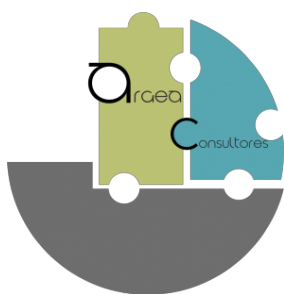


**PRELIMINARY REPORT OF SPANISH ARCHEOLOGICAL MISSION IN
HERAKLEOPOLIS MAGNA. IHNASYA EL MEDINA, BENI SUEF).**

2021 SEASON



BY Maria Carmen Pérez-Die, Antonio Guio, Juan Candelas y
Antonia Moreno



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PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE SPANISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL MISSION
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To whom it may concern,

The excavation has taken place between the 30th of May and the 17th of June of 2021. The team work is composed by the following members:

Maria Carmen Pérez Die, Director. Antonio Guio, Archaeologist. Juan Candelas, Egyptologist. Antonia Moreno, Restorer. Mohamed Kamal Restaurer. Sayed Ali Ghasab, Arabic-Spanish translator. Nermin Maauad, Inspector of Archaeology and Sayed Kamal Inspector of the Magazine, both from Beni Suef.

According to the permission of excavation and the instructions of the Permanent Committee of Antiquities, we have accomplished the following tasks:

1. Excavation in “Heryshef temple”.
2. Cleaning the “Third Intermediate Period necropolis” in order to find out the place of the missing stones recorded in the “Register Book”.
3. Restoring and cleaning several blocks from the tomb of *Hotep-Uadjet*.

I EXCAVATION IN HERYSHEF TEMPLE

1.- Aims

To continue digging in the west area of the First courtyard of the Temple of Heryshef, to find the limits of the pylon foundations, the monumental gate, the colossus that potentially remains on this side (*in situ*), together with new blocks with reliefs and inscriptions belonging to the monumental gate, which have been removed during the looting process. Also, to locate the respective foundation blocks of the colossus on the East side of the temple.

2.- WORKING PROCESS

During the first days, the vegetation grown around all the area of the temple, formed by 5 m high reeds, have been cut and removed (FIG.1).

Part of the debris deposit from Petrie's excavations, located on the SW side of the Temple, has been removed with a smooth bucket shovel-excavator machine to allow further excavations in this area. (FIG.2 AND FIG. 3).

South West area

A trench has been opened in the middle of the patio, without any relevant results ((ig.4)

West Area

After the cleaning phase, the excavation of the W area of the first patio has been resumed from where it was left in the previous season.

Therefore, three excavation areas have been established: "looting pit", "A" and "B" squares, both located on the W side, and the dig trench (Nº 1) located to the E side.

A 1.5 m high debris layer has been excavated with two stratigraphic units formed by rubble (EU. 21-1), and abundant pottery remains from late-antiquity ceramic productions (EU. 21-3).

In dig trench Nº 1 new remains of the pylon basement have been located, with evident signs of looting as they were removed from their original position.

On the W side of the looting pit, new remains have been discovered *in situ*, which confirm the location of the pylon, which has been heavily looted. FIG. 5, FIG.6, FIG.7; Fig 8.

Centre and East areas

The digging task of this sector starts the 5th of June of 2021 opening a new dig square (Fig. 5) located on the South East of the temple, in N° 21 square of the map, directly below the triad statue, with the purpose of finding potential evidence of the other colossus basement still missed so far. The initial dimensions of this square are 1m x 1.5m. The first layer composed by modern gravel and yellow soil, used to cover the site during the last campaign, is removed. This dig square contains only two stratigraphic units, being therefore just one proper archaeological. This archaeological layer, called U.E. 21 – 3, shows the last two levels of foundation stones, made of limestone. These remains are connected to the already discovered foundation stones in previous campaigns in the west side (Fig. 6-9). This unit appears with fragments of pottery, belonging to the Roman period, together with a few animal remains, mainly from bovid species. It is important to point out that this material is found all mixed and therefore in a non-*in situ* context. After several enlargements to different directions (N, E and W), the dig square gains 14,6 m long and 2,65 m width, as the final dimensions (Fig. 11b).

II CLEANING THE “THIRD INTERMEDIATE PERIOD NECROPOLIS” IN ORDER TO FIND OUT THE PLACE OF THE MISSING STONES RECORDED IN THE “REGISTER BOOK”.

According to the Instructions of SCA we have proceeded to the cleaning of a specific area of the Necropolis of Third Intermediate Period in order to find the place in which we put the Stone after the discovering in 1984 and 1986, inside the necropolis.

These Stones were registered in the Register Book, according to the instructions of the Inspector of the Antiquities Service of Beni Suef, with the detail of “They remains In situ” but they have not been found so far.

These elements are:

1.- Roof the Tomb n.3. It consist in several Stone with inscriptions belonging to the roof of the tomb. At that time the Stone were put around the área of the tomb. In this campaign of 2021, the area around the tomb number 3 has been cleaned.

2.- A flat granite Stone with two holes which was discovered inside the tomb n.1. After the campaign of 1984 the piece was left here. In this campaign of 2021, we entered the Tomb assuming a very high risk due to a very potential roof falling.

3,. A libation Stone of limestone was found into the Chapel or Temple of the Necropolis In 1984, this Stone was left “in Situ”. (Fig. 12-19)

After the efforts of findings the stones in 2021and therefore fulfilling achieving all the requirements after cleaning the entire area, cutting all the vegetation around and removing all the sand covering the structures, we have not found such stone where the was supported to remain until nowadays.

Furthermore, it is important to point out that this necropolis was excavated 35years ago. And was severely expoiled and destructed during the revolution in 2001 (Fig. 20-22).

III.- RESTORING AND CLEANING SEVERAL BLOCKS FROM THE TOMB OF *HOTEP-UADJET*.

The restoration Works of the campaign of 2021 have focused on continuing the restoration of the tomb of *Hotep-Uadjet*, regarding 7 blocks taken from 2019 to be restored. Currently, these blocks are saved and well protected in the magazine of the Spanish Archaeological Mission in Ehnasya el-Medina (Figs. 24-27).

Due to the very short length of this campaign, it has been impossible to finish the restoration of the blocks. Therefore, we have focused on:

- . Block N° 1: south wall of the tomb
- . Block N° 2: part of the left-side wall
- . Block N° 3: part of the right-side wall

The treatments and technique applied to the pieces are the following:

- Digital recording of the whole process of restoration
- Mechanical cleaning with brushes (different types and sizes), wood sticks and spatula.
- Chemical cleaning with deionized water and ethanol, mixed in a 1/1 proportion. This cleaning has been combined with dry chemical cleaning.
- To glue the fragments (all sizes: medium, large, small) with epoxy resin (Araldit® standard and extra-strong of two components).
- To reinforce the big fragments, once they are glued, with metal sticks and epoxy resin.

Some reinforced wooden boxes have been made, in order to prevent the damage and easy-moving the blocks to the magazine of the Service of Antiquities of Ehnasya el-Medina.

Finally, we would like to thank the great help on this job to the Egyptian restorer Mohamed Kamal.

Figures

Fig. 1 Vegetation covering the Temple.





Fig. 2 Cleaning of rubble with an excavator shovel.



Fig. 3 SW area after debris removal.



Fig. 4 Cata B during the excavation process



Fig. 5. General view of the excavation after cleaning the debris



Fig 6. West South Area



Fig. 7.-The looting pit, formed by late-ancient ceramic remains.



Fig. 8.- Basement of the pylon in the W of the First patio.



Fig. 9. East Area



Fig.10 East Area. First UE



Fig. 11a. Basement of the Pylon on the East area



Fig. 11.b Final stage of the dig square on the Eas area.



Fig 12 and 13. Necropolis of Third Intermediate Period before cleaning





Fig.14 Cleaning of the necropolis



Fig.15. Tomb n.3. Cleaning



Fig.16.Tomb n. 3 cleaned, with sarcopague



Fig 17.Door of t.1



Fig 18 Inside tomb 1



Fig.19.Dallage of the roof



Fig 20.Necropolis of Third Intermediate period After Revolution. Ceiling of the tomb fallen down



Fig.21 Necropolis of Third Intermediate period After Revolution. Ceiling of the tomb fallen down



Fig.22

Fig.22 Necropolis of Third Intermediate Period After Revolution. Pottery destroyed



Fig.23 Necropolis of Third Intermediate Period After Revolution, supports of ceilings of tombs



Fig. 24 Tomb of Hotep-Uadjet. Block n.1



Fig.25. Block 1



Fig.26 Block n. 2



Fig27 .Block n° 3