

RECONSTRUCTION OF THE THIRD PYLON AT KARNAK ⁽¹⁾

BY

Dr H. S. K. BAKRY

Prior to 1960⁽²⁾ the Department of Antiquities undertook the dismantling of the Third Pylon of Amenōphis III and the N.- E. Wall of the Hypostyle Hall of Sethōs I and Ramessēs II, after numerous fragments belonging to buildings erected in the area by Amenōphis III's predecessors had been recovered from the foundations of the Pylon. At the same time it was proposed to separate the 19th Dyn. Wall from the 18th Dyn. Pylon by approximately five feet in order to render visible the archaeological details of the Pylon and its inscriptions. The work was carried out in the following manner :-

A.—METHOD OF DISMANTLING :

1. The W. faces of Wall and Pylon were drawn in elevation on a scale of 1 : 20 ; therefrom a wooden scale model was constructed.

2. Each block to begin with was numbered twice to indicate the course to which it belonged and the position it occupied therein. These numbers were

(1) Thanks are due to Mr. Ṭāha ʿAbdullah al-Sheltāwy, Sub-director of the Department, who planned the work, to the egyptologists and to architects who helped with its execution, and to the skilled and unskilled labourers who brought the work to completion.

(2) See Barguet, P., *Le Temple d'Amon-Ré à Karnak, Essai d'exégèse*, Le Caire, 1962, (Publications de l'Inst. fr. Arch. orient. du Caire: Recherches d'archéologie, de philologie et d'histoire, t. XXI), pp. 78-86, and footnotes concerning the emptying of the S. and N. towers of the Third Pylon.

marked on the scale drawing, which was divided into sections each course of which was numbered from top to bottom (Pls. I, II).

3. Each section was photographed in detail. The photographs were pasted in their appropriate places on the wooden model (Pl. III *a, b*).

4. Blocks were extracted one at a time and each was given an incised number on its plain upper surface. They were raised by block-and-tackle, lowered to a decauville flat car and transported to an open space N.-E. of the Pylon and E. of Shabako's "Hall of Gold".

5. A new concrete foundation was laid at a depth of 18 feet and covered with asphalt to prevent damp rising through the rebuilt blocks.

In December 1961 rebuilding commenced.

B.—METHOD OF RECONSTRUCTION :

The Wall :

1. Since its lowest courses were excessively corroded (fortunately they bore no inscriptions), they were replaced by new sandstone blocks of the original shape and dimensions (Pls. III *bis*, IV *a, b*, V *c*). It was noted that capillary action and salt had reached a height ranging between three and nine feet.

2. Each block was padded to prevent damage before being transported by decauville to its original place (Pl. V *d*).

(*a*) Scaffolding and block-and-tackle were erected for the purpose of lifting and aligning the blocks (Pls. VI, VII, and Pls. VIII, IX).

(*b*) As soon as two courses were finished concrete abutments were built at the back of the Wall (Pls. X-XII).

(*c*) Alignment was checked at intervals and continuity of scenes and texts ensured (Pl. XIII).

Although a similar method was applied to Section B, **this** demanded more work, since it was higher than Section A. It consisted of two jambs joined from above by a lintel which was broken. Seventeen pieces which were recovered were carefully fitted together, concrete being substituted for the missing parts.

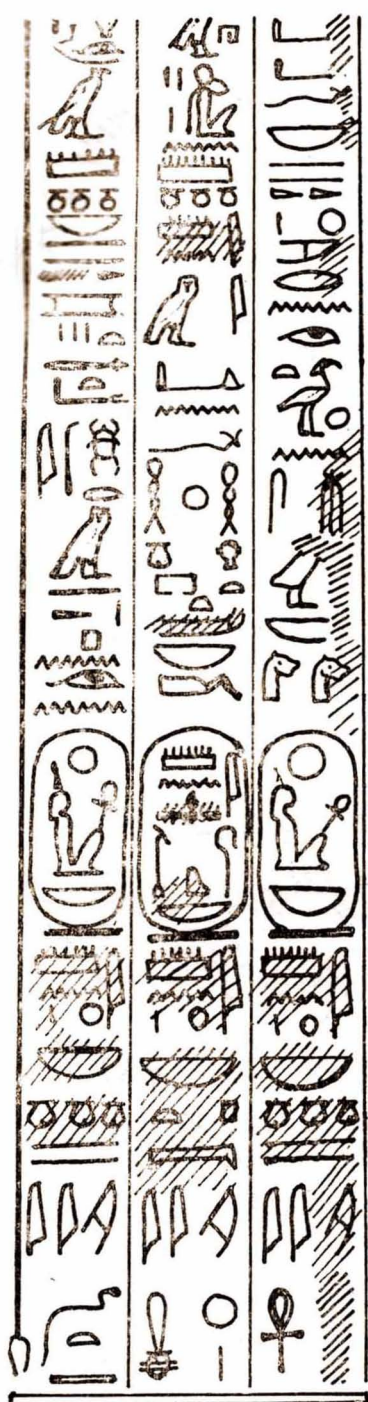
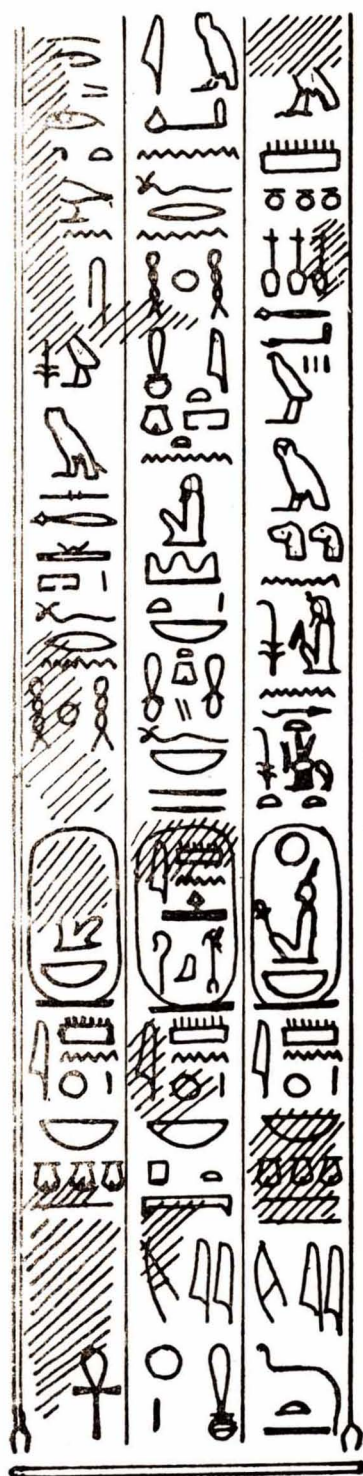
Section C was re-erected exactly the same way. For the bas-reliefs of the Wall, see Pls. XIV-XX.

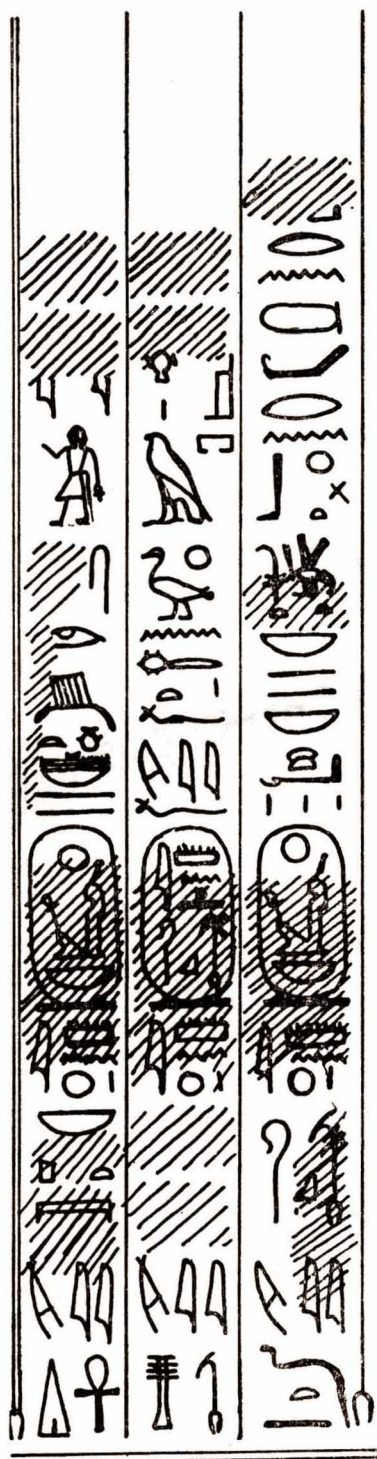
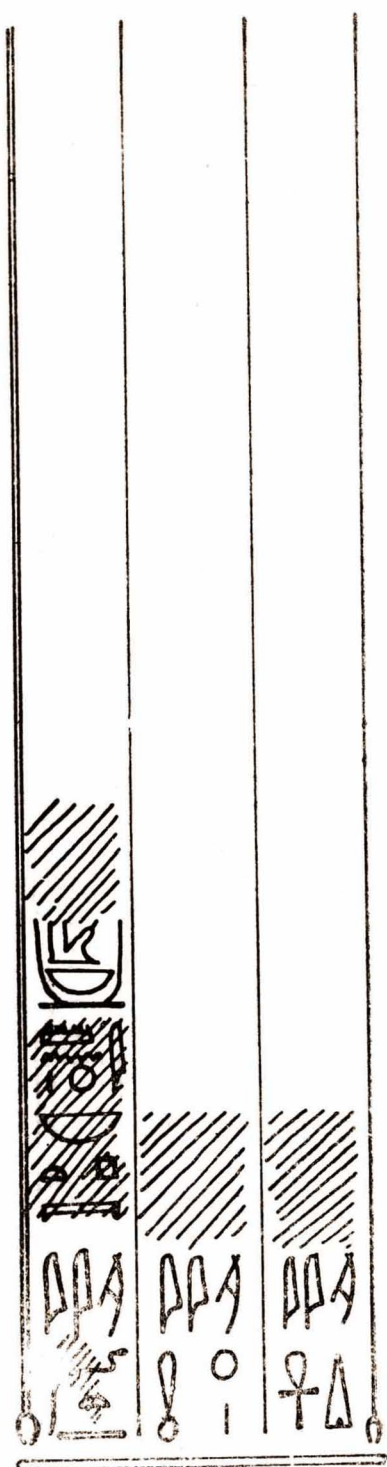
The Pylon :

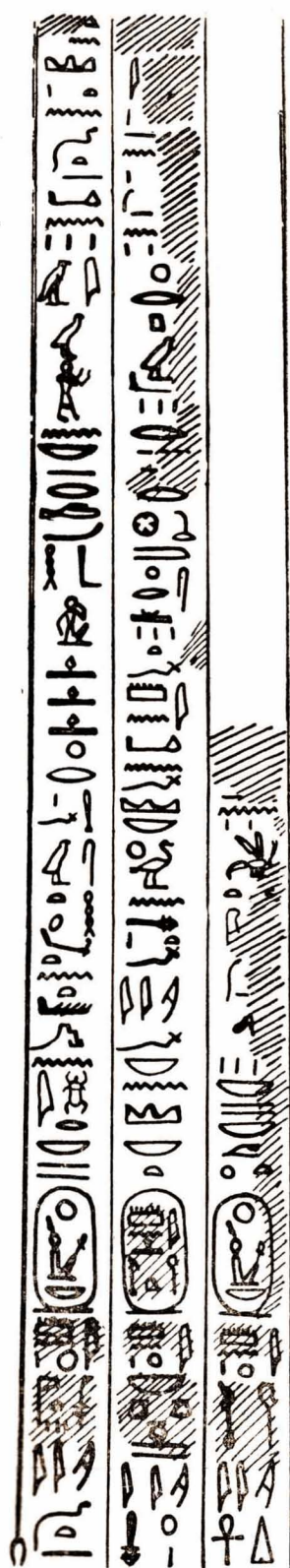
The Pylon was reconstructed by a similar method, but since it was lower than the Wall, there was no need for the addition of any abutments. A wall of stones, bricks and rubble was built behind it, first in order to support it and secondly to restore the original thickness, Pl. XXI.

For the sunken reliefs of the Pylon, see Pls. XXII-XXVI.

The Pylon formerly had five grooves for flag-staves, of which only four remain. At both edges of each groove there are three vertical lines of inscription of which the tops are lost ; the edges of the grooves are badly chipped and broken. It is remarkable that the name of Amūn and his titles as well as the name of Thebes, namely Wēse, were battered and that the royal cartouche with the name Amenhotpe-hike-Wēse once enclosed his name Neb-ma'ē-rē', a mistake made by the engraver and corrected in a clumsy fashion. Some colours have faded slightly, **others** completely ; the remnants of coloured paste are **still** fresh and visible. The inscriptions on the Pylon (Pls. XXIII-XXVI) run as follows :





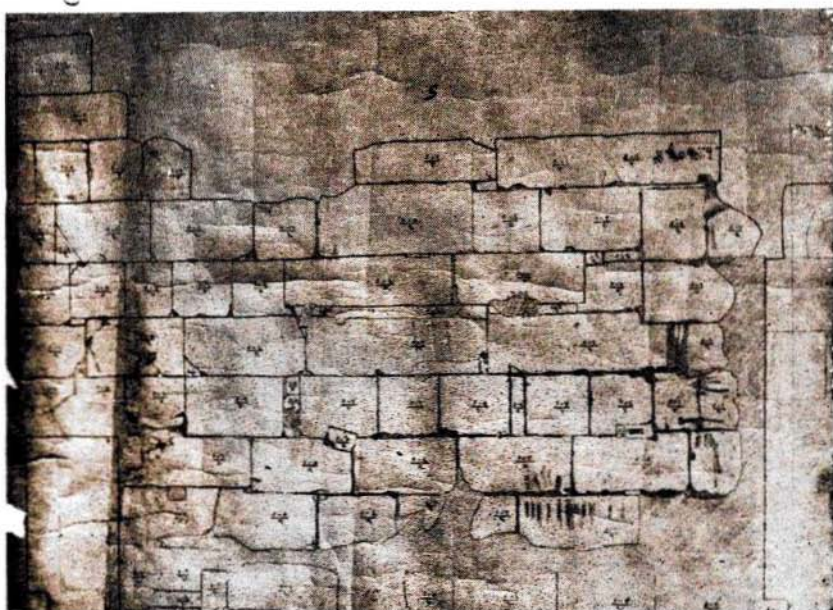


On June, 1963, the reconstruction of the Third Pylon came to an end. ⁽¹⁾

The measurements of the Pylon are indicated on its elevation, (Pl. XXII). The Hypostyle Hall, the W. face of the Pylon and its E. face now stand independently (Pls. XXVII-XXIX). We hope that the experience gained during the past decades will guide architects and egyptologists in years to come to free the S. tower of Amenōphis' Pylon from the E. Wall of Ramesses II's Hypostyle.

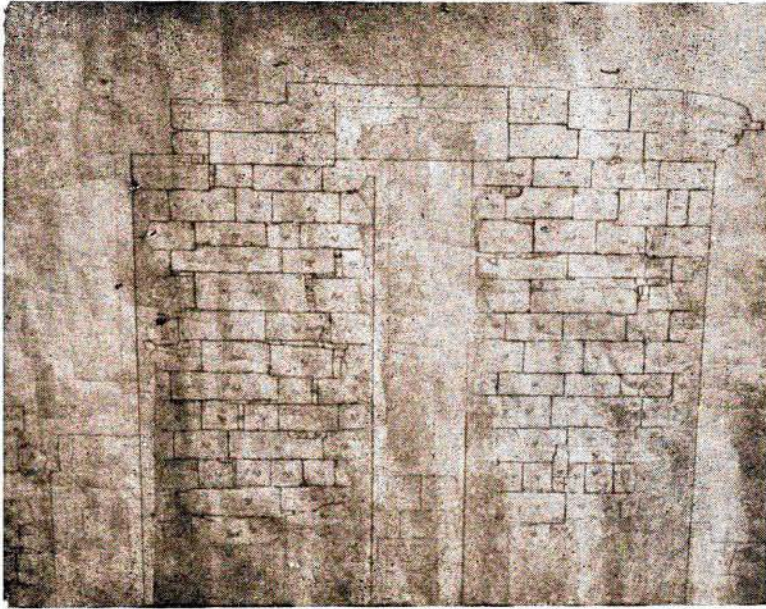
DR H. S. K. BAKRY

(1) Thanks to the efforts made by the present Director of Works, Mr M.F. 'Abdu'l Raḥīm.

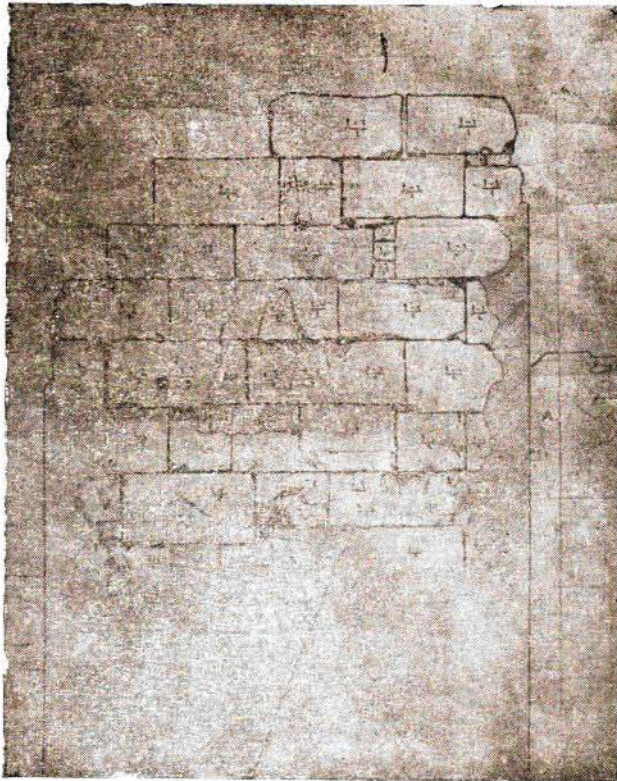


Plan of Wall with the blocks bearing course numbers.

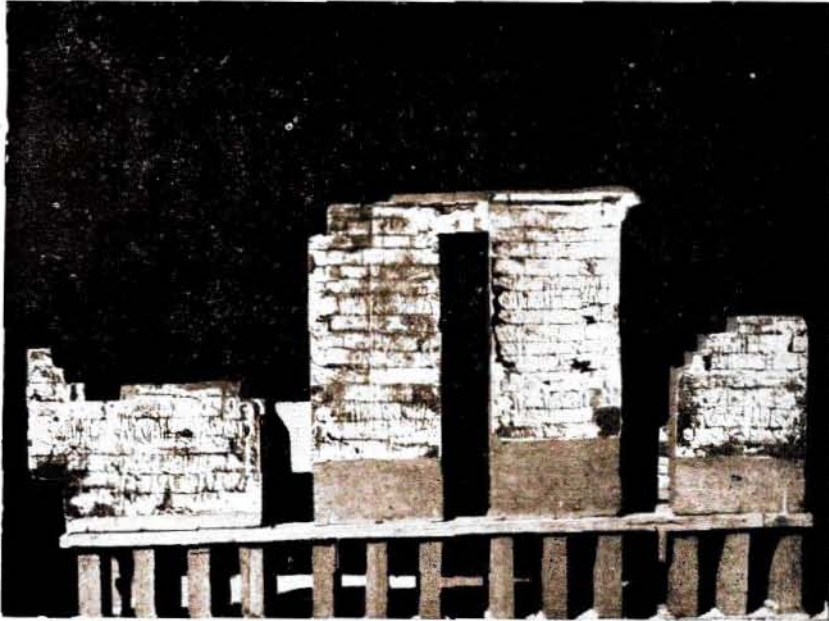
Section *A*



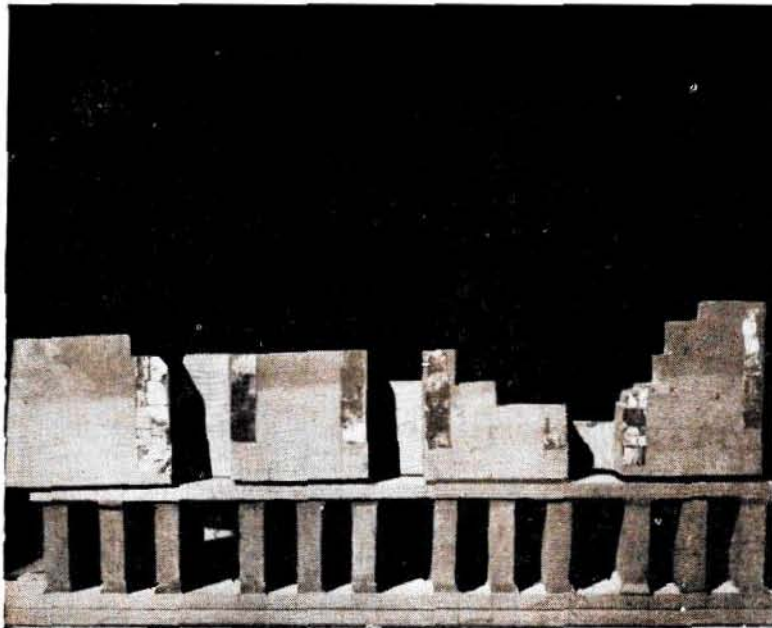
Section *B*



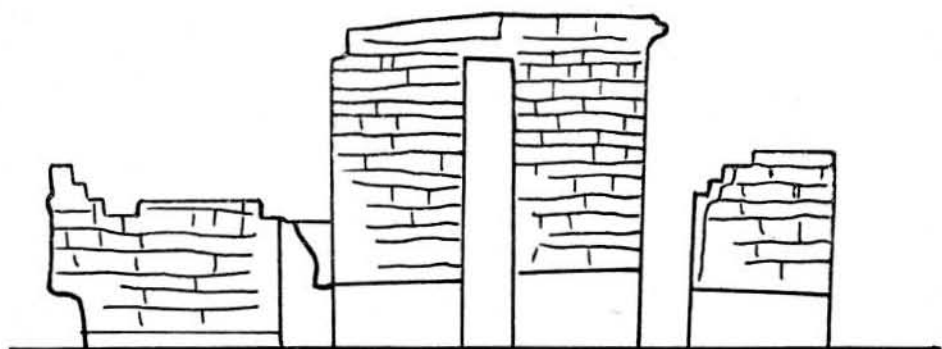
Section *C*



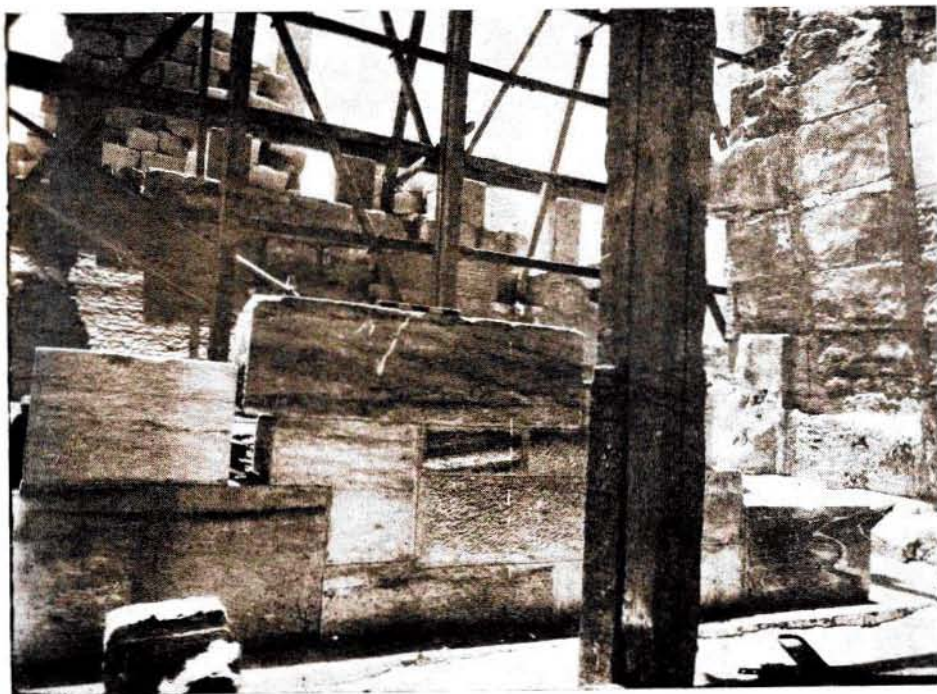
(a) Wooden model of Wall with photos of scenes.



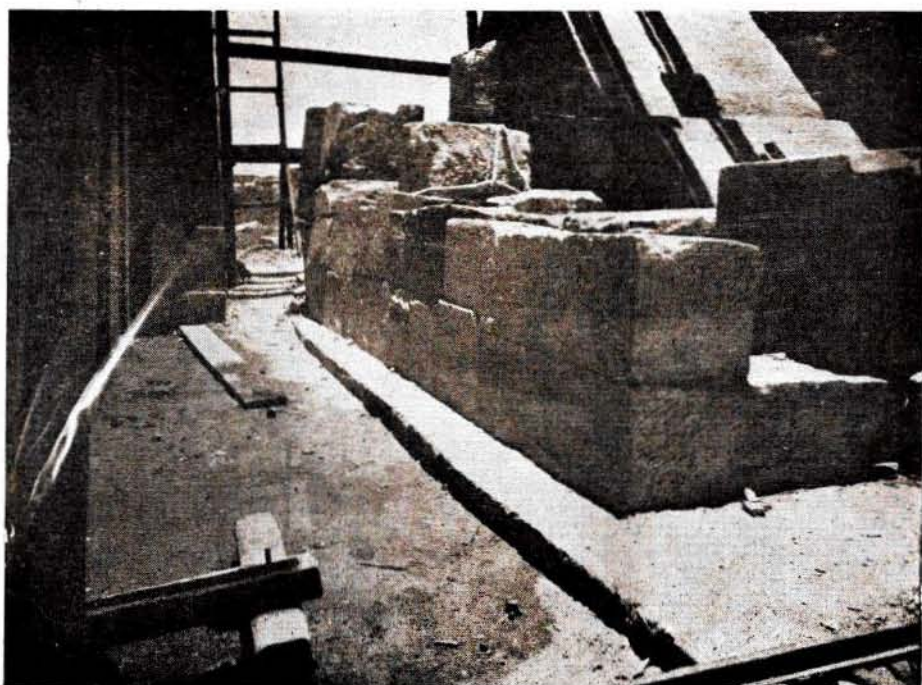
(b) Wooden model of Pylon with photos
of inscribed parts.



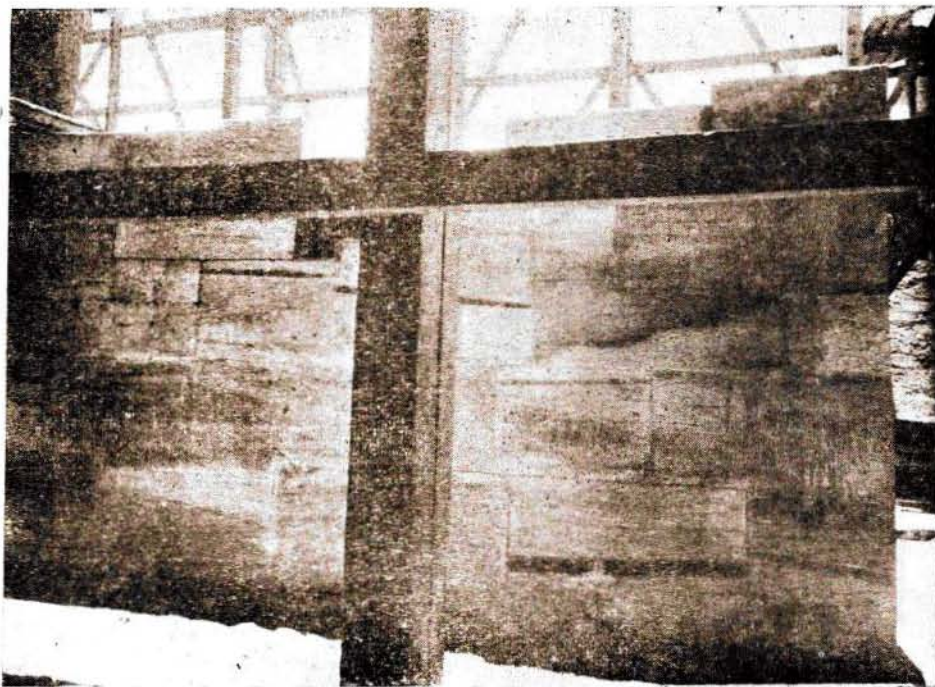
Elevation of Wall.



(a) Building lowest courses of Wall with new sandstone blocks, S. side.



(b) Reconstruction of Pylon, N. side.



(c) More courses of new sandstone blocks in place of the old ones.



(d) Block dragged on rollers and decauville-car in order to be replaced in its original position.



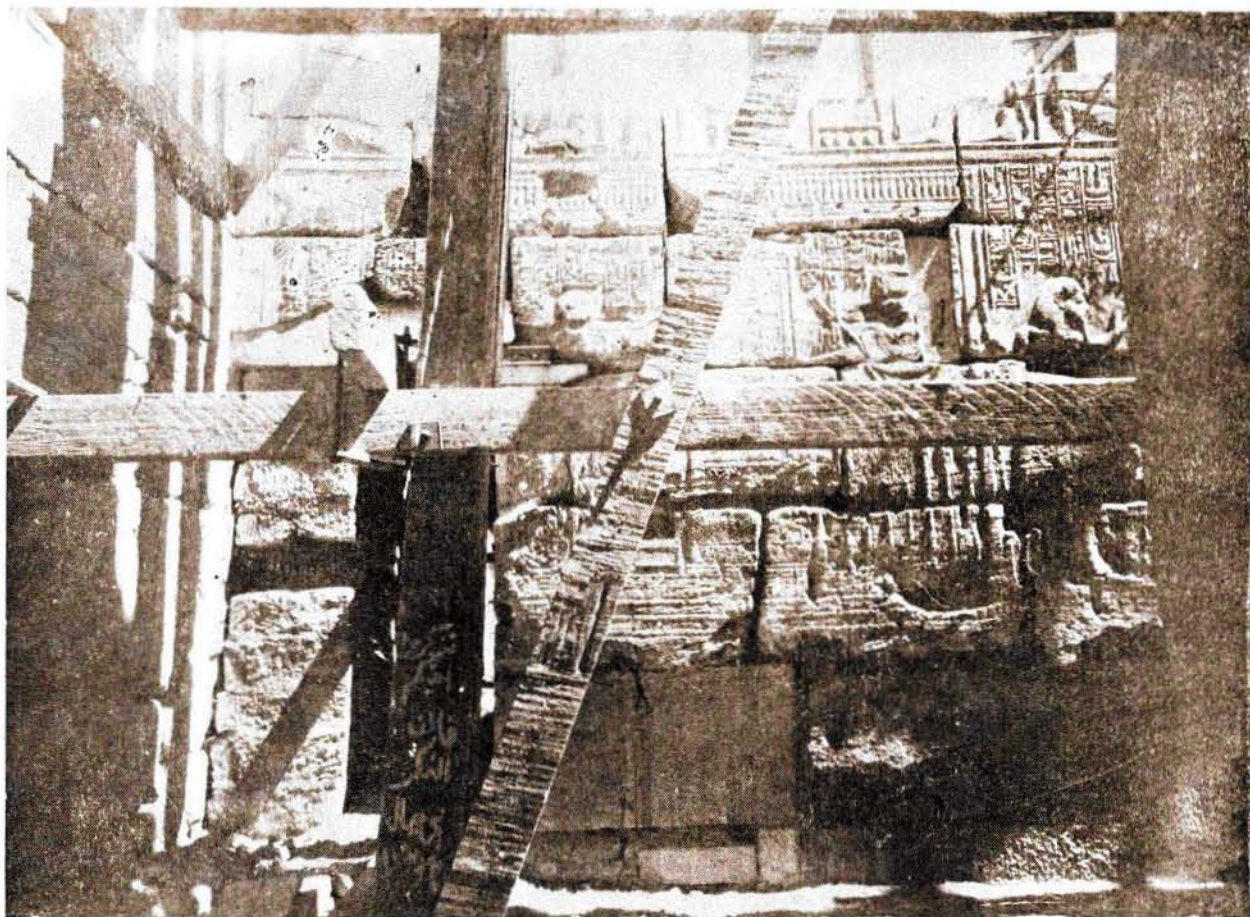
(a)—Raising a large block tied with rope on pad by means of tackle-and-block.



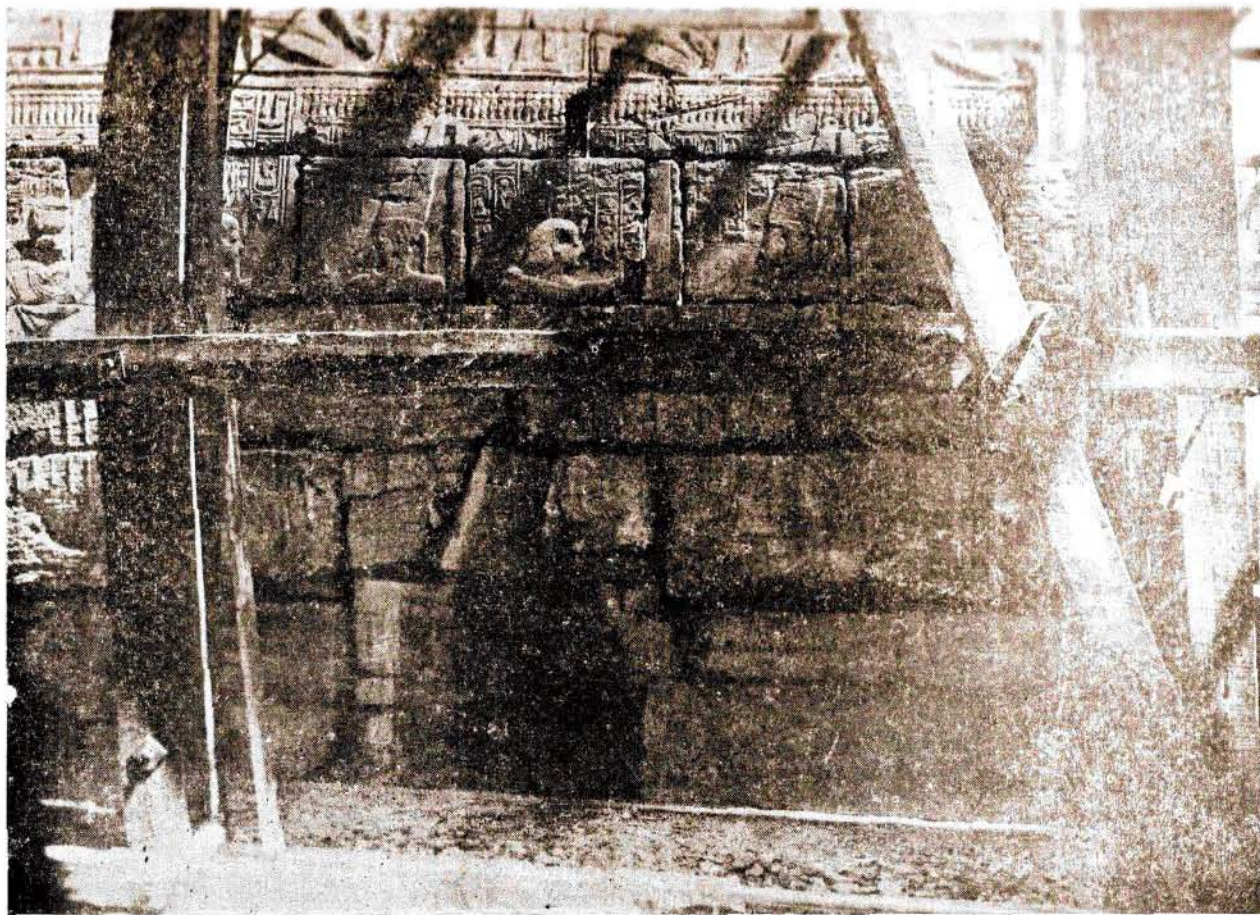
(b)—Raising a block by crane in order to replace it in its original position.



(c)—Workmen using the crane for
lifting blocks to the top of the Wall.



Reconstruction of Wall, section A (*left*).



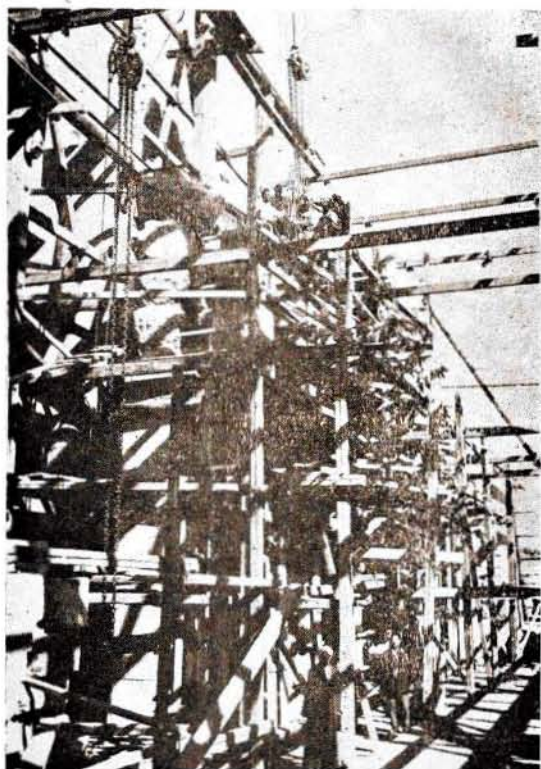
(b)—Reconstruction of the lowest inscribed courses on new blocks, section A (*right*).



First stage of building concrete abutments.



Back of Wall supported by concrete abutments and preparation
for reconstruction of Pylon on concrete foundation.



Abutments nearly completed.



Concrete abutments.



FIG. 8. (a)—Checking and revising at the top of the Wall, section B, *left*

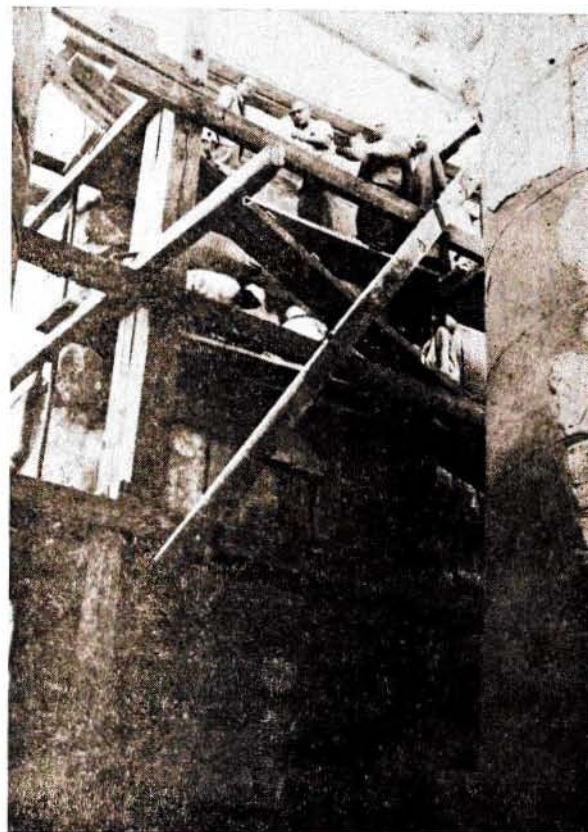
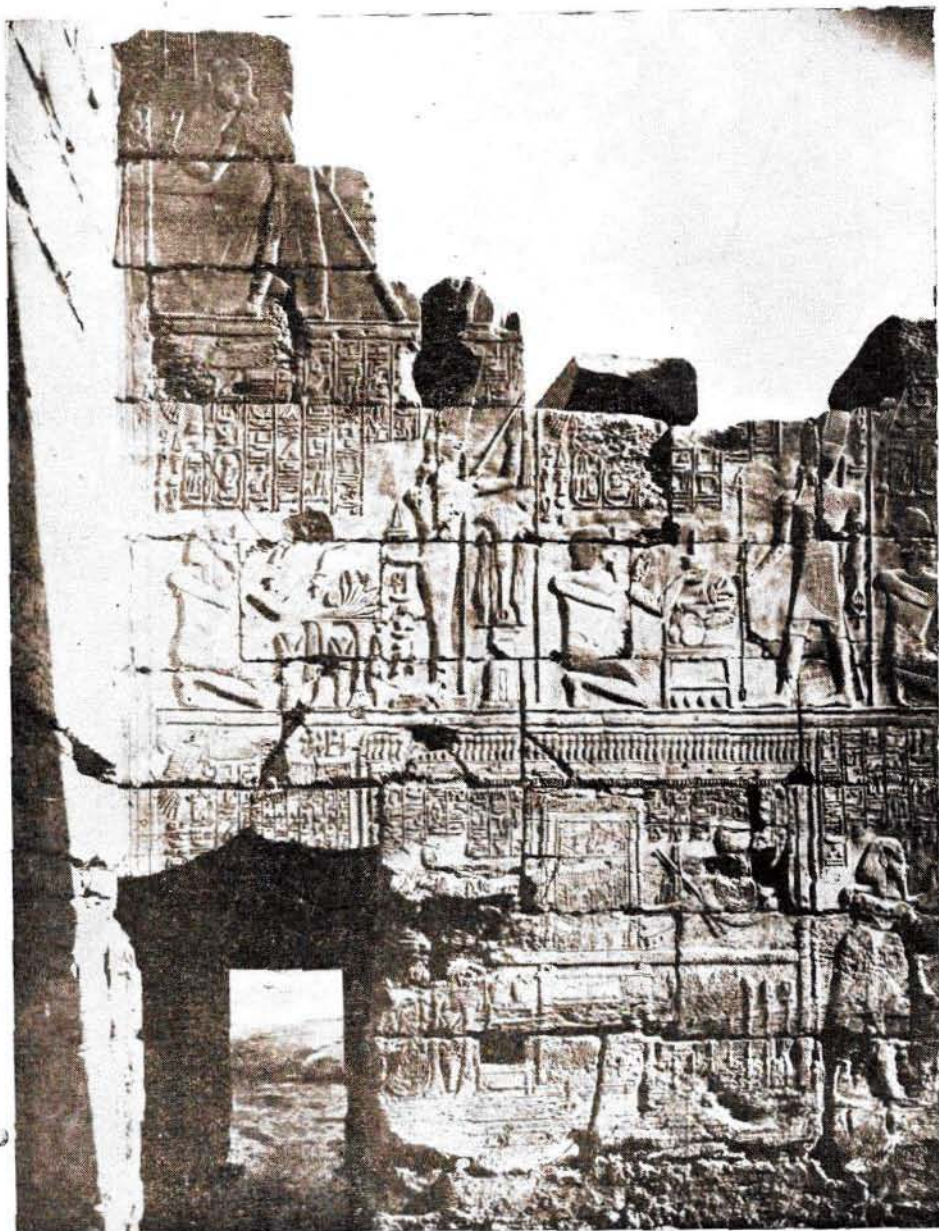
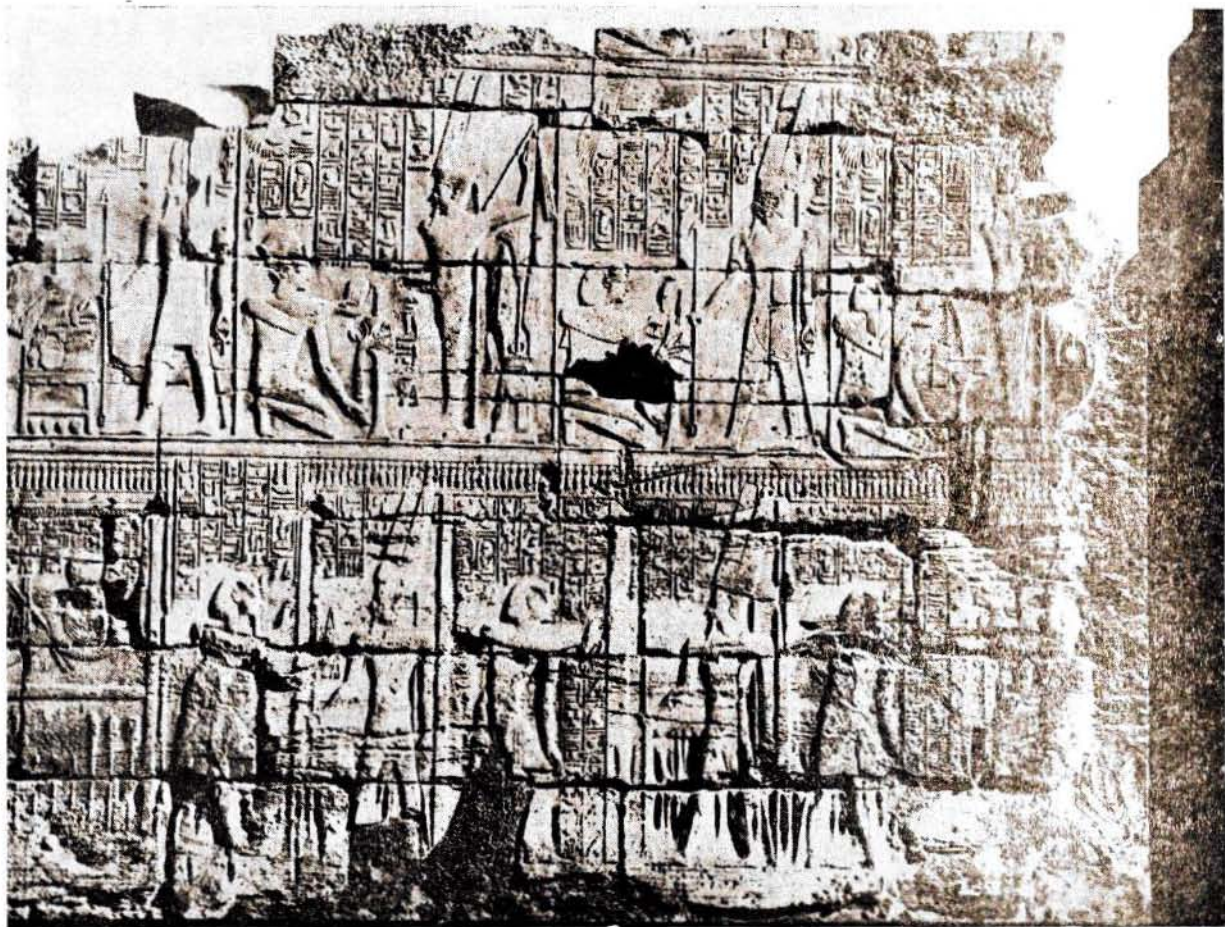


FIG. 8. (b)—Checking work at a high course of section B, *right*.



(a)—Section A.



(b)—Section A.



(a)—Section B.



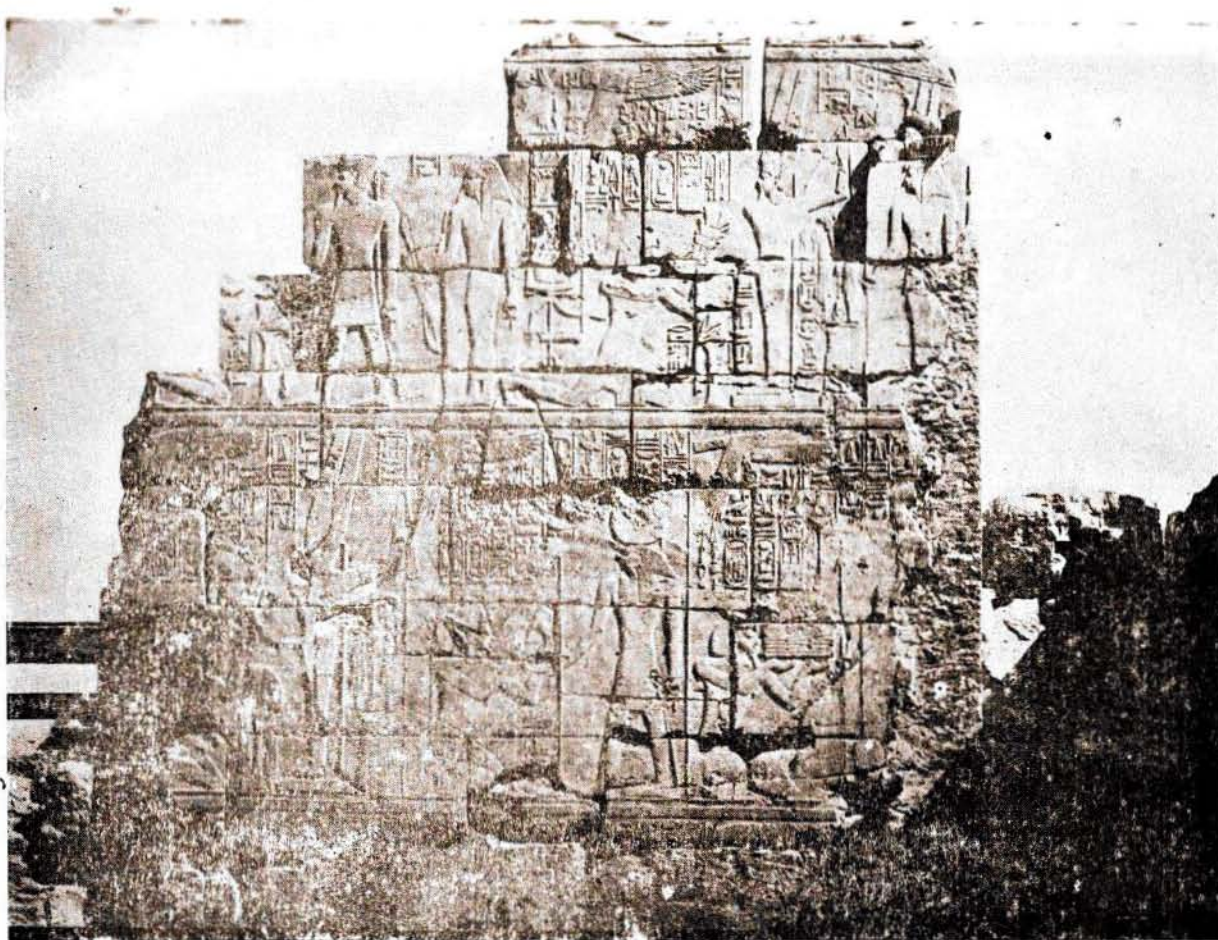
(b)—Section B.



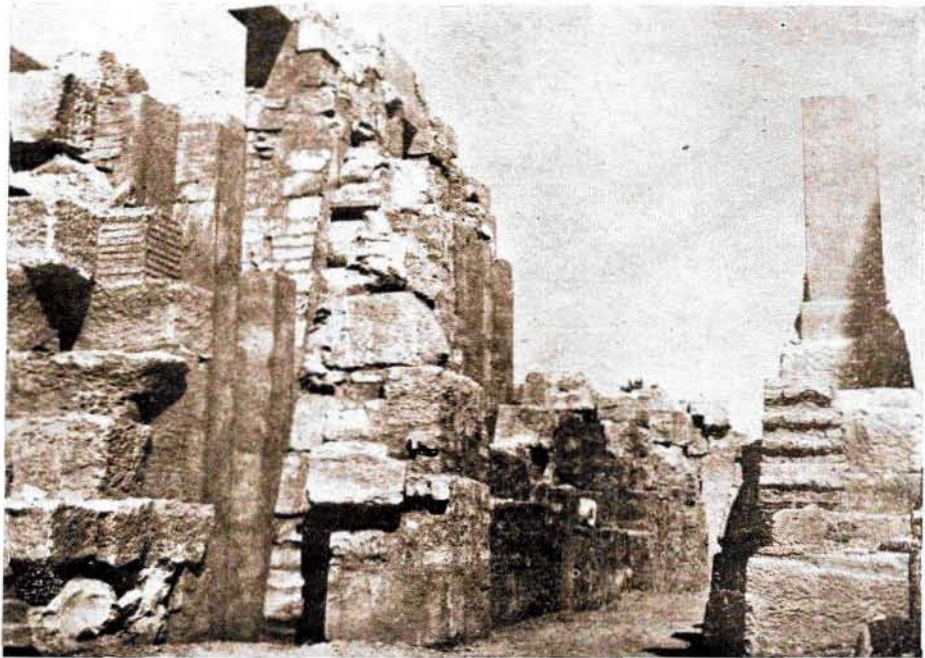
(c)– Section B.



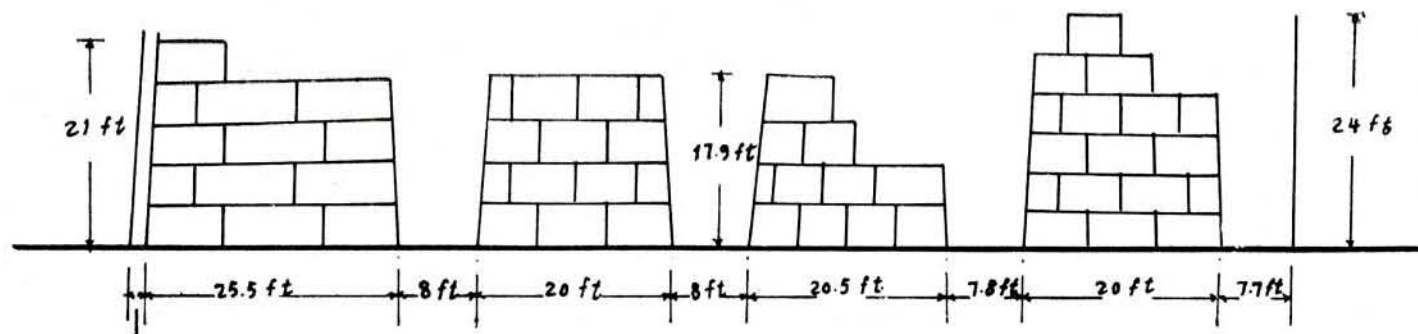
(d)—Section B.



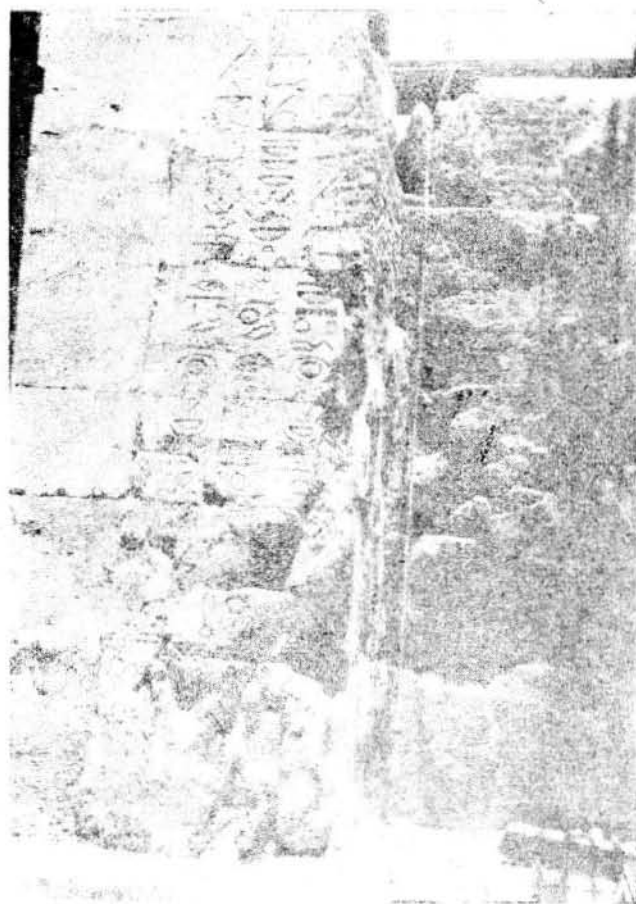
Section C.



Shewing back of Pylon re-built with bricks, stones and rubble
to restore original thickness of Pylon.



Elevation of Pylon with measurements



A

B

(From left to right) Third Pylon with its inscriptions.

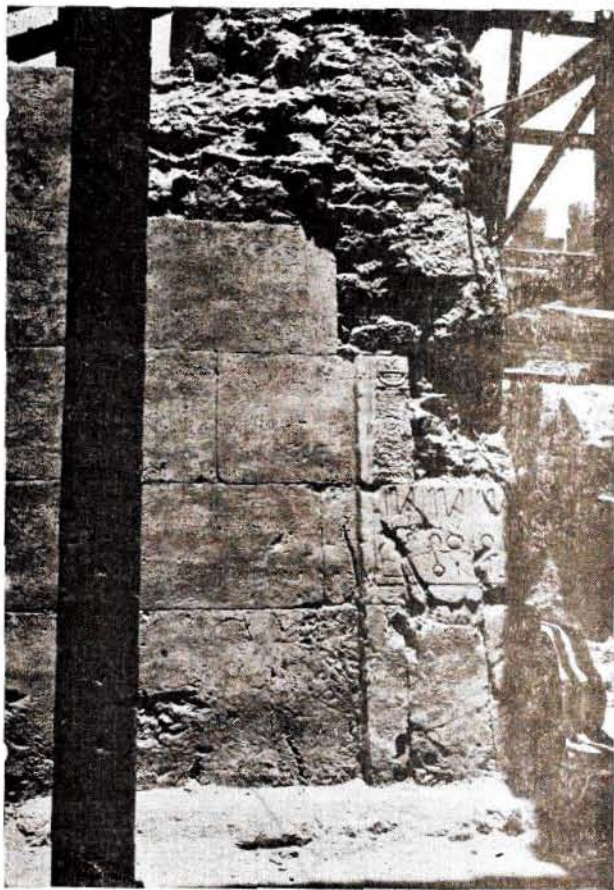


C

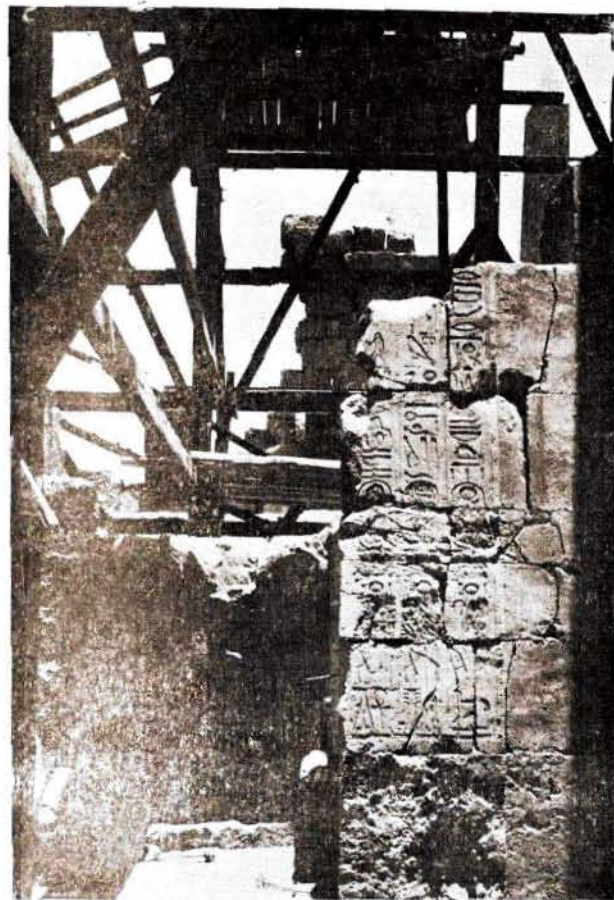
The Same.



D

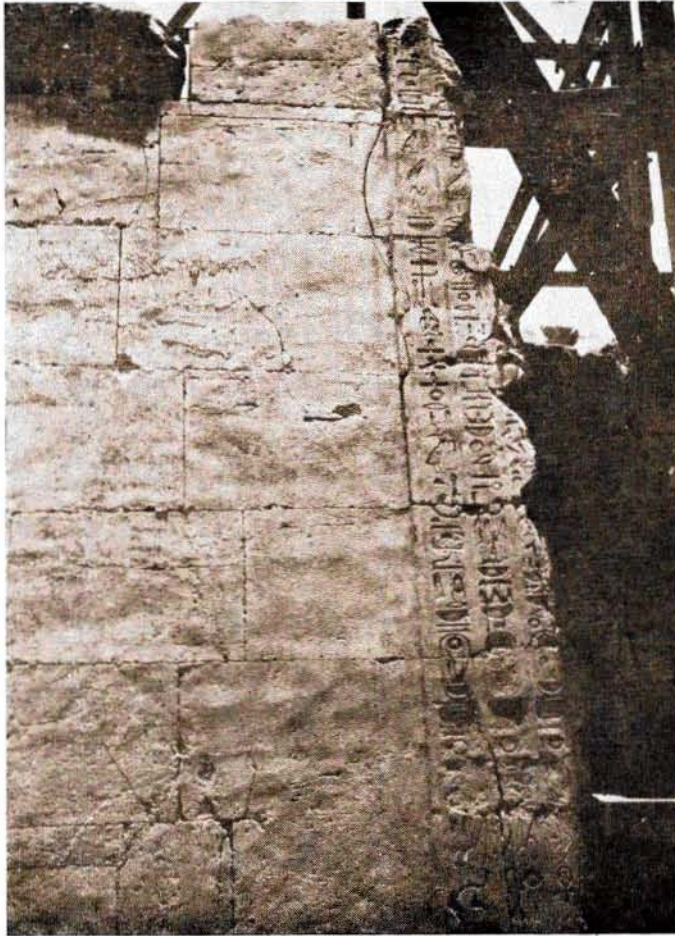


E



F

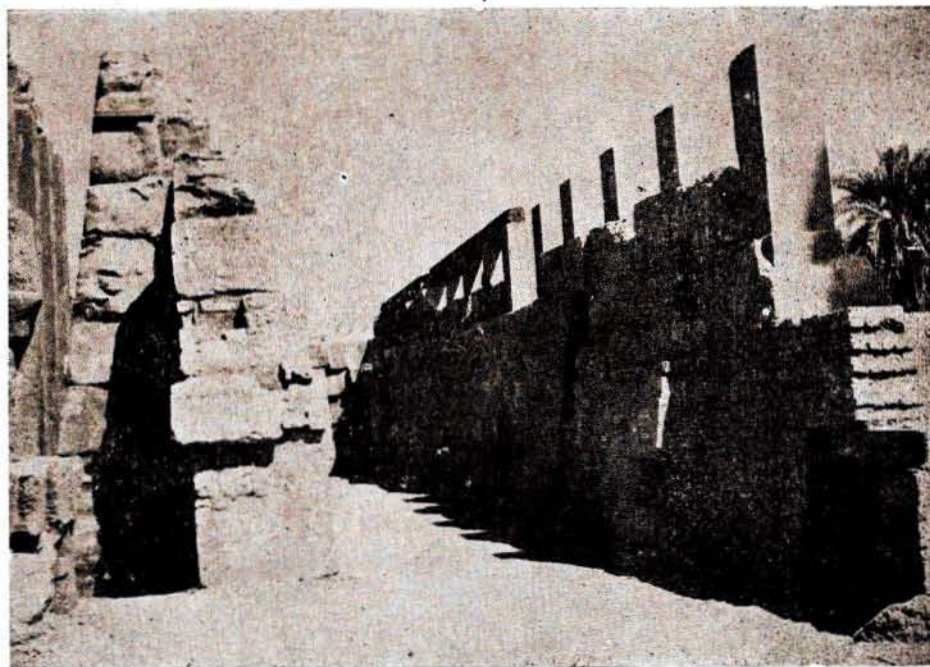
The Same.



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The Sam .



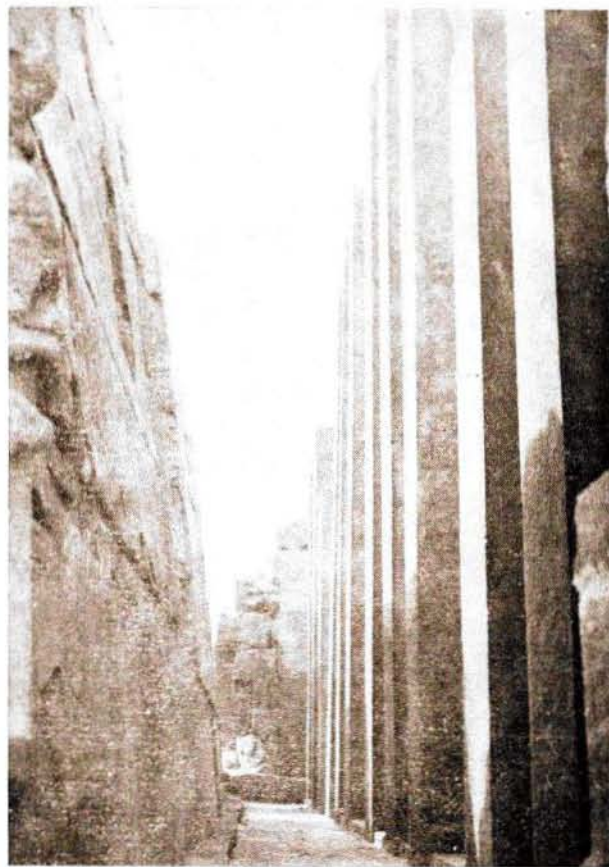
(a) Faces and spaces : South part of Pylon, behind which appears the Fourth Pylon.



(b) Faces and spaces : empty space between two faces. *E. right* and *W. left* cf Pylon.



(a)—Back of Wall and W. face of
Pylon (from South).



(b)—Back of Wall and W. face
of Pylon (from North).



Middle part of Wall, W face.