

COMMUNICATIO

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REPORT ON THE HUNGARIAN MISSION'S ACTIVITY IN THE PYRAMID OF TT 32 AND IN THEBAN TOMB OF AMENHOTEP

(SEASON 2000)

I

The Hungarian Mission resumed its work in TT 32 on the 20th February 2000. The excavation was closed on 14th March 2000. The Field Director was László Kákósy, the staff consisted of the following members: Gábor Schreiber egyptologist, Zoltán Bartos egyptologist, Zsolt Vasáros surveyor, János Kárpáti surveyor and Károly Kozma photographer. (The photos in the present article were made by him). The Egyptian Antiquities Organisation was represented by inspector Ramadan Ahmed Aly.

Like in the previous season in 1998, (there was a break in the work of the Mission in 1999) we made some investigations on the upper slope of the El-Khokha hill but there was work on other spots as well. As mentioned in the earlier reports, we have succeeded in discovering the pyramid of TT 32 near to the top of El Khokha in 1997. It is situated on a height of about 16 m above the entrance of the tomb.

This year our efforts were concentrated on the small chapel of the pyramid (inner room $2,32 \times 2,52$ m) with decorated walls situated in the central part of the building.¹ By analogy with the pyramids on Dira Abu'l Naga,² it must have been a vaulted chamber. Unfortunately, the ceiling and the upper portions of the walls of the chapel came to be largely destroyed by a later intrusive burial dug into the pyramid behind the chapel. Later this burial, as shown by our excavation in the present season, was plundered. We have discovered only scattered bones, mummy wrappings and several shabtis there.

From the fragments of the decoration of the chapel in the pyramid it can be inferred that the walls were decorated with paintings representing the owner of the tomb and his wife (side walls) and with texts taken from Book of the Dead chapter 17³ (vaulted ceiling). The lot of small fragments make a complicated jigsaw puzzle. Despite the considerable difficulties, two members of our Mission Zoltán Bartos and Zsolt Vasáros have restored some parts of the inscription and of the main scene.

In order to avoid the further decay of this remarkable mud brick building we have launched in the past seasons a combined excavation and conservation project. The architecturally most important as well as the fragile parts of the pyramid are now covered with new mud brick layers.

¹ Pyramids of the New Kingdom in Thebes: E. DZIOBEK: Die Gräber des Vezirs User-Amun: Theben Nr. 61 und 131. AV 84. Mainz 1994, 59; E. DZIOBEK, MDAIK 45 (1989, 121; Fr. KAMPP, MDAIK 50 (1994) 177-8 (Parennofer); K. SEYFRIED, MDAIK 46 (1990) 350-3 Tf. 59 (small building above TT 106); E. HOFMANN-K. J. SEYFRIED, MDAIK 51 (1995) 29 (TT 166, Ramose). Pyramid with painted chapel: L. HABACHI-P. ANUS: Le tombe de Naï à Gournet Maraëy (No 271). MIFAO 97. Le Caire 1977, 11-16, fig. 4, 8, 11, 12, 13, pl. II, VII.

² These buildings are as yet unpublished. Photos: K. C. SEELE: The Tomb of Tjanefer at Thebes. OIP 86. Chicago 1959, 3, pl. 1 A/B.

³ A. WESTENDORF (ed.): Urkunden des ägyptischen Altertums V. Leipzig 1915. Göttinger Totenbuchstudien. Beiträge zum 17. Kapitel. Wiesbaden 1975; U. RÖSSLER-KÖHLER: k Kapitel 17 des ägyptischen Totenbuches. GOF 1. Wiesbaden 1979 (Cf. U. LUFT: Bibliotheca Orientalis 39 (1982) 521-526; U. RÖSSLER-KÖHLER: Bemerkungen zum Totenbuch-Tradierung während des Neuen Reiches und bis Spätzeitbeginn. Religion und Philosophie im Alten Ägypten. Festgabe für Ph. Derchain. Leuven 1991, 277-291; JÜRGENS, GM 172 (1999) 29-46.

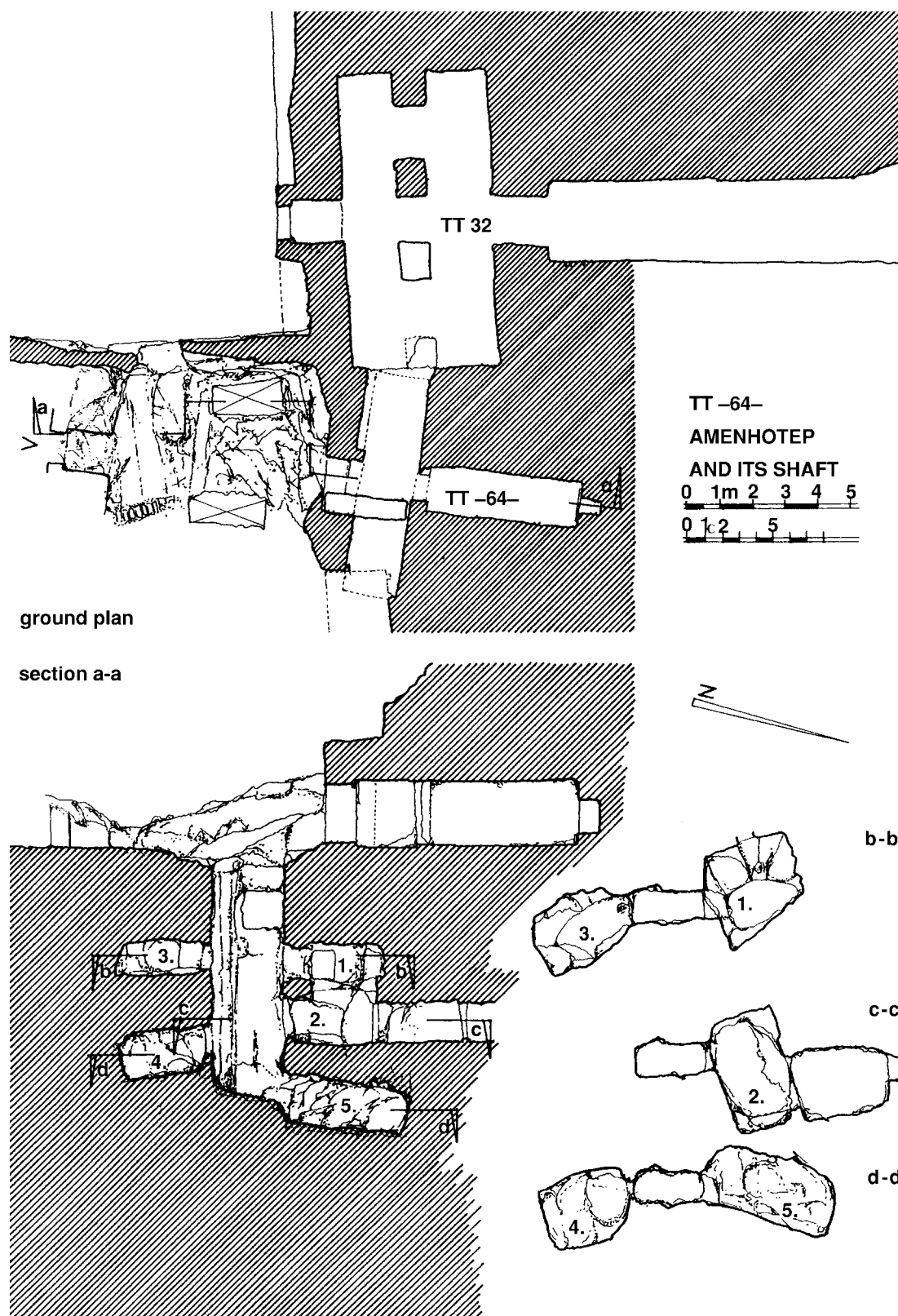


Fig. 1. Plan of the tomb of Amenhotep (By Zs. VASÁROS)



Fig. 2. Door jamb of Amenhotep

II

The second project was again joined with the work of 1998. We continued the excavation in the area in front of the former official entrance to TT 32. (This entrance actually leads to tomb no. – 64 – in the new numbering system of Fr. Kampp.⁴ It is situated to the east of TT 32 between the latter and TT 183.⁵ (Fig. 1) The owner of the small tomb (which was later united by tomb robbers – who destroyed the dividing rock wall – with TT 32), was the 'overseer of the phyle' (*hry z3*) Amenhotep. The texts are almost completely destroyed in the transversal and the longitudinal chambers, only some rests remained preserved on the ceiling and on the top of the walls. Parts of the limestone door jambs with the name of Amenhotep have been discovered in the courtyard of TT 183 (Nebsumenu). The excavator of TT 183, (Mission of the University in Heidelberg) K. J. Seyfried was so kind as to hand over to our mission these fragments. (Fig. 2)

TT 64 – can be dated to the second half of Dyn. 18. In one of the inscriptions (longitudinal room, ceiling) the word '*Amun*' was erased from the name of the owner during the Amarna Period.

To the west of the entrance of the tomb we have found in 1997 a shaft filled with rubble. The level of chamber IV reached in 1998 did not represent the end of the shaft which proved to be deeper and a further chamber was revealed in the northern wall of the shaft. During season 2000 we finally discovered the bottom of the shaft provided with five side chambers.

The chambers are chiselled into the limestone on the north and south sides of the shaft. They are placed beneath each other thus forming a construction of two (south) and three (north) storeys respectively. The five side-chambers of the shaft contained rests of the original 18–19th Dyn. burials as well as at

⁴ M. KAMPP: Die thebanische Nekropole. Mainz 1996.

⁵ Tomb of Nebsumenu, 'steward in the house of Ramesses I: B. PORTER–R. L. B. MOSS, assisted by E. W. BURNEY: Topog-

raphical Bibliography of Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphic Texts, Reliefs and Paintings. I. The Theban Necropolis, part 1, Private Tombs. 2nd edition. Oxford 1974, 289–290.

least one secondary burial of the Roman Age. Chamber IV. of the shaft contained fragments of a wooden coffin bearing the name of Baketmut the wife of Nebsumenu,⁶ the owner of TT 183 (Dyn. 19) adjacent from the east to Amenthotep's tomb. This find was handed over to the German Mission working in the tomb of Nebsumenu. The presence of this fragment in the tomb Amenthotep raises difficult questions. Was the tomb of Amenthotep partly usurped by the Nebsumenu family, or was the coffin-fragment thrown there by tomb robbers? It must be noted that Nebsumenu when building the court of his tomb occupied the eastern portion of the transversal room of Amenthotep.

The courtyard in front of the entrance was partly cleaned. The rock wall bears a funerary inscription containing the name of Tuia, mother of Nebsumenu,⁷ again an indication that Amenthotep's tomb was at least partly occupied by Nebsumenu. The text will be published by the German Mission.

III

Mr. Gábor Schreiber was engaged in a special project aiming at making a comprehensive work on the pottery fragments with floral decorations in Hellenistic style found in and around TT 32 during the past fifteen years. Moreover, he took a stock of the mass of pottery fragments found in the tomb Amenthotep during the last seasons. Some big pots and painted vases could be restored. (*Fig. 3–4*). They can be used to establish the chronology of the multiple burials in the side chambers of Amenthotep's tomb.

IV

Our archaeological work was accompanied by consolidation activity as well. A hole of the façade of the tomb of Djehutymes stopped up several years ago, was strengthened this year by another layer of stones.

Another problem was posed by the loose wall of debris bordering the inner court of TT 32 which started to crumble down. We have built a stone wall to bring the process of crumbling to a stop.

V

In the course of the excavation several remarkable finds came to light. The most important of them are as follows.

1. Shabti of a woman made of two moulds. It displays in its composition similar traits to those of the so-called concubines. The hands are crossed over the chest. A bag is suspended in the middle of the back. As a remarkable feature, a definite relief is given to the buttocks. Crooked feet and ankles.⁸ Uninscribed (*Fig. 5–6*).

Terracotta. Red ware. Height 18 cm, width 5,5 cm, thickness (at the breast) 3,7 cm.

Found in the debris north of the chapel of the pyramid of TT 32

Date Dyn. 19

2. Shabti of a man with polychrome decorations. The ground colour being yellow, the wig, the eyes, the inscription and the toes are black painted. The *wesekh* collar is yellow, red and black. The hands are crossed over the chest. The statue bears an inscription (incomplete version of Book of the Dead 6) consisting of six horizontal lines and a vertical column.⁹ Good modelling, fine details.

⁶ *Ibidem* 289.

⁷ *Ibidem*.

⁸ H. M. STEWART: Egyptian Shabtis. Shire Egyptology 23. Princes Risborough 1995, 43; H. D. SCHNEIDER Shabtis I. Leiden 1977, part III pl. 44–45.

⁹ The present version displays the features of those in use during the late 18th and early 19th dyn. E. g. SCHNEIDER part II 3.1.1.8 (p. 37–8, pl. 85), 3.1.1.13 (p. 38, pl. 85), etc. The text seems to be related to the version of the shabtis of King Sethos I (*ibid.* p. 32–4, pl. 83–4).



Fig. 3–4. Pottery from the shaft of Amenhotep



Fig. 5–6. Shabti of a woman found near the pyramid of TT 32



Fig. 7–8. Wooden shabti with polychrome decorations

The statue bears the name *Mn M3' t R' (hr) shpr*¹⁰ (Men-Maat-Re-Her-Sekheper). (Fig. 7–8).
Wood. Height 20 cm, width 5,3.

Found in chamber IV of the shaft of Amenhotep

Date 19th Dynasty.

As indicated by the basilophorous name, the statue was made under Sethos I or during the reign of Ramesses II.¹¹ Shabtis of the early 19th Dynasty follow in their style the patterns of the late Dyn. 18.¹² The piece belongs to a well-known but not very common type of the New Kingdom shabtis.¹³

¹⁰ The full form of the name with *hr* was found on the lid of a shabti-box. The name can be translated as 'Men-Maat-Re is creating'. A name of similar type (*Wsr-M3' t r' shpr*) H. RANKE: *Die altägyptische Personennamen I*. Glückstadt 1935, 319 (6); On other names with the component *shpr* see H. RANKE: *Die altägyptische Personennamen II*. Glückstadt 1952, 282 (9) 293 (23), (24), 302 (17); H. RANKE: *Die altägyptische Personennamen III*. Glückstadt 1977, 118

¹¹ On ramesside shabtis cf. J. F. AUBERT–L. AUBERT: *Statuettes égyptiennes chaouabtis, ouchebtis*. Paris 1974, 75ff.

¹² AUBERT, 76.

¹³ For relatively close parallels see I. SHAW–P. NICHOLSON: *British Museum Dictionary of Ancient Egypt*. Cairo 1995, fig. on p. 266; H. M. STEWART: 17, fig. 9; H. D. SCHNEIDER *Shabtis I*. Leiden 1977, 3.1.1.18, 3.1.1.27, 3.1.1.35 (Part III pl. 11, 13, 14). Statuettes showing some resemblance to that of Men-Maat-Re-Her-Sekheper cf. P. E. NEWBERRY: *Funerary Statuettes and Model Sarcophagi*. (Cat. Gén.) 3e fasc. Le Caire 1957, pl. XXIV 47664, 47885. On shabtis of the New Kingdom see also J.-L. CHAPPAZ: *Les figurines funéraires égyptiennes du Musée d'Art et d'Histoire et de quelques collections privées*. Genève 1984, 6–7, 21–38.



Fig. 9. Wooden shabti covered with varnish

3. Shabti covered with varnish.¹⁴ The signs of the inscription (Book of the Dead 6) and the wig are black. The varnish, originally transparent, became dark in the course of time which makes the reading difficult. On some parts of the statue the varnish begins to flake off. The hands are crossed over the chest. Some parts of the inscription (one of the standard versions of chapter 6 of the Book of the Dead)¹⁵ are damaged or illegible (The inscriptions of the two statuettes which need a detailed philological analysis will be dealt with in a separate study).

The statue bears the name Jjw... (the second part is broken off). There are many names beginning with Jj...¹⁶ (Fig. 9)

Wood. Height 19 cm, width 5,5 cm, thickness at the rift 3,1 cm

Found in chamber IV of the shaft of Amenhotep

Date probably Dyn. 19.

4. Small shabti of very fine craftsmanship. (Fig. 10–11)

White faience. Height 4,7 cm, width 1,6 cm, thickness 0,7 cm

Tomb of Amenhotep, shaft chamber four

Date Dyn. 18/19.

5. Lower part of a wooden black painted anthropoid coffin.¹⁷ The hieroglyphs are yellow, those of the name of the deceased, Hori (*Hrj*) are greenish-yellow. (Fig. 12)

¹⁴ H. D. SCHNEIDER part 239–40. He suggests that varnish had a magico-religious meaning.

¹⁵ Cf. SCHNEIDER part II 3.1.1.9 (p. 37, pl. 85), 3.1.5.2 (p. 54, pl. 90).

¹⁶ RANKE I, 7–8.

¹⁷ On this type cf. A. NIWINSKI LÄ V. 437. They remain, however, in use also during Dyn. XIX. Cf. J. H. TAYLOR: Egyptian Coffins. *Shire Egyptology* 11. 1989, 32–34.

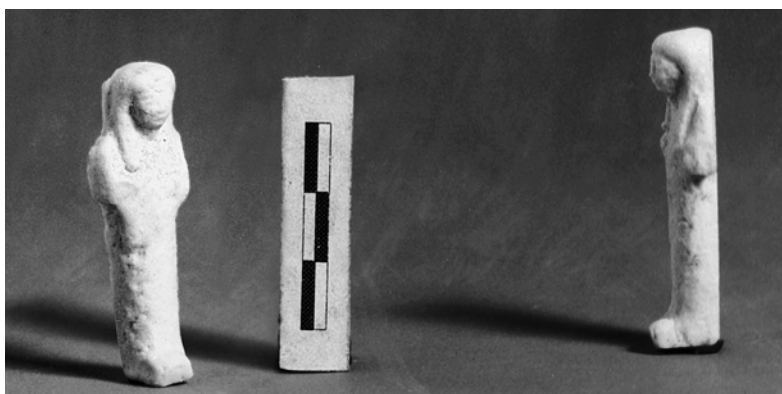


Fig. 10–11. White faience shabti



Fig. 12. Foot part of the coffin of Hori



Fig. 13. Pottery fragment with faces

The first part of the inscription written in a column is missing.

... [*nḥt*] *ntr jmsn n k3' n Ḥrj m' ḥrw*. ... of which god lives. To the *ka* of Hori the justified.'

On the foot part there is a figure of a standing Isis with raised arms. She is flanked by two columns of inscriptions.

1) [*s*] *ḥd ḥrj kf wn 3wj* 'Illumine my face', the rest is corrupted, meaning uncertain.

2) *dd mdw jn 3st 'wj ḥ3t* 'Words spoken by Isis. My arms are behind you.'

44 × 37 cm

Side chamber IV in the shaft of Amenhotep.

6. Pottery fragment restored of nine small pieces

It bears rough sketches of human faces, most likely caricatures made by an artist or a workman (Fig. 13).

Pottery

18,6 × 16,5 cm

Found in the debris of the shaft of the tomb of Amenhotep

7. Playing piece

Spool-shaped gaming piece (small cylindrical piece hollowed out in the middle of the side). It belonged to a *senet* draughtboard.¹⁸

White stone

Height 1,3 cm

Ø on the top 2,1 cm, on the bottom 1,9 cm.

Chamber IV of the shaft of the tomb of Amenhotep

Probably Dyn. 18

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To conclude, I wish to express, also in the name of the Mission, my best thanks to Dr. Gaballa Aly Gaballa General Secretary of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, Dr. Mohammed Saghir General Director of Egyptian Antiquities, Mr. Sabry Abd el-Aziz Khater General Director of the Antiquities in Upper Egypt, Mr. Mohammed Biely Director of Antiquities on the west bank of Luxor as well as to our inspector Mr. Ramadan Ahmed Aly of their kind assistance during our work. My thanks are due to the Hungarian Ministry of Cultural Heritage for its financial support.

¹⁸ Similar pieces: WILLIAM C. HAYES: *The Scepter of Egypt* II. New York, Metropolitan Museum 1959, 199, fig. 113.