

FOREWORD

The third volume of *Deir el-Bahari Studies*, presenting recent fieldwork and current research in the Temple of Hatshepsut and the broader context of the Deir el-Bahari valley in Western Thebes, is traditionally published as a Special Studies fascicle of the *PAM Journal*. From the outset of this mini-series, which has proved a handy and informative way of presenting the results of current work carried out in and around Hatshepsut's memorial temple, the aim of the Editors has been to present the widest possible chronological and problematic spectrum, which perfectly reflects the nature of the challenge faced by members of archaeological expeditions from many countries around the world working at this unique site.

This volume opens with a consideration of stamped bricks discovered by a French mission at Asasif that, according to Frédéric Colin, demonstrates that Amenhotep I was the founder of this edifice. The results of the most recent fieldwork in the Temple of Hatshepsut, focused on the cult complex of the goddess Hathor, have yielded new data that are discussed in two articles: Patryk Chudzik on archaeological aspects of the work, and Ania Weźranowska and Anna Wodzińska on the pottery. The finds confirm the presence of structures well predating the reign of the female pharaoh, and enhance the understanding of how the temple functioned during her reign and during successive phases in the following centuries. Renata Kucharczyk in her article presents the results of a study of a collection of glass artefacts discovered at the Hatshepsut temple during the past 20 years of Polish excavations at Deir el-Bahari. An architectural approach to the Main Sanctuary of Amun-Ra on the Third Terrace of the Hatshepsut temple is presented by Urszula Kraśniewska as a preview of a comprehensive analysis of the building development of this complex. In her text, Adrianna Madej also looks at an architectural form, that is to say, the preserved lintels of gateways on the Upper Terrace, but from the perspective of the decoration and accompanying inscriptions, searching for meaning and identifying different stylistic groups.

The following three articles approach the theme of artistic inspirations, discussing the official copying of decorative motifs, mutual impact of the various monuments in the Western Theban area, the notion of intericonicity. Jesus Trello takes a scene of incense distribution from the tomb of an Eighteenth-Dynasty noble, architect and priest Puimra (TT 39) and works from it, through a comparative analysis of similar scenes from nearby monuments, toward a model of economic goods distribution in the theocratic State of his time. Anastasiia Stupko-Lubczynska highlights a different process: Hatshepsut's artists visiting a 500-year-old tomb in North Asasif (TT 311) and drawing inspiration for their work in the queen's temple from the decoration made for Khety, an official at Mentuhotep II's court from the early Middle Kingdom. 'Visits' to Khety's tomb are presented by Chloé Ragazzoli in a slightly different light, her article being devoted to graffiti, which she describes as a 'label for the renovation' of a monument to a prominent ancestor by the vizier Paser from the time of Ramesses II, self-fashioning himself as a scholar and a kind of Khaemwaset of the South.

The following two papers evoke the presence of Copts, adapting the ruins of Hatshepsut's temple. Zbigniew E. Szafrński presents the discovery of two tombs in the Hatshepsut Chapel, dated, in his opinion, to the time before the construction of the church at the end of the 6th century. And Aleksandra Pawlikowska-Gwiazda discusses an assemblage of late Roman basketry, matting and other organic artifacts found by the Polish expedition at Deir el-Bahari.

Last but not least, in a report written together with Patryk Chudzik, geologists Ahmed-Reda M. El Younsy, Wael F. Galal and Abdelhamid M. Salman present their findings from a recent observation of the geological situation of the rocks in the great circus of Deir el-Bahari, pointing out and estimating the severity of the natural threat to the stability of the limestone cliff that could result in the damage or even destruction of the ancient monuments in the valley below.

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The Editors