

**PRELIMINARY REPORT ON  
THE EXCAVATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT  
OF ANTIQUITIES  
AT KOM EL 'AMARNA, KARNAK  
Seasons 1965/1966 and 1966/1967**

BY  
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Kom El 'Amarna is a low hill that lies about 250 metres to the east of the exterior mud brick wall of the Temple of Amun at Karnak. <sup>(1)</sup> It is surrounded by the small houses of el-Nag' Al-Fouqani of the village of Karnak (Pl. I, *a* and *b* and pl. II.) <sup>(2)</sup>

When I was appointed inspector of Luxor and Karnak, I asked for a permission to dig this area. I started work on the 16<sup>th</sup> of April, 1966 and finished at the end of May of the same year. The work was resumed on the 15<sup>th</sup> of October, 1966 and ended on the 19<sup>th</sup> of November 1966.

During this short period, we were able to clear :

1. *In the first layer* : an area of 170.20 metres long from north to south, 52.50 metres wide on one side and 21 metres on the other side (Pl. III, *A, C, D*).
2. *In the second layer* : an area of 52 metres from north to south, 28.50 metres from east to west (Pl. III, *B*)

### THE FIRST LAYER

When the work started to the north of the hill (Pl. I, *b*) a sandstone building was found. It resembles an unfinished gateway (*A*) built over a pavement of mud brick (Pl. I), 5.10 m. long and 5 metres being the width of the two jambs and the entrance (Pl. IV).

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<sup>(1)</sup> About the other monuments to the east of the wall of the temple of Amon R<sup>c</sup>, See, P.M., T.B., II, 89 A. ; P: Bargaet, karnak, p. 7.

<sup>(2)</sup> L.D. Text, III, p. 38—40

The eastern jamb is 1.50 m. wide and the western jamb 1.80 m. while the entrance is 1.70 m. wide.

All the stones of this gateway are of reused blocks, and many of them bear inscriptions of special importance. Some of them, if not all, were taken from a temple of the XXVI Dynasty. The name of Psametichus II was found on three of these blocks. One of them bears the profile of Psametichus II wearing the Crown of Upper Egypt (Pl. V). The two other blocks are parts of a cornice decorated with the sun disk (Pl. VI).

Many other stones bear inscriptions of a king and various gods and goddesses (Pls. VII and VIII a).

Two of the stones bear the remains of scenes of the *Hb-sd* of a king. One of them was a lintel of a door (Pl. VIII b).

It is difficult to say when the gate was built, but some red bricks were found in the *débris* stamped with the name of the high priest of Amon "*mn hpr-R<sup>c</sup>*" of the XXI at Dynasty which undoubtedly belongs to an older construction<sup>(1)</sup>. This shows that the gate was built later than the XXI st Dynasty, and it might have been built in the Ptolemaic Period.

The pavement of mud brick over which this gateway was built had been an enclosure wall of an older temple in the second layer.

To the south of the gateway, and on the same level, we cleared an area of 25 m. long - 28 m. wide (B). Nothing was found on the level of the gateway except the top of the mud brick wall mentioned above and the upper part of the pedestal which belongs to the second layer, and which we shall deal with in due time. (2)

To the south of this empty area we cleared a wide space (C) about 49.60 m. long from north to south and 32.70 m. from east to west on the north side, and 21 m. on the southern side. In this area was found a part of the foundation

(1) Gauthier, *divre des roi III*, pp. 263-8.

(2) S. P. 180.

of a temple, built of big blocks of sandstone, some of which have been reused. To the north was found the foundation of a long wall (about 19.20 m. long and 1.60 m. wide).

To the north of this corner, there are the foundations of three pillars :

- |                |                      |
|----------------|----------------------|
| 1. 2.60 × 2.10 | composed of 7 blocks |
| 2. 2.30 × 1.70 | composed of 5 blocks |
| 3. 1.80 × 1.70 | composed of 4 blocks |

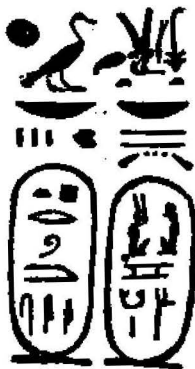


FIG. 1



FIG. 2

Under the foundation of the second pillar and in the *débris* was found a small rectangular piece of green faience 6 cm. × 3 cm. × 8 cm. with inscriptions on its two sides. On one side Fig. 1 (Pl. IX *b*) there are the names and titles of Ptolemy II. On the other side (Pl. IX *c*, Fig. 2) is the name of the queen, "the sister-wife of the King, Arsinoë Sate-Amón, the goddess, the sister, the beloved one". <sup>(1)</sup>

The south part of (C) is a large court about 32 m. long from north to south with remains of foundations of an unknown construction. A big block of sandstone has been found in this court bearing a part of the cartouche of Ptolemy III (Pl. IX *a*).

(<sup>1</sup>) Gauthier, *Livre des rois*, pp. 240-41

The far part in the south, which we cleared, is the area (D) about 19.20 m. long from south to north, and 21 m. wide from east to west.

The foundation of a building consisting of a wall of at least three rooms, was also found. It was erected on brick walls which may be the walls of the second layer. Some stones were taken from earlier temples, and were reused in the foundation. A part of a papyriform column of the 18<sup>th</sup> Dynasty was also found in the foundation of one of the walls.

In the *débris* were found:

1. A small seal of burnt mud  $5.2 \times 3.5$  representing a cobra with two horns and the sun disk. (P. X-b).
2. Two small bronze statuettes of Osiris, in bad condition, 8 cm. high (Pl. X-a).
3. A small bronze statuette of god Bes, in bad condition, 6 cm. high.

It is difficult to define the plan of this temple because the rest of it is not yet cleared out, and its continuation goes far to the south under the houses of El Nag' El Foukani. The features of all the elements found prove that it was a Ptolemaic temple.

## THE SECOND LAYER

During the work in the first layer, the upper parts of the lower layer appeared and we had to dig deeper into the level of the second layer (Pl. III-B), about 52 m. from north to south, and 28.50 m. from east to west.

*The result of the work is:*

1. To the north and to the west were found the remains of a great panelled enclosure wall, <sup>(1)</sup> built of mud bricks, 5.20 m. wide. The part which has been cleared

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<sup>(1)</sup> P. Barguet, Karnak, p. 30—31.

from the north side is 28.5 m. long and the rest of it is still under the *débris* of the eastern uncleared area (E). The western part at the corner has disappeared. Over this part of the enclosure wall, the gateway of the first layer (which was built of the stones of Psametichus II) was erected. (1)

A long part of the west wall (about 65 m.) has been cleared out, the rest still goes to the south under the *débris* of the south west side. The width of the wall in this side is 4.20 m. The height of the remaining part is 2 m. After 30 m. from the west north corner, there are remains of a gate in the wall which was once built of sandstone, and is now destroyed.

2. Inside the enclosure wall, there are remains of a temple floor of small blocks of sandstone. On the floor, was found a pedestal in good condition, built of small, polished blocks of sandstone (Pl. XII-a), with a cornice at the top (1.20 m. × 1.20 m. × 1 m.). To the east there is a small niche which might have been made for foundation deposits. At a distance of 4 m. to the south of the pedestal was found the base of two small columns with a narrow wall in between. The diameter of each base is 80 cm.

A part of another pedestal was found (Pl. XII-b). It is probably the pedestal of a sphinx, similar to that of the quay of the temple of Amun at Karnak.(2) Many other remains of a brick wall and ovens were found on the same level beside remains of granaries (Pl. XIII). In the *débris*, and near the first pedestal, was found a statue of a man, 30.5 × 22 × 15 cm., called Amonmose, of black granite. It is headless, kneeling, and its hands offering a stela inscribed with a long text. (Pls. XIV, XV).

The dorsal pillar and base bear a text which contains his name and titles. This statue is important because it has the same titles and name of Amonmose

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(1) See, p. 178.

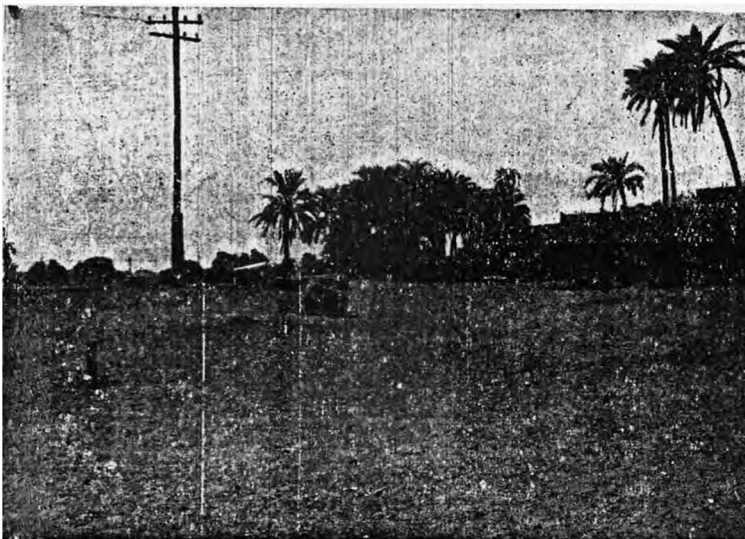
who lived in the time of Amenhotep III whose tomb No. 89 at Sheikh' Abd el Gurna. (1). This statue will be dealt with in another article.

From the different elements found in the two layers, it seems that there was a temple in the second layer which may be from the 18<sup>th</sup> Dynasty. Over it, in the first layer, there was built an unfinished temple from the 30<sup>th</sup> Dynasty and Ptolemaic period, but it is difficult to decide on the plan of the two temples.

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*a.*—The site before starting work, South side.



*b.*—The site before starting work, north side.