# **Guardian of Ancient Egypt**

## Studies in Honor of Zahi Hawass Volume III

edited by

Janice Kamrin Miroslav Bárta Salima Ikram Mark Lehner Mohamed Megahed

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### The Temple of Heryshef in Herakleopolis Magna (Ihnasya el-Medina):

Results of Work 2016-2017

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#### **Abstract**

The article presents a summary of the main activities carried out by the Spanish Archaeological Mission in the Heryshef Temple at Herakleopolis Magna during the 2016 and 2017 campaigns, continuing those ones effected in previous years. This excavation project is affiliated with the Department of Egyptian and Middle Eastern Antiquities of the National Archaeological Museum in Madrid. During these two campaigns, the team has excavated in the entrance to the temple, the pylon, and the peristyle courtyard. Thanks to the dewatering project carried out by the Beni Suef Antiquities Service it has been possible to reach deeper levels, locating intact fills that have been excavated in stratigraphic units; and to analyse complete sequences. In addition, restoration work has been undertaken in the temple.

Working on a monument excavated by other archaeologists more than a century ago is a difficult challenge. At times, the information on the discovery process is incomplete, or the monument has been dismantled in modern times, with only part of what was originally found remaining.

This is the case for the Temple of Heryshef in Herakleopolis Magna (present-day Ihnasya el-Medina). The temple was discovered by Naville in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and excavated by Petrie in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The two archaeologists left publications, although at present the temple is practically dismantled (Pérez-Die 2016, 146). Only the foundations of the building remain in many places; some reliefs and inscriptions in the zones of the portico; and some sculptures in the courtyard are conserved<sup>1</sup> (Fig. 1).

The Spanish excavations began in 1966 and from 2004 to 2019 work, directed by me, has continued in the Temple of Heryshef, applying modern excavation methodology and techniques, which enable

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> However, we are finding many of the inscriptions published by Petrie but without context.

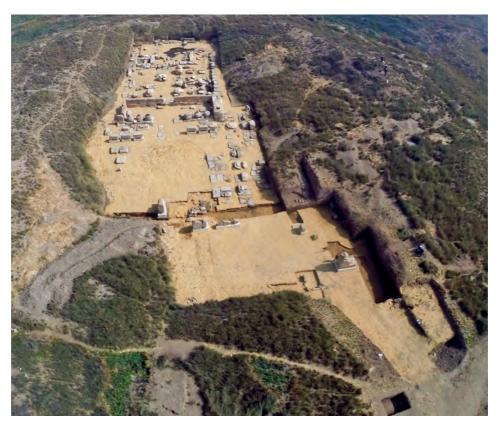


Fig. 1. Aerial view of the Heryshef Temple. Photograph by A. Gómez

us to re-interpret the monument. This allowed us to work towards achieving our main aims with various surveys and excavations: to determine the building sequence; resolve the chronological succession; and find new architectonic features, such as the bases of the temple pylons, or architraves of older periods which were brought from other sites and re-used.<sup>2</sup>

This paper, dedicated to Dr. Zahi Hawass, presents only the results of the 2016 and 2017 campaigns, with the new finds and the conclusions which have been reached (some of which are still provisional).<sup>3</sup> The description of the temple follows the order of the rooms from the southern entrance to the sanctuary in the northern zone (Fig. 2).

The temple, oriented N-S towards the star Canopus, is dedicated to Heryshef, the principal god of Ihnasya (Diaz-Iglesias 2014; Belmonte, Pérez-Die, Diaz-Iglesias 2015, 109–111; Mokhtar 1983, 139–175; and other authors). The types of stone used as building materials include limestone, granite and quartzite, along with mud brick and fired bricks.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Various articles have been published on the work carried out in the temple by the Spanish Mission. The principal ones are: Pérez-Die 2012, 929–931; Pérez-Die 2016, 146–153. Pérez-Die 2017, 480–485.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Thanks to all the team who participated in the excavations, including the Inspectors of the Antiquities Service from Beni Suef. Also thanks to our Sponsors: Fundacion Palarq and Fundacion Gaselec.

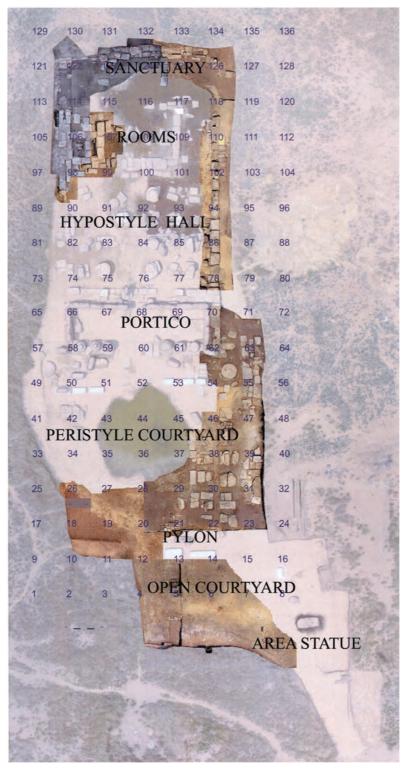


Fig. 2. Temple of Heryshef. Drawing by A. Guio

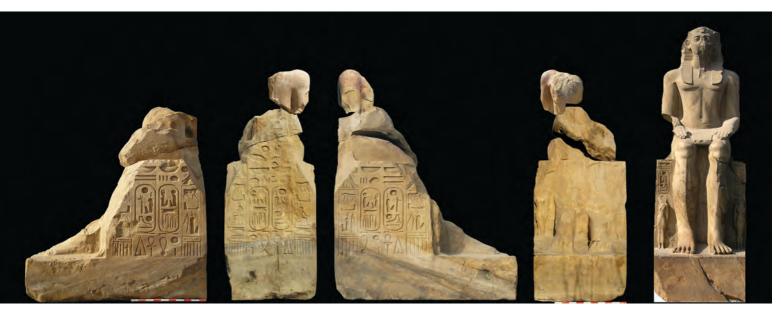


Fig. 3. Seated colossal statue. Photograph by A. Guio

#### 1- Outer Wall

Not yet located

#### 2- Entrance area and Open Courtyard

The temple is entered by an artificial ramp, giving access to an open courtyard where hardly any structures are conserved (see Figs. 1 and 2) and the only remains are from the Roman period. In 1966, in the southeast zone, a Spanish team found a fragment of a colossal seated statue, possibly from the Middle Kingdom, re-inscribed by Ramesses II, with only the lower part up to waist level conserved (López 1974a, 304–305). During work to install an Open-Air Museum in the temple, 4 other fragments of the statue were found, including the torso and part of the kilt, which has allowed us to reconstruct it from parallel examples (Pérez-Die 2016, 148). The inscriptions give the titles of the pharaoh with his two names inscribed in cartouches. 5 To the right and left of the legs there are two knee-high sculpted images of his daughters 6 (Fig. 3).

During excavation it was found that this statue was not *in situ* and had been transferred to its current location in ancient times, although we cannot say exactly when. It may previously have been placed

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> This project has been directed by M. A. Moreno. Currently, as well as the reconstruction of the portico, all the inscriptions have been placed on specially designed pedestals.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> The text of the inscriptions is very simple, and so is not given here, as is the case also for the other inscribed fragments.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Number R-58 in Sourouzian (in press).



Fig. 4. Pylon, west side. Limestone foundations. Photograph by A. Gómez

in front of one of the pylons, now dismantled. In 2017 excavations were carried out around the statue to find new fragments, but with no results. Only a series of walls was discovered around it, delimiting a large room, outside the temple but adjoining it.<sup>7</sup> The statue of Ramesses II was located in this room; we suppose that this may have been the center of a popular cult which took place outside the temple (López 1974b, 115–117, stela from the Aubert Collection).

#### 3-Pylon

There are no remains of the pylon left on the surface, but we suppose that it must originally have stood between the open courtyard and the peristyle courtyard. This whole area was excavated in 2017, leading to finds including the limestone foundations of the pylon. The results are as follows:

3.a. Pylon: West side. Only the limestone foundations are conserved. To build this part of the pylon a large trench was excavated in the pre-existing fill where the foundation blocks were set in at least two rows (Fig. 4).

3.b. Pylon: East side. This has suffered massive looting, including the whole foundation. In the spoliation trench a granite architrave was found with two names of Senwosret II, see below (Fig. 5).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Excavated by G. Garrido.



Fig. 5. Architrave of Senwosret II. Photograph by A. Gómez

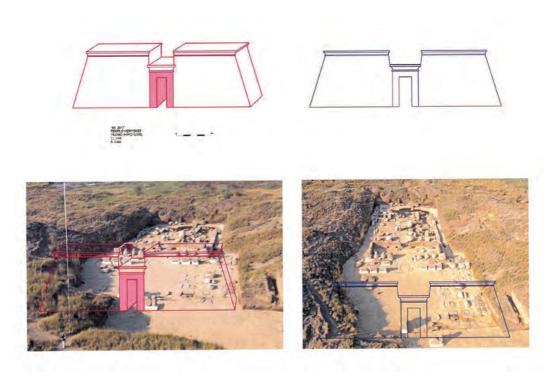


Fig. 6. Virtual reconstruction of the pylon. Drawing by A. Guio



Fig. 7. Blocks of decorated pink granite. Photograph by M. C. Pérez-Die

3.c. Pylon: Door: The door opening measures 4.60 m. The floor of the doorway provides evidence for at least two periods of use; the upper level is not the original and may date to the Roman Period, while the lower level may date to a more ancient period, perhaps the early years of the New Kingdom, when this access was built.<sup>8</sup>

Briefly, the approximate dimensions of the pylon would have been 36 m long by 9 m wide. The material recovered relating to the foundation trench enables it to be dated to the early New Kingdom, at a point very close to Thutmose III, or even associated with this king<sup>9</sup> (Fig. 6).

#### 4- Peristyle Courtyard

The door of the pylon gives access to the peristyle courtyard. On the ground surface near the pylon some fallen blocks of decorated pink granite were found. The existence of these blocks seem to indicate the presence of an architectonic structure of some importance and some fragments of a triad (Fig. 7).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Pylon and peristyle courtyard have been excavated by A. Gómez and J. J. Martínez. All pottery of these two seasons are studied and dated by B. Bader.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Virtual reconstruction of the pylon by A. Guio.



Fig. 8. Triad: Ramesses II, Ptah and Sekhmet. Now in the Grand Egyptian Museum. Photograph by A. Gómez

Petrie dicovered two triads located very close to the inner side of the pylon (Petrie 1905, pl. VI; Pérez-Die 2016, 149).

4.1. The western triad, with standing figures of Ramesses II, Ptah, and Sekhmet, is now in the Grand Egyptian Museum. On the back there are nine columns of inscriptions with the names of the pharaoh and dedications to different gods (Fig. 8).

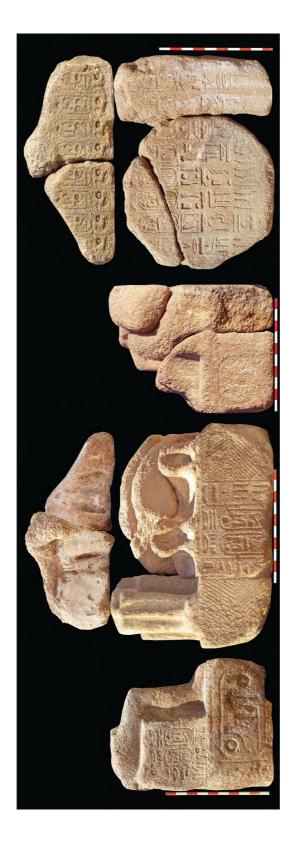


Fig. 9. Fragments of the second triad. Photograph by A. Guio

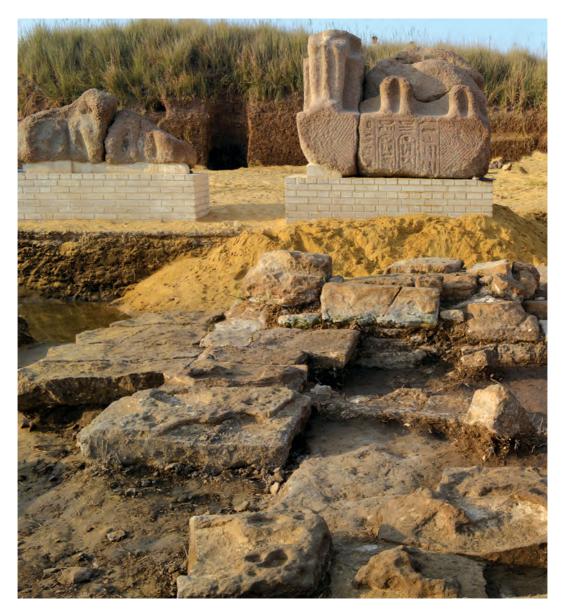


Fig. 10. Floors in front of the triad. Photograph by M. C. Pérez-Die

4.2. The second triad may have been placed on the stone base. Petrie only describes the lower part, which conserves the legs of three gods, in this case seated, and cartouches with the name of Ramesses II<sup>10</sup> (Petrie 1905, pl. VI). Another fragment of the upper part of the triad was found by the Spanish team, but it was badly damaged, only allowing the head of the pharaoh to be distinguished and the bodies of the other two divinities to be merely intuited. On the reverse there are remains of inscriptions with the name of Ramesses.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Number 332 in Sourouzian 2019.



Fig. 11. Fragment of granite wall with Heryshef and Hathor, decorated on two sides. Photograph by A. Gómez

In 2016, another fragment of granite, which until then had been lying face down, was raised. It was then found that it fitted into the reverse of the triad and completed the inscription on the back (Fig. 9).

The inscriptions on this triad again display the names of Ramesses II, along with dedications to eight divinities. All the fragments of this triad have now been placed on two pedestals. In front of the triad a series of floors has been found, where libations may have been made for the cult (Fig. 10).

4.3. The largest of the group of granite fragments found on the ground had never been raised. When it was lifted up in 2016 to be installed on a base, inscriptions and beautiful figures were revealed. The right-hand corner is missing and it is decorated on two of its sides with superposed horizontal registers. On the outer side it presents various incomplete hieroglyphic signs in the upper register. The lower register shows the figure of Heryshef in profile on the left, preceding the image of his wife Hathor; only the heads and the torsos of the two gods are conserved. The inscriptions surrounding them mention these two principal gods of Herakleopolis Magna. In front of Heryshef, only the lower part of two cartouches remain, with the name of Ramesses II over an open hand, most probably that of the pharaoh (Fig. 11).

On the other side there are two superposed registers. In the upper register there is a walking human figure, now headless, and in the lower register there is another representation of the goddess Hathor. This shows that the architectural feature was decorated with superposed scenes representing a king appearing before a god.

4.4. Granite block, right-angled and decorated on two of its sides (López 1974a, 302). On one side, the pharaoh is making offerings to the gods; on the other, the sun disk may belong to a statue of Hathor (Fig. 12).

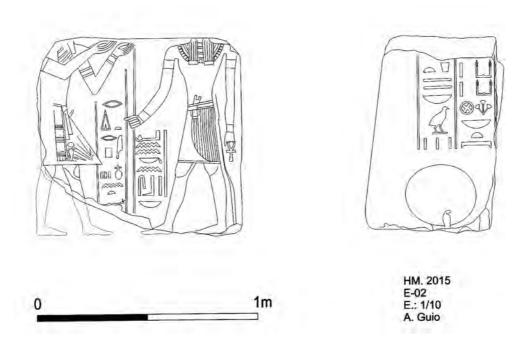


Fig. 12. Fragment of granite wall, decorated on two sides. Drawing by A. Guio

Fragments 3 and 4 must both have belonged to the same architectural feature. They may have been part of the pylon door, possibly on its outer and inner sides (façade and passage), or of a pillar. Finding new inscriptions may clarify this point.<sup>11</sup>

4.5. Limestone fragment with inscription, found in 2017 in the east wall of the peristyle courtyard. (Petrie 1904a, pl. XXVI). It preserves two registers of inscriptions, again with the cartouche of Ramesses II (Fig. 13).

At present the peristyle court is considerably in ruins. It had two porticos, one to the east and the other to the west, each with a row of at least seven columns. In the eastern zone more stone vestiges remain, including a series of stones which form the wall enclosing the whole courtyard. The western zone is almost completely dismantled. Between the two parts there was a limestone pavement (Petrie 1905, 10) covered today by the water table (Pérez-Die 2016, 151). In front of each column there is a series of rectangular pedestals intended for statues placed facing each other, which indicate the level of the ancient floor. In Petrie's opinion the statues were added by Ramesses II sometime after the construction of the peristyle courtyard (Petrie 1905, 9) and were free-standing figures with one foot forward, similar to the statues in the temple at Luxor. The archaeologist reported that fragments were

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Opinion of J. F. Carlotti and A. Guio. My special thanks to J. F. Carlotti for his presence in Herakleopolis Magna during the 2016 campaign. His preliminary report is proving to be a great help in the final interpretation of the monument.



Fig. 13. Fragment of limestone wall with inscriptions. Photograph by A. Gómez

found which belonged to these statues, but there are no images, photos, or drawings of these in his publication, nor do we know where they may be preserved.<sup>12</sup> The reconstruction of the peristyle courtyard has been carried out following Petrie's indications<sup>13</sup> (Fig. 14).

 $<sup>^{12}</sup>$  J.F.Carlotti supports the more plausible idea that there were sphinxes, rather than sculptures, on the bases, forming a dromos.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> The reconstruction of the peristyle courtyard was made by A. Guio.

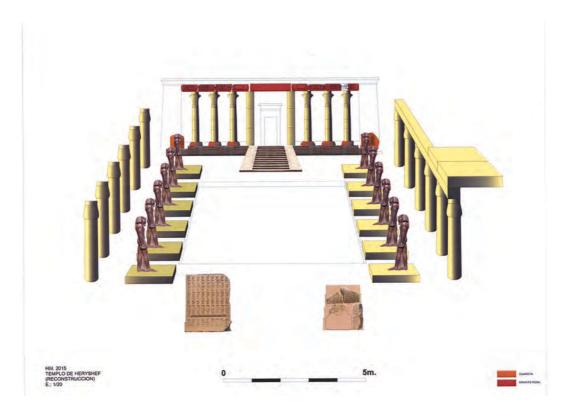


Fig. 14. Virtual reconstruction of the peristyle courtyard. Drawing by A. Guio

Work carried out in the 2017 campaign has enabled a better understanding of the way the columns in this peristyle courtyard were constructed. The floor previous to the placing of the columns dates from the Second Intermediate Period or early New Kingdom (before Thutmose III). All the columns have the same foundation system: a circular or square pit was dug and two rows of superimposed slabs arranged inside it. The pit and the slabs were then covered with sand, used to level the ground. Two fragments of semi-circular stones were laid on top, forming the base of the column. The pottery in the pits for these columns is dated to the New Kingdom.<sup>14</sup>

#### 5- Portico

A stair or ramp accessed the portico, which at some point was the façade of the temple. In this rectangular area, oriented east-west, the floor was higher than in the peristyle courtyard (see Fig. 2).

Naville found the columns in the portico, and they were removed from the temple (Naville 1894, pl. V and VI). Petrie says that this portico dates from the 18<sup>th</sup> Dynasty and was rebuilt by Ramesses II (Petrie 1905, 8). Now, after restoration by the Spanish team, the portico can be seen as shown in Fig. 15.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Pottery is dated by B. Bader



Fig. 15. Aerial view of the portico after reconstruction. Photograph by A. Gómez

What we can identify at present, from both old photographs and remains in situ, is as follows:

5.a. Architraves of the Portico. We have a total of six granite architraves, which were placed on the columns and appeared fallen near them. The architraves were reused and in general their condition is good, although this varies from one to another (Fig. 16). Three of the sides are inscribed with the name of Ramesses II. The upper surface of all the architraves, and all the sides except one (n° 22), are anepigraphic, as they would not have been seen from ground level. On this architrave the *nebti* name of Senwosret II, *Se-kha-em-Maat*, can be clearly seen (Fig. 17). Most probably these architraves came from the funerary temple of the pyramid of this pharaoh in Lahun, and they may perhaps have formed part of the anepigraphic walls which were dismantled by Ramesses II and transferred to Ihnasya to build the portico of the Temple of Herysehef, after being inscribed with his name.

This brings us back to the architrave discovered in 2017, found near the door of the pylon and fallen outwards (see Fig. 5). At present only one of its sides can be seen, with two names of Senwosret II, as there was not enough time to lift it. In the next campaign we intend to lift it up, and examine it to see if there are inscriptions with the name of Ramesses II on any of its sides, which would indicate that it also belonged to the point in time when the temple was rebuilt by this

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Inventory Numbers of Spanish excavations: 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24.

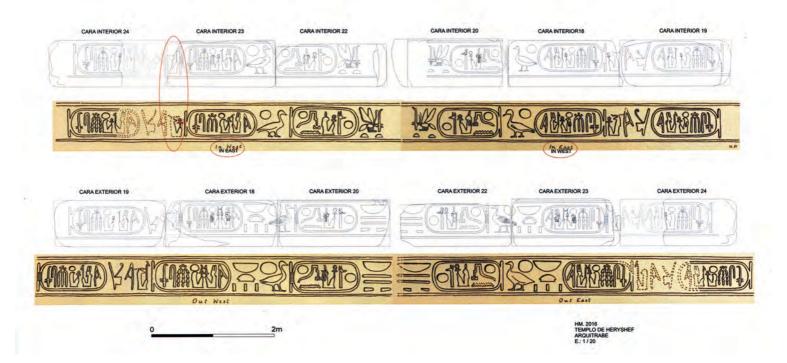


Fig. 16. Portico architraves. Drawing by A. Guio

pharaoh. <sup>16</sup> For the present, we do not know where it was originally installed in the Temple of Heryshef, although the width of the door of the pylon coincides exactly with that of the architrave. Could this be the lintel of the entrance? <sup>17</sup> Its provenance is almost certainly the funerary temple of the pyramid at Lahun.

5.b. Columns. Naville found six palmiform columns, fallen forward (Naville 1894, pls. V and VI) along with the six architraves mentioned above. At present, the columns are found dispersed worldwide in different museums, in Manchester, Bolton, Philadelphia, Adelaide, Boston, and London (Yasuoka 2011, 32–60; Pérez-Die 2016, 150). The columns are made of granite, and decorated with three horizontal registers in which Ramesses II is shown making offerings to different gods, including Heryshef, Re-Horakhty, Osiris Naref, Atum, and Horus; the capitals are palmiform. They are 10 cubits high and each rested on a quartzite drum with the titulary of Ramesses II, making the total

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> This will be done in the next campaign.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> This is only a hypothesis.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> These will not be described or studied in detail. Refer here to the article by Y. Yasuoka (2011).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> In the excavations, part of a palmiform capital was found at a deeper level. Y. Yasuoka reports that it is not known where the capital of the column in Bolton is at present, but one part is that found by the Spanish Mission in the temple.

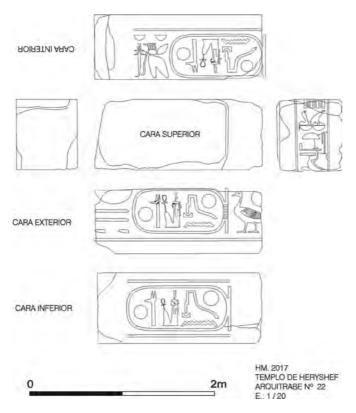


Fig. 17. Architrave nº 22. Drawing by A. Guio

height 11 cubits. Unfortunately, there are no traces of the name of their ancient owner, but it would be no surprise if they belonged to Senwosret II. These columns rested on rounded bases of different dimensions and different heights, also of granite, of which only the upper part would have been visible.

Petrie and Yasuoka supposed that originally there were eight columns in total (Petrie 1905, 10; Yasuoka 2011, 43), since the span to be covered between the two central columns was very long and would have required an architrave of enormous dimensions. However, taking into account that only six columns have been found, with six bases and six architraves, we tend to think that at the front there was only one row of six columns, and that between the two central columns

there may have been another type of support, such as pillars, of a much lighter material, which have disappeared<sup>20</sup> (Fig. 18).

The problem here is how this area with a 5 m span could have been roofed with only one row of columns. Petrie presumed that there was another row of columns in the center, in this case of limestone, an opinion shared by Yasuoka, who offers the parallel solution of the pronaos of Abusir South, so that originally there may have been a total of sixteen columns (Yasuoka 2011, 58). This problem is not solved, and for the moment we do not know whether or not these sixteen columns really existed. The opinion of Carlotti is that the roof was constructed in wood.

The columns were certainly reused. According to Carlotti, they can be dated to the Old Kingdom or Middle Kingdom. Arnold and Freed suggest that the columns of the Temple of Heryshef may have come from the funeral complex of Djedkare Isesi (Yasuoka 2011, 34) and therefore should be dated to the Old Kingdom. But Arnold mentions that they may also belong to the Middle

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Opinion put forward by A. Guio. According to J. F. Carlotti, there are many examples of a mixture of various types of columns or pillars: e.g. South Temple in Buhen, south chapel and north peristyle in Elephantine, peristyle chapel in Quban, and west chapel in El Kab. The column shaft of the virtual reconstruction is from the British Museum.

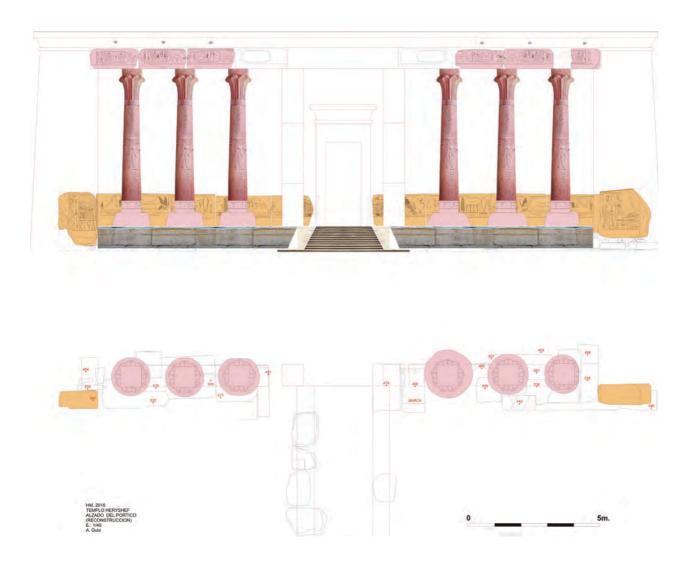


Fig. 18. Virtual reconstruction of the portico. Drawing by A. Guio

Kingdom (Arnold 2002, pls. cxl, cxliii). This dating is also accepted by other authors (Jéquier 1924, 196-200).

Carlotti's opinion, in his preliminary report, is that "during the Old Kingdom columns generally rested on well carved and carefully executed bases. But here, with the columns of the portico in Herakleopolis, this is not the case. The columns rest on badly carved granite bases of different heights, so that this difference in height would have meant that they had to be sunk into the ground at different levels so that the mortar bed would be at the same level. This arrangement of the bases at different levels is characteristic of columns during the Middle Kingdom, with examples found in Karnak (Fig.19). Therefore, the type of column base and the existence of



Fig. 19. Granite bases for colums. Photograph by M. C. Pérez-Die

numerous reused remains from the Middle Kingdom lead us to think that these columns date from the Middle Kingdom."<sup>21</sup>

This opinion is shared by the author and the team in Herakleopolis and we also suggest that the columns come from the funerary temple of the pyramid at Lahun where Senwosret II was buried. Petrie, who also excavated this pyramid, tells us that thanks to the graffiti on the blocks, we know that Ramesses II destroyed the temple and the casing of this pyramid to obtain stone, undoubtedly to build in Ihnasya (Petrie 1891, 1); this archaeologist reads the name of Senwosret II on a column, but this inscription does not appear in the publication, has not been mentioned by any other author, and is not recorded by Yasuoka. Petrie may have been referring to the side of one of the architraves found in the Temple of Heryshef in Herakleopolis (no 22), where the *nebti* name of Senwosret II appears (Petrie 1905, pl. XI). The find in 2017 by the Spanish Mission in the temple of the great architrave with the name of this pharaoh seems to confirm this hypothesis, and we can consider that all the granite material for the portico of the Temple of Heryshef must have come from the funerary temple of the Pyramid of Senwosret II at Lahun.

Although no traces remain of the columns at Lahun, Petrie tells us that in Kahun, the city of the workers who built the pyramid, the existence of palmiform columns is confirmed (Petrie 1891, 1).<sup>23</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Text extracted from Preliminary Report of J. F. Carlotti, 2016.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Number of Spanish excavation. See Fig. 17.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Palmiform capitals were used primarily in the Old Kingdom, but their use may have continued on a smaller

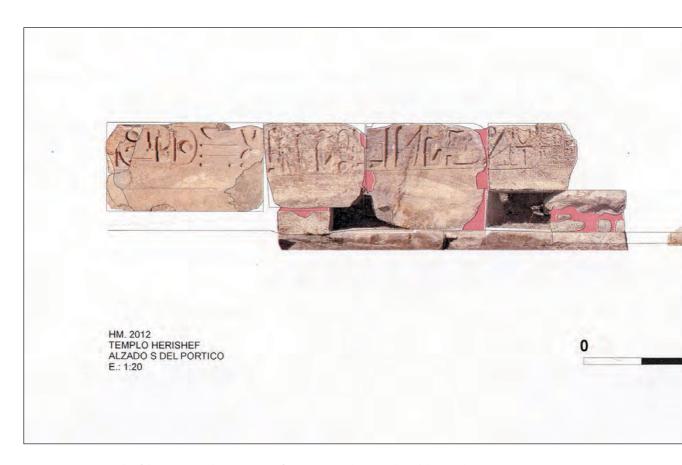


Fig. 20. Quartzite walls of the portico with inscriptions of Ramesses II. Photograph and drawing by A. Guio

As a result of this, we consider that the theory of Freed and Yasuoka as to the provenance of these columns from Abusir is questionable, taking into account the close proximity of Lahun, with its funerary temple linked to the pyramid that was dismantled by Ramesses II.

5.c. All that remains of the walls of the portico is a row of quartzite slabs resting on blocks of limestone, along with some of granite.<sup>24</sup> A horizontal line running along the whole wall between the quartzite blocks and those of the lower course marks the edge of the floor of the portico. The walls have inscriptions of Ramesses II, commemorating the *heb-sed* of the pharaoh (Pérez-Die 2016, 151).<sup>25</sup> The wall of the portico would have reached the height of the architraves of the column (Petrie 1905, pls. XVII and XVIII) (Fig. 20).

<sup>24</sup> Carlotti mentions that quartzite is only rarely used in architecture, and there are only a few examples: the door of the pyramid of Teti in Saqqara, palmiform columns in the upper temple of the pyramid of Unis in Saqqara, the walls of the funerary chamber of the pyramid of Amenemhat III in Hawara, and the red chapel of Hatshepsut in Karnak.

scale during the Middle Kingdom.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Published by F. Petrie, G. Mokhtar, M. C. Pérez-Die, etc.



5.d. On the side walls, two bases supported two colossi of Ramesses, also reused; the one found by Naville is prenserved in the University of Pennsylvania Museum (Miller, 1937, 1–7), while the other, found by Petrie, is in the Cairo Museum (Petrie 1905, pl. XIX; Pérez-Die 2016, 150).

The exact chronology of the portico is difficult to establish. Petrie tended to think that the floor plan of this area is from the 18<sup>th</sup> Dynasty, and the opinion of Yasouka is that the portico was re-constructed by Khaemwaset, the son of Ramesses (Yasuoka 2011, 58).

We should mention here the text on the statutes of general Hor (Vercoutter 1950, 88–89) that relates the building and remaking of the portico of the temple during the 30<sup>th</sup> Dynasty. For the moment, we do not have material evidence and it is difficult to explain this restructuring, as we need more architectonic and stratigraphic elements to confirm it.

#### 6- Hypostyle Hall, other northern rooms and the Sanctuary

A door leads from the portico into the Hypostyle Hall. Behind this room there are other areas including the sanctuary, now largely in ruins. The floor of the hypostyle hall, and all the northern rooms including the sanctuary, is raised up artificially with rubble or sand (Pérez-Die 2016, 151) (Fig. 21).



Fig. 21. Hypostyle hall and northern rooms. Photograph by M. C. Pérez-Die

The hypostyle hall had twenty-four columns, twelve on each side of the door, but only the base of one of these is preserved (Fig. 22). The foundations are exposed. Pottery of Thutmose III and Greco-Roman fragments were found next to the columns, showing that originally it may have been built by Thutmose III and that later modifications were carried out in the whole building. The hypostyle hall leads into another room which originally had eight columns. The stairway on the left may have led up to the roof. There are three rooms at the far end, with the sanctuary most probably the one in the center, and the other two adjoining rooms for the cult or the sacred barque of the god.

A wall made of limestone slabs surrounds the hypostyle hall and the northern rooms (see Fig. 21). The foundation trench of the wall in the northwest zone was excavated in 2016. Pottery was found from the Middle Kingdom, and above all from the New Kingdom, so that the date of the foundation of the temple must be linked to this period.



Fig. 22. Base of the column of the hypostyle hall. Photograph by M. C. Pérez-Die



Fig. 23. Sculptures and reliefs installed on brick bases. Open courtyard. Photograph by M. C. Pérez-Die

All the inscriptions, fragments of wall, reliefs, sculptures, and architraves have been installed on brick bases to protect them from humidity, and they form part of the Open-Air Museum which will shortly be open to visitors<sup>26</sup> (Pérez-Die 2016, 154–157) (Figs. 23–24).

#### **Conclusions**

It is very difficult to establish a chronological sequence for the Temple of Heryshef, as it was in use for more than 2000 years during which various reconstructions, additions and looting episodes occurred. Petrie established different building stages which can be seen in his account: Middle Kingdom, 18th and 19th Dynasties, Late Period, and Roman Period (Petrie 1905, 5–17).

In our case, we are attempting to document and present all we know as a result of the systematic excavations carried out by the Spanish team, and the dating of the pottery finds, many of which are associated with intact layers currently being excavated in the temple.<sup>27</sup> The floor of the temple at present is shown in Fig. 25.

The main conclusions reached in our stratigraphic, epigraphic and chronological work with reference to the different rooms are as follows:

 $<sup>^{26}</sup>$  The stones were moved by the team of Reis Gamal Abdel Ghassab from Luxor, who worked in Ihnasya during two campaigns, with very satisfactory results.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> The collaborative work of B. Bader in her study of the pottery is fundamental to our understanding of the monument.



Fig. 24. Architraves installed on brick bases near the portico. Photograph by M. C. Pérez-Die

#### 1. Open Courtyard:

Currently this is dated to the Greco-Roman period; in this period there may have been repair work which eliminated the floors from earlier occupations. In the southeast zone, a reused colossal statue of Ramesses II was found; this originally must have been located in front of the pylons. There may have been a cult of the statue in later periods.

#### 2. Peristyle courtyard, Pylons and Floors:

Rubble predating the construction of the temple has been found under the foundations of the building. These are homogeneous fills of very old date (Second Intermediate Period/early New Kingdom) and are associated with habitation layers.

Finding the foundations of the pylon was a major discovery and the material associated with its foundation trench allows it to be dated to the New Kingdom, perhaps at a point very close to Thutmose III or even linked to him.

There are various floor levels in this peristyle courtyard, so that we know that there were frequent reconstructions. The two granite triads were situated at the back of the pylon and the base of one has been found. In front, a series of floors has appeared, one related to the time when the pylon was built, and another to the Greco-Roman period.

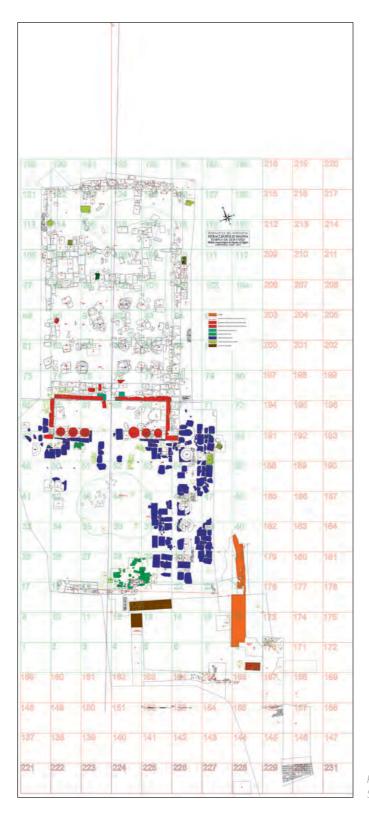


Fig. 25. Floor of the temple. End of 2017 Season. Drawing by A. Guio

Finding the architrave of Senwosret II has been vital to establishing the provenance of the inscribed pieces.

No traces of the columns remain, only some rounded bases. In front, there are some rectangular bases which may have been used to support statues or sphinxes.

#### 3. Portico:

Under the wall surrounding the portico and the hypostyle hall, intact strata and settlement-related structures were detected, predating the construction of the temple walls. These are dated to the early years of the New Kingdom, and once the walls had been built there are traces of successive modifications to the religious building.

The columns and architraves were reused by Ramesses II and Merenptah and we believe that they may have come from the funerary temple of the Pyramid of Senwosret II at Lahun. Although the base of the portico structure is from the time of Thutmose III, the restructuring which has come down to us is essentially that carried out by Ramesses II.

#### 4. Hypostyle Hall, Sanctuary and Enclosure Wall:

Surveys in the hypostyle hall enabled the documentation of multiple construction phases and wall repairs, with materials that can be dated to between the Middle and the New Kingdoms. All the rooms are located on a higher level than the previous ones. Survey of the enclosure wall and the pottery also provide a date of approximately the time of Thutmose III.

#### 5. The Lakes:

The location of the two lakes of the temple, called Maat and Natron in the Book of the Dead (Spell 17) has not been yet established.

To sum up, we have found levels previous to the building of the temple—from the Middle Kingdom, the Second Intermediate Period, and the early New Kingdom. The building may have been begun by Thutmose III; it was then modified and enlarged by Ramesses II. Inexplicably, we have not found materials from the late New Kingdom, the Third Intermediate Period, or the Late Period, although we know that in these periods the temple saw important activity, as has been evidenced by the excavations of the Spanish team in the Third Intermediate Period necropolis (Pérez-Die 2010). In the Greco-Roman period, the activity was very intense and much of what currently remains of the temple dates from that period.

The provisional section of the temple, reconstructed according to our research, is shown in Fig. 26.

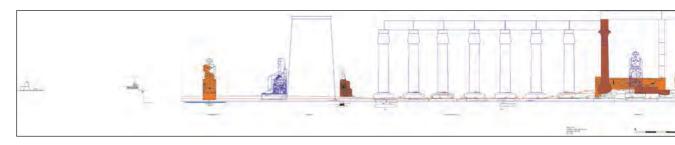


Fig. 26. Section of the temple. End of 2017 Season. Drawing by A. Guio

Thus: Entrance, Open Courtyard, Colossal Statue in front of the pylon, Pylon, Triads, Peristyle Courtyard, Portico, Hypostyle Hall, smaller Hypostyle Hall, and northern rooms, including the Sanctuary.

These are the conclusions we are able to offer to date, pending confirmation from future campaigns.

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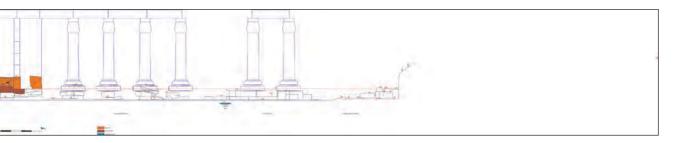
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### **Guardian of Ancient Egypt**

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