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TEMPLE OF HATSHEPSUT AND ACTIVITY OF THE POLISH MISSION AT DEIR EL-BAHARI (PL. 67-70)

1. Deir el-Bahari, Egypt

2. **Excavation Director:** Zbigniew E. Szafrąński*

The expedition comprised the following specialists: Egyptologists – Dr. Mirosław Barwik* (deputy field director), Mrs. Nafisa el-Azab Ahmed, SCA inspector; Ms. Olga Białostocka*, Mrs. Monika Dolińska, Mr. Abd el-Fatah, SCA inspector, and Ms. Jadwiga Iwaszczuk; archaeology students – Ms. Eliza Szpakowska* and Ms. Ewa Czyżewska*; conservators – Mrs. Monika Kolasa-Dąbrowska, Mrs. Maria Lulkiewicz-Podkowińska, Mr. Wojciech Myjak and Ms. Izabela Uchman; architect Ms. Teresa Kaczor; engineers: Mr. Wiesław Kuczewski and Mr. Mieczysław Michiewicz; ceramologist Mr. Tomasz Górecki; photographer Mr. Maciej Jawornicki; geologist Prof. Dr. Maciej Pawlikowski.

3. **Fieldwork:** December 31, 2003 – March 17, 2004.4. **Financial assistance:** The State Committee for Scientific Research (KBN) through the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology in Cairo, Warsaw University; Supreme Council of Antiquities, Egypt; private sponsors; Institute of Archaeology, Warsaw University.5. **Characteristic of the site:** Temple of Queen Hatshepsut.6. **Chronology:** the 18th – 26th Dynasties, i.e. the 15th – 7th century BC.

The conservation project and Egyptological studies of the Upper Terrace of the Hatshepsut Temple are the work of the Polish-Egyptian Mission at Deir el-Bahari¹ (**Fig. 1-3**), which is one of some 20 expeditions operated by the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology of Warsaw University in five countries of Africa and the Near East. The Mission's priorities in 2003-2004 included restoration and conservation work in the Northern Chapel of Amun-Re, the Solar Complex and the facade of the Upper Portico, as well as documentation and archaeological work in the Royal Mortuary Cult Complex.

Supplementing the main project was the continued recording of the Main Sanctuary of Amun-Re and the Upper Festival Courtyard², a study of the reconstruction of two colossal figures of Hatshepsut in the form of Osiris in the Lower Portico, documentation and studies on assemblages of finds from archaeological excavations. Additional, independent research projects included the iconography of the Temple of Tuthmosis III at Deir el-Bahari and continued recording of the assemblage from the Khokha Shaft (2000) connecting tombs TT 42, TT 204, TT 238, and TT 345 of the 18th Dynasty³ (cf. **Fig. 7**).

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¹ For earlier reports, see volumes of the journals: *Etudes et Travaux*, *Orientalia*, *Egyptian Archaeology*, and *Polish Archaeology in the Mediterranean*. Recent results were published in: Z.E. SZAFRAŃSKI (ed.), *Queen Hatshepsut And Her Temple 3500 Years Later*, Warsaw 2001; J. KARKOWSKI, *The Temple of Hatshepsut. The Solar Complex [Deir el-Bahari]*, Warsaw 2004

² Cf. recent results, M. BUDZANOWSKI, *The Sitting Statues of Hatshepsut in their Architectural Setting in the Temple Djoser-Djeseru at Deir el-Bahari*, [in:] Proceedings of the Second Central European Conference of Young Egyptologists, ed. J. Popielska-Grzybkowska, Światowit Suppl. Series E, vol. III =

Warsaw Egyptological Studies IV, Warsaw 2003, p. 17-27, pl. 2 sq.; *Id.*, *Nisze kultowe Górnego Tarasu świątyni Hatshepsut w Deir el-Bahari (Cult Niches in the Upper Terrace of the Temple of Hatshepsut at Deir el-Bahari)*, Kraków 2004, unpublished PhD; O. BIAŁOSTOCKA, *Alteration of the Relief Representations of the Royal Family Members' Statues in the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut in Deir el-Bahari*, [in:] Proceedings of the Third Central European Conference of Young Egyptologists – Abstracts, eds J. Popielska-Grzybkowska and O. Białostocka, Warsaw 2004, p. 5

³ The shaft is marked, but not numbered, cf. F. KAMPP, *Die thebanische Nekropole*, Teil 2. [Theban Band 13], Mainz 1996, plan IV – G-2/3

The cleaning of the painted reliefs in the Northern Chapel of Amun-Re was followed by a program of injections, consolidation of the relief and paint, aesthetic plaster and surface finishing. Work on the decoration of the northern wall and big sections of the western and eastern walls of the chapel revealed new graffiti. Cleaning and conservation work was also executed in some parts of the walls of the Cult Chapel of Hatshepsut (cf. **Fig. 4-5**).

In previous seasons, seven monumental limestone statues of Hatshepsut were mounted on the pillars of the facade of the Upper (Coronation) Portico. All of them depicted the temple founder standing and in the form of Osiris. Original fragments of surviving statuary members, 15 in all, were selected and remounted in the head, torso, shoulders and arms of a newly restored statue (no. IV) of the Queen, located in the southern wing of the Portico.

The upper part of the South Wall of the Solar Courtyard was reconstructed of regular limestone blocks almost up to its original height. The walls of the courtyard were smooth (undecorated) as this was essential for the court function, which was heavily flooded with sunlight. The next season will be devoted to installing the uppermost two-three layers of stone blocks of the wall (**Fig. 6**).

The key task to be completed in the Royal Mortuary Cult Complex (**Fig. 3**) was a project for restoration and publication in the near future. Studies on the

reconstruction of this part of the temple, began some years ago, were now continued and led to further fragments being attributed to the previously reconstructed parts of the Complex. The publication of the complex is a project of the Department of Egyptian Archaeology (proceeding under the supervision of Mirosław Barwik) at the Warsaw University, Institute of Archaeology⁴.

Excavations in the Cult Chapel of Hatshepsut contributed to an understanding of the foundations of the chapel and of the functioning of the temple during the Third Intermediate Period and later. The archaeological survey undertaken on the Upper Terrace in previous seasons made it possible to verify the exact position of some of the tombs explored by early excavators and led to the discovery of new tombs (Shafts 7A/82 and 1/04)⁵.

The material from the tombs was dated mostly to the Third Intermediate Period⁶. Trial trenches dug in different areas of the Terrace yielded rich archaeological material, including coins and fragments of Roman ("Fayum") portraits, which testify to later activities taking place in the temple in the Greek, Roman and Coptic periods⁷. Activity in the temple area in the times after the New Kingdom is another research project of the Department of Egyptian Archaeology, conducted by Zbigniew E. Szafranski, as well as other members of the Institute, e.g. Mirosław Barwik, Adam Łajtar, Adam Łukaszewicz, Tomasz Markiewicz, Sławomir Rzepka and Krzysztof J. Winnicki.

⁴ E.g. M. BARWIK, *The so-called "Stundenritual" from the Hatshepsut's Temple at Deir el-Bahari*, [in:] *Proceeding of the Seventh International Congress of Egyptologists*. Cambridge, 3-9 September 1995, ed. C. J. Eyre, Leuven 1998, p. 109-117; *Id.*, [in:] *Etudes et Travaux XIX*, 2001, p. 30, 34, 38; *Id.*, in: *Polish Archaeology in the Mediterranean XIII*, 2002, p. 192 sq.

⁵ Cf. L. DĄBROWSKI, [in:] *ASAE XL*, 1968, pl. IV-VIII; Z. E. SZAFRAŃSKI, *Pottery from Trial Trenches in the Hatshepsut Temple at Deir el-Bahari*, [in:] *Bulletin de liaison du G.I.É.C.É. X*, 1985, § 11; Z. WYSOCKI, [in:] *MDAIK 43*, 1987, p. 268-273

⁶ M. BARWIK, *New data concerning the Third Intermediate Period cemetery in the Hatshepsut temple at Deir el-Bahari*,

[in:] *The Theban Necropolis*, eds N. Strudwick and J. H. Taylor, London 2003, p. 122-130, pl. 76-90. See also Z. E. SZAFRAŃSKI, *Deir el-Bahari 1999/2000*, [in:] *PAM XII*, 2001, p. 198 sq.

⁷ Cf. J. Karkowski, J. K. Winnicki, E. Brecciani, *Amenhotep, Son of Hapu, and Imhotep at Deir el-Bahari*, [in:] *MDAIK 39*, 1983, p. 93-105, pl. 15 sq.; Z. E. Szafranski, *Pottery from Trial Trenches in the Hatshepsut Temple at Deir el-Bahari*, [in:] *Bulletin de liaison du G.I.É.C.É. X*, 1985, § 11; *Id.*, [in:] *Discussions in Egyptology 22*, 1992, p. 53-59; Z. E. SZAFRAŃSKI, [in:] *PAM XII*, 2001, p. 193, 196-199; M. BARWIK, [in:] *PAM XIII*, 2002, p. 195 sq., 198 sq.

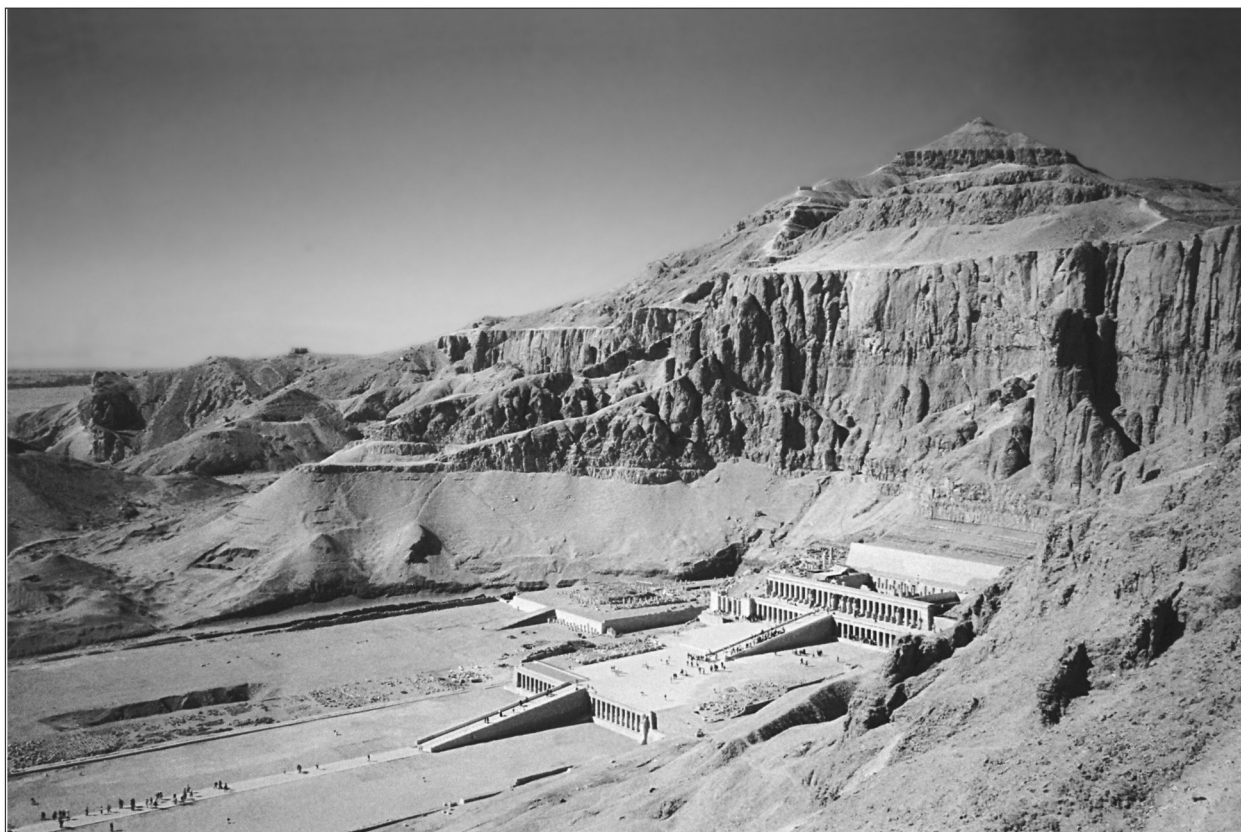


Fig. 1. The Temple of Hatshepsut at Deir el-Bahari (phot. Z. E. Szafrąński)



Fig. 2. Upper Terrace, view from the north (phot. M. Jawornicki)

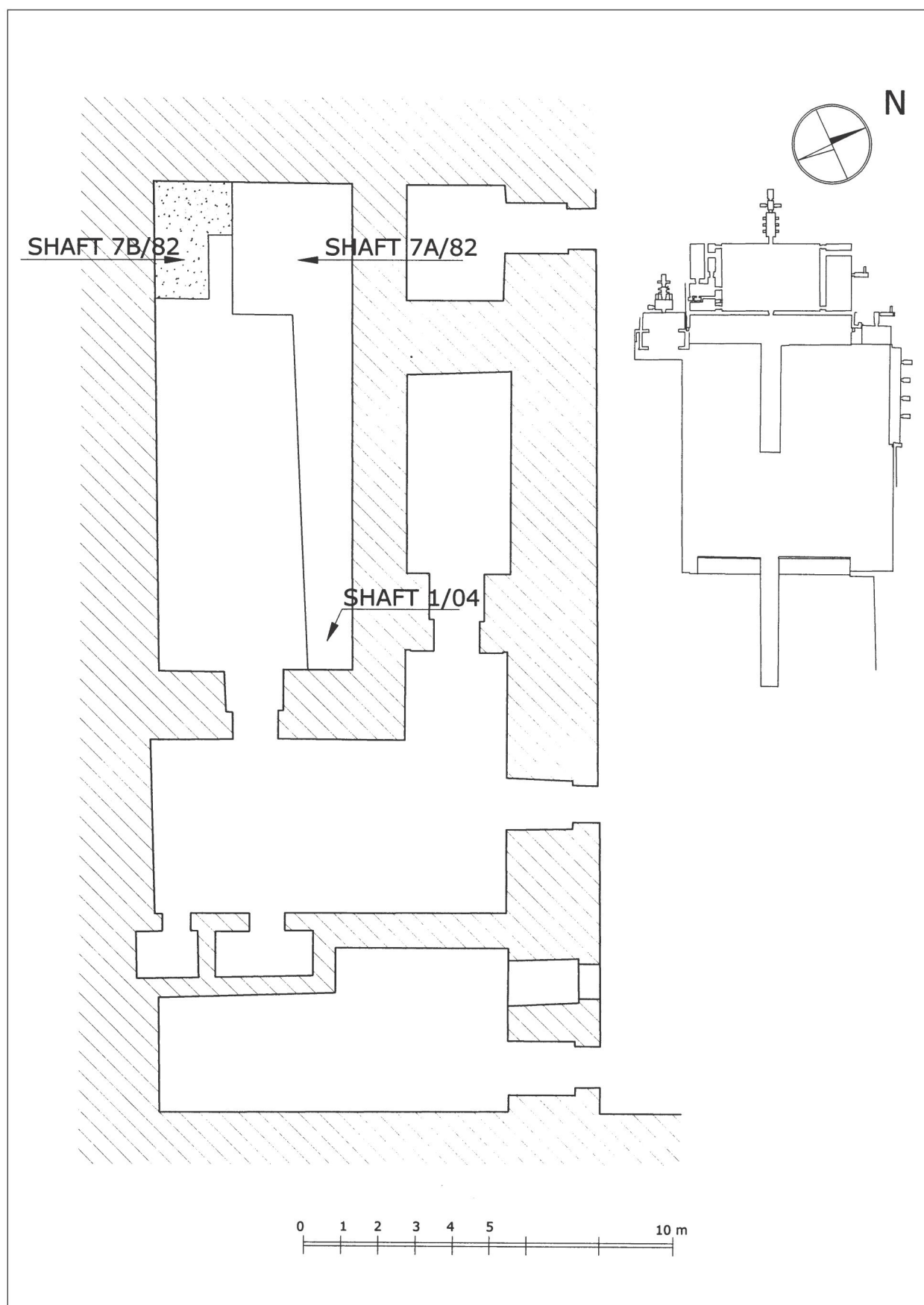


Fig. 3. Plan of the Royal Cult Complex (drawing by T. Kaczor)



Fig. 4. Cult Chapel of Hatshepsut under investigation and conservation (phot. M. Jawornicki)

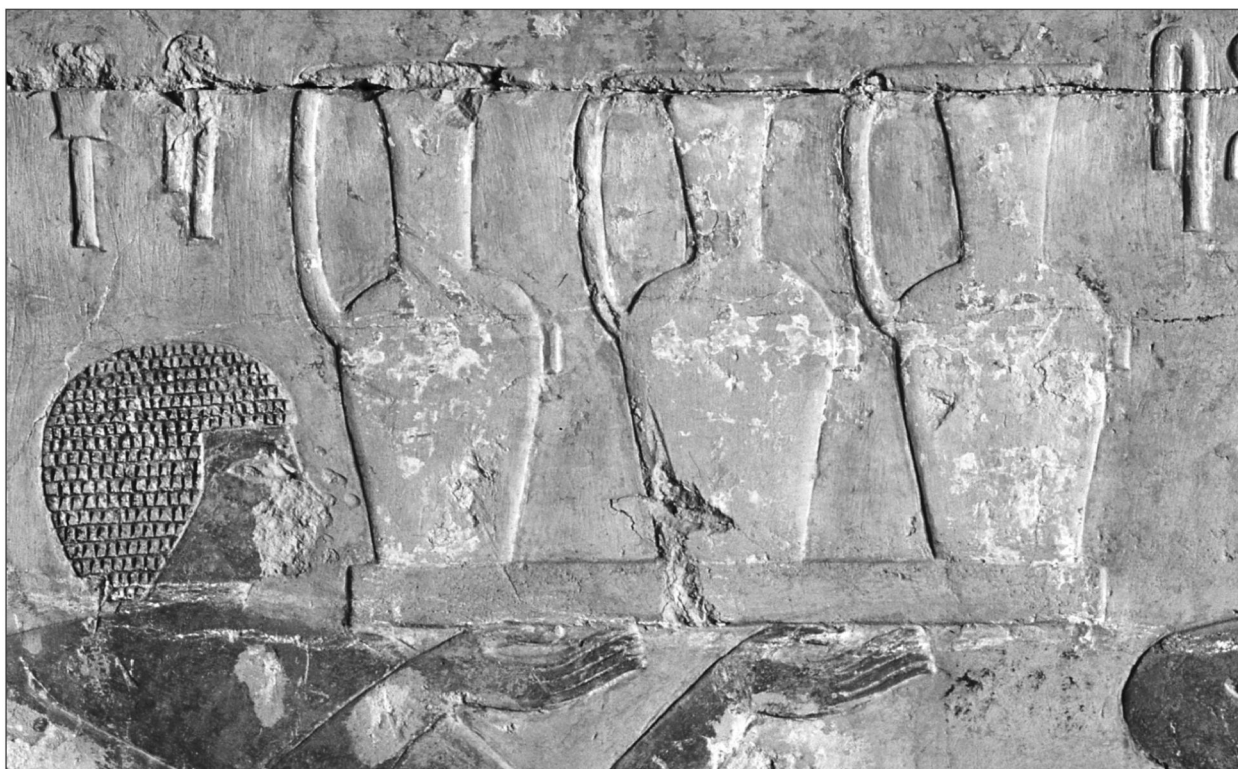


Fig. 5. Cult Chapel of Hatshepsut, South Wall. Fragment of painted wall-relief showing Syrian jars brought for the Queen in a procession of offerings (phot. M. Jawornicki)

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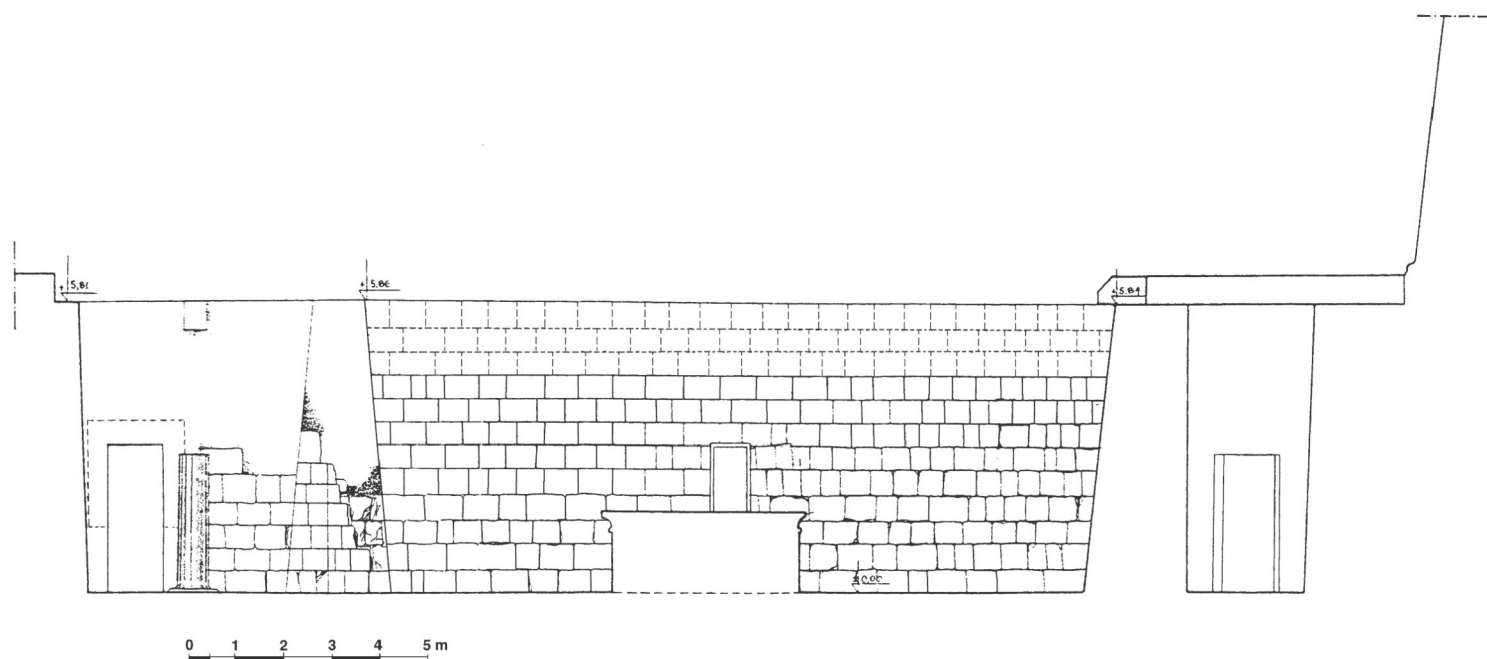


Fig. 6. Sun Cult Complex, the uppermost part of the South Wall – reconstruction (drawing by T. Kaczor)



Fig. 7. Votive pottery figurines of animals found in the Khokha Shaft, 2000 (phot. M. Jawornicki)