

DEIR EL-BAHARI

EGYPT

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THE TEMPLE OF HATSHEPSUT

SEASON 2003/2004

Zbigniew E. Szafrński

The work of the Polish-Egyptian Archaeological and Conservation Mission to the Hatshepsut Temple at Deir el-Bahari was conducted from December 31, 2003 to March 18, 2004.¹

The main objective of the season was the restoration of the Solar Cult Complex, the conservation of the Northern Chapel of Amun-Re, and continued documentation work and excavation in the Royal Mortuary complex. The restoration of one of the Osiride figures of Hatshepsut in the Upper Portico was completed and studies on the two colossi that once flanked the wings of the Lower Portico were continued. In the storeroom housing relief fragments from the temple of Tutmosis III, activities centered on completing a theoretical reconstruction of the iconographic program of the decoration.

Excavations inside the Hatshepsut Temple have been stepped up ever since the early 1980s, the goal being to learn as much as possible about the present condition of the building's foundations. This information is of key importance for planning conservation, preservation and restoration works. It also contributes to an understanding of consecutive building stages under the Tutmoside rulers, as well as the development and functioning of the complex down the ages.

A separate project, undertaken by art historian Dr. Zbigniew Taranienko (SWPS-Warsaw Schol of Social Psychology) within the frame of the Hatshepsut Temple expedition, concentrated on Egyptian tomb painting of the New Kingdom considered in art-historical and aesthetic categories (see appendix to this report).

1 The staff included: Dr. Zbigniew E. Szafrński, Director; Dr. Mirosław Barwik, Deputy Director; Mr. Abd el-Fatah, SCA inspector; Ms Olga Białostocka, Egyptologist; Ms Ewa Czyżewska, student of archaeology; Mrs. Monika Dolińska, Egyptologist; Ms Jadwiga Iwaszczuk, Egyptologist; Mr. Maciej Jawornicki, photographer; Ms Teresa Kaczor, architect; Mrs. Monika Kolasa-Dąbrowska, conservator; Mr. Wiesław Kuczewski, constructor; Mrs. Maria Lulkiewicz-Podkowińska, conservator; Mr. Mieczysław Michiewicz, constructor; Mr. Wojciech Myjak, conservator; Mrs. Nafisa el-Azab Ahmed, SCA inspector; Prof. Dr. Maciej Pawlikowski, mineralogist; Mr. Marek Puzkarski, documentalist; Mrs. Izabela Uchman-Laskowska, conservator, in charge of the conservation program.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Dr. Zahi Hawass, Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA); Mr. Sabry Abd El Aziz Khater, General Director of the Pharaonic Department (SCA); Dr. Holeil Ghaly, Head of the Central Directorate of Upper Egypt and the Oasis (SCA); Mr. Ali el-Asfar, Director of Antiquities in el-Gurna (SCA); and Prof. Dr. Michał Gawlikowski, Director of the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology of Warsaw University, for their invaluable help and continuous support.