

EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY

W. Raymond Johnson

On 15 April 2000, the Epigraphic Survey completed its seventy-sixth six-month field season. The primary documentation efforts of the survey this year continued to be focused on the small Amun temple of Hatshepsut and Thutmose III at Medinet Habu where the penciling and collating of facsimile drawings continued in the bark sanctuary and ambulatory of Thutmose III. Conservation on the rooftop was resumed, as was the cleaning of the painted reliefs inside the sanctuary. Backfill debris in the two middle chambers of the sanctuary was carefully examined

prior to repaving next season, and fragments of a colossal granodiorite dyad of Thutmose III and Amun were recovered for eventual restoration in the central chamber. The inscribed, deteriorating northern well of Ramesses III was completely photographed. At Luxor temple twenty damp-coursed storage and treatment platforms were constructed in the expanded southeast blockyard, conservation was resumed on deteriorating block fragments, a block registry was started by the epigraphers in the southern area, and over two hundred block fragments from that area were moved up off the ground onto the new mastabas.

Hatshepsut and Thutmose III Amun Temple at Medinet Habu

From 15 October 1999 to 15 April 2000 the Epigraphic Survey artists and epigraphers, supervised by senior epigrapher Edward (Ted) Castle, continued to painstakingly pencil, ink, and correct drawings of the bark sanctuary reliefs in the small temple of Amun and on the pillars of the bark sanctuary ambulatory (fig. 1).

These scenes present great challenges because of the extensive revisions that occurred after the original carving. In the inner sanctuary, sometime after the death of Hatshepsut, her figures were suppressed, appropriated, or recarved into something else, often elaborate piles of offerings, by Thutmose III. All over the Eighteenth Dynasty temple figures of the gods (with the exception of Re-Horakhty and Atum) were chiseled away by Akhenaten's iconoclasts and restored later by his successors, sometimes more than once. Further restorations and renewals occurred later under the Ptolemies. The different phases make this monument one of the most complex the Epigraphic Survey has ever tackled, and our challenge is to differentiate and communicate all of the different carved revisions in our drawings.

One new epigrapher, Briant Bohleke, who also serves as Chicago House librarian, was trained on-site this season. Marjorie Fisher also continued her epigraphic training in the studio in January, and at the wall as well. Eight new drawings were penciled at the wall by the artists for inking over the summer, and twenty-eight additional drawings were collated and checked at the wall by the epigraphers and artists (fig. 2). They will be published in the second volume projected for the small temple of Amun at Medinet Habu, devoted primarily to the Thutmoside bark sanctuary area.

The 1999/2000 season saw the fourth year of a five-year grant, generously approved by the Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA) and the Egyptian Antiquities Project (EAP) of the American Research Center, for conservation and documentation of the Thutmoside Amun temple at Medinet Habu and its later additions. This season's pri-

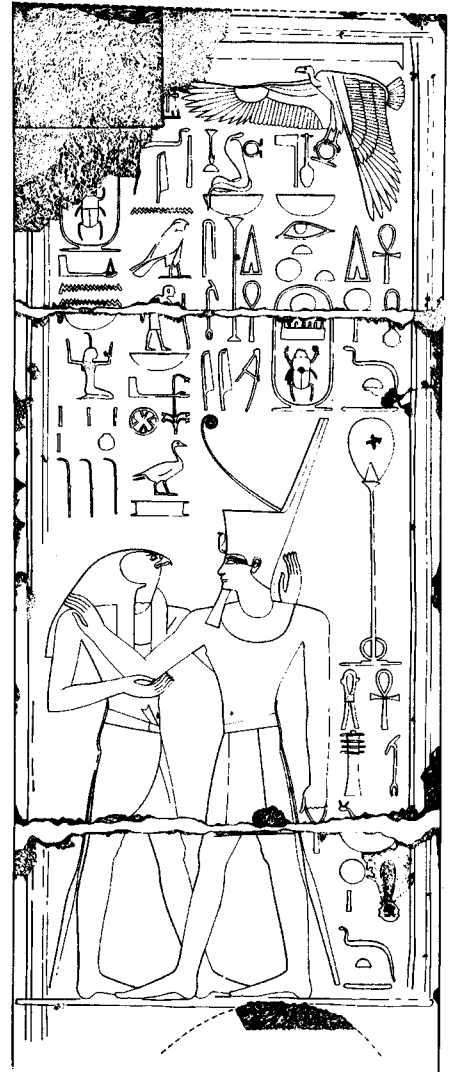


Figure 1. Inscribed pillar face MHB 130, bark sanctuary ambulatory, small temple of Amun at Medinet Habu. Facsimile drawing by Andrew Baumann and Margaret De Jong. Photograph by Yarko Kobylecky

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mary conservation work continued on the rooftop of the Thutmoside temple and inside the painted chapels.

In the sanctuary, conservator Lotfi Hassan, assisted by conservators Adel Aziz and Veronica Paglione, initiated the cleaning of the painted reliefs in the southeast chamber, with wonderful results. They completed the cleaning of about 75% of the total wall surface (fig. 3) and 80% of the ceiling, which revealed yellow stars painted against a dark background. The phases of the conservation process this season were as follows:

1. Examination and documentation
2. Cleaning process, mechanical and chemical
3. Extraction of salts
4. Consolidation of the color layers and stone degradation surface
5. Repointing of the missing parts and micro- and macrocracks

Lotfi, Adel, and Veronica also replaced some of the mortar infilling at the bases of the south and east walls in the same room, which had decayed due to rising damp. They did the same in the two central chambers of the sanctuary where needed.

Stonecutter Dany Roy resumed the roofwork begun two seasons ago. On the north side of the sanctuary area, thirteen roof block slabs over the king's chamber on the north, replaced last season, were grouted with liquid mortar, which effectively sealed the area and re-activated an ancient Ptolemaic drainspout. He also cleaned, filled with mortar and crushed brick, and plugged

with new patch stones several areas over the front, central chamber of the sanctuary and the bark sanctuary ambulatory. Where one small block over the ambulatory on the southwest side had decayed, Dany fashioned a new one complete with a beautifully carved drainspout (fig. 4). This now directs water from the upper roof area onto the lower roof and through another spout on the south off the roof altogether. In roof debris over the northeast corner of the bark sanctuary ambulatory, Dany found a small limestone stela (fig. 5) from the late Eighteenth Dynasty re-used as a chinking stone in the Ptolemaic period when the roof was first restored. It is inscribed for a "servant in the Place of [Truth]" (preserved height: 35 cm; width: 25 cm; depth: 5 cm), and was drawn by Artist Margaret De Jong.

Dany also supervised the removal of a half dozen large fragments (one weighing several tons) of a colossal granodiorite pair statue of Thutmose III and the god Amun that were found in the back-fill debris in the two central chambers of the sanctuary. When Uvo Hölscher excavated the small Amun temple for the University of Chicago in the 1930s he was able to excavate down to the foundations in these two rooms because most of the flooring was

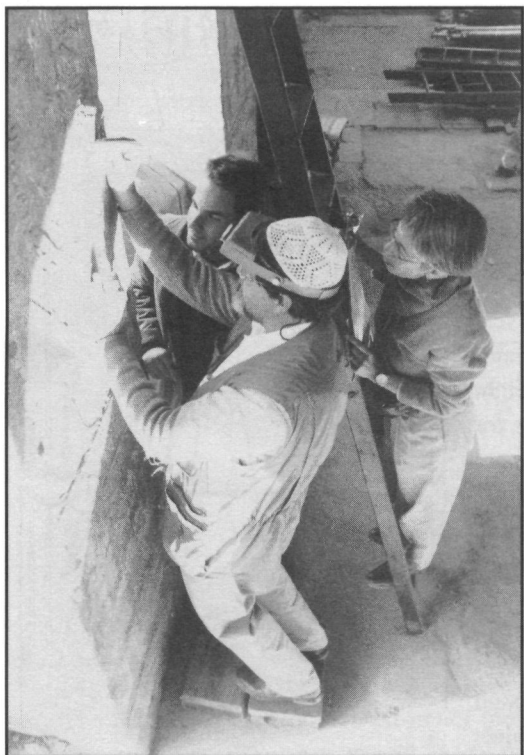


Figure 2. Epigraphers Brett McClain and Ted Castle and artist Sue Osgood discussing a point at the wall of small temple of Amun, Medinet Habu. Photograph by Yarko Kobylecky

missing (for Hölscher's excavations, see OIP 41). At that time Hölscher found the colossal statue group broken into pieces, but he removed only the broken upper section from the floor debris; he left the larger, lower section buried in the front chamber and refilled both rooms, mostly with the dirt and debris he took out of them.

Because the Epigraphic Survey plans to replace those floors with new sandstone paving slabs next season (cut and brought to the site this March), we decided to clean Hölscher's backfill and recover any artifacts he might have missed. Dany removed the lower statue fragment in the front room (with the generous assistance of Luxor SCA Chief Engineer Salaam and his workmen) and several other large pieces of the base (fig. 6). Egyptologist Christina Di Cerbo supervised the careful removal of the debris and the recovery of many more smaller granodiorite fragments in both rooms, along with miscellaneous pottery sherds, mostly medieval, including a few Coptic ostraca; Ellie Smith carefully washed and sorted much of the material. Cleaning also revealed a half dozen original, large paving blocks not recorded by Hölscher along the north and east sides of the first chamber, which angled down toward a medieval pit that his men had followed when they cleared the chamber. These blocks provide important information about the style and dimensions of the original paving stones that we can now incorporate into our restoration of the floor next season.

When we reached the foundation level of Hatshepsut's sanctuary in the front chamber, we found a pit in the center of the room that Hölscher had documented and mostly cleared. The sides of the pit, which he recorded as having been cut into virgin soil, surprisingly revealed horizontal plastered layers going well below the present water table. These layers may represent floor levels or they may be something else, and the feature seems to have gone unrecognized by Hölscher. In the back room we found the same plaster layers on the sides of a similar pit in the center of the room, also previously documented by Hölscher. Whatever this layered area was (its

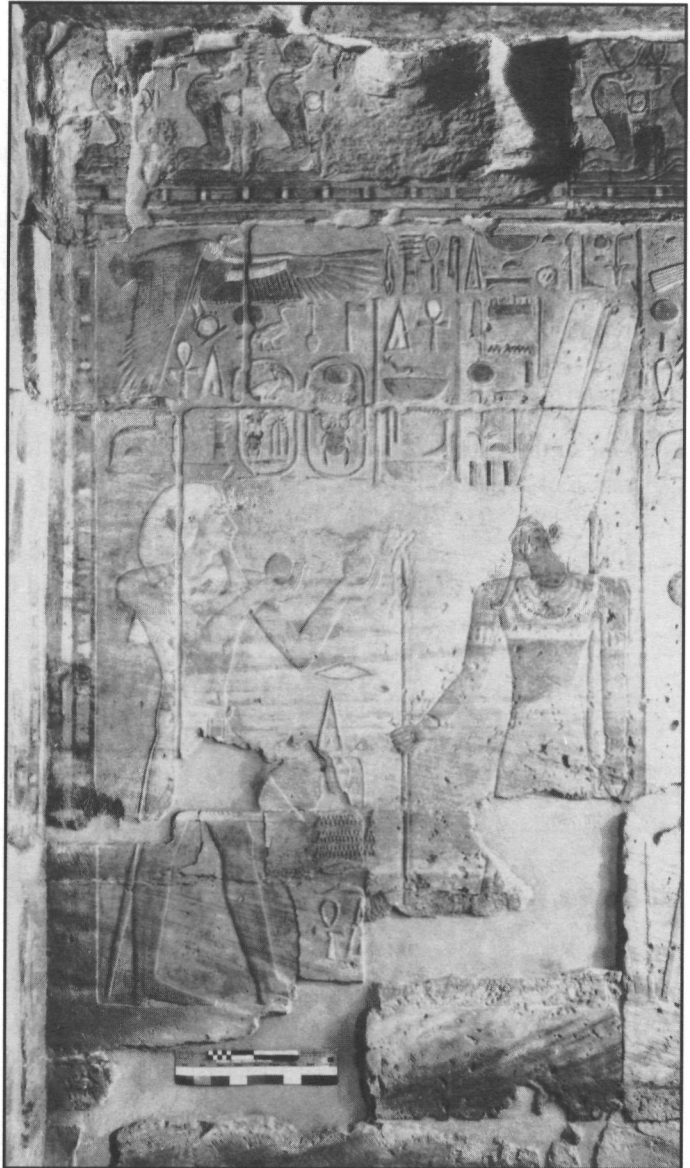


Figure 3. Detail of cleaned east wall of southeast sanctuary chamber, small temple of Amun, Medinet Habu. Photograph by Sue Lezon and Yarko Kobylecky

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analysis will take some time), it was located behind an earlier stone sanctuary Hölscher found partly built into the front of Hatshepsut and Thutmose III's bark sanctuary (possibly dating to the Middle Kingdom); it had its own mudbrick enclosure wall and was important enough for Hatshepsut to "cap" with her new stone temple.

We refilled both rooms with original soil against the walls (to restore the balance of salt between the stone foundations and the soil next to them, thereby prohibiting the destructive migration of those salts) and layers of clean sand and gravel. While refilling the central room, Dany built a reinforced concrete, damp-coursed footing one-half-meter thick in the center of the room. This will provide a firm foundation for the three-meter-high pair statue that we will restore to its original position after the flooring is in place next season.

Southern Well of Ramesses III

One of the priorities of the season before last was the total large-format photographic documentation of the salt-encrusted reliefs in the southern well of Ramesses III. Last summer, at our request, local SCA engineers shored up the well entryway and foyer with thick timbers to stabilize the structure, which was beginning to subside due to two deteriorating blocks on the east wall. Eventually the whole entryway will be dismantled, and the decayed stone will be replaced with new stone before reconstruction.

Northern Well of Ramesses III

In February and March large-format photography of the inscribed northern well of Ramesses III, a salvage priority for this season, was initiated and completed by staff photographer Yarko

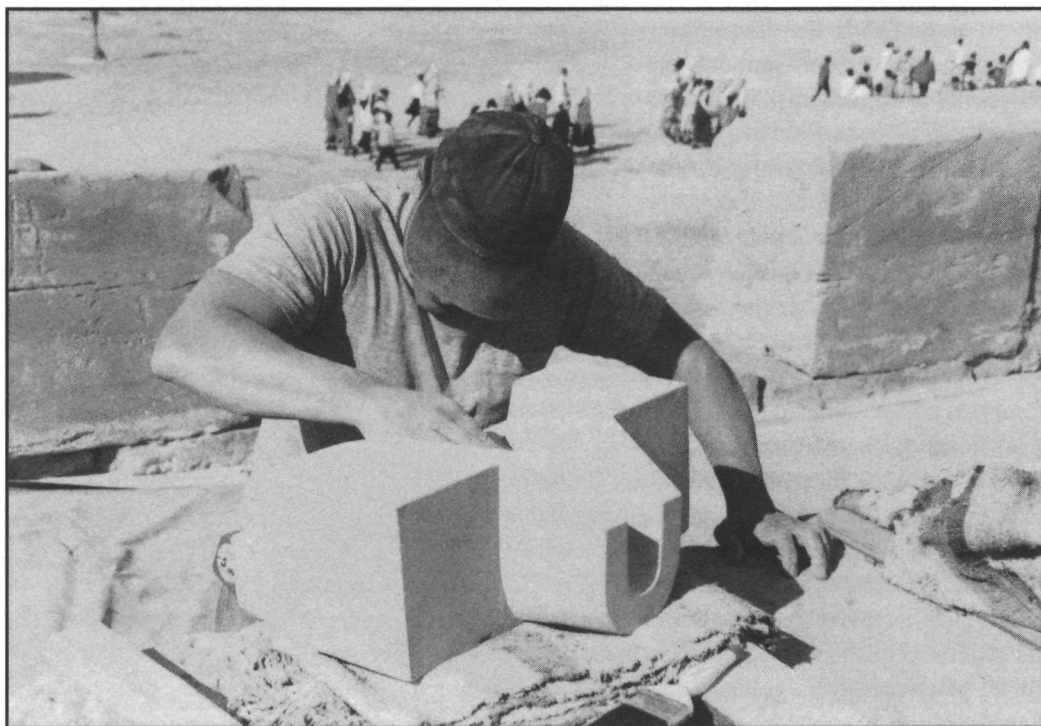


Figure 4. Stonecutter Dany Roy fashioning a sandstone drainspout for the Eighteenth Dynasty Amun temple roof, Medinet Habu, March 2000. Photograph by Ray Johnson

Kobylecky assisted by photographic archives assistant Ellie Smith (fig. 7). This well, on the north side of Ramesses III's mortuary temple, and its mate to the south were used to obtain sacred water for purification rituals in the temple. We have incorporated these two monuments into our documentation program because of the accelerating decay of their decoration due to corrosive salts in the groundwater. The preserved area of the northern well consists of a long, descending, inscribed entrance corridor; an inscribed, descending, stepped passage to the right, mostly submerged; and a third, short, descending corridor to the right, now completely inaccessible, which attaches to the circular well shaft. The subject of the decoration is Nile gods bringing sacred water up the stairway from the well and the king being purified with that water.

The large-format photographs of both wells that we took this and last season will supplement a set of 35 mm black and white photographs of the wells taken in 1986 which document numerous details now destroyed by the salting on the walls. The scanned 35 mm negatives are being joined into full-wall montages using Adobe Photoshop software, after which the earlier photographs will be compared to the large-format photographs to determine the rate of decay of the structures from the 1930s till now.



Figure 5. Small limestone stela from late Eighteenth Dynasty re-used during the Ptolemaic period as rooftop fill, small Amun temple, Medinet Habu. Photograph by Yarko Kobylecky

Luxor Temple

This season marked the fifth year of a five-year grant generously approved by the Supreme Council of Antiquities and the Egyptian Antiquities Project of the American Research Center, for the treatment of deteriorating decorated stone fragments at Luxor temple.

Conservators John Stewart and Hiroko Kariya arrived on 16 January to resume the Luxor Temple Fragment Consolidation Project, just as engineer Mohsen Fahmy put the finishing touches on 20 new, damp-coursed brick storage mastaba/platforms (fig. 8) in the expanded blockyard. During the next three months Hiroko monitored all 1,540 fragments recorded on our computer database for stability and effectiveness of previous treatment. Ninety-four fragments (one or more faces) were treated with Wacker OH. All treated fragments, as well as those requiring future treatment, were placed under a covered area for protection. Desalination experiments were conducted on uninscribed, stray sandstone fragments to test the effectiveness of various salt-extracting techniques, and salt crystals were sampled and identified.

The first fragments to be moved to the new east storage area were a group of over a hundred fragments that join the east wall of the Amenhotep III sun court and were partially restored on the wall a decade and a half ago by John Stewart. Special thanks go to assistant Nan Ray who

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supervised the tracking and moving of most of this material with Hiroko and will continue this crucial work in seasons to come (fig. 9). The remaining fragments have been moved to new mastabas and sorted into two groups: those requiring consolidation and those which are stable. Consolidation of this material was one of this season's priorities, and we hope that the rest of this important group can be restored to the wall starting next year.

During the latter part of the season the Chicago House epigraphers and I began a catalogue of the decorated stone fragments stored on the ground in the southeast area. By season's end we had successfully raised two entire rows of over two hundred fragments onto the new damp-coursed storage mastaba/platforms, sorted and arranged by category, which will facilitate analysis and reconstruction later. The primary goal of the Epigraphic Survey is to raise all of the fragmentary material at Luxor temple up off the ground over the next few years, away from the increasingly corrosive groundwater. This season's work marks the important beginning of a major new chapter in our documentation and preservation efforts at Luxor temple.

Although the EAP grant as originally written and planned would have expired this year, I am pleased to report that there is enough of a surplus in the account to fund a sixth season, and permission has been granted by the EAP to apply it to next season's fieldwork.

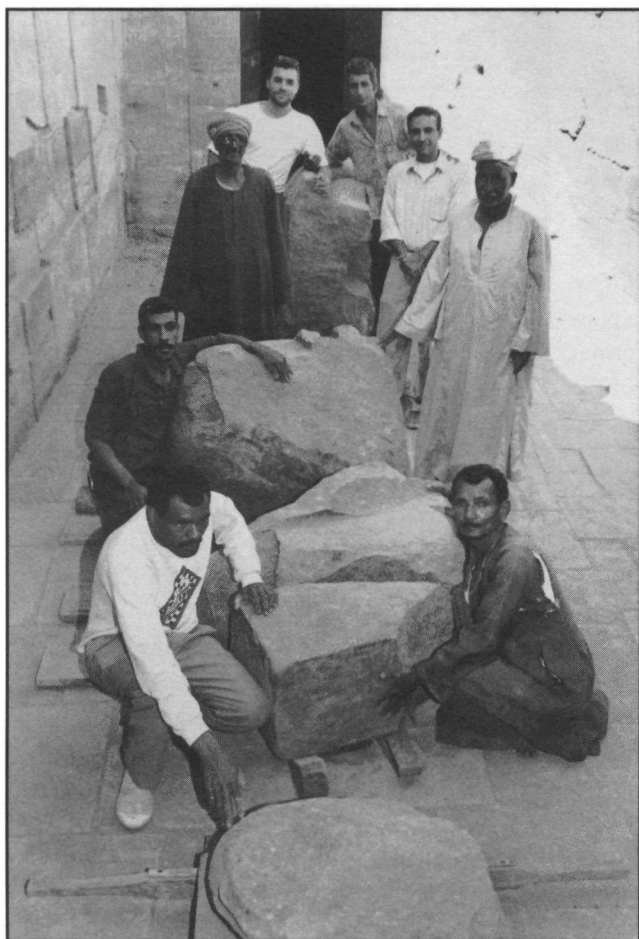


Figure 6. Dany Roy, SCA Inspector Ahmed Ezz, and workmen with granodiorite fragments of a colossal seated pair statue of Amun and Thutmose III, small Amun temple bark sanctuary, Medinet Habu. Photograph by Yarko Kobylecky

Chicago House

Chicago House reopened for the 1999/2000 season on 15 October, thanks once again to the good graces of Christina Di Cerbo, who came two weeks early to supervise the arduous opening/cleaning process. In October and the first two weeks of November epigrapher and librarian Debbie Darnell supervised the training of Egyptologist Briant Bohleke and his wife Karin Bohleke in the mysteries of the Chicago House library management. In mid-November Briant succeeded Debbie as Chicago House librarian, ably assisted by Karin, when Debbie left Chicago House to work full time on her and husband John's Theban Desert Road Project. We wish her and John all the best for that extremely important effort. Like Debbie before him, Briant now divides his time between running the library and working as epigrapher at the Epigraphic Survey temple sites. Briant was an undergraduate at the University of Chicago and received his doctorate in Egyptology at Yale University; we are very pleased to have him back with us. Karin received her doctorate in French at Yale as well

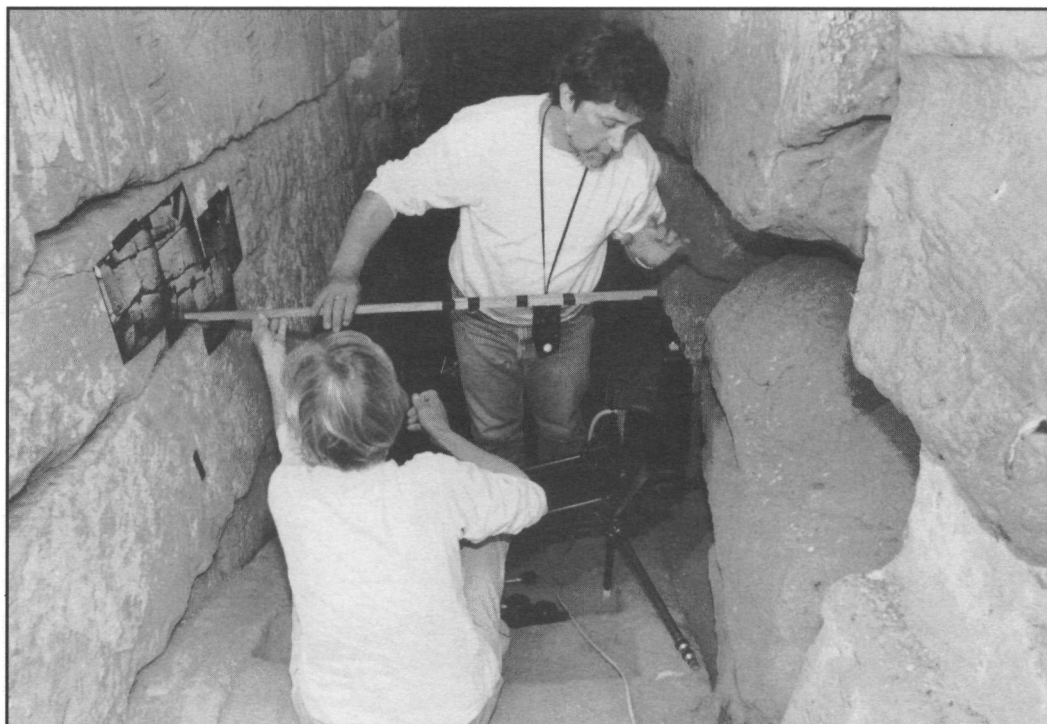


Figure 7. Epigraphic Survey photographer Yarko Kobylecky, assisted by Ellie Smith, photographing in the northern decorated well of Ramesses III, Medinet Habu. Photograph by Ray Johnson

and is putting her extraordinary knowledge of foreign languages to excellent use in the Chicago House library. Together this season they registered 570 titles comprising over 700 individual volumes, and our library holdings have now passed the 18,000 mark. Assistant Nan Ray re-inked or retyped new call number labels for all of the folio volumes this season and created new easier-to-read shelf labels for each folio cabinet, greatly facilitating use of that material. She and assistant Ellie Smith also cleaned, repaired, and encapsulated in mylar twenty maps, a process that will continue next season. Special thanks go to assistant Mary Grimshaw, who returned to us for the month of March and finished her data-entry project listing our duplicate offprints. Mary also checked the shelf-list cards and assisted the librarians in tasks that are so important to the smooth running of the Chicago House library and photographic archives.

This season staff photographer Yarko Kobylecky, assisted by Ellie Smith, generated 191 large-format negatives, which were all registered in the new, updated photographic archives database designed by Jason Ur (we are now up to a total of 17,481 large-format negatives). Jason kindly visited Luxor in March for a few days on his way to Syria to check on the database, consult with the photographic archives crew, and do any necessary “tweaking.” Ellie also recorded 190 rolls of 35 mm negatives and contact sheets for the season, taken by me, Yarko, and Sue Lezon, mostly of this season’s fieldwork and house construction activities. In addition to the drawing enlargements he produced for our work at Medinet Habu, Yarko also produced forty emergency drawing enlargements for the University of Memphis Karnak Great Hypostyle Hall Project directed by former Epigraphic Survey senior epigrapher Bill Murnane. Bill and his team noticed that the lowest register of reliefs on the west wall of the hall was quickly deteriorating; it was deemed prudent to start the documentation while there was still something to record. Chicago House was very pleased to be able to assist, thereby allowing the recording of that precious material to begin this year.



Figure 8. New storage platforms, Epigraphic Survey blockyard at Luxor temple, east. Photograph by Ray Johnson

This season photographic archivist Sue Lezon and Ellie Smith continued to coordinate the scanning of our large-format negatives onto CD-ROM at the Karnak Franco-Egyptian Center, thanks to the kindness of Director François Larché. To date, 11,629 large-format negatives have been successfully scanned and 2,455 more are being scanned over the summer while we are away; our goal is to have the whole process completed by 2001. Special thanks go to Ellie for coming out for a very full five months this season, and in particular for packing up and tracking 7,500 8×10 negatives for scanning at Karnak, no easy chore. During the summer Sue has been downloading 4,000 images from the photographic archive, scanned onto CD-ROM by the Karnak crew, into the formerly text-only photographic archives database. The images currently being worked with are from the early part of the twentieth century, and their inclusion in our database is particularly important, as many of these negatives have a nitrate base and are subject to deterioration. We have duplicated many of these negatives in the past, but having the images on CD and in our computer files is one more way to insure that they will be preserved for posterity. Also, making the images accessible through the database will save scholars countless hours when searching for specific visual information from among the 18,000+ current entries.

Henri Riad continued his analysis of the Labib Habachi photographic archives housed at Chicago House and continued the formidable process of organizing and identifying the hundreds of unmarked photographs, a noble task indeed and much appreciated by those of us who use that archive. This spring we received word from Peter Janosi of the Austrian Archaeological Institute that the first volume of the Tel e-Daba series, devoted to Labib's work there and illustrated with dozens of photographs from the Habachi photographic archives, is about to be published. We also received word from Steven Snape in Liverpool that the volume on the temple and chapels at Zawiyet Umm el-Rakham, where Labib worked in the 1950s, is also being prepared. This will include photographs from Labib's archive of stelae and other material that he excavated and re-

corded, but which cannot now be located. I think that Labib would be very pleased with the good use to which his archive has already been put.

Helen and Jean Jacquet continued to lend us their invaluable expertise in the library and in the field and are generously donating a copy of their own photographic archive to Chicago House; 1,650 of their personal negatives recording fifty years of work in Egypt and the Sudan were also sent to Karnak for scanning onto CD-ROM this season. These images will be downloaded into a specially designed database (designed this summer by Jason), which later will be adapted for the Habachi archives as well. Helen Jacquet was especially busy this year; she also finished the plate section mock-up of her Khonsu temple rooftop graffiti volume. While she is finishing the text this coming winter, Yarko will print the photographs that will appear in her publication, the next in our Khonsu temple series.

The constant maintenance work required for a facility like Chicago House goes without saying, but I must remark that engineer Jamie Riley was a godsend once again this season. Jamie not only coordinates the dozen or more different maintenance tasks ongoing at any given time, from screen replacement to automotive and plumbing maintenance to refrigerator repairs, but his presence has also allowed for major improvements to the house, some of which have been needed for a long time. This winter, because we are now such a full house staff-wise, Jamie supervised the conversion of a large storeroom in our smaller residence, Healey House, into a staff bedroom with bath; thanks to his expertise, and the assistance of our Chief Engineer Saleh Shehat and local contractor (and good friend) Girgis Samwell, the job was accomplished in an exemplary fashion and in record time. We also decided to raise the front enclosure wall along the Corniche, something that has been a growing necessity, by adding an extension which matches the original grillwork. Jamie supervised the beginning of that work before the end of the



Figure 9. Nan Ray and workmen moving decorated stone fragments to new storage and treatment platforms, Epigraphic Survey blockyard at Luxor temple. Photograph by Sue Lezon



Figure 10. Oriental Institute tour members (clockwise from bottom left): Carole Yoshida, Carlotta Maher, Denise Paul, Erl Dordal, Hazel Cramer, John Larson, Bernadine Basile, Emily Napolitano, JoAnne Putz, Robert Ritner, Ray Johnson, Doris Holleb, and Marshall Holleb. Photograph by Yarko Kobylecky

season, while Girgis took over after we all left for the United States on 15 April. I returned to review the completed fence on 2 June and found it more than satisfactory; one would never know we had done anything to it. The wall needed to be raised without sacrificing light, air, or our view of the Nile and western cliffs, and this has now been successfully accomplished.

December of 1999 was a month of festivals. The holy month of Ramadan began on the 9th and ended a month later with a three-day Eid-festival, while Christmas and New Year's made the end of the month quite lively for everyone. Christmas at Chicago House was warm and full of cheer as always, with our in-house Christmas dinner (turkey and goose). We rang in New Year 2000 with our beloved Carlotta and David Maher, who flew in just for the occasion; friend and former Chicago House staff member Jay Heidel; friends Bob (Dean of the University of Chicago's Graduate School of Business) and Anne Hamada; colleagues Nigel and Helen Strudwick and Francesco Tiradritti; and longtime supporter and dear friend Donald Oster. Although we were prepared for any kind of Y2K problem (and were in close touch with the United States Embassy in Cairo about it), like most places in the world we luckily encountered no problems at all. It was an excellent beginning to the new year, not to mention the close of the millennium!

Tourism was definitely "up" this season, and the month of February was particularly noteworthy for an unusual density of groups and visitors, many from Chicago. During the first week former Epigraphic Survey Field Director Peter Dorman brought a VIP group from the Field Museum, including Director John McCarter, for a library talk at the house and site visits to Medinet Habu and Luxor temples. At the month's beginning we were pleased to welcome Art Institute Director Jim Wood and his wife Emese, who also enjoyed seeing our operations on both sides of the river, and later Ian Wardropper, the Art Institute's Curator of European Decorative Arts and

Classical Art, who, with his wife Sarah McNear, Curator of the LaSalle National Bank Photography Collection, came by with an Art Institute tour. Carlotta returned to Luxor on 4 February and for the next month was a tremendous help in entertaining the troops and educating them about the work of the Oriental Institute in Luxor. The museum tours, directors, and curators were all scouting out Akhenaten's Egypt in preparation for the travelling exhibition *Pharaohs of the Sun: Akhenaten, Nefertiti, and Tutankhamun* here in Chicago at the Art Institute from 12 July until 24 September. The Oriental Institute tour groups came through Luxor on 24 February, led by Robert Ritner and John Larson, assisted by Emily Napolitano; we gave them a library talk and a festive reception that day and site visits to Medinet Habu on the 26th. I lectured to the group later that afternoon on "The Legacy of Chicago House." They seemed to be having a terrific time, despite the initial snow delay in leaving Chicago (fig. 10). Other visitors included Donald and Susan Levy, Louise Mahdi, Henry Dixon and Linda Giesen, and old friends and supporters Mark Rudkin and Fred Giles (back in Egypt for the first time in twenty-five years).

Emily Teeter, Oriental Institute Museum Associate Curator, joined the Chicago House staff from 11 to 21 February to study the three Medinet Habu mortuary temple storage magazines with me to ascertain what still remained there from Hölscher's excavations of the site. We found one magazine totally empty, one full of objects from all over the West Bank (including, I have recently learned, objects from excavations at Amenhotep III's mortuary temple in the mid-1960s), and one housing fragmentary material (blocks and some sculpture fragments) that ap-



Figure 11. Epigraphic Survey professional staff, 1999/2000. Photograph by Yarko Kobylecky and Sue Lezon

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pears to be from the Medinet Habu complex, but which was recovered after the University of Chicago's excavations there. The empty magazine undoubtedly held small objects excavated by Hölscher that were subsequently moved elsewhere; we are trying to track down that material now. Emily's visit allowed us to focus on the problems of what is there and to incorporate plans for its proper storage and documentation into our short and long-range program for Medinet Habu.

Finally, on the last day of the month, 29 February, we were very pleased to host the newly-appointed twelfth president of the University of Chicago Don M. Randel and his wife Carol to casual drinks and dinner, during which time they saw Chicago House and relaxed a bit from their Cornell University tour. Carlotta and I gave them an impromptu library briefing about our work and a walk through the complex, and Yarko gave them a special tour of the photography laboratory and darkroom facility, which they especially appreciated since they are both avid photographers. It was a wonderful way to introduce them to the work of the Oriental Institute before he had even taken office!

In closing, it should be mentioned that Chicago House now has some very young staff members. Last August, administrator Dalia Munshi, wife of financial and administrative director Moataz Abo Shady, gave birth to little Seif, who assisted his mother in the office through most of the season. At the end of February, Chicago House accountant Marlin Nassim gave birth to little David who is also assisting his mom at the office. The children add a very pleasant new element to Chicago House and are greatly cherished by all.

On a sadder note, our beloved colleague Ibrahim Sadek suffered a fatal stroke at the end of February. He was a dear friend to us all, and was of tremendous assistance with our development work in the past. No one I know lived life more fully or enthusiastically, and we will miss him very, very much.

The professional staff this season (fig. 11), besides the field director, consisted of Edward Castle as senior epigrapher; Deborah Darnell as epigrapher and librarian (to 15 November); Briant Bohleke as epigrapher and librarian; Hratch Papazian and J. Brett McClain as epigraphers; Christina Di Cerbo, Margaret De Jong, Susan Osgood, Bernice Williams, and Carol Abraczinskas as artists; Yarko Kobylecky as staff photographer; Susan Lezon as photographer and photographic archivist; Moataz Abo Shady as financial and administrative director; Dalia Munshi as administrator; Marlin Sarwat Nassim as accountant; Jill Carlotta Maher as assistant to the director; Karin Bohleke as assistant librarian; Elinor Smith, Nan Ray, and Mary Grimshaw as assistants for the photographic archives and library; and Saleh Shehat Suleiman as chief engineer. Lotfi Hassan, Veronica Paglione, Adel Aziz, John Stewart, and Hiroko Kariya worked with us as conservators, and Dany Roy as stonecutter. Jason Ur continued to act as Chicago House's photographic archives database programmer. Special thanks go to Henri Riad, Egyptologist in residence for the season, and to Helen and Jean Jacquet, whose advice and assistance are greatly appreciated. As in the past, numerous members of the Supreme Council of Antiquities kindly assisted us during our work this season, and to them we owe a special debt of thanks: G. A. Gaballa, Secretary General; Mohamed el-Saghir, General Director of Pharaonic Monuments in the Nile Valley; Sabry Abdel Aziz, General Director of Antiquities for Upper Egypt; Mohamed el-Bially, General Director for the West Bank of Luxor; Mr. Bakit, Director of Karnak and Luxor Temples; Mme Nawal, Chief Inspector of Luxor Temple; and Mohamed Nasr, Acting Director of the Luxor Museum. Our inspector this season, Ahmed Ezz, proved to be a great asset and was a pleasure to work with. The invaluable assistance of our friends allowed a truly excellent and productive season; warmest thanks and best wishes to all.

As the new millennium begins, I would like to express my thanks once again to the many friends of Chicago House whose support has allowed us to continue our vital documentation and conservation work. Special thanks must go to the American ambassador to Egypt, the Honorable Daniel Charles Kurtzer, and Sheila Kurtzer; Reno Harnish, Deputy Chief of Mission of the United States Embassy in Cairo; Haynes Mahoney, Cultural Affairs Officer of the United States Embassy; Dick Brown of the United States Agency for International Development; Exa Snow of Coopers & Lybrand, Cairo; Ahmed Ezz, EZZ Group, Cairo; David and Carlotta Maher; David and Nan Ray; Mark Rudkin; Barbara Mertz; Daniel Lindley and Lucia Woods Lindley; Marjorie M. Fisher; Tom and Linda Heagy; Donald Oster; William Kelly Simpson; Kelly and Di Grodzins; Bob and Anne Hamada; Ben Harer; Solon and Anita Stone; Roxie Walker; Louis Byron, Jr.; Mark Easton, Ray Salamanca, Mary Sadek, and Amira Khattab of the American Research Center in Egypt; Chip Vincent, Jarek Dobrolowski, and Cynthia Schartzler of the Egyptian Antiquities Project; Michael Jones of the Antiquities Development Project; and all of our friends back home at the Oriental Institute. I must also express special gratitude to the Amoco Foundation, the Getty Grant Program of the J. Paul Getty Trust, and the Nuveen Benevolent Trust for their invaluable support. Thank you!

Members of the Oriental Institute are, as always, welcome to stop by to see us, and we suggest that you write or call in advance to schedule a meeting that is convenient to all. Chicago House is open from 15 October until 15 April, and closed Saturday afternoons and Sundays. Our address in Egypt is Chicago House, Corniche el-Nil, Luxor, Egypt. The phone number is (from the USA) 011-20-95-37-2525; fax 011-20-95-38-1620.

The Epigraphic Survey home page is at:

<http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/PROJ/EPI/Epigraphic.html>
