

CAHIERS DE KARNAK



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SPHINXES AVENUE EXCAVATIONS. FIRST REPORT

Mansour Boraik (SCA – CFEETK) *

ONE OF THE MAIN ASPECTS of Luxor City Development Projects Plan is to reveal the processional road of the Sphinx Avenue connecting Luxor and Karnak Temples. The excavation started in November 2005 in three sectors according to the Luxor City Council Strategy. The Council was in charge of demolishing and removing the houses and agricultural lands which occupied the upper level of the sites.

1. Archaeological and Historical Background

There is evidence to show that Hatshepsut had been the first to make this processional road, with sphinxes in her own likeness. This procession is depicted in the Red Chapel, where Hatshepsut burns incense before the six shrines, each of which is identified with its individual name. In Hatshepsut's time the procession to Luxor temple for the Opet Festival went along the ceremonial route on its outward journey, but always returned by water.¹ The existence of these six way stations must indicate that Hatshepsut had constructed an early sacred way, or at least embellished it.

There is evidence for a processional way lined with statuary to the south during the reign of Hatshepsut. A few of the existing sphinxes have also been attributed to Tuthmosis IV on stylistic grounds.² However it was Amenhotep III who first instituted the sphinx lined avenue between the Xth pylon and the precinct of Mut and to the south of Khonsu temple. Then, the project was stopped during the reign of Akhenaten, but was continued by Tutankhamun³ (between the Xth pylon and Mut Temple) although the sphinxes have been usurped, reworked and repositioned many times by later kings. These paved ways linking the various temples of Karnak with one another and with Luxor temple were to remain very much as they were visualized. The present sphinx avenue between Karnak and Luxor temples dates back to the reign Nectanebo I who inscribed various dedicatory texts on the sphinxes:

I built a beautiful road for (my) father Amun, bordered by walls, planted with trees and decorated with flowers.

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¹ C. GRAINDORGE, "Naissance d'un reposoir de barque", *Dossiers d'Archéologie* 187, 1993, p. 50; P. LACAU, H. CHEVRIER, *Une chapelle d'Hatchepsout à Karnak*, Le Caire, 1977, p. 154, §191.

² A. CABROL, "Les criosphinx de Karnak: un nouveau dromos d'Amenhotep III", *Karnak* 10, 1995, p. 23-24.

³ J. BERLANDINI, "Un dromos de Toutânkhamon au X^e pylône de Karnak", *Karnak* 6, 1973-1977, p. 247-260; A. CABROL, *Les voies processionnelles de Thèbes*, OLA 97, 2001, p. 24.

*A road made by the king to his father Amun in order that he does a beautiful sailing to Jp.t-rsyꜣf. No road more beautiful has ever existed before...*⁴

Zakaria Ghoneim first revealed the Sphinx Avenue in 1949 during his excavation in front of Luxor temple. Subsequent excavations by Mohammed Abdul-Qader Muhammad and Mahmud Abdul Razik between 1958 and 1964⁵ substantially increased the initial exposure revealing the southern end from Luxor temple to the rear of Luxor Police Station.

The Sphinxes on this portion of the road are inscribed with Nectanebo's titles. Abdul-Qader Muhammad recorded that the eastern row of the sphinxes was destroyed while the western one was intact.

In addition to the excavation in front of Luxor temple, three trenches were dug along the whole avenue. Three more portions of the avenue were revealed between 1984 and 1991 by Mohamed El-Saghir.⁶ One of these is the area north of Abu el-Goud. Here twenty badly damaged sphinxes and a pavement (7,6 m from the sphinxes), with a circular red brick structure for flowering plants (2,5 m in diameter between the sphinxes in each row) were found. An associated red brick water channel measures 40 cm wide and was located 1 m in front of each row of sphinxes. A boundary wall of bricks exists in other parts of the avenue beyond the rows of the sphinxes.

Later excavations in the area west of Mut temple revealed that the processional road of the sphinx avenue runs directly northward from Luxor temple; it does not connect with Khonsu temple, but reaches its north end at a point facing the north-west corner of Mut precinct. At this point, it joins the east-west sphinx avenue which was also built by Nectanebo I. The east part reaches the main entrance of the Mut area, where it divides into two courses, to the south at the gate of Mut temple and to the north, to the Xth pylon of Karnak temple. A recent discovery during the dewatering project for Karnak temples revealed that the west part, starting from the connection point, had a chapel at its beginning built by Ptolemy XII Neos Dionysos dedicated to Khonsu.

2. Recent Excavation

The excavations began in three sectors of the sphinx avenue in 2005 as a part of the Luxor City Master Plan⁷. These excavations aim to open the whole course of this great processional road between Luxor and Karnak temples and is continuing through the present. The three sections of excavations area are:

1. Excavations at the Luxor police station, north of Luxor temple;
2. *Khaled Ibn El-waleed* garden, north of the police station site;
3. Behind the Mubarak library, between *Elmat-Han* Street and the Airport road.

First, these three sites were evacuated, entailing the removal of all the governmental buildings, and the inhabitants' houses, which were occupying the upper level of the sites, along with vacating any agricultural land.

⁴ M. ABD EL-RAZIQ, "Study on Nectanebo Ist in Luxor temple and Karnak", *MDAIK* 23, 1968, p. 157; A. CABROL, *op. cit.*, p. 145-149 and p. 283-296 (especially p. 290 for the two above mentioned texts).

⁵ M. ABDUL-QADER MUHAMMED, "Preliminary Report of the Excavations carried out in the temple of Luxor, Seasons 1958-1959 and 1959-1960", *ASAE* 60, 1968, p. 232-235.

⁶ M. EL-SAGHIR, "The great processional way at Thebes (the avenue of sphinxes at Luxor)", in *Sesto Congresso Interna-zionale di Egitologie, Atti 1*, Turin, 1992, p. 181-187; Book notes of Mohamed El-Saghir provided by Mostafa Mohamed El-Saghir.

⁷ For a first overview of this work, see M. BORAİK, "Les fouilles de l'allée de sphinx", dans G. Zaki (dir.), *Le Domaine d'Amon-Rê. 40 ans de coopération franco-égyptienne à Karnak*, 2nd ed., Cairo, 2008, p. 69-76.

All these sites were surveyed with the help of the CFEETK and bench marks were installed as part of the operations. The first excavations were at the upper level of the main course between the two rows of sphinxes. Then cross sections were manually dug. Features and deposits were carefully excavated and recorded.

Both the police station and *Khaled Ibn El-waleed* garden sites were located close to the “old town mound” known from the 1981-1986 clearance of Luxor temple. Approximately 15 m of sediment was removed from the sphinx avenue down to the present level. A part of this mound still survives behind the houses to the north-west of Luxor temple. This was excavated by D. Whitcomb and J. Johnson⁸ as part of the Chicago Medieval Luxor Project in 1985.⁹

3. The Site of the Police station

The excavated area covers about 1800 square meters and is located downtown of Luxor city and about 250 m north of Luxor temple and bounded by two streets: *Elmatafy* to the west and *Youssef Hassan* to the east. The western half was occupied by the Police station building and the asphalt road; the eastern half of *Elmiqashqish* Mosque still covers part of the western sphinxes row (**fig. 1**).

The excavation started after completing the demolition of the police station and after mechanically removing the paved asphalt road between it and the mosque.

A trench excavation measuring 24 m x 2 m x 2 m extended east-west in the middle of the site about 20 m to the north of the mosque. This was dug during my work in the Salvation of Karnak and Luxor Temples Project. Here was found a sphinx on the western side of the area, with red brick circular planters and pavement, but there were no traces for the eastern row.¹⁰ The site was divided into three trenches as follows:

Trench 1: 25 m long x 5 m wide x 1,5 m deep; this is a linear trench oriented NE-SW along the western row of the sphinxes and pedestals; five sphinxes still remain on their pedestals and were uncovered with the titles of Nectanebo I, which also appeared on two pedestals. Three circular red brick constructions for flowering plants were found between the sphinxes; a large amount of pottery sherds of the Late Roman period were identified in a dump pit to the west of the sphinx row.

Trench 2: 10 m x 5 m x 2 m; adjacent to Trench 1, it is situated exactly over the paved road of the sphinx avenue. The well preserved sandstone slabs of the pavement were uncovered *in situ* in the southern part, in two courses, as it is in front of Luxor temple.

About 38,5 m x 6 m of the pavement was uncovered in this portion. Most of the sandstone blocks of which it was comprised are reused. A large lintel inscribed with the titles of Tuthmosis IV (**fig. 2**), visible in the eastern side of this pavement and used for construction, was found. No remains of the pavement were identified after 20 m to the north of the mosque. It seems to have been spoiled or eroded away by water.

Trench 3: about 20 m x 5 m x 2 m. It is located to the north-east of *Khaled Ibn El-Walid* Garden. It was cut as a profile of the north facing section of the garden. The excavation revealed canal deposits cut through the site.

⁸ D. WHITCOMP, J. JOHNSON, *Chicago Medieval Luxor project*, 1984, p. 45; *ibid.*, 1987, p. 31-34.

⁹ *Ibid.*, 1984, p. 45; 1987, p. 31-34.

¹⁰ M. BORAİK, E. BROCK *et al.*, *An archaeological report of salvation of Karnak and Luxor temples project*, coming forth.



Fig. 1. The sites of the Luxor Police Station. © Sca-Cfeetk.



Fig. 2. Lintel of Tuthmosis IV reused in the pavement of the dromos; site of Luxor Police Station. © Sca-Cfeetk.



Fig. 3. The sites of the Luxor Police Station (left) and of *Khaled Ibn El Waleed* Garden (middle). © Sca/O. Murray.

4. The Site of *Khaled Ibn El Waleed* Garden

It covers about 5600 square meters and is located 317 m to the north of Luxor temple, north-west of the police station and adjacent to it (**fig. 3**).

Two long NE-SW trenches were dug which exposed the western and southern row of sphinxes associated with red brick circular planters. The north-eastern row is severely damaged, while the south-western one is relatively better preserved, with some sphinxes broken in pieces.

Trench 1: was oriented NE-SW along the north-western row of the sphinxes and pedestals. The trench was 61,5 m long by 5 m to 6,5 m wide x 2 m deep. It was located along the north-western garden boundary.

Trench 2: was located along the north-eastern edge of the garden and measured 35,5 m x 2 m to 5 m x 2,2 m deep; five sphinx pedestals were found with the red brick circular planters; no remains of pavement were found. From studying the section, a canal running from NW to SE was identified.

Many Roman structures were found, indicating that the site was used during the Roman period for different activities. A sandstone block found inside one of the walls in front of the western row of the sphinxes was inscribed with the name of Cleopatra VII.

Excavations at the site continued between 5th January 2008 and 27th of March 2008 as a part of a field school aimed at training selected Supreme Council of Antiquities inspectors in archaeological field techniques and methods of recording.¹¹ Two red brick walls running parallel to each other, oriented SE-NW, occurred at a level lower than the sphinxes and dated to pre-Nectanebo times in the Late Period.

5. The site behind Mubarak library

The site is located 650 m to the NE of the *Khaled Ibn El-waleed* garden and is bounded to the NE by *Sharya el-matar* (Airport road) and to the SE by *Sharya el-mathan*, to the SW by *Sharya el-Karnak* and to the east by the *Abu el-Goud* village (**fig. 4**).

The site extended for 653 m x 76 m wide and is named after Mubarak Library; it was occupied by agricultural land and it was divided into small properties. The government compensated the owners and the excavation started in April 2006. Mechanical excavation was started under the supervision of a team from the Supreme Council of Antiquities. A cross section was cut to study the stratigraphy of the site: it contains a structure, revealing occupation and industrial activities of the Roman and medieval periods. The site was surveyed by Antoine Marmousez (**fig. 16**). Two cross sections (E-S) were cut to study the stratigraphy of the site along with a linear section (NW-SE).

About 172 sphinxes with their pedestals were uncovered. Most of them were found destroyed and headless. Parts of the pavement made of sandstone slabs have been revealed with the circular red brick planters connected with irrigation channels.

89 sphinxes of the western row were found partially preserved in good condition and 83 in the eastern one, mostly destroyed; their heads were cut off and many of them found next to their bodies except two which were found intact.

This portion of the sphinxes avenue was also built by Nectanebo I, but no inscription on the bases was found.

¹¹ With the permission and support of SCA, funded by ARCE and AERA and directed by Mohsen Kamel and Ana Tavares under supervision of Mark Lehner.



Fig. 4. The sphinx avenue behind Mubarak library. © Sca-Cfeetk.



Fig. 5. Reused sphinx in Late Roman structures. © Sca-Cfeetk.



Fig. 6. Destruction of the site by a large Nile flood. © Sca-Cfeetk.

5.1. The pavement

Under our supervision, a linear trench oriented NE-SW was dug mechanically 1 m deep along the area between the two rows. The uppermost section was a cultivated area, followed by a silty layer which covered the pavement.

We found that most of the pavement was carried away and does not exist anymore. However, the cross section revealed that Nectanebo I constructed a 40 cm thick bedding of pure sand before installing the slabs of the pavement. Two remaining parts of the pavement were uncovered.

The first was towards the north, next to the Airport road, known from the SCA excavation of 2001 and it measures 39 m long x 6 m wide.

The second part is to the south of the first and was damaged by an important flood episode: the slabs are slightly isolated and silts were deposited between. This part was used for wagons; the wear from their wheels is visible on the surface of the upper course of the slabs which are a little bit wider here, 27 m x 7 m.

5.2. The site was truncated by three factors

First, during the Late Roman time (**fig. 5**), the bodies of the sphinxes were used as bedding in some structures and later this area was turned into an industrial area.

Second, at that time a large flood event covered and destroyed part of the site and left behind a thick layer of clayish silt and silty clay raised about 1,2 m above the sphinxes (**fig. 6**).

Third, during the medieval period the sandstone blocks and fragments of the avenue were largely carried away, especially the pedestals. This explains the fact that many sphinxes were thrown off their pedestals.

Finally the site was recently turned into agricultural land and a water well was found to the east of the avenue, being built with red bricks. Wooden gears of a water wheel were found inside.

From the initial observation and investigation, it seems that this portion, as mentioned above, was used in the Late Roman period for industrial purposes. Wine installations with their related structures as pottery kilns, galleries for the labors, were observed.

It seems also that the area to the east of the site was for vineyards.

5.3. The wine installation

Among the many interesting remains of the Roman period that have come to light in this site is the wine factory which is located to the west of the western row, behind sphinxes n° 21 to n° 24 (**figs. 7-8**).¹² This vintage producing structure made of red brick is well preserved and probably like what was found in lower Nubia,¹³ consisting of three main elements:

1. Portico for sorting the grapes. A pillared portico is located to the north of the presses. Made of badly destroyed red bricks, it was probably used for the first step of the process.

2. Presses. The complex located to the south of the portico behind sphinxes n° 21 to n° 24 measures about 14 m x 13,5 m and has 4 circular columns. Each one measures 25 cm in diameter. The columns may have been used as supports for a roof made of palm reeds. Similar representations are known from the 18th dynasty tomb reliefs of Neferhotep (TT 49)¹⁴ and the Ptolemaic tomb of Petosiris (**fig. 9**).¹⁵ The wine press has a subsidiary basin [3] for washing the grapes. It measures 2,46 m x 2,77 m located to the north, is made of red bricks and has 3 steps covered with mosaic; there is a hole at the bottom of it for draining water, stopped by the base of an amphora.

The press itself was made of red bricks in a rectangular shape with a mosaic floor. It contains two squared basins. The first one [1] lies to the north-west and measures 2,6 m x 2,46 m x 1 m deep. It has a staircase to the north-east corner of it, made of three plastered steps. An outlet is observed in its north-western corner and was used to drain the waste water through a canal made of red bricks, plastered on its surface. It flows towards the west and joined another one coming from the second outlet to the western wall of the processing area.

¹² For a Graeco-roman testimony concerning a wine-press found at Karnak, see J. LAUFFRAY, *Kêmi* 20, 1970, p. 61, pl. 14; *The Luxor Museum of Ancient Art*, Cairo, 1979, pp. 180-181; J.-P. BRUN, *Le vin et l'huile dans la Méditerranée antique. Viticulture, oléiculture et procédés de transformation*, Paris, 2003, pp. 15-16.

¹³ W. ADAM, "The Vintage of Nubia", *Kush* 14, 1966, pp. 262-283.

¹⁴ N. de G. DAVIES, *The Tomb of Nefer-hotep at Thebes II*, New York, 1933, pl. XLVIII; J.G. WILKINSON, *The Manners and customs of the Ancient Egyptian I*, London, 1837, p. 385, fig. 161.

¹⁵ G. LEFEBVRE, *Le tombeau de Pétoisiris III*, Cairo, 1924, pl. XII; N. CHERPION, J.-P. CORTEGGIANI, J.-Fr. GOUT, *Le tombeau de Pétoisiris à Touna el Gebel: relevé photographique*, *BiGén* 27, 2007, pp. 58-59 (56b).

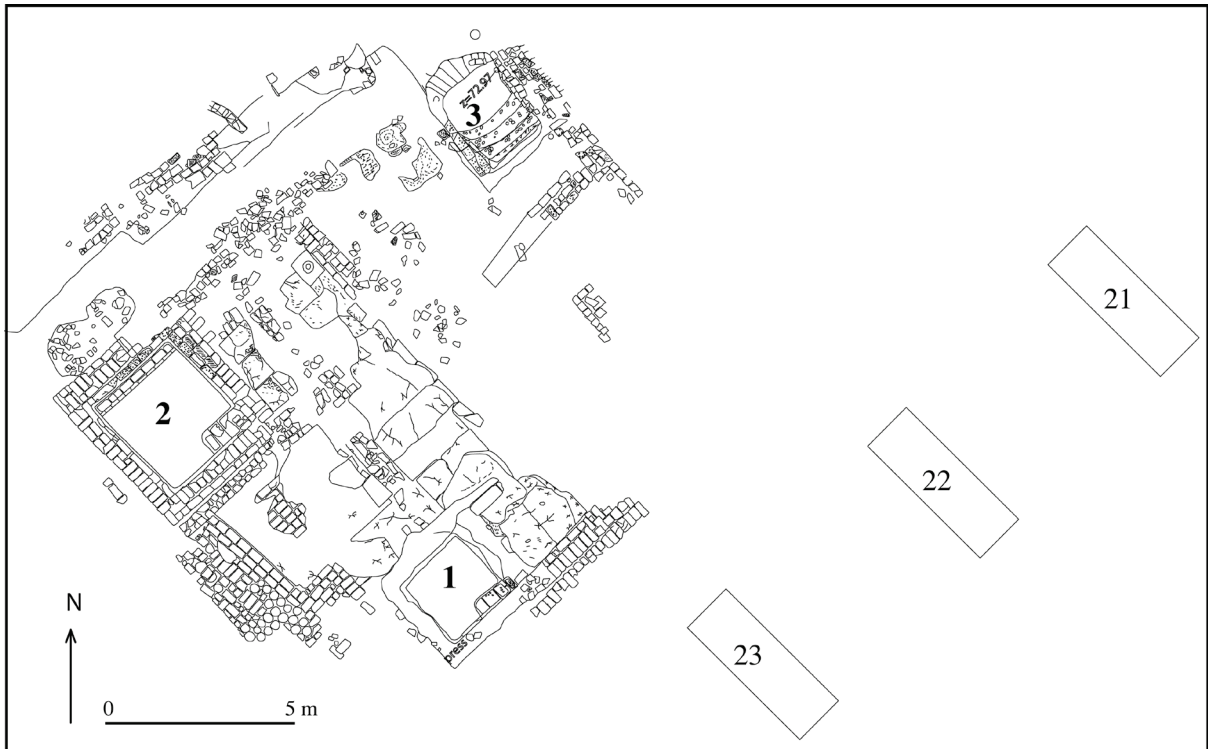


Fig. 7. The wine press with mosaic floor. © Sca-Cfeetk.



Fig. 8. The storage cistern, south-west of the wine press with the two pottery bases of wine vats. © Sca/O. Murray.

The second basin [2] measures 3,15 m x 4 m x 1 m deep, located to the NW of the first one in order to allow enough space for maneuvering. It also has a staircase in its north-east corner, made of three plastered steps.

The press has a canal system for draining the waste water used for cleaning made of ceramic pipes located in front of sphinxes n° 39 to n° 42. It runs to the north for 7,30 m and turns to the west through a tunnel with a pointed roof made of red bricks, with its entrance made of two sandstone blocks, discharging the water towards the west and measures 70 cm x 30 cm wide.

3. Storage cistern. This is located to the south-west of the press behind sphinxes n° 27 and n° 28 of the western row. It has a circular shape made of red bricks, measuring 5,5 m x 3,7 m; from the inside it appears to be a vessel in bulbous shape. Its rim measures 1,3 m in diameter and 1,8 m deep; a broken amphora was found inside it. Two big pottery bases of wine vats were found embedded in the ground 1,8 m to the north of the cistern; they seem to have been used for fermentation purposes; the diameter of each one is about 90 cm.

Some reused, inscribed sandstone blocks were found in the construction of the cistern, one of them decorated with reliefs representing the god Amun-Ra.

Remains of a red brick room were found to the south of the cistern; it measures 6 m x 5,5 m with a staircase leading to an entrance 50 cm wide and was probably used as a magazine.



Fig. 8. The press in the tomb of Neferhotep (after DAVIES, *The Tomb of Nefer-hotep*, pl. XLVIII) and in the tomb of Petosiris (after G. Lefebvre, *Le tombeau de Pétoisiris*, pl. XII).

5.4. The laborers galleries

This complex measures 38,5 m North x 9,65 m West and was constructed on the same level of the pedestals. These galleries are located to the south of the cistern to the west of sphinxes n° 36 to n° 43 of the western row of the avenue. They were used mostly during the harvest season as a temporary residence.

They are six galleries constructed of red bricks, each in a rectangular shape 3,5 m wide x 9,65 long. Two sandstone bases for columns were found adjacent to their entrance, which is located behind sphinxes n° 40 and n° 41, each measuring 2,6 m wide.

Behind the galleries a narrow passage 2,70 m wide connecting them was found, running towards the north. At the end of it a pottery kiln was found. Its diameter is 2,5 m and 1,5 m high, with a squared vent on the southern side.

When uncovered, the area to the south of the galleries was found to contain a lot of circular ashy patches with remains of burnt red brick, indicating that it was used for cooking.

On the surface of the eastern part of sphinx pedestal n° 36, which is located to the north-east of these galleries, graffiti of names inscribed in Greek writing were found. These may name some of the labors who used these galleries.

The area located adjacent to the eastern row of the sphinxes was used for producing pottery. A group of kilns remain, separated from north to south. The first group was behind sphinxes n° 10 and n° 14 measuring 19,4 m North x 8,15 m East. The second group was located behind sphinxes n° 30 to n° 34, in an area measuring 31 m x 7,5 m. The third group was located behind sphinxes n° 37 to n° 41 and covers an area 39 m x 9 m and is the biggest of the areas.

A cross section running north south was cut through this area to build the new retaining wall, revealing that these kinds of kilns were constructed annually, during the harvest season. The main production was of amphorae, probably for transporting the wine.

During excavation of this section we found a thick layer of ceramic remains containing some complete jars of different shapes and sizes, as well as oil lamps, some melted by high fire. This indicates that these wares and vessels were placed as bedding for the next constructed kiln. Initial investigation dates them back to the 3rd century AD (**fig. 10**).

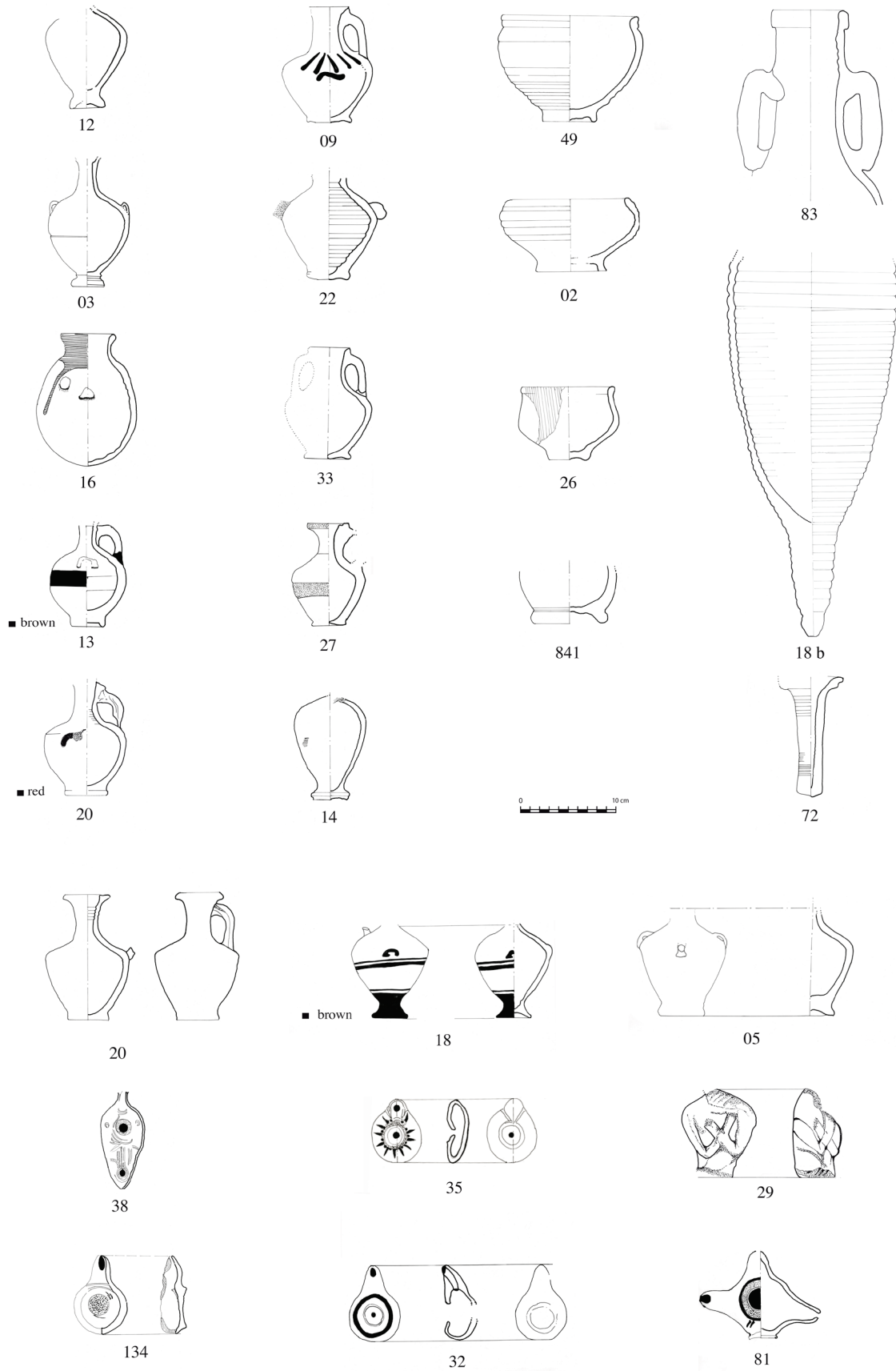


Fig. 10. Roman ceramics and oil lamps.

5.5. Finds

1. Stela of Bakenkhonsu¹⁶

A stela of Bakenkhonsu (**fig. 11**), high priest of Amun-Ra was found during the first cleaning of the upper phase of the site and at a depth about 50 cm from the surface level, behind sphinxes n^{os} 48-49. It has 17 horizontal lines of text and measures 132 cm in height x 77 cm in width x 28 cm in thickness. It is stored now in the main Luxor Antiquities Magazine at Abu el-Goud. The stela was found with its inscribed face down. It is dated to the 4th regnal year, the highest attested date, of Setnakht, the first king of the 20th dynasty.

Of particular interest in the main text is the theme of the discovery of damage of an ancestral and divine monument as a symbol of the effects of disorder, this followed by the reversal of such effects by restoring the monument and a dedication offering by order of Bakenkhonsu.

2. False door stelae

These small sandstone slabs, now stored in Sheikh Labib magazine, were found behind the west row of sphinxes, on the floor of the galleries corridor, the first one measuring 37,5 cm x 26 cm x 12 cm (**fig. 12a**) represents the façade of an Egyptian chapel with torus molding and cavetto cornice, with a circular opening in the center and extended to the bottom, giving the appearance of a large, old fashioned keyhole. This opening is flanked by two lotus buds, both colored red. The slab has two pilasters on either side. The second one has the same features of representation except in the center and extended to the bottom a niche with representation of vaulted ceiling was carved; it measures 33 cm x 22 cm x 10 cm and the niche measuring 14,5 cm x 10 cm x 16 cm (**fig. 12b**). They may have been a cultic objects or to keep a figurine for ancestor. A similar one was found in Habu Temple.¹⁷



Fig. 12. False door stela. © Cnrs-Cfeetk/J.-Fr. Gout.



Fig. 12. False door stela. © Sca/O. Murray.

¹⁶ M. BORAİK, "Stela of Bakenkhonsu High priest of Amun-Re", *Memnonia* 18, 2007, pp. 119-126.

¹⁷ U. HÖLSCHER, *The Excavation at Medinet Habu V. Post-Ramessid Remains*, *OIP* 66, 1954, p. 60. Others similar stelae were previously stored in the Caracol storeroom (n^{os} 227-228, 262-266), moved to the new Abu el-Goud storeroom.



Fig. 11. The stela of Bakenkhonsu. © Sca-Cfeetk.

3. Private stela

A rounded-top private stela in sandstone in sunken relief (38 x 31 x 7,5 cm) was also found (**fig. 13**). It bears the representation of a man standing in front of Amun and Mut. New Kingdom ?

Except a *wꜣs*-scepter, it is difficult to identify the remains of signs before the face of Amu. In front of Mut one can read : *d-nsw-ḥtp Mw.t wr(.t) nb(.t) p.t.*



Fig. 13. Private stela dedicated to Amun and Mut. © Cnrs-Cfeetk/J.-Fr. Gout.

4. Tiberius stela

Two fragments of a sandstone stela (27 x 46 x 17 cm ; 28 x 24,5 x 17 cm) of Tiberius were unearthed to the east row of the sphinxes (**figs. 14-15**).

The stela is decorated with figures and the remains of text in sunken relief. Topped by a winged sun disk, the lunette depicts the emperor offering the *nu*-bowls of wine to the triad of Karnak, Amun-Ra, Mut and Khonsu (falcon-headed with lunar-disk), before whom a second figure of Khonsu the child is standing (only the lunar-disk is preserved); before the king, one can see the head of a figure crowned with the red crown.

Tiberius: ^[1] [*nsw-bjty*] *nb tꜣ[.wy...]* ^[2] *sꜣ Rꜥ nb [ḥꜥ.w...]*

The Northern Meret: ^[3] *mr.t-mḥw*¹⁸

Khonsu: ^[4] *Ḥnsw [pꜣ] ḥrd ʿꜣ wr* ^[5] *tpy n Jmn Khonsu [the] child, the very great, first born of Amun.*

¹⁸ For *Mr.t-mḥw*, see *LGG* 3, 330c-331a; with red crown and playing harp, she is found behind the king offering wine (*nu*-bowls) to gods: to Isis and Harsomtut (*Dendara* I, 25,15-26,13) and to Isis and Ihy-wer (*Dendara* III, 58,11-59,5).

Amun: ^[6] *dd mdw jn J[mn...]* ^[7] *[...] nb.w Utterance by A[mun...] all [...]*

Mut: ^[8] *[...]*

Khonsu: ^[9] *dd mdw jn Hnsw m W3s.t* ^[10] *nfr htp Utterance by Khonsu in Thebes Neferhotep.*



Fig. 14. The two parts of the stela of Tiberius. © Cnrs-Cfeetk/J.-Fr. Gout.

The three lines on the second fragment read:

^[1] *[...] nb t3.wy (Tbyrys) s3 R^c nb h^c.w*

^[2] *[... J]mn-R^c nsw ntr.w, Mw.t wr.t nb.t Jšrw*

^[3] *[...m] m3[w] q3zfr-[nfr...]*

^[1] *[...] Lord of Two Lands (Tiberius), the Son of Ra, Lord of Appearance,*

^[2] *[... A]mun-Ra, king of the gods, Mut lady of Isheru*

^[3] *[...] anew, its heigh being [perfect...]*

This stela must be added to the 14 commemorative stelae in the name of Tiberius concerning building activity in Luxor temple (6 stelae) and in the temple of Mut at Karnak (8 stelae).¹⁹ Only the

¹⁹ We would like to thank Pr. Philippe Collombert (Univ. of Geneva) and Dr. David Klotz (Yale University) for sharing all their data about these stelae; D. KLOTZ, *Kneph: the Religion of Roman Thebes*, PhD, Yale University, 2008, p. 373-407. The

stela BM EA 1432 have the same figures on the lunette, Khonsu the child upon a sema-tawy, Amun-Ra, Mut and Khonsu in Thebes Neferhotep.²⁰

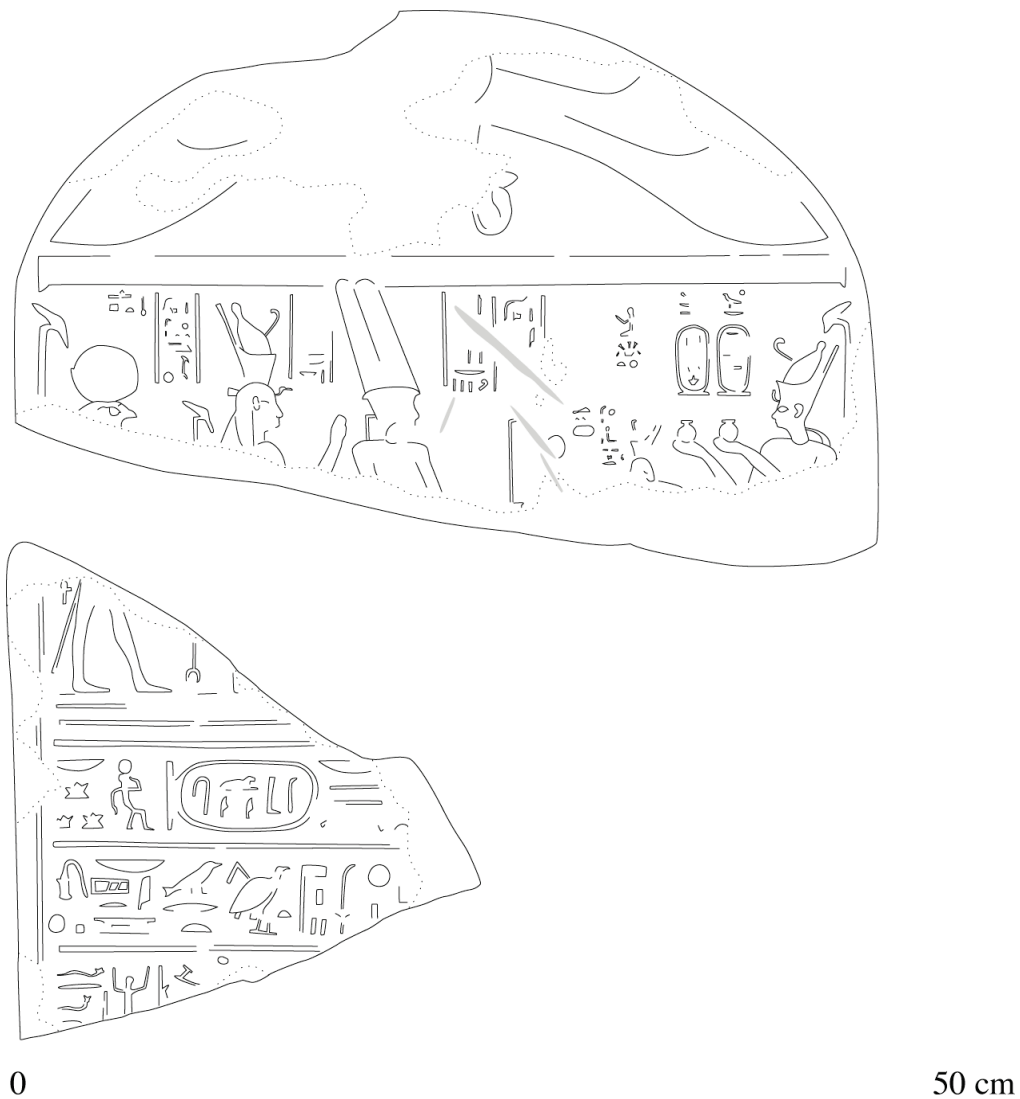


Fig. 15. The two parts of the stela of Tiberius. © Cnrs-Cfeetk/Chr. Thiers.

One can suppose that *q3=f* refers to the enclosure wall(s) of the Mut temple (which is/are mentioned in four stelae) or to the height of another building; three other stelae from Mut temple refer to the renewal of building.

Conclusion

It is too early to put forward a hypothesis relevant to the sphinx avenue. In the near future, the data that gradually become known will provide us with a clear understanding of the sphinx avenue, and the

stelae will be published by Ph. Collombert. The stelae from Mut temple are: Allard Pierson 7763; BM EA 398; 617; 1432; Berlin 14401 (lost); Cairo JE 65903; 65904; Karnak Caracol 1241.

²⁰ On the stela Karnak Caracol 1241, Tiberius stands before Amun-Ra, Mut and Khonsu.

structures related to it as we still have 630m. to be uncovered in the distance between Khaled Ibn elwaled and Mubarak Library sites.

After completing this task the whole course of the sphinx avenue between Luxor Temple and Karnak Temples will once more accessible like it was in the past.

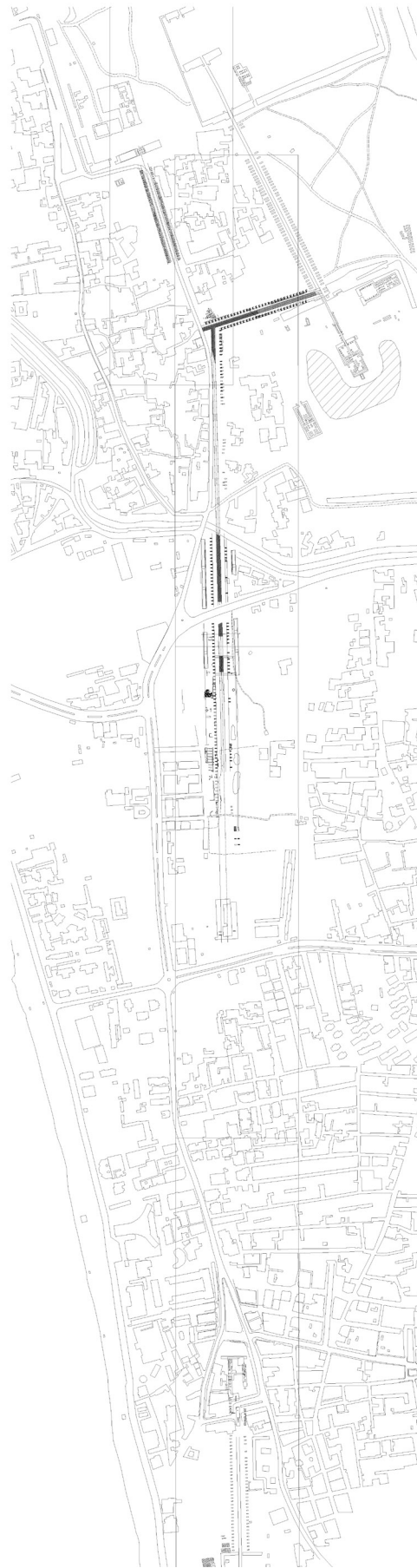


Fig. 16. Survey of the Sphinx Avenue between Karnak and Luxor. © Cnrs-Cfeetk/A. Marmousez.

