have been reached from a short ladder prior to excavation. Strangely, it was seen by Rosellini in 1828, scarcely six years after Champollion’s decipherment of the hieroglyphic script. How it got there and what it means are not yet clear, but we hope to find out more about it in Rosellini’s unpublished manuscripts in Pisa.

Our study of the relief and painted decoration of the Colonnade



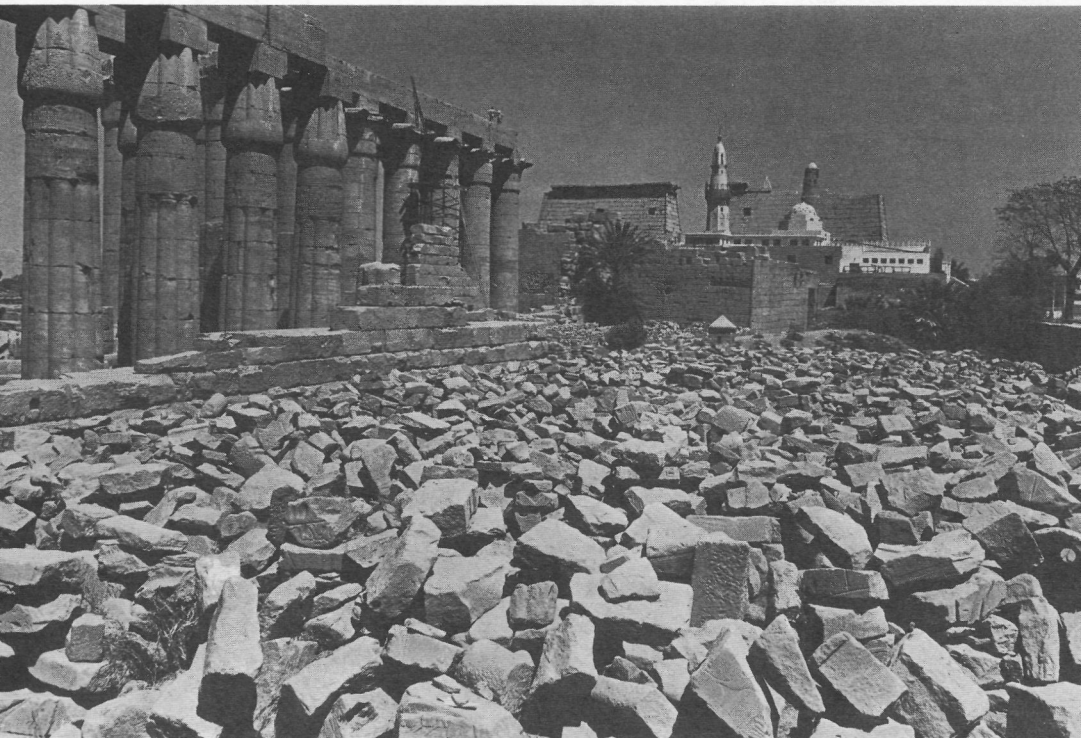
An enigmatic graffito from the Luxor Colonnade, the cartouche of an "Amarna princess," almost certainly a hoax perpetrated by a nineteenth-century visitor (photograph by Eric Krause)

has revealed the succession of pharaohs who added their figures and texts here, not only in empty spaces, but also freely altering the work of their predecessors, erasing, redesigning, and recutting elements predating themselves. The traces of original decoration tell us a great deal about the history of ancient activities in the Colonnade. We have found evidence for the names of Amenhotep III (most inscribed by Tutankhamun, who depicted Amenhotep III in many scenes), Tutankhamun, Eye, Horemheb (who erased most of the cartouches of Tutankhamun and Eye), Sety I, Ramesses II, Merneptah, Amenmesse, Sety II, Ramesses III, and Ramesses IV—all in a period of about two hundred years—as well as Philip Arrhidaeus (the brother of Alexander the Great, who, as a son of Zeus-Ammon, restored the sanctuary of the temple), and Tiberius.

The discovery of original decoration of King Eye, the ephemeral successor of Tutankhamun, was one of the pleasant surprises of our work on the Colonnade. He is depicted officiating at Tutankhamun's funeral in the latter's tomb. Evidence of Eye's activities at Luxor had been restricted previously to a text associated with his renewal of a doorway before the sanctuary area; but it is now clear that he also carved some of the reliefs on the facade of the Eighteenth Dynasty building. When Ramesses II extended the temple to the north, along the sacred way leading toward Karnak, and the old facade was incorporated into his new courtyard, he erased Eye's raised relief up to the height of the roof of the portico, replacing it with his own sunk relief. However, sufficient traces remain to

permit us to reconstruct much of the earlier version. On the whole, Ramesses II slenderized the proportions of the rather ample late Eighteenth Dynasty figures, superimposing his own representations directly over them. We have been able to determine that his artists very skillfully utilized much of the original surface in the area of the faces and hands of the depictions of Amun and Mut on the eastern facade, preserving the style of the monumental relief from the time of Eye.

Ramesses II also erased much of the decorated surface of the three over-life-sized indurated limestone statues standing just inside the northern gateway of the Colonnade, reinscribing them with his own texts. We have established the areas of original decoration, and identified the surviving traces of it. Unfortunately, the names



One of the piles of rubble from which the fragments making up the scene shown on p. 8 were retrieved

of the original royal donor have been removed completely, but the primary candidates are Tutankhamun and Horemheb. The attribution must be based on the style of the sculptures, with the evidence favoring Tutankhamun. The head of the figure of Amun in the smaller dyad was discovered during excavations in the Ramesside court in 1958. Fragments of yet a fourth statue are now lying in the Colonnade, along with one piece turned up in our block search. The three statues are presently standing in places prepared for them in antiquity, but cuttings on the adjacent column bases and the presence of a gap in the decoration at the south end of the hall lead us to speculate that they must have been moved there from their original positions by a successor of Ramesses III, probably Ramesses IV.

In the early spring we made another systematic search of the Luxor Temple area for additional fragments for our reconstruction of the "lost Colonnade," the upper reaches of the walls which were dismantled for reuse as building material after the end of the pharaonic period. The large, New Kingdom building blocks being unwieldy, each one was broken or cut into several smaller pieces prior to being carried away for reuse. Much decorated surface has been lost in this way, and even if the fragments were not further shaped, the pieces of a single block no longer necessarily fit together neatly. Largely collected between 1949 and 1960 by various members of the Egyptian Antiquities Organization excavating at the front of the temple and along the avenue of sphinxes, they remain completely unpublished, except for the few illustrated in last year's Annual Report.

Preparations for the search included cutting and removing all the camel thorn and brush growing around the stone piles. During the search, a scorpion hiding under a rock near the river road was quickly dispatched when we turned the rock over to examine its decoration. Working with copies of Ray Johnson's reconstructions of the fragments already assembled, we organized ourselves into two teams of two persons each, one team searching mornings, the other afternoons, to take advantage of the effect of different lighting to facilitate recognition of the fragments we were looking for. Each team compiled a list of fragments for possible inclusion, and the two lists were compared. Conferences were held over questionable pieces. The location of each fragment was noted, and the piles were carefully taken down to extract the desired stones, which were then moved to our study area for matching, photography, and

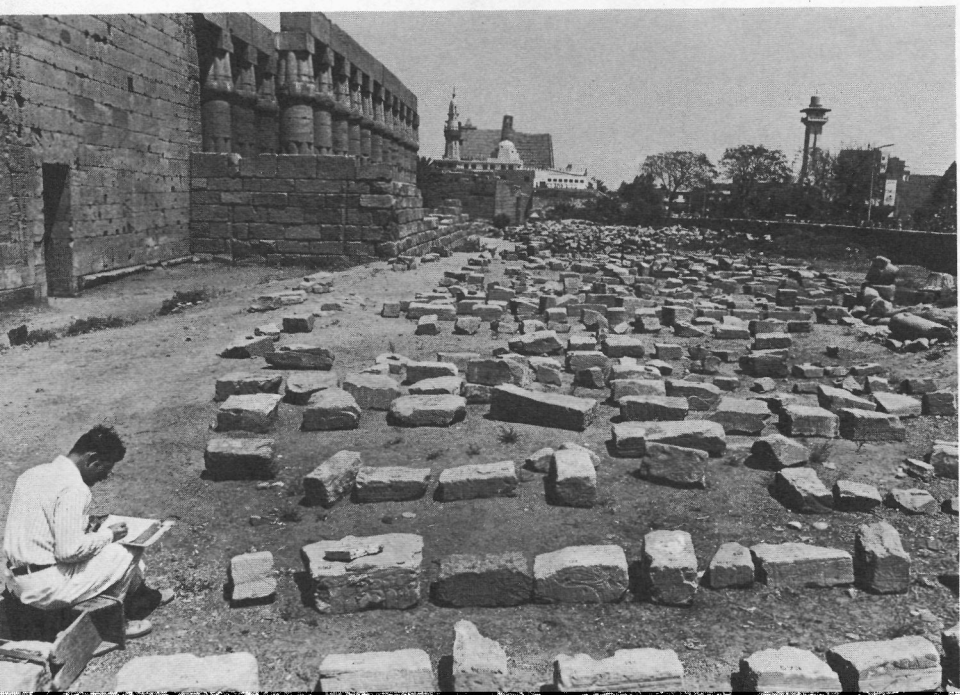


drawing. Although we do not know the provenance and context of the individual stones at the time of their excavation, we often find adjoining blocks clustered together in the stone piles, undoubtedly reflecting their proximity prior to excavation, as well as their consecutive reemployment at the time of the disassembly of the New Kingdom walls of which they were part. However, fragments from a single composition are also found isolated and scattered quite far from one another.

By the end of this season, we had confirmed the placement of 177 of the fragments selected previously, adding 144 new ones, for a total of 321 to be included in our publication. Some of the larger reconstructed scenes contain sizeable numbers of fragments: Min festival procession (29), towboats (31), Khonsu barque (15), King with offering list (12), procession of the barque of Amun (10).

Some of the fragments fit directly on top of the standing walls, and may be replaced physically, as was done in 1934 with a fallen block whose position could be identified then. A representation of offerings being presented before the barque of Amun, which we have reconstructed from 53 separate parts, can be reassembled atop the eastern wall of the Court of Amenhotep III just to the south of the Colonnade, and we will apply to do so and record the scene *in extenso* next season. In the course of our work this year we pointed out three areas for consolidation in the Colonnade, two

Epigrapher Bill Murnane collating one of the block fragments in the study area to the east of the Luxor Temple (photograph by Karen Krause)



on columns and one on the wall, which the skilled restorers of the Antiquities Organization then repaired.

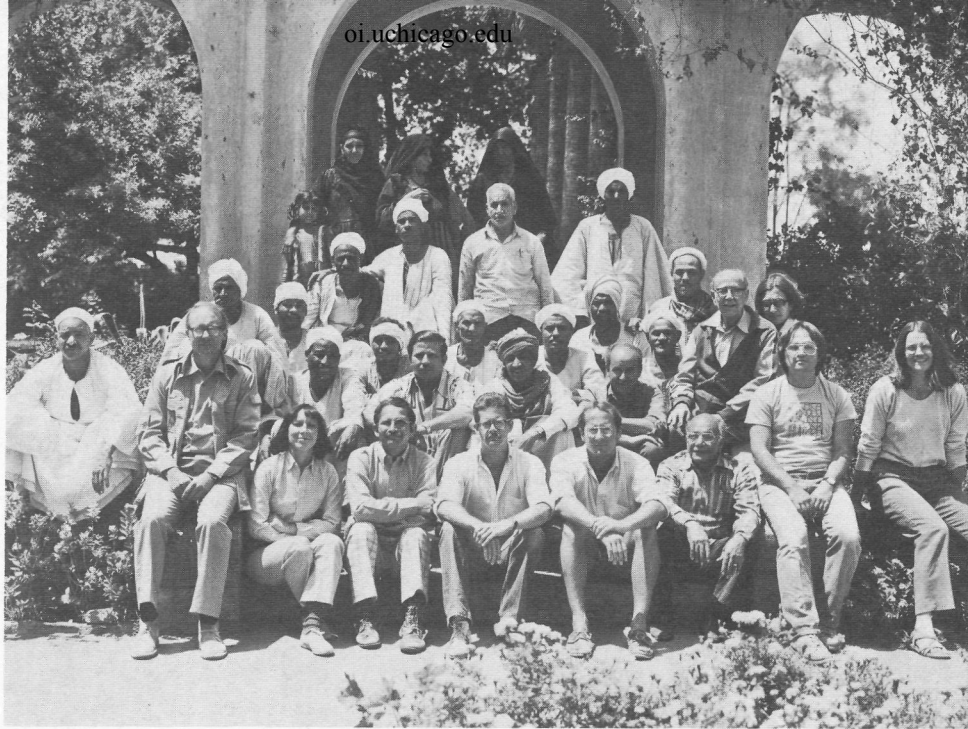
While sorting through the thousands of fragments piled up around Luxor Temple we also kept lists of other interesting and important categories of texts which we encountered, many undoubtedly brought here originally from Karnak. These include limestone fragments inscribed with the names of the Middle Kingdom rulers Amenemhet I and Sesostri III, a black granite fragment with the cartouche of Thutmose II, sandstone pieces mentioning Hatshepsut and Thutmose III (including some later rededications), offering lists, names of foreign lands, references to High Priests of Amun during Dynasty XXI, inscriptions of the Fourth Prophet of Amun and Mayor of Thebes Montuemhet, and a column drum with a cartouche of the rarely attested Twenty-Ninth Dynasty pharaoh Nephertites I, giving a new spelling of his names. After photography, we requested the Antiquities Organization to remove the Amenemhet I and Thutmose II fragments to storage in the sealed magazine at Luxor Temple. We shall submit an application to publish these and some other fragments separately. In addition, we discovered five new fragments of the Bentresh inscription, described two years ago, bringing our total to thirty-four; these have all been assembled in preparation for reconstructing their text.

Françoise Traunecker of the Franco-Egyptian Center at Karnak, who is preparing the architectural study of Khonsu III, also began planning the Tutankhamun Colonnade this year. Our epigraphic work in Luxor Temple has directed our attention to various quarrying techniques, the methods of handling large stones, and the architectural history of the Colonnade. We have observed many unfinished architectural elements, including numerous large column drums and a cornice, employed in the construction of the Colonnade. We have identified two fragments of roofing slabs, possibly belonging to the Colonnade, lying near its southwest corner. We have noted that the edges of all the column capitals have been broken off, probably during the accidental fall or deliberate removal of the roof, which occurred prior to A.D. 1589; and we have questioned the stability of the hollow-constructed side walls intended to support the soaring roof of the Colonnade. Inevitably, a comparison of the Luxor Colonnade with the Hypostyle Hall at Karnak must be made, and the function of the Colonnade within Luxor Temple and its specific role during the Opet Festival must be considered. In all these areas and many others, Françoise's findings should be most informative.

Two Oriental Institute photographs taken from James Henry Breasted's airplane circling Luxor Temple in March 1933 show a scaffold in place during the consolidation of architraves in the Colonnade. The Antiquities Organization restorers then at work were probably the last visitors to the top of the columns before the present season of the Epigraphic Survey. Our climb to the highest point in the Colonnade was necessary to make accurate measurements of the columns, to study the building techniques employed, and to look for evidence of the placement and dislodging of the roof, and also to improve the angle for our photographs of the cartouches on the inner faces of the abaci and the unpublished inscriptions running the length of the architraves. In addition, one of the drawings made by David Roberts in 1838–39 shows people already on one architrave hauling up a companion. The details of their ascent from the ground level of the debris-choked Colonnade are left to the imagination; no ladder is shown. Nevertheless, the probability of visits to the architraves during the nineteenth century meant that we might find modern graffiti there. Although no graffiti were found, we did discover a game board hollowed out on one of the column capitals in the shade of the overhanging architrave block, and a simply rounded pot sherd which probably served as a gaming piece.

The view is spectacular, and the architectural details fascinating. Access was had to the platform of our old wooden scaffolding from an aluminum three-story ladder set up on the Colonnade wall, thence to the architrave via a two-story wooden ladder to which a four-meter ladder had been lashed. The ladders were tied to the swaying scaffold, with trips to the top possible only when the wind was calm. The architraves are 2.70 meters (about 8.5 feet) wide and 41.30 meters (about 134 feet) long, and the tops are 21.10 and 21.20 meters (about 69 feet) above the floor of the Colonnade. The western architrave is thus only 1.25 meters (about 48 inches) shorter than those carried on the central columns flanking the east-west axis of the Hypostyle Hall. Other relationships between the two structures are equally striking.

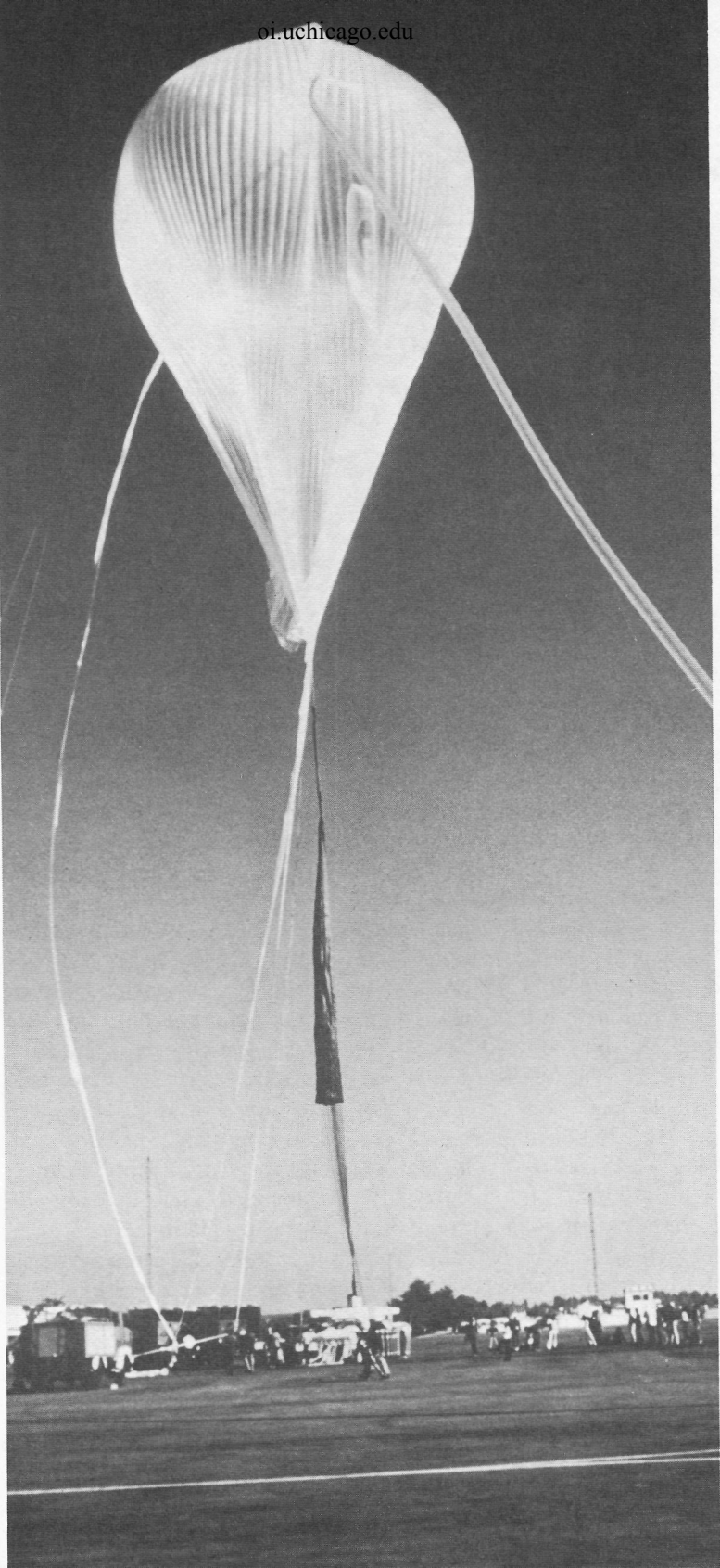
During the last three weeks of the season, the artists went back to the Eighteenth Dynasty Temple at Medinet Habu to prepare more drawings for their summer work. Our meticulous methods of recording have scarcely changed since the earliest days of the Survey, continuing to assure the remarkable degree of reliability which characterizes our productions. An experiment conducted this year, however, utilizing the full potential of the enlargement and blueprint



The 1980-81 Chicago House staff; Lanny Bell at front right.

papers currently available, now permits us to preserve the photographic image underlying our drawings through the collation stage, providing a handy guide for correction prior to bleaching.

United With Eternity, Bill Murnane's guide to the temple complex at Medinet Habu, was printed this year. Two advance copies reached Egypt from Malta, where they were printed. The rest are being readied for distribution, and we hope they will be available for sale soon. Bill's edition of the plates of Harold H. Nelson's drawings of the decoration on the inner walls of the great Hypostyle Hall at Karnak is expected to appear before the end of 1981, followed shortly by *Khonsu II*. This season we checked some final details for both the *Khonsu II* and *Sety* volumes, photographing additional *Sety I* fragments which Bill had turned up in his search of the Hypostyle Hall area, and locating an important fragment seen some years ago by Charlie Nims while he was working in the Court of the Khonsu Temple. This latter fragment, bearing the names of Horemheb but built into a column set up by Herihor, confirms a suggestion made by Hölscher in 1935 concerning the probable reuse at Khonsu of columns originally coming from the mortuary temple of Horemheb at Medinet Habu. While searching earlier for parallels for the design on the canopy of the portable barque of Amun represented by Tutankhamun at Luxor, Bill had also discovered



the names of Tutankhamun on the north face of the Eighth Pylon at Karnak. Although not recognized previously, the inscriptions show quite clearly on enlargements made from the Chicago House negatives.

Once the Epigraphic Survey has completed all the commitments it has undertaken, we will have recorded a broad cross-section of the total spectrum of ancient Egyptian monumental reliefs and inscriptions, from royal mortuary and great state temples, a provincial temple in Nubia, and private tombs at Thebes; from the sites of Karnak, the Khonsu and Mut temples, Luxor, Medinet Habu, Beit el-Wali, and the Theban necropolis; and with a chronological range including the reigns of Thutmose III and Hatshepsut, Amenhotep III and IV, Tutankhamun, Sety I, Ramesses II, Ramesses III, Ramesses XI and Herihor, Dynasty XXII, and the Saite and Ptolemaic periods.

We wish to express our special thanks to the individuals most responsible for the successes of our past season. These include MM. Jean-Claude Golvin and Alain Bellod of the Franco-Egyptian Center at Karnak; Mr. Richard Fazzini of the Brooklyn Museum's Mut Temple Project; and Prof. Ricardo Caminos of the Egyptian Exploration Society. The assistance consistently afforded to us by the officials of the Egyptian Antiquities Organization was most appreciated, as we consulted with them on every aspect of our extremely varied work schedule this season. We wish to acknowledge in particular Dr. Aly el-Khouly, Supervisor for Antiquities for Upper Egypt; and Messrs. Mohammed el-Sughayyir, Director for Antiquities in Southern Upper Egypt; Sayid Abd el-Hamid, Chief Inspector for Karnak and Luxor; Sayid el-Higazy, Inspector at Luxor; and Mohammed Nasr, Chief Inspector for Qurna. International travel and funds for our operations in Egypt were provided by a grant awarded to us under the Foreign Currency Program of the Smithsonian Institution, administered through the offices of the American Research Center in Egypt. Generous private contributions by several friends of the Oriental Institute were also designated for the use of the Epigraphic Survey this year.

Welcome distractions for the members of the Chicago House team at Luxor included a weekend trip to the Red Sea in January with Drs. Janet Johnson and Donald Whitcomb of the Quseir Project. In February we helped launch the "Jules Verne," a helium-filled balloon piloted by Maxie Anderson and Don Ida on the first

"Jules Verne" lifts off from Luxor at the beginning of an attempted around-the-world flight by Maxie Anderson and Don Ida

leg of their attempted around-the-world flight. In March and April we assisted a film crew from the National Geographic Society and WQED who were making a National Geographic television special on "Eternal Egypt," which will feature the work of the Epigraphic Survey.

We regret to report the death of Umm Sety on April 21, at the age of 77. Born Dorothy Eady and given the Arabic name Bulbul Abd el-Meguid at the time of her marriage, this long-time resident of Abydos was familiar to almost every visitor to that site north of Luxor. Before she fell and broke her hip last spring, she used to spend Thanksgiving and her birthday with us at Chicago House. She was a remarkable woman, and we shall miss her.

The oasis of Chicago House continued to attract visitors to our door throughout the season. We made our facilities available to members of several expeditions working in the Luxor area, as well as large numbers of individual scholars. Most of these came especially to use our extraordinary Egyptological library and photographic archive, but other requests for help involved the use of our ladders, cars, safe, storage magazines, telephone, etc. We are pleased to be able to serve as an international center for archeological research in Upper Egypt, in addition to pursuing our own specific projects.

Just after New Year's this season we greeted the American Ambassador to Egypt, Mr. Alfred L. Atherton, Jr., who drove to Aswan on a vacation with his wife and family. In February we welcomed the Oriental Institute's Egyptian tour; several Oriental Institute members touring Egyptt separately also dropped in. We encourage all our friends visiting Luxor to stop by and see us; we do ask, however, that they try to let us know when they are coming, as far ahead of their arrival as possible, so that we can be expecting them and prepare a proper reception for them.