

SECOND PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE HUNGARIAN EXCAVATION IN THEBES, TOMB N° 32 (SEASON 1984)

PROGRESS OF THE WORK

The *Hungarian Mission in Thebes* of the Eötvös University in Budapest started its second season on the 24th October, 1984. The season's work which was finished on the 10th of December, was a continuation of the excavation begun in 1983.¹ The staff of the Mission was as follows: Prof. L. Kákósy Field Director, Dr. E. Gaál Epigraphist, Dr. I. Kiszely Physical Anthropologist, Z. Fábíán Epigraphist, T. Bács Pottery Expert, E. Egyed Surveyor, Site Recorder, J. G. Szalay Physical Anthropologist (University of Lund), A. Zboray Photographer

The Egyptian Antiquities Department was represented by Inspector Talat Abd el-Aziz.

During the first season we completed the cleaning of Room I and of the first section (II/a) of Room II in TT 32, constructed at the time of Ramesses II. In 1984 we resumed work in Room II. Although the intrusive burials were in a badly destroyed condition it clearly emerged that, as Room I, it was reused from Dyn. XXI onwards. Fragments of two mummies were found above each other in section II/b. Another mummy was discovered in the side-room of the small shaft starting from the floor of section II/a. The latter mummy, which was well preserved, displayed the mummification method characteristic of Dyn. XXI: the viscera were wrapped in linen parcels and put into the body.² The cleaning of this shaft was completed but no real evidence point

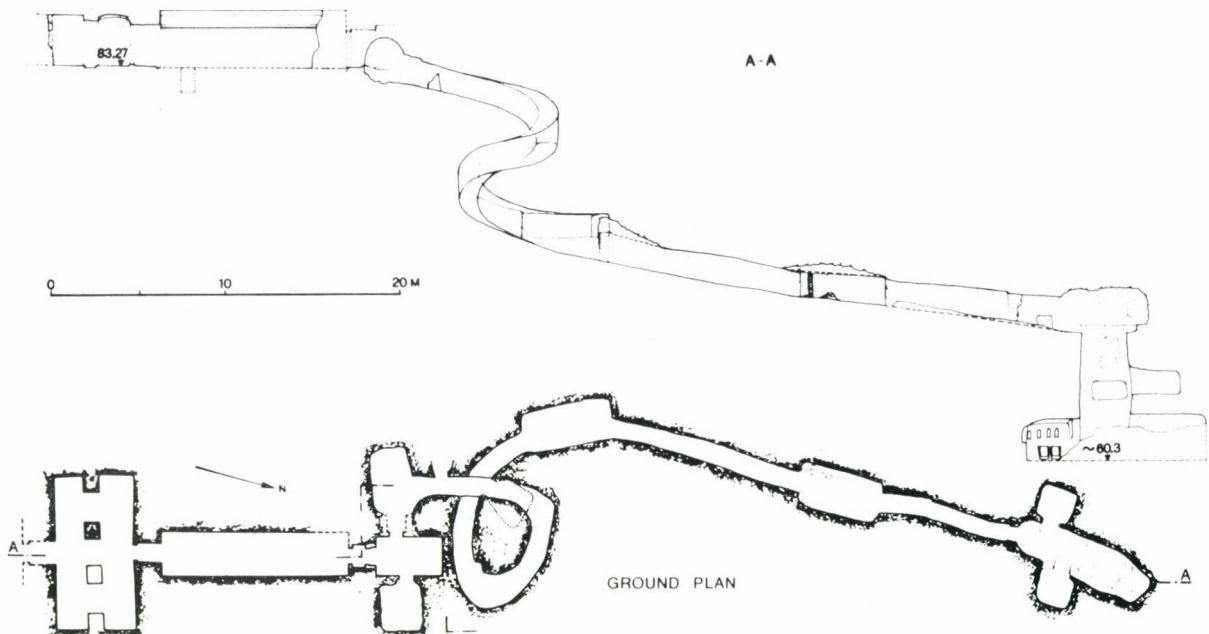


Fig. 1. Theban Tomb 32. Cross section and ground plan
(The plans were drawn by E. Egyed)

¹The First Preliminary Report was published in *ActaArchHung* 37 (1985).

²*K. Martin* LÄ III, 317.

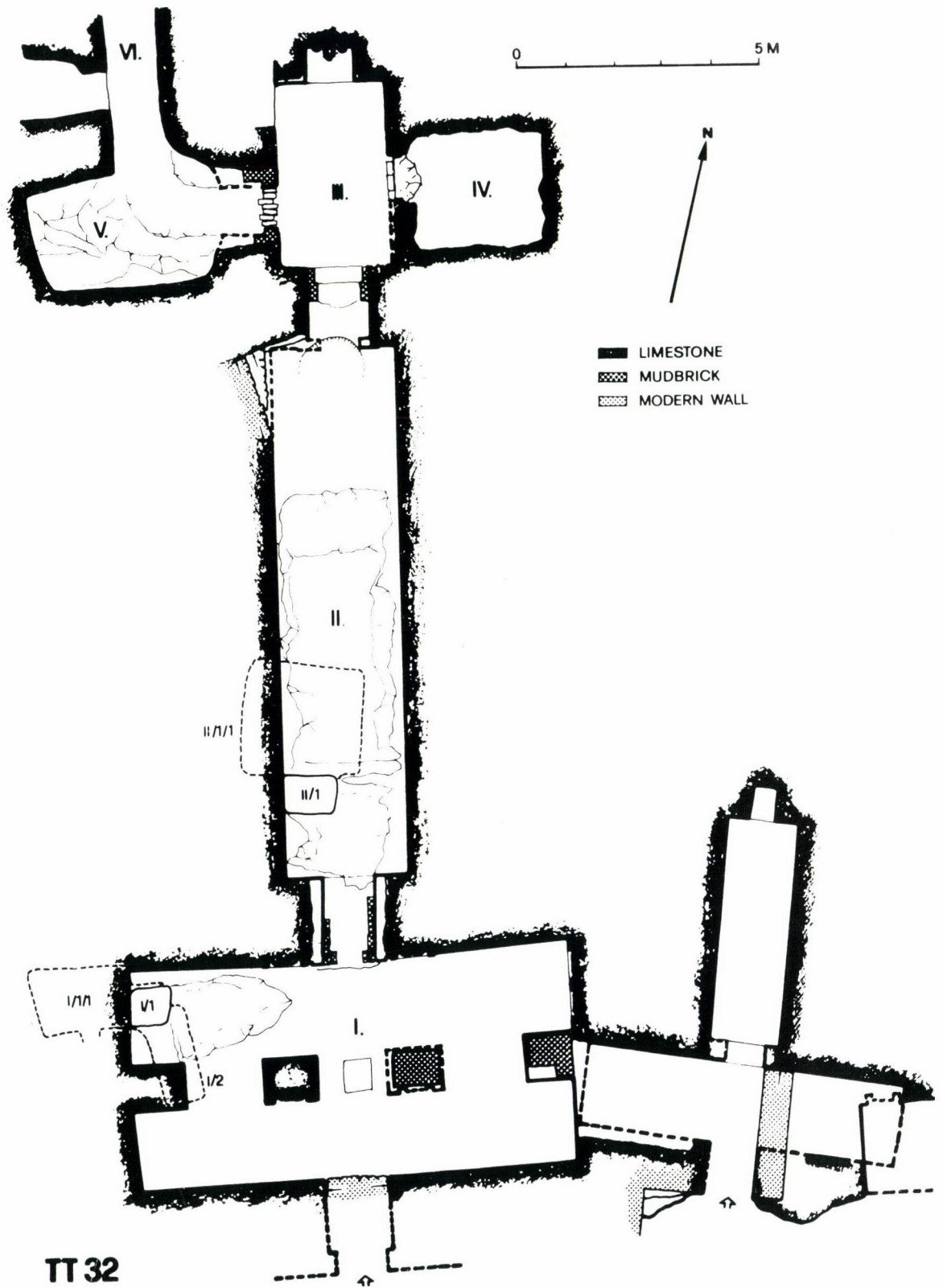


Fig. 2. Theban Tomb 32. Rooms I-V

to the fact that this was the *original* or intended resting place of the mummy. We are safe in assuming that the mummy and the fragment of a coffin of the XXIst dynasty may have been thrown there by later inhabitants of the tomb, when the shaft served also as a waste-pit.

Remarkable discoveries were made in Room III covered by a large pile of debris. The roof of this room has been almost completely destroyed, in all probability by tomb robbers in the antiquity. When the debris had been removed, at first a niche carved into the rock emerged (*Fig. 4*). It contained the figures of Isis, Osiris and Horus carved into the natural rock, as well as the adoring figure of Djehutimes on the side wall (*Fig. 5*), the latter in sunk relief. The figures of the gods are badly damaged, but the inscriptions are well preserved and also the original painting is partly visible. A short prayer is written on the wall surface in front of the figure of Djehutimes, asking Osiris for the "sweet breeze of the north wind". The ceiling of the niche is decorated with white stars on a blue background.

After the discovery of the niche, we found a handsome limestone statue in the debris. Although it was found pushed aside to the western side-wall, its original position had probably been at the rear wall, under the niche with the gods. The statue represents the owner of the tomb, Djehutimes, in the company of his wife, Isis, and their son, Amenmes. We shall return to this statue below (*Fig. 6*).

Three mummies were buried in Room III. One of them in the SW corner was lying prone. A mummy in the center of the room had a green glazed shabti as funerary equipment. It may with some probability be dated to Dyn. XXX.

Room III is flanked by two small chambers, one on the east and one on the west. The entrance of the eastern chamber (Room IV) was entirely covered by debris, thus we only discovered it in the second season. It is an unfinished room, and its roughly hewn-out rock walls do not bear any kind of decoration. In the western side-wall of Room III there is a roughly cut opening at a height of about 1,5 m from the floor and it leads into a side-complex of two rooms. At least one mummy found here can be attributed to the XXIst dynasty (fragments of coffins display the style of this period). A number of skeletal remains may on the other hand originate from the Coptic period or even later. The side complex seems to continue into the mountain but we stopped the work here because of the danger of the collapse of the ceiling. It remains at any rate uncertain whether this side complex was cut out during Dyn. XXI from Tomb 32; its architectural features would rather suggest the existence of a separate entrance not yet discovered. The wall to Tomb 32 was perhaps broken through by tomb robbers.

Room V makes a rather strange impression. The badly damaged walls and the ceiling are painted with scenes and with inscriptions in vertical columns. The largest of the pictures represents a funerary procession led by the "scribe of the House of Life" Khaemipet ($H^c - m - Ip - t$) and closed by Djehutimes himself. Above it a vignette to Book of the Dead chapter 153 can be seen ("Chapter for

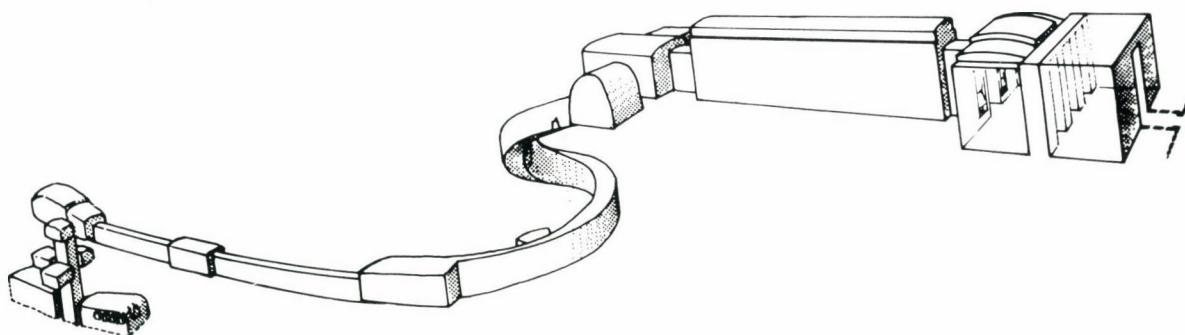


Fig. 3. Theban Tomb 32, View from the West



Fig. 4. Niche of statues carved into the rock (Room III)

escaping the net"). Under a flying *ba* the net is held by two demons. Another picture may represent two mourners, as indicated by the gestures of the figures. The entrance to the tunnel (Room VI/a—b—c) is surmounted by another remarkable scene: a man, probably Djehutimes, is shown before a lion-headed demon with a knife. The picture is partly destroyed, so there may originally have been three demons represented there.

The inscriptions in Room V written in black are badly faded, they will be studied in detail in the following seasons. Beginnings of new passages are marked by words written in red. Some of the columns are unfinished.

The style of the pictures, full of movement and emotion, stands in sharp contrast to the static solemnity of Room I and II. The decorations for the first two rooms and those of Room V were obviously designed by different artists.

Room VI is a long tunnel (65,69 m) going down into the mountain. In its first section it slopes steeply and turns full circle like a spiral (*Fig. 1, 3*). It has three side-chambers, one in the first section (Room VII) and two near the big shaft (Room VIII and IX). Two sections of the tunnel are enlarged to form rooms. Also two small niches, built of brick have been found. Mudbrick constructions seem to have had a variety of uses in different parts of the tomb. Moreover, numerous stamped bricks came to light in the tunnel. The stamps, with titles and name of the owner of the tomb, will be studied by E. Gaál.

The cleaning of the lower section (Room VI/c) of the tunnel could not be completed. From the big shaft the debris is now partly removed but we did not yet reach the bottom. In the first season three side rooms of the shaft were observed (Rooms XI, XII and XIII) a fourth one was discovered in 1984 (Room XIV). In addition to these four rooms, the burial chamber can also be reached from the shaft. To our present knowledge, this is the deepest part of the tomb. Although the cleaning in this chamber has also made some progress, much work remains to be done here. The difficult working-conditions in the shaft and the burial chamber permit only cautious progress of the work. The baskets filled with debris were lifted with a pulley. Notwithstanding all the difficulties, the study of the two granite sarcophagi of the owner and his wife can begin. The finds (shab-tis, fragments of intrusive coffins) in the burial chamber and in the shaft made it evident that this lower part of the tomb was reused from Dyn. XXI, too. The analysis of the fragments of mummies and skeletal remains found in the burial chamber (J. G. Szalay) revealed that at least twenty bodies were buried there in the course of time.

Beside archaeological routine work, special researches have been launched. Some inscriptions were studied by Z. Fábrián. He made preliminary tracings of walls in Room I. E. Gaál studied the impressions on the funerary cones³ and the stamped bricks. All the stamped funerary cones found up to now can be dated, perhaps with one single exception, to the Late Period. One of them bears the name *I^chms* and royal titulary which may refer either to the XVIIIth or to the XXVIth dyn. As proved by their archaeological context, the funerary cones in Tomb 32 belonged to the funerary equipment of intrusive burials and were certainly not used for wall-decoration.

T. Bács started to process pottery data from the point of view of typology and chronology. While in some cases sherds occurred in a stratigraphied context, the dating can in most cases be established on stylistical and typological bases. The material extends from the New Kingdom up to the Arabic Period. The bulk of the material consists of undecorated utility wares, but also a number of painted potsherds were discovered. One painted sherd is of particular interest, it is undoubtedly a Mycenaean import and may be dated to the LH III/B period.⁴

³ Cf. *R. Hari's* recent paper *Société d'Égyptologie* Genève, Bulletin 8 (1983) 51—57; *A. Eggebrecht* LÄ II, 857—859.

⁴ On Mycenaean pottery in Thebes: M. R. BELL, *ASAE* 68 (1982) 143—163.



Fig. 5. Djehutimes adoring Osiris (Room III)

The examination of the mummies, started in 1983, was continued by Dr. I. Kiszely and J. G. Szalay during the second season. It is worth mentioning that besides the human remains a mummified body of a bird, probably a falcon, further a head of an ibis (burial chamber) and the hand of a monkey (Room I) have also been found.

With the exception of some still uncleaned parts of the tomb, an exact survey could be achieved by E. Egyed. After fixing the position of the tomb on the ordnance survey map, he drew up the ground-plans and sections of the majority of the rooms. We should note that the difference in level between the original entrance and the burial chamber is 23 m.

THE MOST IMPORTANT FINDS

During the first and the second season the expedition's interest focused first of all on the finds contemporary with the tomb, i.e. the reign of Ramesses II. Unfortunately enough, they constituted a very small quantity in comparison to the mass of the Late Period material.

One of the most important finds of the 1984 season was the statue of the Djehutimes family (*Fig. 6*). Most regrettably, the upper half of the nearly lifesize limestone statue is badly damaged. The head of the two main figures are missing and also the face of the son is broken away. Some additional fragments were found later, not enough, however, to allow a complete reconstruction.



Fig. 6. Statue representing Djehutimes, his wife and their son (Room III)



Fig. 7. The burial chamber with two granite sarcophagi

Both Djehutimes and his wife, Isis, are seated, their son, Amenmes, is standing between them. Although represented as a child, he has the title "Stable-master of the Residence" (*hry ihw n hnw*) carved on his garment.

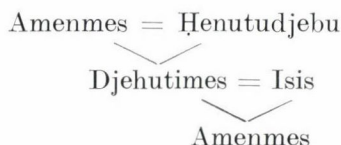
The back support of the statue, formed as a rectangular stela, bears an inscription carved in ten vertical columns. Besides the stereotyped phrases praising the honesty of Djehutimes, there

are two short passages with some bearing upon the history of Thebes under Ramesses II. Although they need further analysis, they seem to allude in a cautious way to some kind of unrest in Thebes at this time.

This was not the only monumental statue in the tomb. After the closing of our second season another statue representing three seated persons has been discovered by E. Gaál in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo. The statue, published originally by G. Daressy⁵ and L. Borckhardt,⁶ shows Djehutimes in the company of his father, Amenmes and his mother, H̄enutudjebu. The statue is in better condition than the one found by our Mission; the heads are preserved, only the faces are disfigured or destroyed. In view of similar damages in the tomb one is led to the conclusion that the attacks on the heads and faces were deliberate, and done by an enemy (or enemies) of Djehutimes. While the texts of the statue found in the tomb deal with the activity of Djehutimes in his lifetime, those of the statue in the Egyptian Museum are about the fortune of the soul in the Netherworld. Unfortunately, Daressy failed to give any information as to how the statue came from Gurna to Cairo at the end of the last century.

The fact that two groups of figures had been placed in the tomb is a further proof for the richness of this official who reached a high position in the temple-economy of Amun.

On the basis of this statue and some inscriptions in the tomb, we can now follow the Djehutimes family for three generations :



The figures of Djehutimes and his wife appear in the neighbouring tomb of Nebsumenu (TT 183), too. This may be an indication for a relationship between the owners. This assumption is further supported by the architectural similarity of the two tombs. The plan in general was the same ; Tomb 32 was however executed on a larger scale.

Other outstanding finds from the age of Ramesses II are the mummiform granite sarcophagi of the owner and his wife. Although they were discovered as early as 1983, their study could be commenced only in 1984, after the heaps of debris had been partly removed from the burial chamber. The right side of the sarcophagus of Isis, placed behind that of Djehutimes, next to the rear wall of the chamber, is still inaccessible. Like on other Ramesside sarcophagi the representations are flanked by the vignette to Book of the Dead, Ch. 161, i.e. the figure of Thoth lifting the hieroglyphic sign of the sky. The Sons of Horus and Anubis are also present to promise protection and corporeal integrity to the deceased. The deceased Djehutimes was also protected by the magic formula : "Re shall live, the turtle shall die."⁷ Both sarcophagi are of the same type. (*Fig. 7.*). The sides are decorated at the head with painted yellow stripes. The lids were smashed by tomb robbers. Numerous fragments, also large pieces, were discovered whilst cleaning the burial chamber.

A strange circumstance is worth mentioning. While the burial chamber, the two sarcophagi and the shaft were rich in shabtis belonging to intrusive burials, not a single completely preserved funerary figurine of the original owners has been found. There are only two fragments, two legs of a fine white-glazed type, that represent the set of shabtis of Djehutimes. On one of them the name can be clearly read. The other one is of identical type.

⁵ RecTrav 14 (1893) 26—27.

⁶ Statuen und Statuetten von Königen und Privatleuten (CG) Teil 2, Berlin 1925, 94—96 (no. 549).

⁷ A. GUTBUB, *Hommages à Serge Sauneron I*,

Le Caire 1979, 397; *H. G. Fischer* LÄ V, 627—628; A demon with turtle head: L. PANTALACCI, BIFAO 83 (1983) 297—311.



Fig. 8. Anubis or Duamutet on a mummy-wrapping

One of the rarer Ramesside finds is a small rectangular piece of wood (l. 20.5 cm) inscribed with the name of the owner's wife, *3s.t.* It was found in Room II and may have been part of a chest.

The largest group of finds contemporary with Djehutimes are the stamped bricks mentioned above.

A fragment of a limestone statuette of fine workmanship represents a seated woman (h. 14 cm) called *I^ch-R^c* and probably dedicated by her son. It may originally have belonged to the equipment of another tomb. Or was the owner of the statue a distant relative of Djehutimes? The statuette was found in Room II.

It cannot be decided as yet, whether a certain Amenhotep who was an official in the temple of Amun (the title is damaged) had any relationship with the owner of Tomb 32. His name was discovered on a sandstone statue-base (l. 44 cm, w. 21.5 cm) with a pair of feet and the foot-part of Osiris (?). There must have been another figure on the other side of the god, which broke off. Amenhotep is called in the inscription: "Osiris, the praised one (*hsy*) of the Lords of Eternity (*nḥḥ*)". The base was found in the first section of the tunnel (VI/a).

The bulk of the finds of the second season can be dated to the Third Intermediate Period and the Ptolemaic and Roman periods. Among others, a number of shabtis came from the burial chamber and the shaft. They are made of unbaked clay and decorated with green paint. While some of them are of a rather good quality, the inscriptions written with black ink are difficult to read; the carelessly written signs have often faded away. They may be dated to Dyn. XXI–XXII.

Two limestone offering tables may have belonged to Ptolemaic burials of people who stood somewhat higher than the poorest social group.

As mentioned in the first Report, a part of a wooden stela with the text of a Decree of Gods was found in Room I in 1983. Another fragment came to light during the second season in Room III. Although a small piece (h. 14 cm, w. 5.5 cm), it is still of high importance since it testifies to the popularity of the Decrees in Ptolemaic Thebes. At least two intrusive burials in Tomb 32 were provided, then, with a painted stela of this kind which promised a safe entrance of the soul into the Netherworld.

In the mass of mummy wrappings several pieces bearing hieratic inscriptions have been found. A piece of mummy shroud is decorated in black ink with the nice figure of a jackal-headed god, Anubis or rather Duamutef (41 × 20 cm). (*Fig. 8.*)

A detailed description of the Late Period finds is reserved for the final publication of the tomb. Unfortunately, the secondary burials were even more destroyed in the rear parts of the tomb than in Room I, consequently, the exact archaeological context could be established only in very few cases.

Much work remained to be done for the third season. Apart from the last phase of the cleaning, there remains a difficult task to be solved: the original entrance of the tomb must be made accessible. On account of the immense mass of earth and debris accumulated outside the entrance and hiding the court of the tomb, we can expect to be working there for a long time.

To close this report the Mission has to express its gratitude to all those institutions which have shown an interest in the excavation and supported it also with financial aid. These are the Eötvös University in Budapest, the Ministry of Culture, the George Soros Foundation, the Hungarian Media Advertising Bureau and the Innovation Fund, as well as many firms and companies. The bulk of our equipment was put at our disposal by the Archaeological Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

An expression of appreciation is due to H. E. Dr. Ahmed Kadry, president of the Egyptian Antiquities Organization, for showing a personal interest and providing all facilities throughout the course of the work. We are indebted also to General Director Mohammed Saghir, Director Mohammed Nasr and our Inspector Mr. Talat Abd el-Aziz for their kind assistance.