

Terminado
REPORT OF THE SPANISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL MISSION AT
HERAKLEOPOLIS MAGNA (EHNASYA EL MEDINA SITE)
BENI SUEF. SEASON 2022

By

Maria Carmen Pérez-Die, Antonio Gómez, Antonio Guio, Antonia Moreno
and Taysyr Mohamed

The works has taken place between the 1 June and 20 June of 2022.

The team work is composed by the following Members :

Maria Carmen Pérez Die,- Director. Antonio Guio, Archaeologist. Antonio Gómez , Archaeologist. Antonia Moreno, Restorer. Taysir Mohamed . Restaurer. Ghada Mauad Inspector of Archaeology, Ahmed Mohamed Abdelazim Inspector of the Magazine, and Walid Mohamedin Ahmed, Inspector in the works in the necropolis of TPI, Sayed Ali Ahmed, Arabic-Spanish translator and translator of the arabic report.

According with the permission of excavations and Instructions of the Permanent Comitee

We have accomplished the following task:

- 1.- Excavation, documentation, photogrametry and restauration in the Heryshef Temple
- 2.- Cleaning of the Third Intermediate Period in order to find out the missing stones recorded in the Register Book
- 3.- Cleaning several blocks from the tomb of Hotep-Wadjet to put them in The Egyptian magazine in Ehnasya el-Medina site

HERYSHEF TEMPLE

A.-EXCAVATIONS

Our work has been focused on the open Courtyard, in front of the Pylon, and in the southwest zone of Peristyle Cour

In front of the Pylon the excavation was divided in two sectors. The Central and West zone was excavated by Antonio Gómez and the East zone by Antonio Guio. Here is confirmed the presence of a looting pit in the face south of the Pylon, found in 2018. We also worked inside the Peristyle Court

1. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the 2022 campaign in the Temple of Heryshef (Heracleopolis Magna), have been:

1°.- The excavation of the Pylon Looting pit started in 2018 (Figures 4 to 21 and 36 to 52).

2- With the mechanical shovel (Lauder), to remove the “radim” of F. Petrie, located in the SW corner of the Peristyle Court (Figures 42 and 43)

3.-To continue the 2018 excavation inside the temple, with the removal of the “debris” from the F. Petrie works, (Figures 22 to 25 and 42).

WEST ZONE OF THE PILON AND SOUTHWEST AREA OF PATIO PERISTILO¹

Excavation of 112 m² (120 m³ of extracted sediment) has been carried out (Figure 36). This is an area 9.5 m by 16 m long, outside of F. Petrie's excavation. For this it was possible to document the stratigraphic sequence –unaltered- preserved at this point in the Peristyle Court (Fig. 44). These works have been possible thanks to the dewatering system that surrounds the Temple (Figure 53).

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1. Registration system.

For the excavation works it was used the Harris system (Harris, 1979 and Carandini, 1981).

¹ .Responsible of the Excavation: Antonio Gómez

The excavation and the artifacts found were documented with archaeological photographs of the scaled maps to be digitalized later, and to include them in the general Plant of the Temple and registered in digital video of high resolution.

During the excavation, no new Stratigraphic Units have been identified,

A photograph has been taken of each of them, the initial and final height. They have been located digitally by generating orthophotos by photogrammetry (Figure 34).

The study of the pottery associated with the fillings, and all the excavated fills are of late ancient chronology, as evidenced by the recovered material, and give us a chronology of Roman and Coptic time (Figures 26 to 32).

2.2. Documentation system using digital photogrammetry. This system is the continuation of the photogrammetric documentation program, started in 2015. Here, the planimetry is obtained through 3D models, generated by different computer programs. Orthophotos are obtained from them: elevations, sections, profiles, etc. (Figure 34), which allow to generate the drawings.

2.3. Actions developed. The works carried out have been the following:

2.3.1. Initial cleaning (Figures 1 to 3). The vegetation covering the areas on the south of the Temple for more than 5 meters high was removed. No archaeological material has been recovered.

2.3.2. Manual excavation by Egyptian workers under the direction of Spanish Archaeologist (Figures 4 to 7). Photographic documentation works (Figures 8 to 25, has been documented by the work team, through high quality photography.

2.3.3. Cleaning of the architectural elements. (Figure 20), Carried out by Egyptian workers, under the direction of the restorer of the project. Only water and soft bristle brushes are used, for the elimination of the mud that covers the faces of the abandoned architectural blocks in looting pit of the Pylon.

2.3.4 To. Removal radim with Pala Lauder. (Figures 2 and 42) in a surface of 600 m2,. In future campaigns, it would be necessary to maintain continuity in the use of the Louders

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION IN THE LOOTING PIT OF THE PYLON

3.1.1 The work carried out in this sector of the Temple, since 2015, allow us to locate the north side of the Pylon (2017). This is an area undisturbed by F. Petrie's excavation, although it was affected by looting in late antiquity (Figures 35 and 36).

The continuity of the work in 2018, 2019, 2021 and 2022, allows us to define the limits of the looting pit on the south side, and identify the limits on the north side, as well as the different moments of looting in the Temple, that remains in the stratigraphy of the Trench.

Finally, the excavation of the area located on the west side of the Peristyle Court was continued (Figures 22 to 25).

• Excavation of the Looting Pit of the Pylon

Figures: from 1 to 56

The excavation works of this campaign have focused on the interior of the looting pit of the Pylon). This enormous looting pit, with a rectangular floor, with measurements more than 15 m wide and more than 38 m long, was opened and practically all the limestone blocks of the foundation of the Pylon were robbed (Figure 53). Later it was fill out by fragments of pottery coming from the ceramic kilns of the 4th and 5th centuries AD.

• Interior of the Peristyle Courtyard and Exterior of the East Side-Zone of the Colossus. It has been called A and appears in blue in figures 51, 52 and 53.

3.1.2. Excavation campaign of 2022 in the looting pit: SW side of the Peristyle Court (Figures 7 to 21 and 37 to 42). Thousand of fragments of pottery were found.

In total, five artificial levels excavation have been carried out (Figures 8 to 21). In this process it has been possible to identify two moments in the filling of the pit, thanks to the finding of a block of red granite placed during his destruction in this area (Figures 10 and 21).

The presence of several rows of blocks, arranged in parallel and still preserved in situ, has been

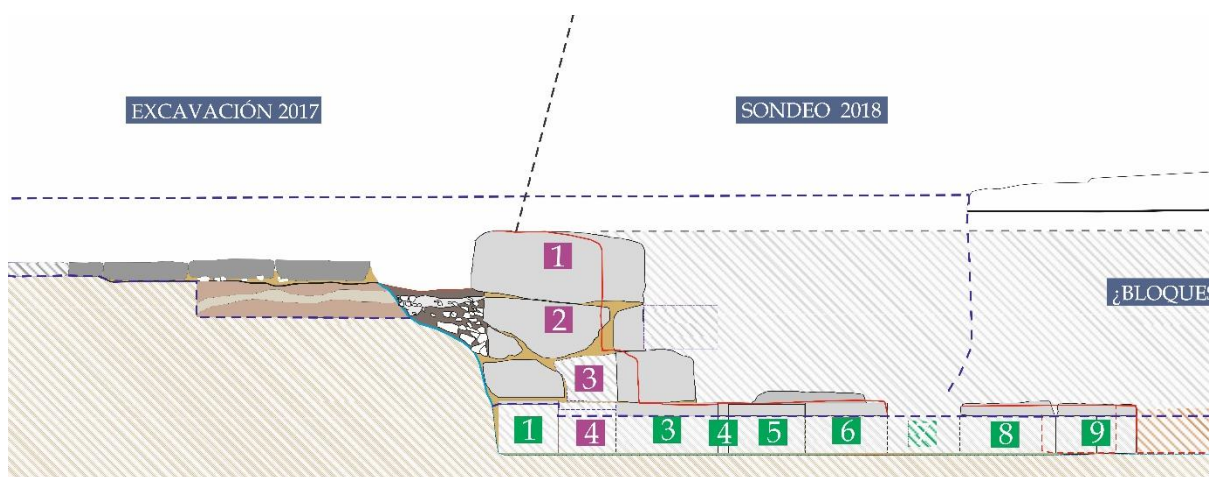
detected at the western end of the area excavated in 2022 (Figures 12, 13, 14 and 15).

The chronology of the material that fills the looting pit can be placed between the 4th and 5th centuries AD. There are not pharaonic remains in the excavated area. Late amphorae have been recovered, and fragments of Terra Sigillata Clara (Figures 26 to 32).

3.1.3. Pylon Construction System. (Figures 12, 13, 14, 15 and 44 and 45). The 2022 campaign has provided a more precise understanding of the construction system of the Pylon, and how the limestone blocks were placed and arranged in its foundation. This is the oldest building system documented in the temple (Figure 54).

For its construction, a wide foundation pit had to be opened (U.E. 139), excavated in the pre-existing fills.

Inside, they have a foundation made up of at least four rows of interlocking limestone blocks.



The limestone blocks used have different sizes and morphologies. Some are carved in the form of cased ashlar with a cubic shape and others rectangular or irregular (Figures 12, 13 and 45).

These are elements that seem to come from the looting of other rooms of the Temple.

In the foundation, the blocks are placed in rows or streets, of which at least 9 of them are preserved (Figure 45). The size of these blocks varies between 83 cm on each side in rows 2 and 3, and have more than 1.5 in rows 4 and 8. Regarding the height, at least 4 courses of height, with the largest blocks arranged at the top. The pylon could be of mud brick.

3.1.4. Looting phases of the Pylon Looting Pit. Currently, in the archaeological record

excavated in the 2022 campaign, several actions or moments of massive robbery/looting of construction materials in the temple have been detected. This process is carried out in different moments, with some breaks without looting activity between them. It is likely that there are other robbery actions, of which evidence has not yet been located.

1°.- Moment of the robbery of the Pylon and generation of the pit. (Figures 10 to 20 and 43 to 50). The 2022 campaign has made it possible to document the Pylon's construction elements. It is a massive looting for all the limestone blocks.

This massive looting is abandoned at a certain moment. In the 2022 campaign, a complete robe of the limestone blocks from the foundation have been documented. As indicated above, in at least one case the looting of the blocks is preserved (Figure 15). It has been documented how one of the blocks is broken, by wooden wedges, in order to move it. In addition, there are multiple examples of ashlar displaced out of position, grouped in what appear to be storage areas (Figure 16).

The north flank exceeds the limit of the Pylon and the southern flank, appears next to the rear of the Colossus and a limestone structure. It would have a width of close to 16 m and an area of 350 m² has been identified, to which there are to hypothetically add at least another 176 m², preserved under the radim on its west side (Figure 53)

2°.- Moment. Theft of granite and quartzite architectural elements from the interior of the Temple: quartzite blocks from the frieze, red granite architraves, etc. (Figures 10, 11, 19, 20, 21, 43, 47, 48). Since the 2017 campaign, elements thrown into the pit from the Peristyle Courtyard have been located on the north flank of the looting Pit. The pylon was already plundered when these materials were thrown into, and left there, without being reused in the construction of other buildings, because they cannot be moved

The presence of at least one block of quartzite from the frieze of the Portico, has confirmed in the 2022 campaign, the hypothesis of the looting and theft of a large number of architectural elements from the interior of the temple, which are thrown into the pit of the pylon.

3°.- Moment: Reuse of the looting pit as a dump for the late Roman fragments of ovens (Figures 7, 48, 52 and 53). The 2022 campaign has made it possible to extensively document the reuse of the plundering pit, as a testing for the kilns. The huge pit is reused as an area for broken

ceramic production of late Roman times in Heracleopolis.

The pit is full of thousands of ceramic fragments, of hundreds of loads from the ovens, which are thrown from the edges of the pit, until it is almost completely covered. The ancient architectural elements inside the looting pit are almost completely covered; there are no complete forms, only fragments of all typologies. The late amphorae (Figures 30 and 32), the vases –some almost complete- (Figures 28) and fragments of Terra Sigillata Clara (Figure 29) stand out for their abundance.

Its use as a waste area for the furnaces transformed the plundering pit into a garbage dump. Among the ceramics there are also multiple remains of fauna, burnt adobe bricks, etc. (Figure 53)

4th.- Moment: selective looting of materials already abandoned in the looting pit (Figures 10, 11, 21 and 49). This activity was documented in the 2018 and 2019 campaign profiles, but it was in the 2022 campaign that it was widely documented.

A fragment of red granite decorated with reliefs was detected, on top of the mass of ceramic fragments and covered by ceramics.

5th.- Moment: Final reuse of looting pit as a dump for the late Roman ovens. (Figures 7, 8, 50 and 53). Fragments from Roman pottery fill the looting pit. The last time definitive moment of use documented in 2022 inside is its complete plugging with the waste of the late Roman testars. The stratigraphic sequence is interrupted/segmented by the level of the F. Petrie excavation. Above this usage level, no other ancient level is documented.

B.- EAST ZONE OF THE FIRST COURT²

² Excavada por A. Guio

In this sector East zone (área of the Pylon) three sondages are accomplished with only two Stratigraphic Units which cover the hole area excavated: The first occupied by mud brick pavement and the second one integrated by fragments of the pottery of the later and Roman period.

In the sondage n° 1 stone ashlar were not found, only a stratigraphic level (Figs. 3, 4). When the water table appears this sondage is again filled in to put over the fragment of Rose granite decorated with reliefs- (fig. 5)

In the Sondage 2, two new ashlar are cleaned, one in limestone (fig. 6) and the other one in pink granite (fig.7) but they were removed of its original position. Perhaps the decoration was in the other side of the stone.

In the Sondage 3 two stone "in situ" were found. The sondage is widened towards the South 3x 1 meter and there new stones were found belonging of the basement (fot. 8 y 9)

5. ANEXO. Comparative study OF THE SOME PYLONS (MEASUREMENTS) DE OF others Egyptian Temples.

We have study in other Egyptian temples, to know their proportions and measurements and to find some parallels with the Heryshef Temple. We note only the and the length and wide of them.

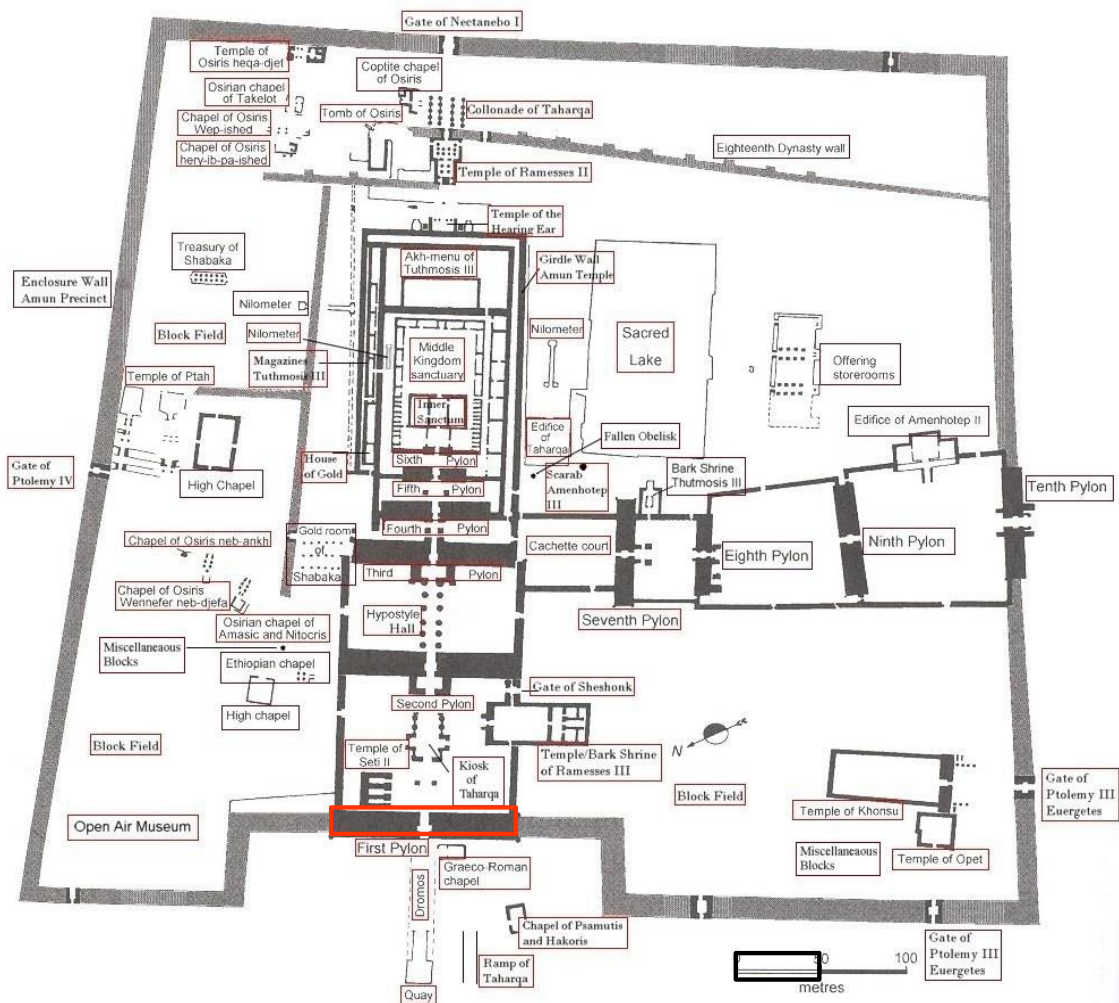
Amon Temple in Karnak.

Dimensions of the Great Pylon: 113 x 16 m.

Length = 7 times his Width.

Material: Sandstone.

Chronology: Nectanebo I, (380 - 362 a. C.)



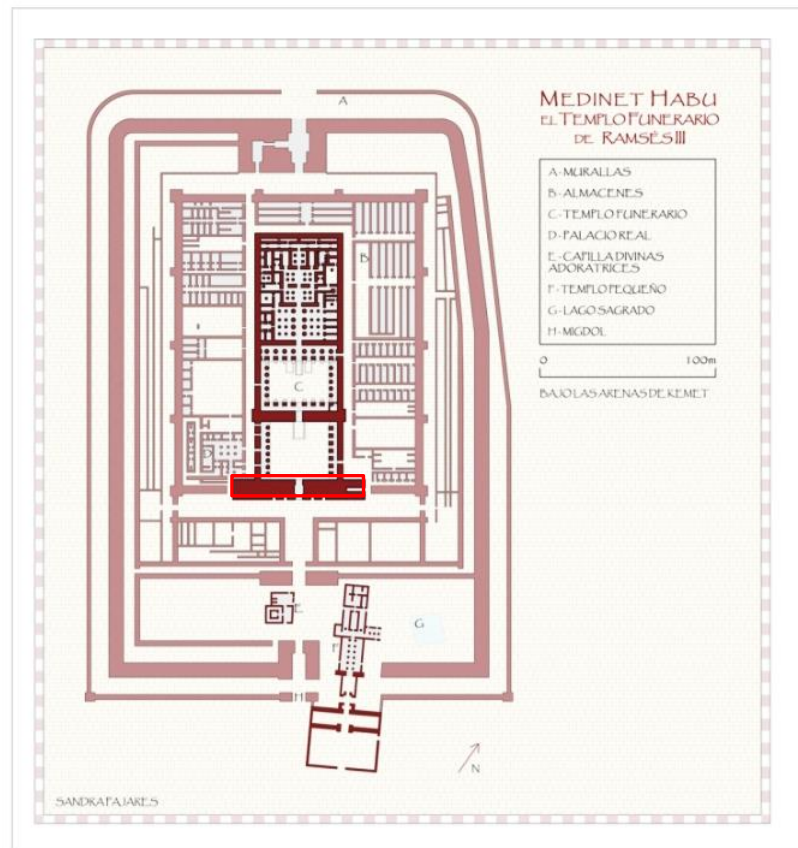
Medinet Habu. Temple of Ramsés III .

Dimensions of the Pylon: 75,5 x 11,5 m.

Length = 6,5 times his Width).

Material: Sandstone.

Chronology: Ramsés III (1185 – 1153 a. C.)



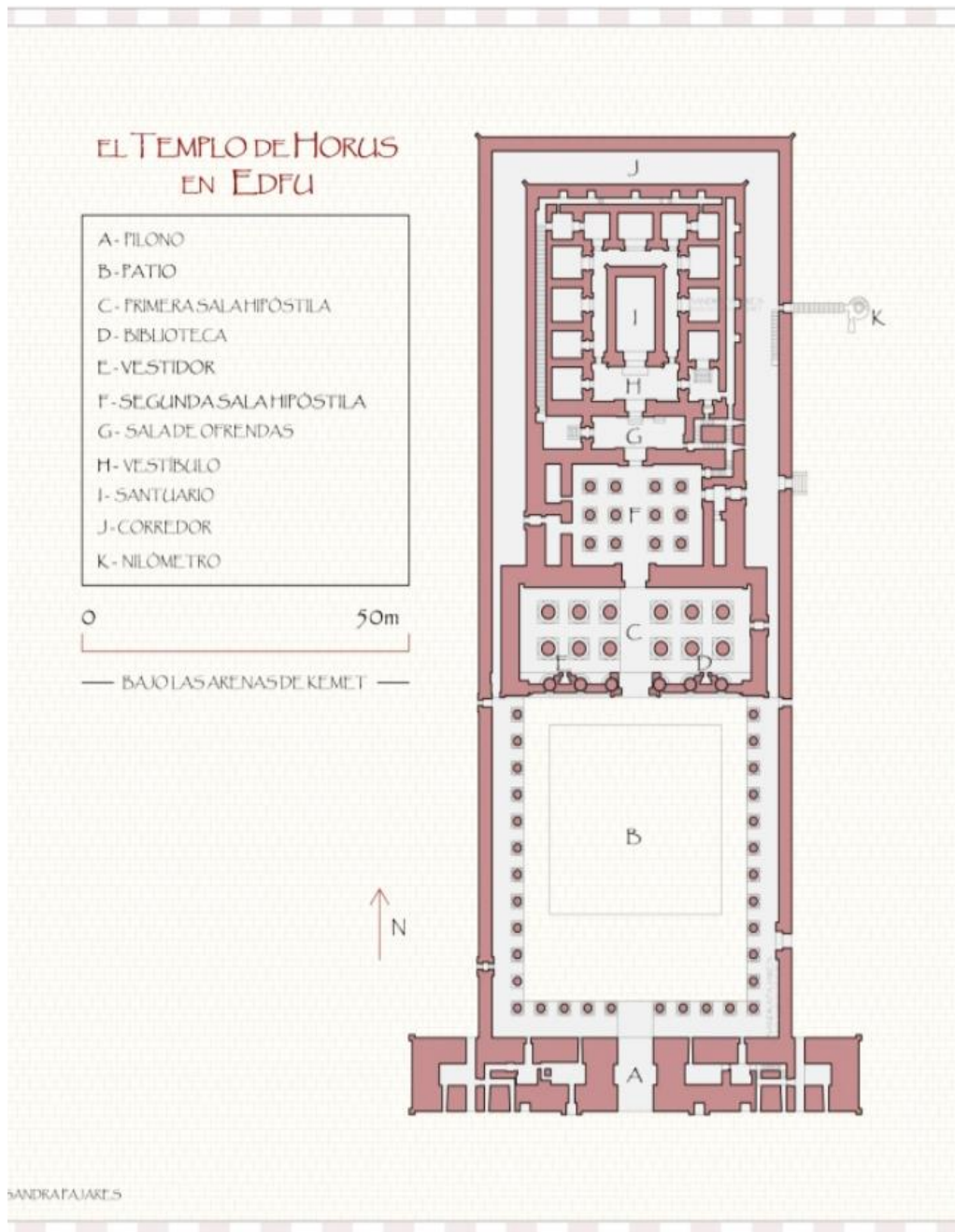
Temple of Horus in Edfú.

Dimensions of the Pylon: 75,4 x 11,5 m.

Length = 6,5 times his Width).

Material: Sandstone.

Chronology: Ptolomeo III - Ptolomeo IV (237 - 57 a. C.)



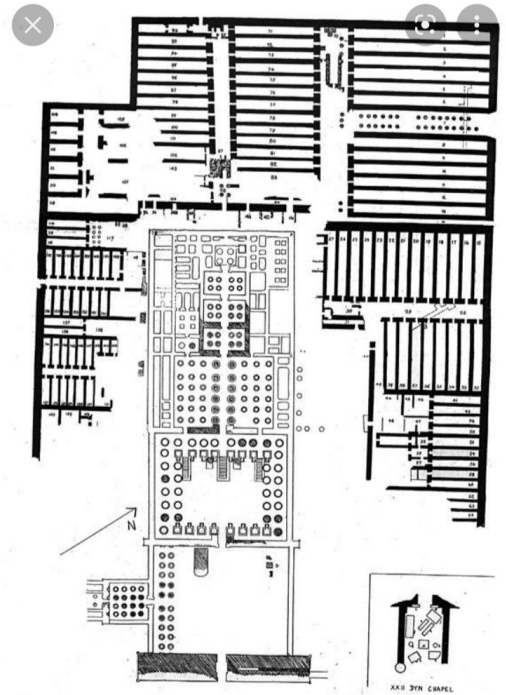
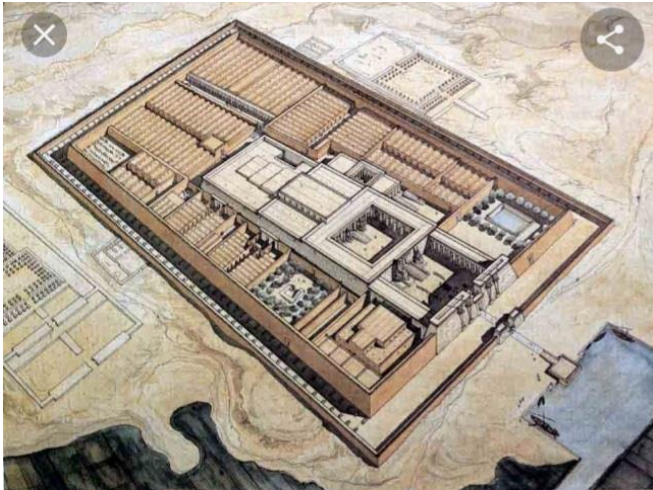
Ramesseum. Ramsés II

Dimensions of the Pylon: 69 x 11 m.

Length = 6,27 times his Width

Material: Sandstone.

Chronology: Ramsés II (1290 - 1224 a. C.)



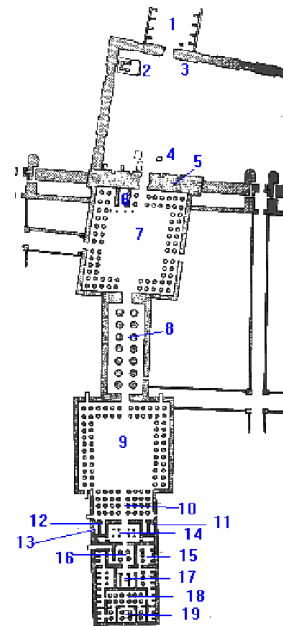
Amon Temple. Luxor

Dimensions of the Pylon: 65 x 9 m.

Length = 7,2 times his Width

Material: Sandstone.

Chronology: Amenofis III, Ramsés II (1400 - 1000 a. C.)



- 1.- Avenida de las esfinges
- 2.- Capilla de Serapis
- 3.- Capilla de Hathor
- 4.- Obelisco y estatuas sedentes de Ramsés II
- 5.- Gran Pylon
- 6.- Capillas de Amón, Mut y Jonsu
- 7.- Patio solar de Ramsés II
- 8.- Columnata procesional (Amenofis III)
- 9.- Patio solar de Amenofis III
- 10.- Sala Hipóstila
- 11.- Sala de Mut
- 12.- Sala de Jonsu
- 13.- Sala de Amón
- 14.- Santuario romano
- 15.- Cámara del nacimiento (Amenofis III)
- 16.- Sala de ofrendas
- 17.- Santuario de la barca (Alejandro Magno)
- 18.- Vestibulo
- 19.- Santuario (Amenofis III)

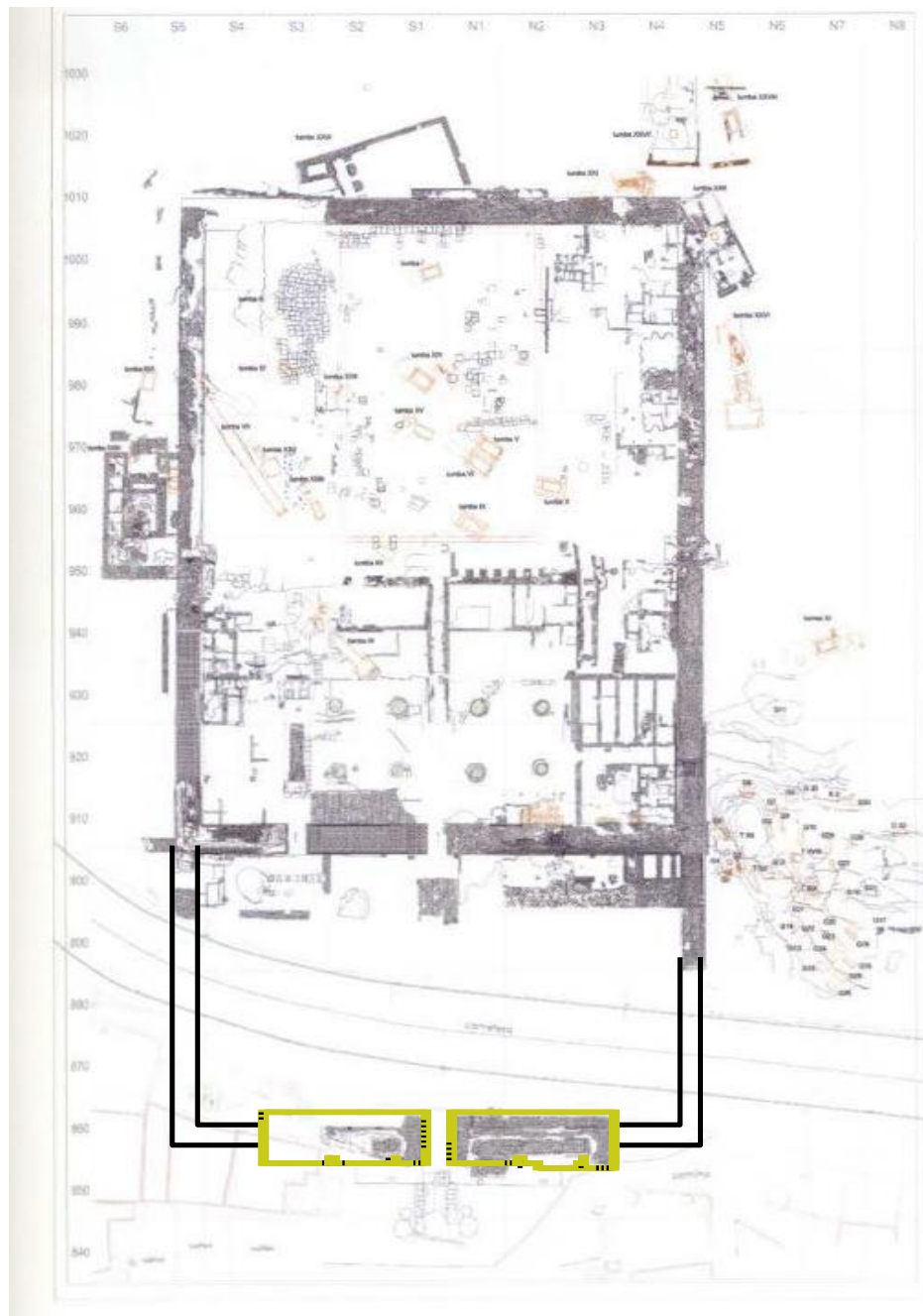
Tempe lof Tutmosis III .

Dimensions of the Pylon: 57 x 9 m.

Length = 6,3 times his Width

Material: adobe

Chronology: Tutmosis III (1479 - 1425 a. C.)



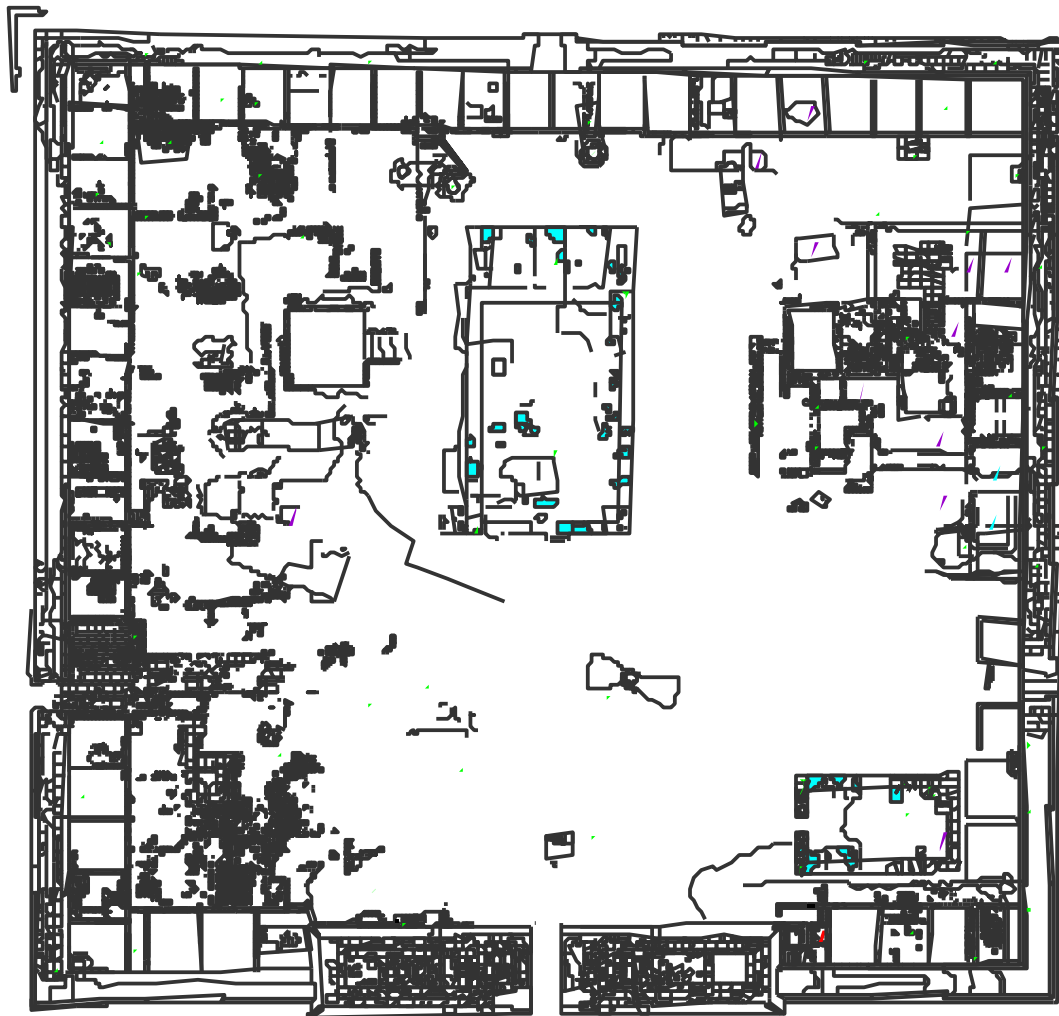
Temple of Isis en Taposiris.

Dimensions of the Pylon: 45 x 9 m.

Length = 5 times his Width

Material: Sandstone.

Chronology: Ptolomeo IV (221 - 204 a. C.)



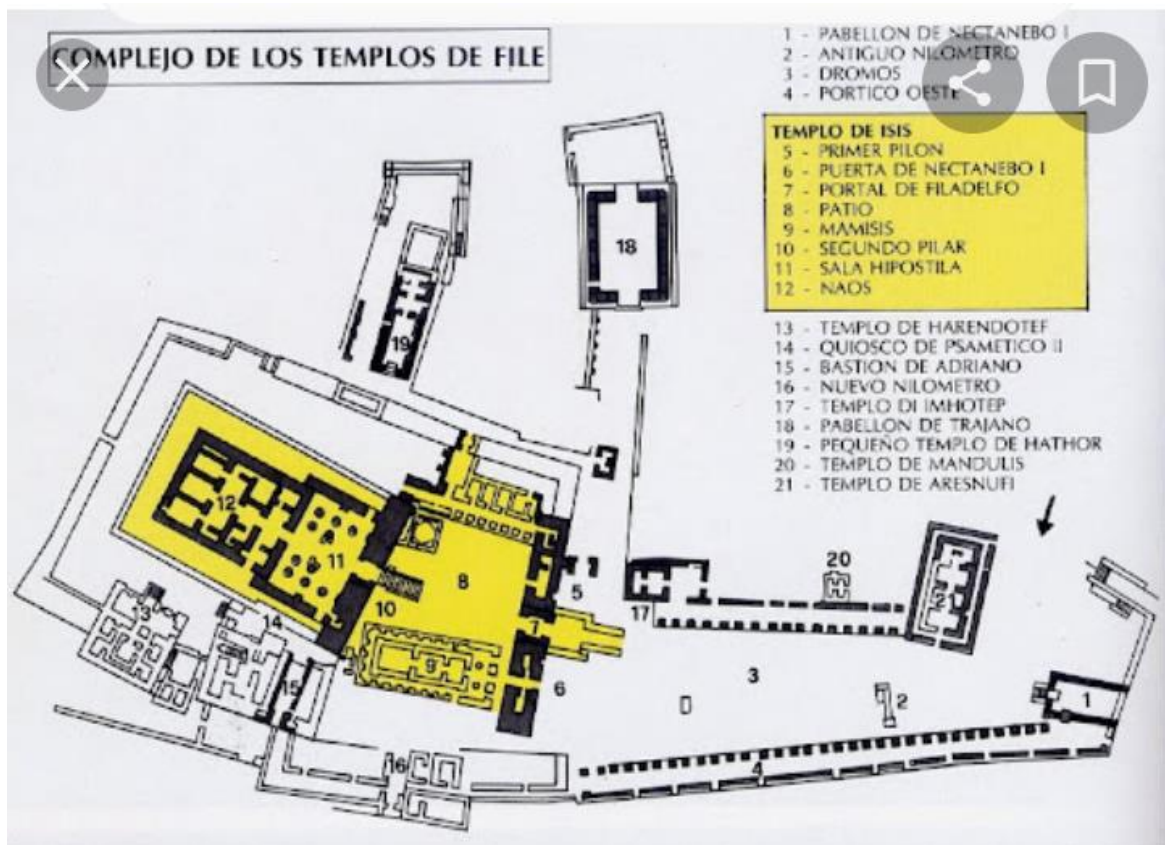
Tempel of Isis in Philae.

Dimensions of the Pylon: 36 x 6 m.

Length = 6 times his Width

Material: Sandstone.

Chronology: Nectanebo I (380 - 362 a. C.)



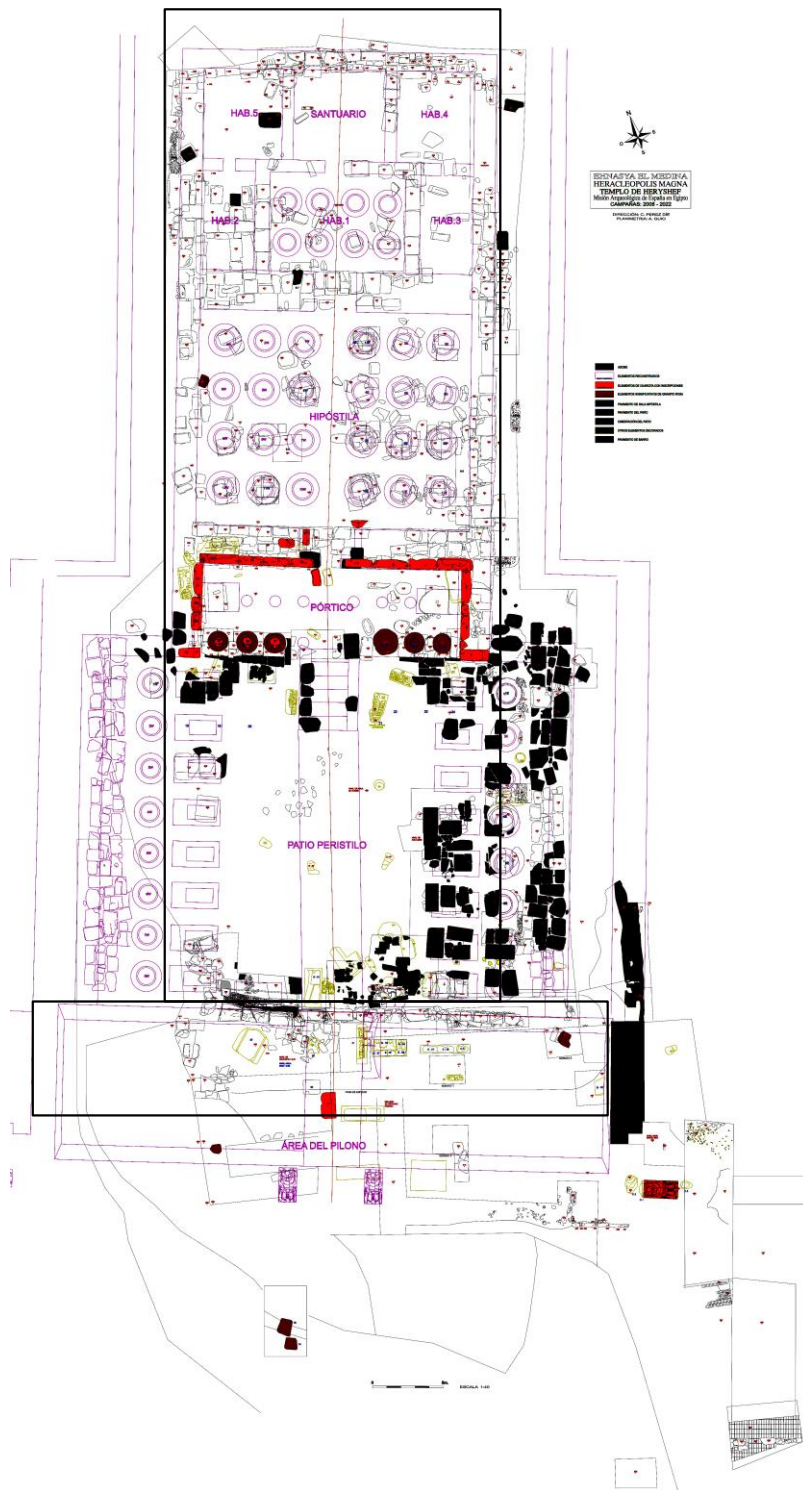
Tempel of Heryshef. (Herakleopolis Magna)

Dimensions of the Pylon: 46 x 9 m. ?

Length = 5 times his Width

Material: ¿adobe ?

Chronology: Tutmosis III and Ramsés II.



5. 2. CONCLUSIONS

From this analysis we could conclude that in general the pylons of Heryshet Temple keep the normal proportions: the Length are approximately 6 times his Width. According these dimensions we can suppose that the Pylon of Heryshet Temple could have 46 meters Length x 9meters of width.

For this, the stones found in the sondage 3 does, in the east area of the pylon not belong to the basement of the Pylon, but of any floor or pavement of other room.

II CLEANING THE “THIRD INTERMEDIATE PERIOD NECROPOLIS” IN ORDER TO FIND OUT THE PLACE OF THE MISSING STONES RECORDED IN THE “REGISTER BOOK”.³

According to the Instructions of SCA we have proceed to the cleaning of a speciphicárea of the Necropolis of Third Intermediate Period in order to found the place in whichwe put the Stone after the discovering in 1984 and 1986, inside the necropolis.

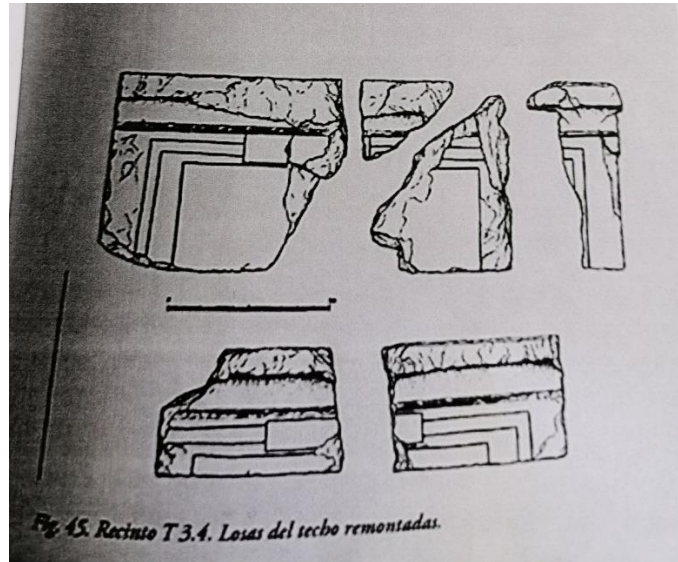


Necropolis before cleaning

First at all the Spanish and Egyptian team with Mr. Walid in charge of this work went to the Egyptian magazine in Ehnasya in order to look for this object, but we cannot find them.

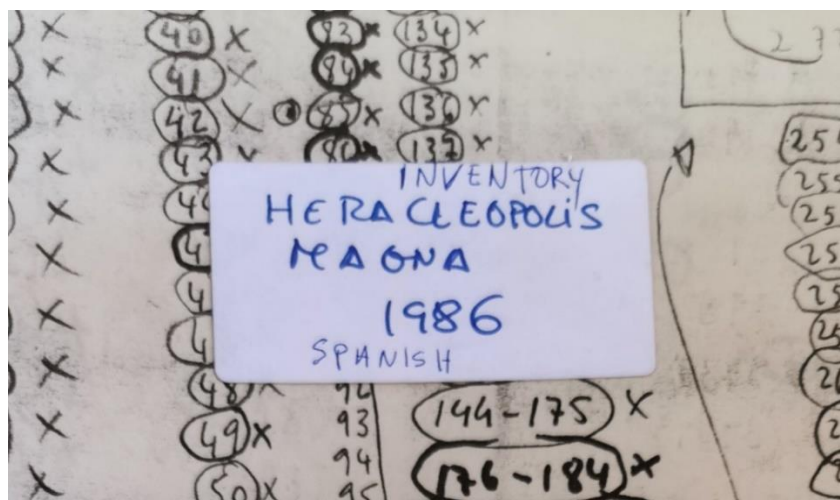
³ Conducted by M.Carmen Pérez Die and the Inspector Walid Mohamedin Ahmed

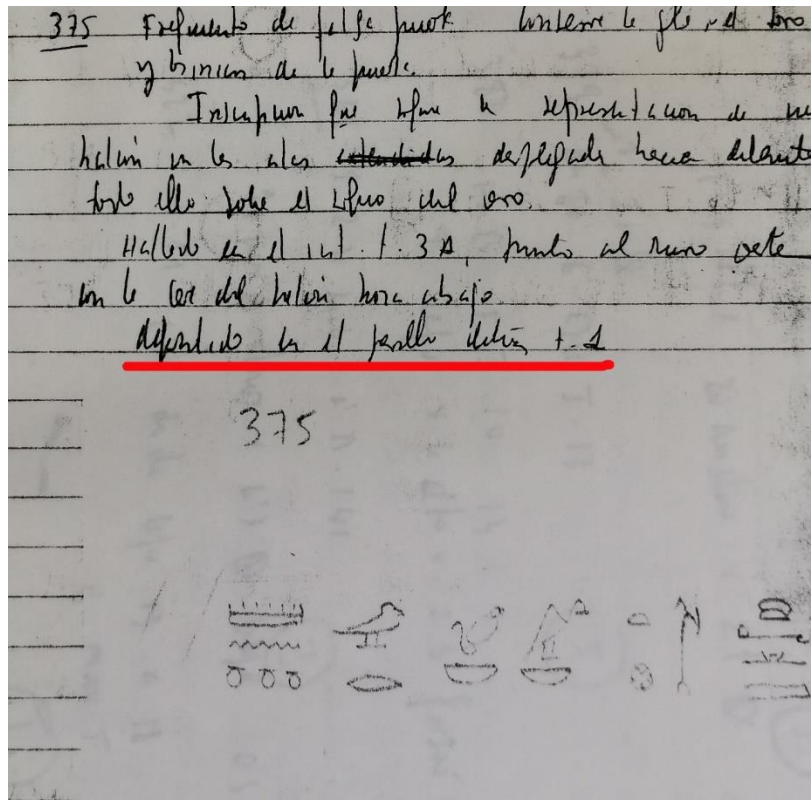
These elements are



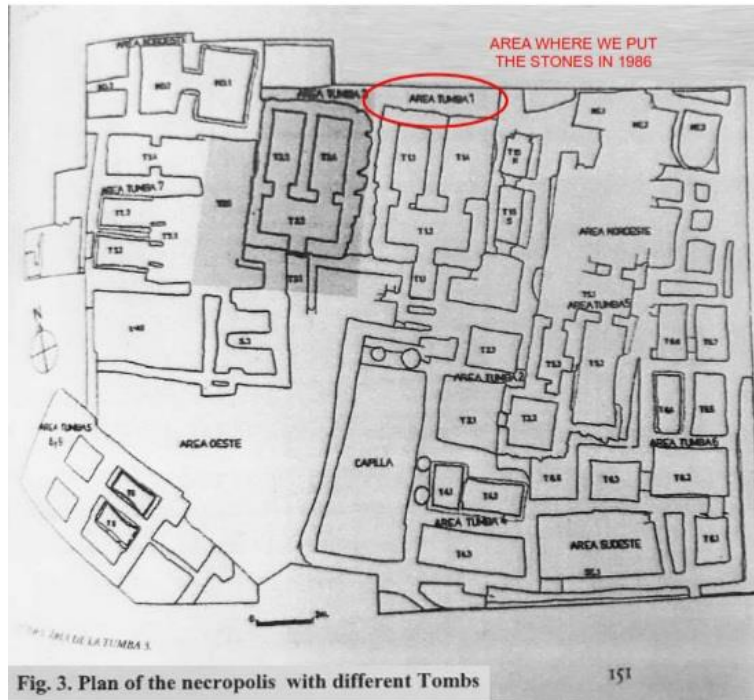
1.- They consist in several Stone with inscriptions, with the form of a false door, belonging to the roof of the tomb number 3, and fallen down inside this tomb, around the sarcophagi

In the Inventory of Spanish Mission of 1986, It was noted all these stones were deposited in the south corridor of Tombe nº 1, according the instruction of the Inspector of his year.





Spanish Inventory of 1986



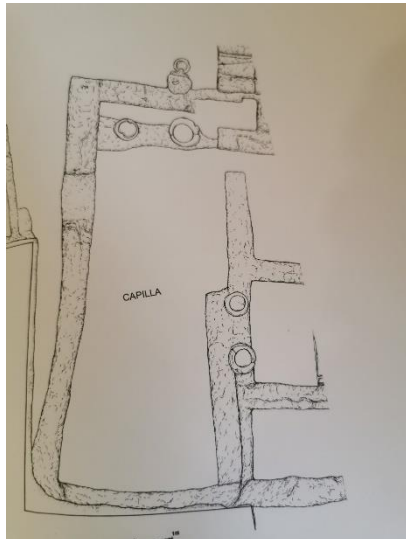
In the campaign of 2021, the area around the tombs number 1 and 3 has been cleaned. And in the campaign of 2022 The Inspector Mr. Walid cleaned again this place, but he did not find anything.



Place where we put the stones in 1986 Now it is empty, and the Stones have disappeared



2, Two Artifacts. A libation Stone and a Rounded Pile with two Holes of limestone was found into the Chapel or Temple of the Necropolis in front of Tomb 1. In 1984, this Stone was left “in Situ” In front of tomb number 1, according the Instruction of our Inspector.



Libation pile rounds and Stone rounded with holes



Place where the two object were disposed in 1984 . Cleaned in 2022

Mr. Walid cleaned a part of the necropolis, paid by Spanish mission. After the efforts of findings the stones in 2021 and in 2022 and therefore fulfilling achieving all the requirements after cleaning the 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. THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SPANISH MISSION IS FINISHED.

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

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





Necropolis of Third Intermediate Period After Revolution, supports of ceilings of tombs