

PRELIMINARY REPORT ON EPIGRAPHIC WORK
DONE IN THE EDIFICE OF AMENHOTEP II
Seasons of 1988-89 and 1989-90

by Charles C. Van Siclen III

As part of a comprehensive plan by Christian Leblanc and the author to study the Edifice of Amenhotep II at Karnak, under the auspices of the Franco-Egyptian Center, the epigraphic recording of the structure was begun in the autumn of 1988,¹ and an architectural survey by the staff of the Center is also now in progress.

The Edifice of Amenhotep II, with its numerous reused blocks and its unusual architectural form has long been known, although it has received almost no study. Located at Karnak on the east side of the court between the Ninth and Tenth Pylons (fig. 1), the structure was cleared of debris in the 1920s,² but almost none of its decoration has since been recorded and published.³ The building history and function of the present structure is virtually unknown, and no study has been made of the nature and site of the original building of Amenhotep II which supplied the construction materials for most of the present structure.⁴

While this is not the place to fully explain the building history of the Edifice, some general conclusions about it may be made. As built, the Edifice is positioned in direct relationship to the orientations of the neighboring Ninth and Tenth Pylons (respectively started and completed by Haremhab); it includes in its foundations *talatat* blocks, and it is older than the enclosure wall decorated by Haremhab which abutts it on the south (fig. 2).⁵ Thus the present structure must have been built in the reign of Haremhab. The last royal name found in the decoration of the Edifice is that of Seti I, so the formal decoration of the present structure dates to the short period which the reigns of Haremhab and Seti I encompass. Nevertheless, the royal names written in all the wall scenes of the building are those of Amenhotep II.⁶

All of the pillars, architraves, and most of the wall blocks in the present structure came originally from an earlier construction actually built by Amenhotep II. At the

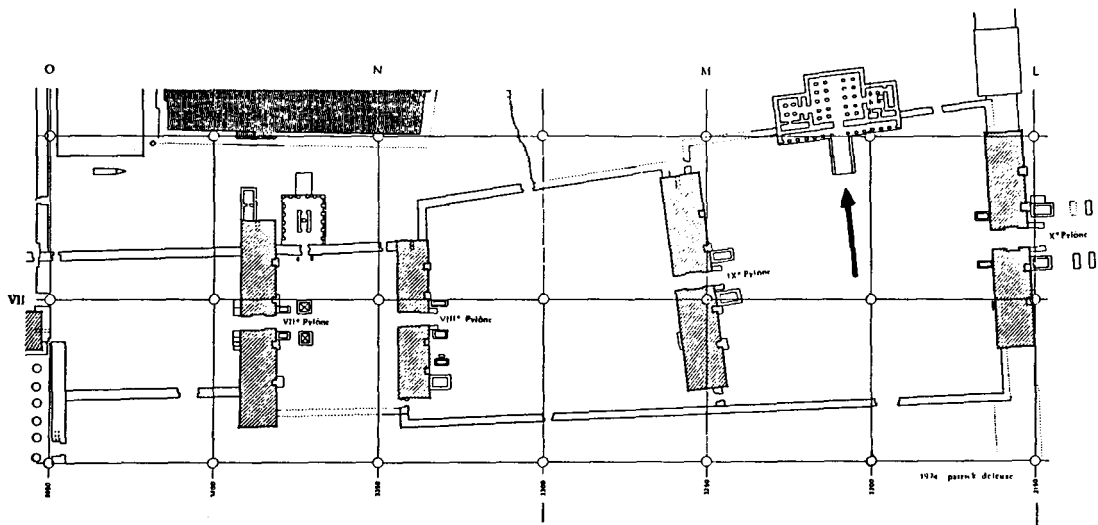


Fig. 1. The south axis at Karnak showing position of the Edifice of Amenhotep II at arrow (after Karnak 6 <1973-77>:31)

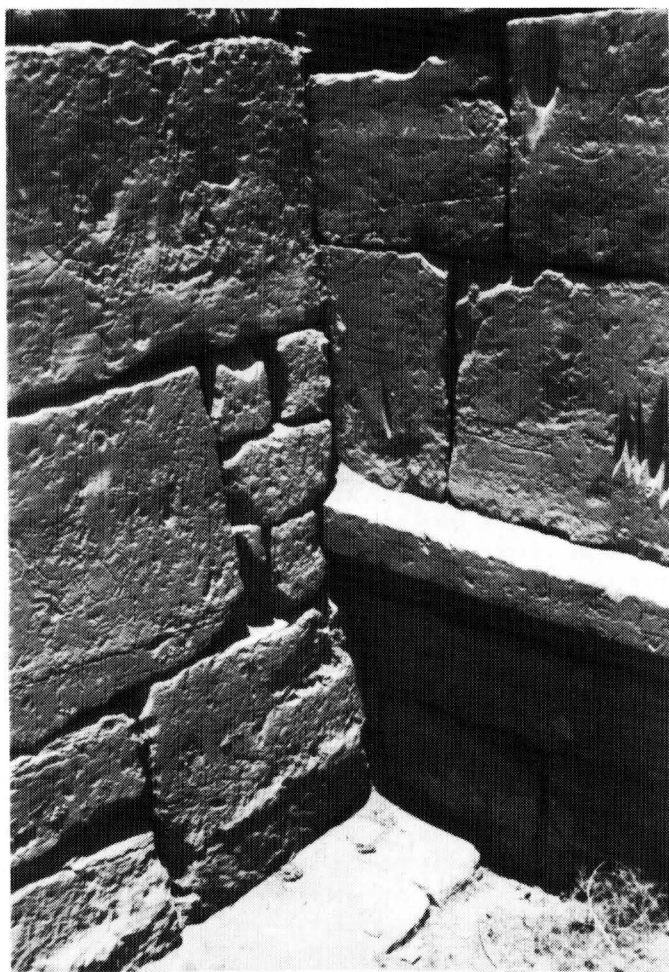


Fig. 2. The south exterior wall (right) of the Edifice of Amenhotep II with the enclosure wall of Haremhab (left) built up against it.

time of this writing, it seems that the earlier structure of Amenhotep II was built for the king's second jubilee (fig. 3),⁷ and it was probably quite similar in form to the

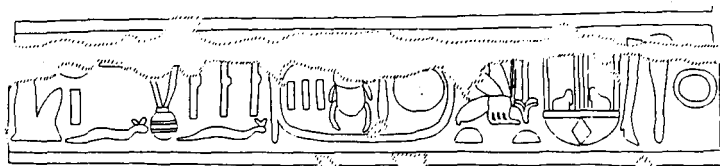


Fig. 3. Text from the north face of pillar 38 proclaiming the second jubilee of King Aakheperure (Amenhotep II).

jubilee court decorated by Tuthmosis IV which once stood before the Fourth Pylon at Karnak within the Festival Court of Tuthmosis II. Evidence not presented here suggests that this earlier building of Amenhotep II once stood in front of the Eighth Pylon and was removed as part of a general expansion and remodeling of the south axis at Karnak. At any rate, the earlier Amenhotep II building stood in its original place and form until the post-Amarna Period, inasmuch as restored figures of Amun are visible reused within the walls of the present structure.

To a large degree, the final understanding of the various building phases will be determined by the results of the on-going architectural and epigraphic studies.

Epigraphic Work

A systematic epigraphic recording of all scenes, texts, and graffiti relevant to the present building has been started.⁸ This has included both survey work--initially to understand the scope of the work and then to locate loose blocks no longer a part of the present structure--and the actual epigraphic work of recording the scenes and inscriptions in the building. This latter work falls into a number of distinct areas: reliefs contemporary with the present structure, graffiti added to that structure, reused materials of Amenhotep II within the structure, and finally other reused materials.

To obtain accurate copies, each scene or fragment is traced on clear plastic, and this copy is photo-mechanically reduced to a usable scale (about 1:7). These reduced

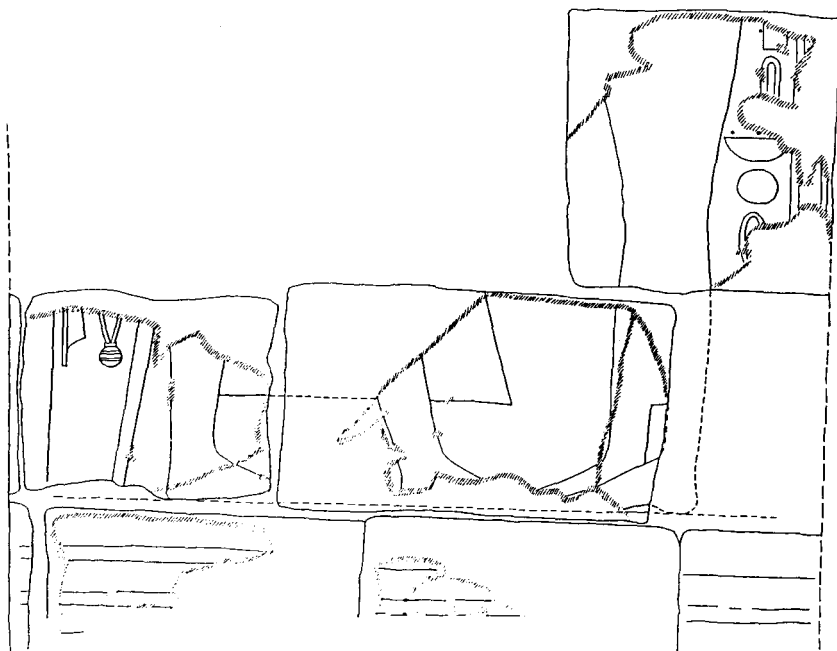


Fig. 4. Test drawing of Scene 3 (Portico, north wall)
showing the king at left before a goddess, probably Mut.

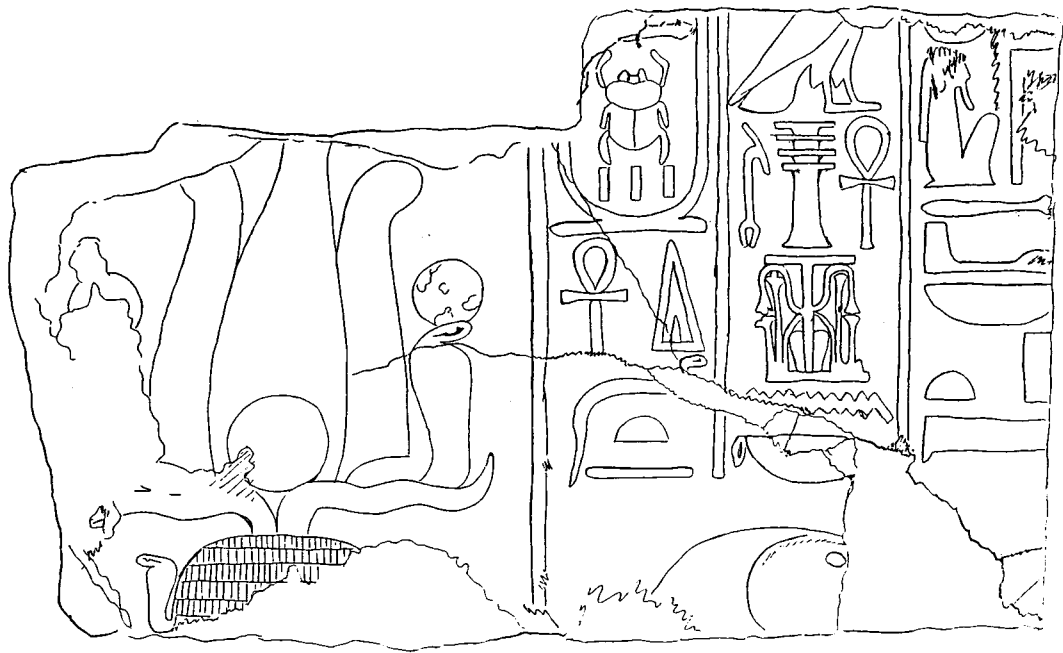


Fig. 5. Preliminary, uncollated drawing of a loose block now in the court of the Tenth Pylon; the block comes from the upper part of scenes 26 and 27 in the Main Hall.

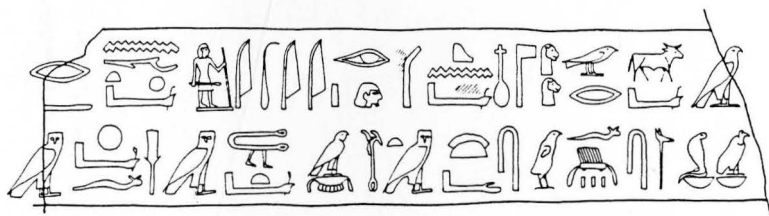
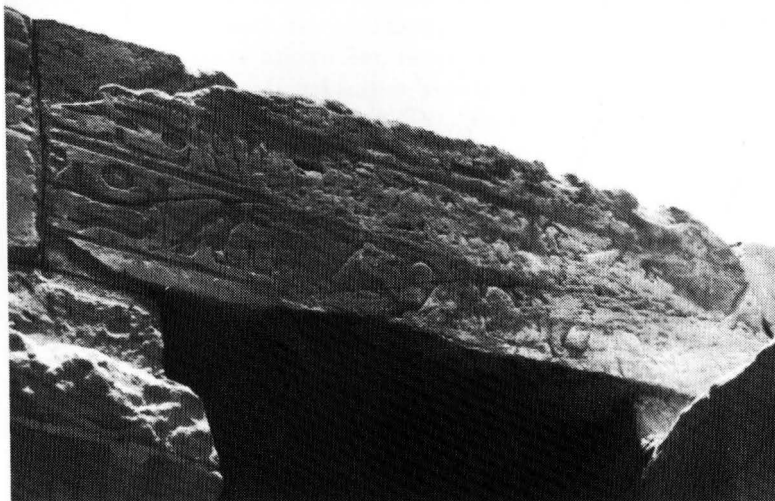


Fig. 6. Record photograph and hand copy of the texts on the west face of architrave P in the North Chapel; the texts give part of the titulary of Amenhotep II.

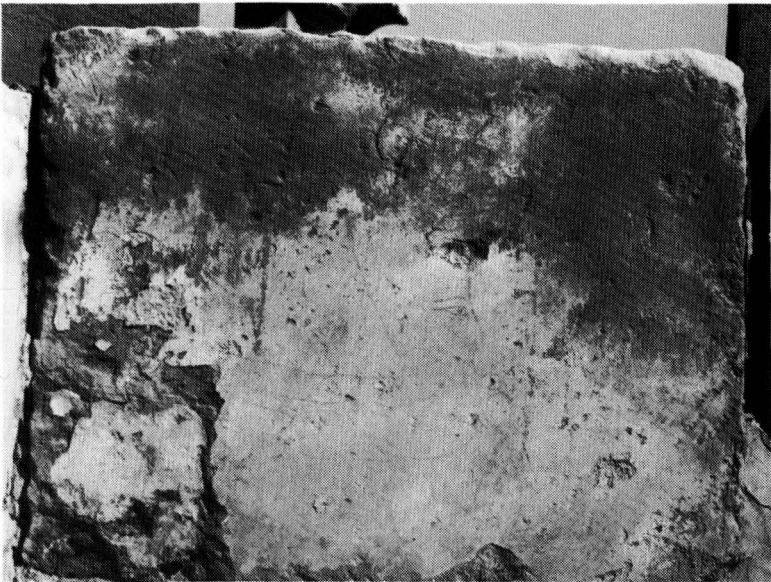


Fig. 7. Record photograph and preliminary drawing of the painted outline with grid for Scene 50 in the South Chapel.

drawings are then collated with the original, and the corrected results are used as the basis for a final, restored ink drawing ready for publication (fig. 4). In these drawings misaligned blocks may be repositioned and loose blocks inserted (fig. 5). Both hand copies of texts and record photographs are also made (fig. 6). Most of the wall scenes are in raised relief (often with crumbling) plaster, while the surfaces of the reused pillars are in sunken relief. While most of the decoration is carved, remains of several unfinished scene in painted outline have been found (fig. 7).

Of the wall scenes contemporary with the present structure, all in situ remains and most related loose blocks have been initially copied and about 80% have been collated, ready to be turned into finished drawings. Appendix I at the end of the article gives a description and disposition of the scenes of the Edifice as presently understood.

The recording and study of the decorated architectural elements of the earlier Amenhotep II structure has only just begun, although a partial survey has already brought to light much information. The reused blocks within the walls (as seen in fig. 8) are part of a complex assemblage of decorated materials. There are remains of large numbers of interior and exterior doorways, wall scenes with varying scales of decoration, and tops of miniature pylons, some with flagmast embrasures.. The reused pillars and engaged pillars show distinct patterns of decoration indicating rows of pillars either fully sheltered from the sun or facing a courtyard. A number of reused elements can be recognized as relating to the King's Mother (figs. 8 and 9), and she may have had her own chapel in the earlier structure.

Epigraphic work of future seasons will (1) complete the recording of the present building, (2) finish the recording of the earlier building, and finally (3) examine any unclaimed non-Amenhotep II reused blocks and graffiti.

¹Four short campaigns took place in October 1988, May-June 1989, October-November 1989 and May 1990. The author was assisted at times by Chris Karcher, artist-epigrapher, and Bruce Peterson, photographer. The work was greatly facilitated by Drs. Mohammed el-Saghir and el-Sayed Hegazy, and Inspector Abdel Hamid Maarouf, as well as the members of the Franco-Egyptian Center and especially J.-C. Golvin and F. Larché.

²Reported on by M. Pillet in *ASAE* 23 (1923):125-9, pl. 6, and in *ASAE* 24 (1924):80-1, pls. 10-11.

³Porter-Moss II², 185-6, pl. xv.

⁴P. Gilbert, "Le temple d'Amenophis II à Karnak," *CdE* 10 (1935): 233-5, provides a typical overview of the building; L. Borchardt and H. Ricke, *Aegyptische Tempel mit Umgang* (Cairo, 1938), pp. 61-66, figs. 21-2, makes the first attempt at understanding the early history of the structure.

⁵That the cavetto and torus of the podium are not interrupted by the enclosure wall indicates that the Edifice is earlier in date of construction.

⁶The scene published by W. K. Simpson, "Reshep in Egypt," *Orientalia* 29 (1960): 64-5, pl. 17/1, does not date to the reign of Amenhotep II, but rather it is contemporary with the Edifice.

⁷The only two mentions of the first jubilee (sp tpy ḥb sd) from the earlier structure may simply be errors in copying over and over a common text.

⁸Certain reused materials and graffiti may have already been assigned to other scholars.

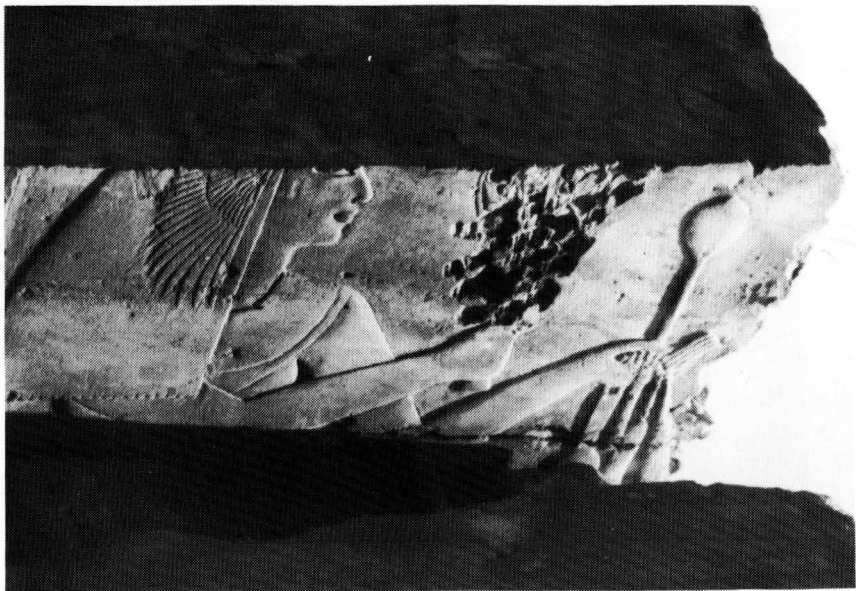


Fig. 8. Reused block within Scene 29 in the Main Hall; the earlier, visible relief in the rising joint is from a large wall scene ending upon the side of an engaged pillar; the female represented is the King's Mother Meryetre Hatshepsut.

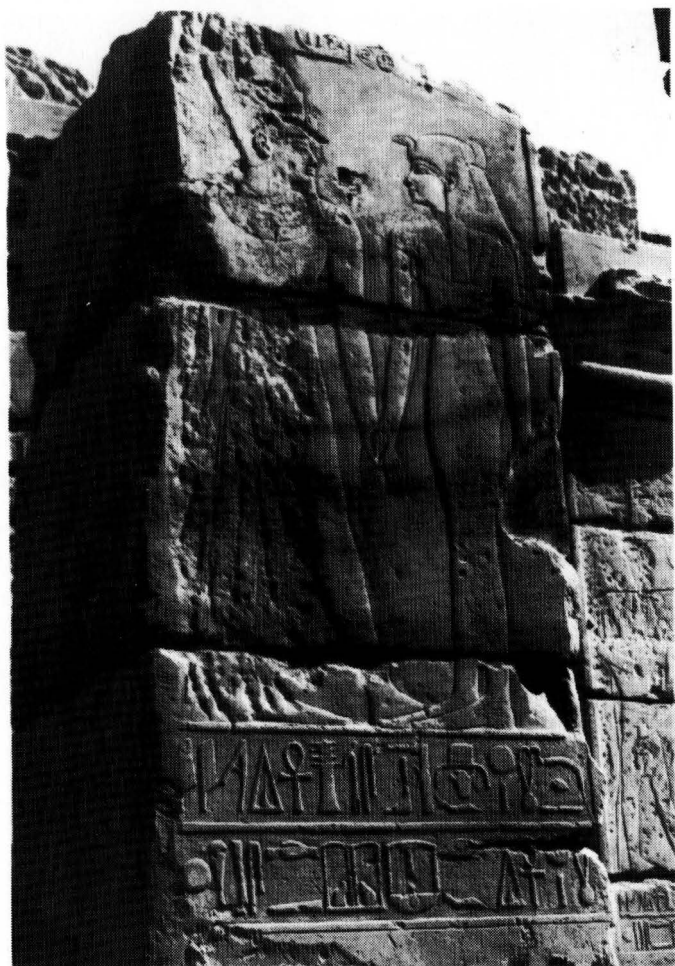
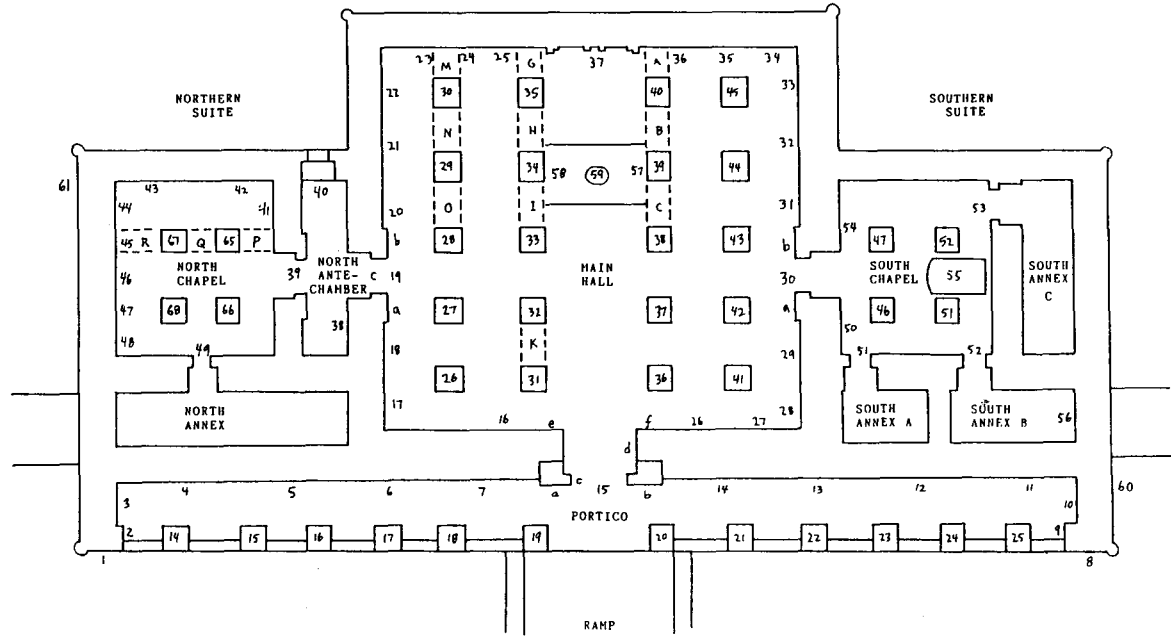


Fig. 9. Record photograph of the west face of pillar 27 in the Main Hall; the erased figure of Amun at left has been restored as Amenhotep II (note the uraeus on the double crown), and the figure of Mut at right may have been originally that of the King's Mother Meryetre Hatshepsut.



EDIFICE OF AMENHOTEP II
 KEY PLAN SHOWING LOCATION OF SCENES

Appendix 1: Description of Scenes
in the Edifice of Amenhotep II

In the list below, all scenes (excepted as noted) date to the period late-Horemhab-to-Seti I, even though the king depicted is named Amenhotep II wherever the name survives. The proper name of the king or god is used in this list without parentheses only when it survives in the scene or can otherwise be identified. Contrary to Barguet, *Temple d'Amen-Re a Karnak*, p. 18, there are no texts of Seti II, although the decoration of the north wall of the north chapel is perhaps stylistically later than the surviving name of Seti I. Omitted from the list below are most lesser graffiti and reused materials (architraves, pillars and blocks). PM plus number refers to Porter-Moss II², pp. 85-6 and plan xv; KG plus number refers to H.H. Nelson's **Key Plans**.

Portico

Scene 1 (PM 562 west, KG 213), north pilaster, west face. The king holds hands with a striding god; jubilee texts below.

Scene 2 (PM 562 south, KG 214), north pilaster, south face. The king embraces a striding god; jubilee texts below.

Scene 3 (PM 563, KG 215), north (end) wall. The king stands before a goddess (Mut ?).

Scene 4 (PM -, KG 216), east wall, north side. The king stands before the ithyphallic Amun-Re.

Scene 5 (PM 564, KG 217), east wall, north side. The king offers to Amun-Re and Khonsu.

Scene 6 (PM 564, KG 218), east wall, north side. The king stands before an ithyphallic god (Amun ?) and a goddess (Mut ?).

Scene 7 (PM -, KG 219), east wall, north side. Only traces of the text behind the king remain from a scene showing the king before a striding god (compare scene 14). †

Scene 8 (PM -, KG 211), south pilaster, west face. The king holds hands with a striding god; jubilee texts below.

Scene 9 (PM -, KG 212), south pilaster, north face. The king embraces a striding god; jubilee texts below.

Scene 10 (PM -, KG 255), south (end) wall. The king adores Khonsu four times.

Scene 11 (PM -, KG 254), east wall, south side. The king stands before an ithyphallic god (Amun-Re ?).

Scene 12 (PM -, KG 253), east wall, south side. Only traces remain of a scene showing the king offering to Amun-Re and Khonsu (compare scene 5).

Scene 13 (PM -, KG 252), east wall, south side. The king stands before an ithyphallic god (Amun ?) and a goddess (Mut ?).

Scene 14 (PM -, KG 251), east wall, south side. The king stands before a striding god (Amun ?).

Scene 15 (PM 565, KG 220-1), main doorway. At a and b, scenes showing Amenhotep II receiving life from a striding Amun-Re, with name of the door below. At c, text naming Amenhotep II; at d, graffito showing Amun-Re and a serpent goddess; at e, remains of texts.

Main Hall

Scene 16 (PM 567, KG 240), main hall, west wall, north side. Amenhotep II, preceded by standards of Wepwawet and the Imiut, is led by a god (Montu ?) into the presence of a Theban goddess, behind whom stands Amun-Re, Mut, and a striding Khonsu.

Scene 17 (PM 568.1, KG 239), main hall, north wall, west side. The king offers a **nemset**-vase to the ithyphallic Amun.

Scene 18 (PM 568.2, KG 237), main hall, north wall, west side. Amenhotep II offers wine to a striding god (Amun ?).

Scene 19 (PM -, KG 237), main hall, doorway to northern suite. Texts mention Amenhotep II as beloved of Amun-Re, Mut and Khonsu. Traces of earlier texts appear on the lintel.

Scene 20 (PM 569.3, KG 236 left), main hall, north wall, east side. The king offers (Maat ?) to (Ptah)-Nefer-Her and a goddess (Sekhmet ?), both standing in a kiosk. (Two reused blocks, including one showing the king offering flowers, have been incorporated into this scene by error.)

Scene 21 (PM 569.1, KG 235-6), main hall, north wall, east side. The king stands in his chariot; with text mentioning Montu-Reshep.

Scene 22 (PM 569.2, KG 236), main hall, north wall, east side. The king offers incense and cool water to a seated Amun with a standing goddess (Mut ?) behind.

Scene 23 (PM -, KG 234), main hall, east wall, north side. The king offers an ointment jar to an ithyphallic god.

Scene 24 (PM -, KG 234-5), main hall, east wall, north side. The king before a striding god (Amun ?)

Scene 25 (PM -, KG 235), main hall, east wall, north side. The Amenhotep II stands before a seated god (Amun ?) followed by a goddess (Mut ?).

Scene 26 (PM 566, KG 223), main hall, west wall, south side. Amenhotep II is baptised by Montu and another god (Thoth ?).

Scene 27 (PM 566, KG 224), main hall, west wall, south side. The king receives (?) jubilees from a striding god (Amun ?) followed by a goddess (Mut ?).

Scene 28 (PM 570.1, KG 225), main hall, south wall, west side. Amenhotep II presents unguent to the ithyphallic Amun-Re.

- Scene 29 (PM 570.2, KG 226), main hall, south wall, west side. The king presents wine to a striding Amun.
- Scene 30 (PM -, KG 227), main hall, doorway to southern suite. Texts once gave the full titulary of Amenhotep II.
- Scene 31 (PM -, KG -), main hall, south wall, east side. The king before an ithyphallic god (Amun ?).
- Scene 32 (PM -, KH -), main hall, south wall, east side. The king driving four calves before a striding god (Amun ?).
- Scene 33 (PM -, KG 228), main hall, south wall, east side. The king before an ithyphallic god (Amun ?).
- Scene 34 (PM 571, KG 229), main hall, east wall, south side. Amenhotep II offers incense and cool water to a striding Amun.
- Scene 35 (PM 571, KG 230), main hall, east wall, south side. Amenhotep II stands before Amun-Re Kamutef.
- Scene 36 (PM -, KG 231), main hall, east wall, south side. Amenhotep II stands before a seated Amun-Re and a goddess (Mut ?).
- Scene 37 (PM -, KG 232), main hall, center of east wall. False door with two panels showing Amenhotep II offering wine and ? to striding Amuns.

Northern Suite

- Scene 38 (PM -, KG 241), north antechamber, south wall, west side. Graffito of a striding Amun-Re incorporating a reused block.
- Scene 39 (PM -, KG -), north antechamber, east wall. Blocked, unscribed doorway to exterior.
- Scene 40 (PM -, KG -), north antechamber, north wall. Doorway to north chapel with reused lintel of Amenhotep II.
- Scene 41 (PM -, KG -), north chapel, south wall, east side. Traces of paint from unfinished scene.
- Scene 42 (PM -, KG 242), north chapel, east wall, southern scene. King before a striding god (Amun ?), scene partly in painted outline.
- Scene 43 (PM -, KG 243), north chapel, east wall, northern scene. King before an ithyphallic god (Amun ?) followed by a goddess (Mut ?).
- Scene 44 (PM -, KG 244), north chapel, north wall, east side. The king holds hands with the goddess Mut.
- Scene 45 (PM -, KG 245), north chapel, north wall, east side. Amenhotep II pours cool water for a striding Amun.
- Scene 46 (PM -, KG 245-6), north chapel, center of north wall. Renewal text of Seti I.
- Scene 47 (PM -, KG 246), north chapel, north wall, west side. Amenhotep II pours cool water for a striding Amun-Re.
- Scene 48 (PM -, KG 247), north chapel, north wall, west side. Amenhotep II before the goddess Mut.
- Scene 49 (PM -, KG -), north chapel, doorway to north annex. Reused lintel of Amenhotep II.

Southern Suite

Scene 50 (PM -, KG -), south chapel, north wall, west side. Figure of an ithyphallic god in painted outline.

Scene 51 (PM -, KG -), south chapel, doorway to south annex A. Texts of Amenhotep II in painted outline.

Scene 52 (PM -, KG 249), south chapel, doorway to south annex B. Reused lintel of Amenhotep II.

Scene 53 (PM -, KG -), south chapel, doorway to south annex C. Reused lintel of Amenhotep II.

Scene 54 (PM -, KG -), south chapel, graffito of an ithyphallic god.

Location 55 (PM 575, KG 248), rear of south chapel. Alabaster group statue.

Scene 56 (PM -, KG 250), south annex B, south wall. Graffito of a striding Amun-Re incorporating a reused block.

Architraves and Ceiling Blocks

Locations 57-58 (PM -, KG 256-7), main hall central aisle architraves. Texts with the titulary of Amenhotep II (Palimpsest texts are visible underneath).

Architraves A-C, G-I, K, M-R are all reused (including KG 258-9) from an earlier building of Amenhotep II.

Location 59 (PM -, KG -), main hall, ceiling of central aisle. Pattern of stars, winged protective deities and cartouches of Amenhotep II.

Pillars

Pillars 14-47, 51-52, and 65-68 (following Nelson's numbering) primarily date to the reign of Amenhotep II and are reused. Below the scenes on pillars 31-32, south face, and 36-37, north face, appear renewal texts of Seti I. Three scenes only date to the rebuilding of the edifice: pillar 28, east face, and pillar 65, east and south faces. Pillars 46, 47, and 66 are reduced to fragments (at most) which have not been identified with certainty as yet.

Exterior

Scene 60 (PM 577, KG -), south exterior wall. Graffiti, including one of Masahert son of Painedjem.

Scene 61 (PM 576, KG -), north exterior wall. Graffito of year 7 of Ramesses XI with the viceroy of Kush Paiankhy and others.

Graffiti: There are many other graffiti besides the two numbered ones on the exterior. A great many are located on the south exterior wall, east of the enclosure wall of Haremhab.

Loose and Reused Blocks: Besides numerous blocks of Amenhotep II, there are also blocks of Amenhotep III (restored by Tutankhamun) and blocks of Amenhotep IV-Akhenaton (both large scale and talatat).