

COMMUNICATIO

†L. KÁKOSY

REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE HUNGARIAN MISSION IN 2002 IN THE AREA OF TT 32

The Hungarian Mission (Eötvös University, Budapest) resumed its work in the area surrounding TT 32 on the 17th February 2002. The excavation was closed on 20th April 2002. The Field Director was Professor László Kákósy, the staff consisted of the following members: Gábor Schreiber egyptologist, Orsolya Illés egyptologist, Zsolt Vasáros surveyor, János Kárpáti technician in archaeology, Ádám Makó physical anthropology, Sarolta Bihari surveyor-designer. The Supreme Council of Antiquities was represented by inspector Ramadan Ahmed Aly.

I

In this year's season our team focused its efforts on three main areas of the field.

A

CORRIDOR TOMB I

Our excavation in the previous year led to the discovery of the Ptolemaic entrance to Corridor Tomb I.¹ (In some reports it is called Structure B. Large parts of this tomb were cleared in the years 1991–92, but the work could not be completed by then). The mud brick walls of the vaulted vestibulum of the tomb excavated in 2001 showed that at least on one occasion they needed a rebuilding. Further architectural structures came to light in front of this room in 2002. One of them may be a pylon gateway leading to the open court of this tomb. There was a quadratic mud brick structure on this open court of which no more than the basis remained preserved. It cannot be proved yet that it may have been a small pyramid. (*Figs 1–3*)

During the cleaning work in front of the entrance to the vaulted corridor which leads to the subterranean chambers some small remains of burials were recovered. In addition to scraps of hieratic papyri a roll of papyrus came to light in a recess of the mudbrick wall to the south of the entrance to the subterranean part of the tomb.

The Mission started a restoration work in the vaulted corridor preceding the inner rock-cut parts of Corridor Tomb I. The vaulted mudbrick roof of the corridor needed consolidation and a section (4 m) of it destroyed perhaps already in the late Antiquity was rebuilt by modern mudbrick. We employed an Egyptian master-mason, a specialist of vaults to repair and rebuild the missing part between the two sections of the arch.

B

A narrow strip of the area to the west of the enclosure wall of the outer court of TT 32 was cleaned with the aim of consolidating the high heaps of rubble there. Here we have discovered the burial of an infant in a rectangular wooden box. (See finds). A dry wall made up of stones of different size was built

¹ L. KÁKOSY: 9th preliminary report on the Hungarian excavation in Thebes, Tomb 32. *ActaArchHung* 46 (1994) 21–31;

L. KÁKOSY: 10th preliminary report on the Hungarian excavation in Thebes, Tomb 32. *ActaArchHung* 47 (1995) 3–10.

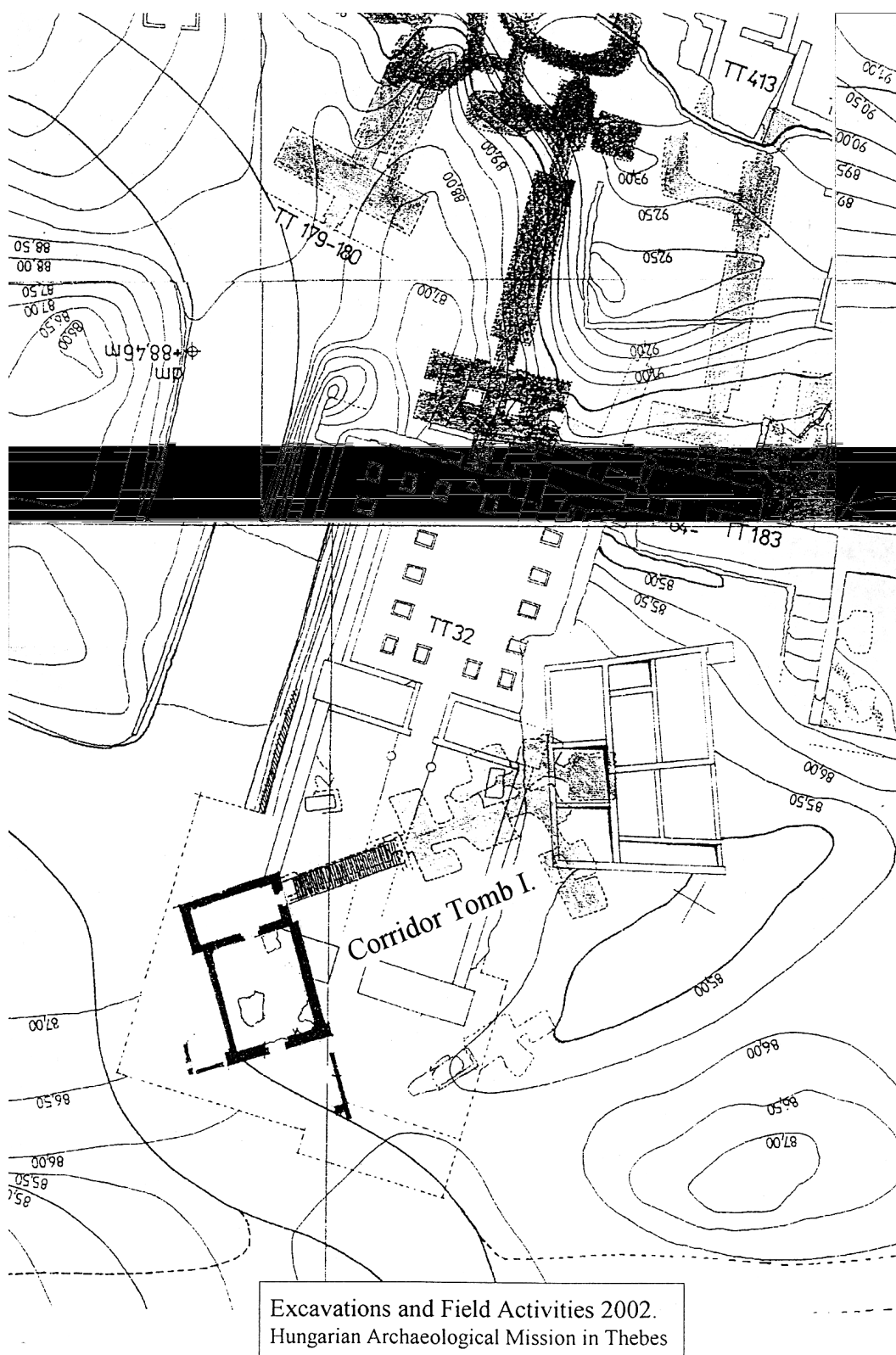


Fig. 1. The excavation area in 2001–2002

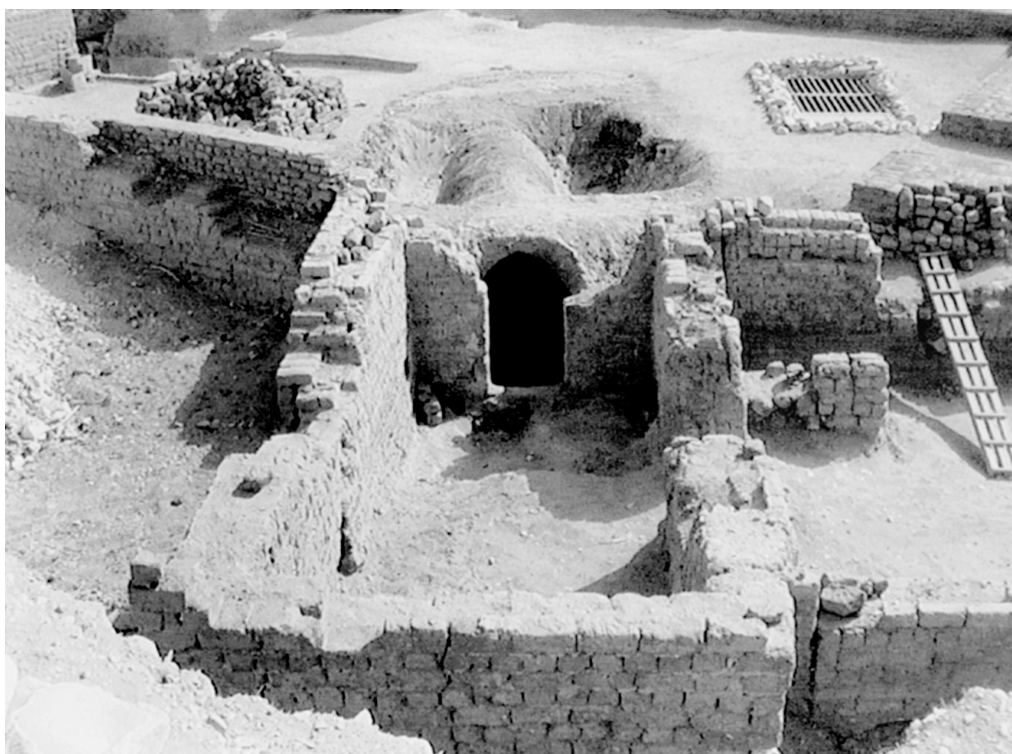


Fig. 2. Entrance to the vaulted corridor



Fig. 3. The open court of Corridor Tomb I

against the loose débris in order to prevent further crumbling of it. This stone wall represents, at the same time, the first step to the large-scale restoration of the tomb, an essential requisite to open it later to the visitors. Such a project can be, however, undertaken only in close cooperation with institutions for the salvage of ancient monuments.

C

With a view of further researches in the forefront of the destroyed pylon of the outer court of TT 32 the excavation area was extended southwards by about 1,5 m.

II: OTHER ACTIVITIES

A

Previous excavations on this site produced a vast quantity of pottery dating from all periods of the tomb's use. It was, therefore, an urgent necessity to get a comprehensive overview of the material. Gábor Schreiber started a sorting of the material, mainly that found in the outer court of TT 32. This huge assemblage of pottery includes coarse domestic vessels, siltware jars, so-called beer jars, bread moulds, late-antique amphoras, containers of oil, plates and some products of foreign origin. Particular attention was focused on the finds coming from Structure G.² A lot of drawings were made of the profiles of pottery fragments (J. Kárpáti).

Considerable progress was made by G. Schreiber in his 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 years.

B

Dr. Á. Makó examined the skeletal material from the excavations in the outer court of TT 32. These were discovered in secondary burials, tombs and shafts. It turned out that 120–130 individuals were entombed in this area, 43 percent women, 57 percent men.

In addition, he analysed a mummy found in the tomb of Amenhotep beside TT 32 in 1998.³ It was a robust male who died in old age. He lost most of his teeth and the sutures on the cranium again suggested a high age. The cerebrum was most probably not removed during the mummification.

As far as pathology is concerned he found in the mummies many cases of dental diseases, like caries, cysta on the mandibula and maxilla.

C

A special project was initiated by Zs. Vasáros aiming at the reconstruction of wooden boxes and furniture. A sorting of the huge material accumulated during the past years is a pressing desideratum in order to have an idea about the funerary furniture⁴ destroyed for the most part by the plunderers.

He also operated our modern digital camera which opened the way for a new-style computerized documentation of the finds.

² See the Preliminary report of 2001.

³ L. KÁKOSY: Report on the Hungarian Mission activity in Tomb 32 (Season 1998). *ActaArchHung* 52 (2001) 223–234.

⁴ See recently J. H. SIBAL: Furniture in Ancient Egypt. In: *Egypt Revealed* March–April 2001, 46–53.



Fig. 4. Funerary cone of Nisut-er-neheh

D

S. Bihari made drawings of the ceiling of the tomb of Amenhotep beside TT 32. The tomb of Amenhotep (Dyn. 18) was excavated by our Mission in the years 1999 and 2000.⁵ The ceiling is covered by soot and dust, but the rests of the paintings of the ceiling are on some spots still visible.

FINDS

1. Funerary cone

Only the lower part remained preserved. It was made for the „scribe, overseer of all the crafts of Amun, Amenhotep” (1/ *zš jmj-r hm nb 2/ n jmn jmn htp*).

Height 8,6 cm, Ø 8,5 cm

DAVIES-MACADAM⁶ 315

Found in the sector to south-west to the outer court of TT 32

2. Funerary cone (Fig. 4)

Only the lower part remained preserved. It was made for the „venerated by Osiris, the tutor of the children of the King, Nisut-er-neheh” (1/ *jm3hj hr wsjr 2/ mn' n msw n nsw 3/ nsw-r-nhh*)

Height 8,4 cm Ø 8,4 × 7,8 cm

DAVIES-MACADAM 159

Found in the sector to the south-west to the outer court of TT 32

3. Fragment of a stamp of a funerary cone

The traces show the name of the „[true royal scribe] of the Lord of the Two Lands lahmes”

Height 4,1 cm, Ø 5,3 × 3,7 cm

DAVIES-MACADAM 178

Found in sector to the west of the outer court of TT 32

⁵ See note 2.

⁶ N. DE GARIS DAVIES-M. F. L. MACADAM: A Corpus of Inscribed Egyptian Funerary Cones. Oxford 1957.



Fig. 5. Shabti of Nebsumenu

4. Shabti with the name of Nebsumenu (Fig. 5)

Burnt clay.

The head and the legs are broken away. The collar is black, the hoe red. The statuette bears the remains of an inscription of four lines. The black hieroglyphs are written on a yellow background. Luckily the name Nebsumenu (*nbswmnw*) is clearly readable. Nebsumenu was the owner of TT 183⁷ in the neighbourhood of TT 32.

Height 8,1 cm

Found in the sector to the west of the outer court of TT 32

5. Pottery ostrakon with drawings on both sides (Fig. 6)

Yellow coarse pottery ostrakon. On the inner side the representations are divided in three registers by horizontal lines. 1/ In upper register only two legs and an oblique line remained preserved. 2/ Three men, two of them facing each other. One of them seems to offer incense to the other. 3/ Three men. The left one holds a huge vase. The man beside him has a papyrus in his hand. The third one is represented with a stick. It depicts most likely a statue. Facing him there was a further figure, probably a priest who poured libation from a huge vase over the statue. The vase and the line of the water is still present.

The composition as a whole may have been a depiction of the ritual of the opening of the mouth.⁸

9,8 × 10 × 1,3 cm.

Found in the sector to the south west of the outer court of TT 32.

6. Fragment of an alabaster vase (Fig. 7)

This splendid decorative vase of thick wall bears the drawing of a royal figure. The Pharaoh holds the *heka* (*ḥk3*) sceptre in his right hand. The collar and the apron bear a scaly pattern like that of an armour. The diadem, the elbow of the left arm and the legs are missing.

9,8 × 9,4 × 3,7 cm

Found about 3 m to the south of the outer pylon of TT 32.

7. Fragment of a column

Sandstone

The hieroglyphs on it can be read as Djehutymes, that is the owner of TT 32.

In spite of its small size this find has a great importance for the architectural reconstruction of TT 32. It is the only rest of the column standing in front of the pylon of the inner court of TT 32. The basis of the column came to light during our previous excavations

Length 23 cm, height 13 cm

Found in the sector to the west of the outer court of TT 32.

⁷ PM I² 289–290. The Mission of the University of Heidelberg started to work in this tomb in 2000.

⁸ A fragment of an analogous piece has been found in the

tomb of Senneferi (TT 99). See recently N. STRUDWICK: The Theban Tomb of Senneferi (TT 99). *Memnonia* 11 (2000) 251, cf. also ASAE 75 (1999–2000) pl. VIII a.



Fig. 6. Pottery ostracon with ritual scene



Fig. 7. Fragment of an alabaster vase with the drawing of a pharaoh

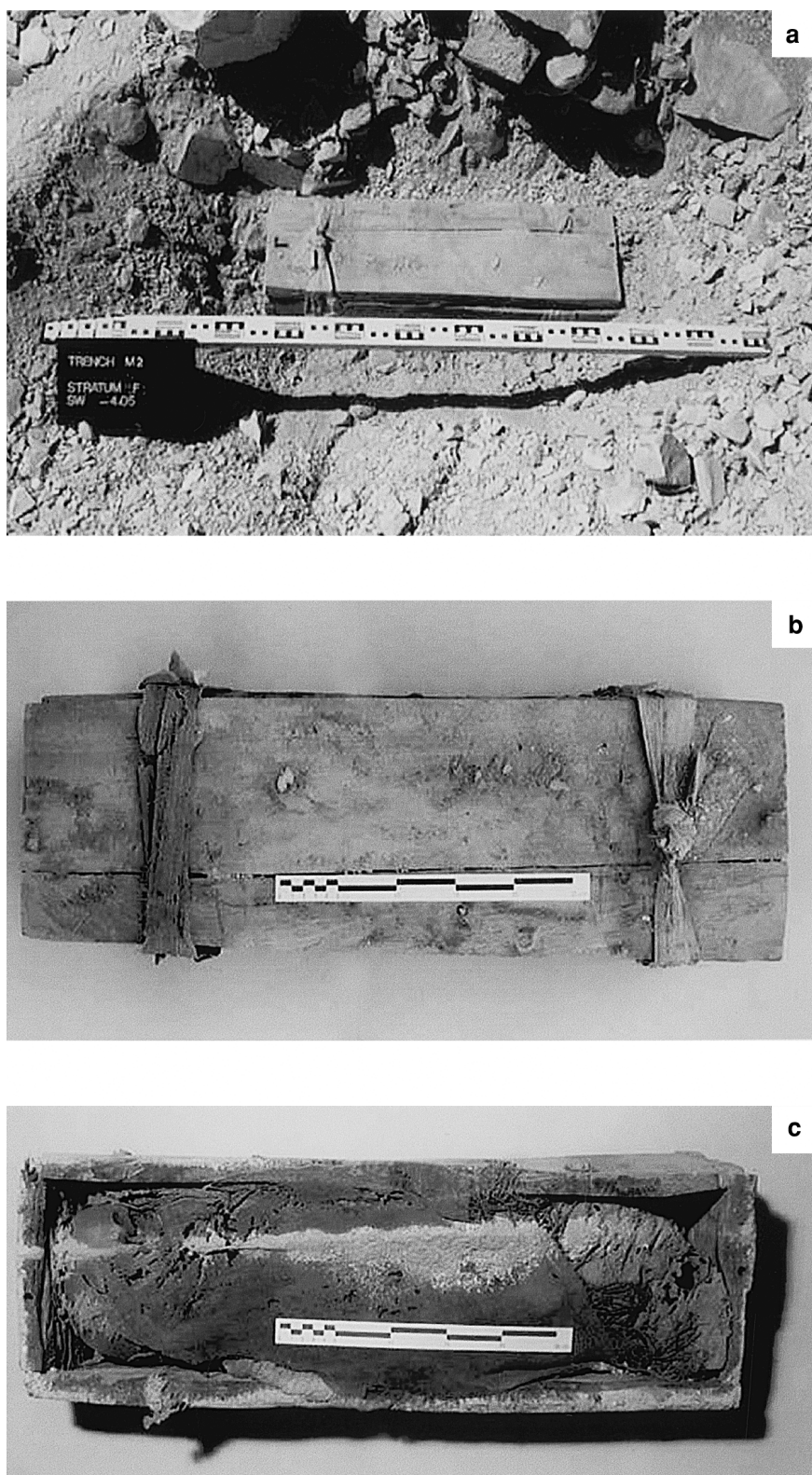


Fig. 8. a: The coffin of the child *in situ*; b: The coffin; c: The infant covered with mummy bandages

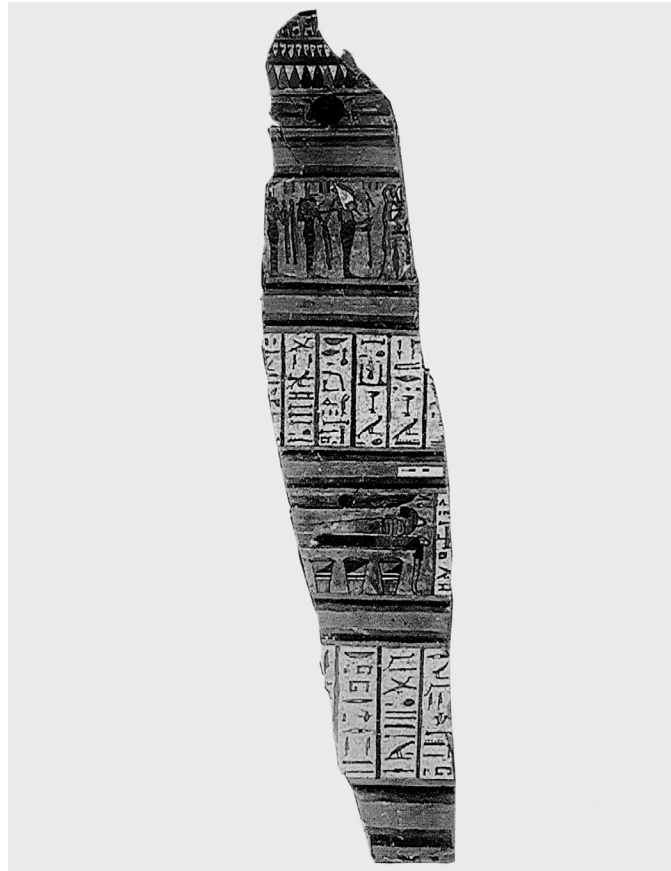


Fig. 9. The wooden door of the inner section of Corridor Tomb I

8. Burial of an infant (*Fig. 8a–c*)

It was found during our cleaning work to the west of the enclosure wall of the outer court of TT 32. The coffin has the form of a quadrangular oblong box. The lid was fixed to the bottom by two narrow bands of mummy wrapping.⁹ The infant, most likely a girl, was recumbent on her right side and was wrapped in mummy bandages but not mummified. Her small shirt with two sleeves was placed over the bandages.

Length of the infant 66,5 cm, length of the coffin 66 cm, width of the coffin 21 cm, height without lid 16 cm, with the lid 19 cm

Most likely Roman Period

9. Wooden door¹⁰ from Corridor Tomb I (*Fig. 9*)

The painted board is divided into several registers.

On the top a winged sun disk¹¹.

Upper register: offering table, in front of it an erect serpent, Osiris, Isis and Nephthys.

Inscription in six columns. 1/ ... [3p]d [h3] m 2/ sntr h3 m 3/ mnht h3 m ht 4/ nb nfrt w'b(t) šms n 'h 5/ P3-jm (z3) Jhnt- 6/ z m3' hrw z3 hry

„...[geese, thousand] of 2/ incense, thousand of 3/ clothes, thousand of all 4/ good pure things (to) the servant of the Palace 5/ Pajom,¹² (son) of Ikhtentes¹³ 6/ the justified, the son of the chief...”

Mummy on bier, above it winged disk. Inscription *Bhd.t*

Damaged column of text [šmsw] n'h P3jm

⁹ Similar modest chest coffins were found on the slope of the El-Khokha hill see ActaArchHung.

¹⁰ A wooden door from the tomb of Sennedjem: PM I² 3 (Cairo 27303). Detailed description CHR. DESROCHES NOBLECOURT: Ramsès Le Grand, Galeries Nationales du Grand Palais. Paris 1976 189–194, no. XLIV; CHR. DESROCHES NOBLECOURT: The Great Pharaoh Ramses and his Time

(Exhibition, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada). Montreal 1985, no. 45.

¹¹ The two winged disks on the door were intended to assimilate the tomb to a temple.

¹² H. RANKE: Die ägyptischen Personennamen I. Glückstadt 1935, 100 no. 15. Pajom must have been one of the deceased buried in Corridor Tomb I.

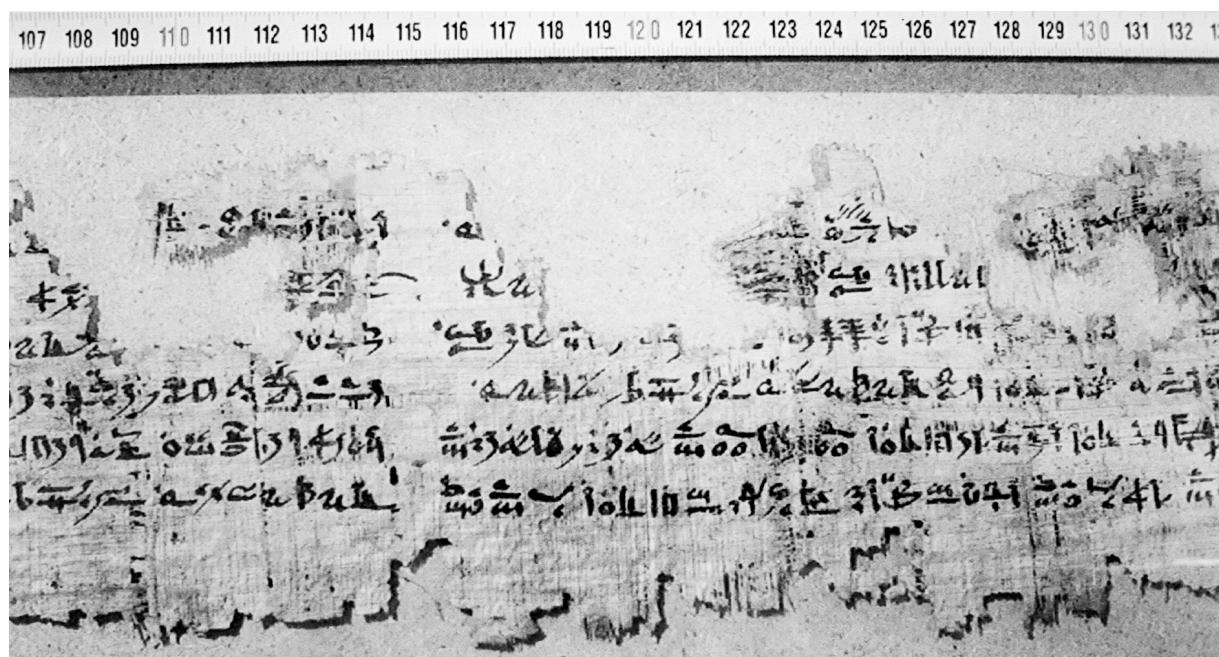


Fig. 10. Part of the papyrus with Book of the Dead chapter 1

Text in four columns

1. *jr.w m(hj (nsj or nsw?) n pr Jmn 2/ Ns- p3wtj- t3wtj¹⁴ m3 hrw mwt^{sic15} 3/ nb.t pr Hrj- jb- jrj¹⁶ m3 hrw 4/ j...*

1. „The maker of the wreath¹⁷ in the temple of Amun 2/ Nesipautitau the justified. Her mother 3/ the lady of the house Heriibiry the justified.”

Late Period

Height 128 cm, width 24 cm, thickness 3 cm

Found at the entrance to the vaulted corridor near to the threshold

10. Papyrus (Fig. 10)

In view of the very fragile condition of the papyrus it was inevitable to roll it out. The delicate procedure was done with expertise and great care by our restorer Ragab Marei Ahmed. The papyrus has been placed between two glasses. Some parts are damaged.

The hieratic text of the papyrus seems to contain chapter I of the Book of the Dead. Its reading needs further studies.

Most probably Ptolemaic Age

Length 130 cm (inscribed 100 cm), width 10,5 cm.

It was found in a hidden recess in the mud brick wall to the south of the entrance of the vaulted corridor leading to the subterranean part of Corridor Tomb I. The papyrus will be studied by Orsolya Illés.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

To conclude, I wish to express, also in the name of the Mission, my best thanks to the Supreme Council of Antiquities, Mr. Yehia Masry General Director in Luxor, Mr. Mohammed El-Biely Director of Antiquities on the west bank of Luxor as well as to our inspector Mr. Ramadan Ahmed Aly for their kind assistance during our work.

¹³ The name is a corrupted form of *jh nts*. RANKE 45, no. 9. It is written here in the New Kingdom form *htmnts*.

¹⁴ RANKE 176 no. 1 (Greek Spotous).

¹⁵ Most probably *mwtf* (his mother) would be the correct spelling.

¹⁶ Probably a defective writing of *hr-jb-jjr-dj-st*. RANKE 230, no. 10 or *hr.t-jb-jjr-st* Ranke 230 no. 22.

¹⁷ An alternative reading would be *nsj (nsw, ns.tjw)*. Wb. II. 324, 3–5, R. HANNIG: Großes Handwörterbuch. Mainz 1995, 431. In this case the translation is „the maker of the nesj plant”.