

Karnak-Nord – Storerooms (2019)

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AUTHOR'S NOTE

Année de la campagne : 2019 (4th of February – 11th of March)

Number and title of the field operation: 17223 –Les dépôts et archives de Karnak-Nord. Étude de mobilier archéologique et des fragments de relief

Composition of the field team : The mission was composed of Irmgard Hein (egyptologist, Universität Wien, Institute for Archaeological Research), Ernst Czerny (egyptologist, OREA - Austrian Academy of Sciences), Kristina Hutter (egyptologist, Universität Wien), Sylvie Marchand (ceramologist, IFAO). Student members from the Universität Wien: Angelika Bachinger, Julian Bsteh, Gerda Esche, Nevin El Gohary, Alfred Hutter (egyptologist), Ines Kittinger, Martina Markic, Rainer Pauer. The Ministry of Antiquities was represented by Asma Ahmed Mahmoud, Karima Gamal Mourtada, and Wahid Yousef Belal Saied.

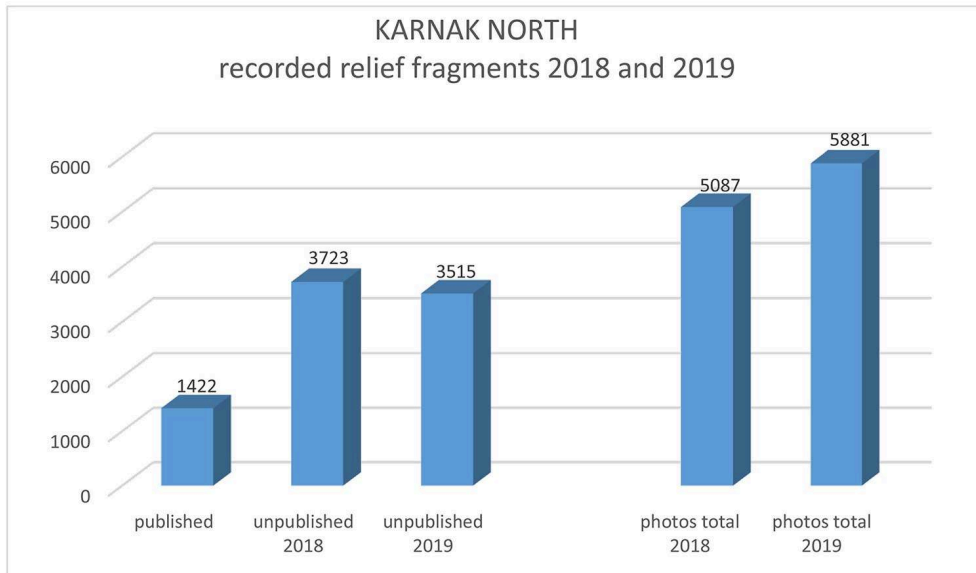
Institutional Partner : Universität Wien, Austria

Acknowledgements : *We wish to thank explicitly the authorities of the Ministry of Antiquities (MoA) in Luxor, under the leadership of Dr. Mohammed Yehya, Director of Upper Egypt, and Dr. Qasafi Abd er-Rahim el-Azab. From the local authorities in Karnak we thank explicitly Dr. Mostafa al Saghir (general director of Karnak and avenue of sphinxes), Fawzy Helmi Wakil (director of Karnak temple), and Rada Ibrahim Fouad (director of foreign missions at Karnak). We also thank Ahmed Dowi, head of the magazines at Karnak for the excellent cooperation. Furthermore we thank raïs Mahmoud Farouk, who organized the transport of the boxes.*

- 1 The excavations of the IFAO at Karnak North in the years 1970-1978 and 1986-1992 were directed by Jean Jacquet and have revealed the relicts of the treasury of Thutmosis Ist. A large amount of finds was made during this seasons and a large part of the find material is already published by Jean Jacquet and Helen Jacquet-Gordon in the volumes “Karnak Nord V-X”.¹

- 2 All finds were kept in the storeroom facilities at the site, which fell into disrepair over the years. The weak condition of the buildings was the reason for the Egyptian authorities to approach the IFAO in 2011 for a dislocation of the material. A transfer of the material was then initiated in cooperation with Irmgard Hein from the University Vienna² including the task to document the material and to identify the unpublished objects for further study and publication, as well as to build up a database of the objects.
- 3 Since the first activities in 2013 the « Karnak North - Archive mission » has provided more than 25 000 photographs for the digital documentation of the material, all finds are now at Karnak in the storerooms of Sheikh Labib, most of them are packed in large wooden crates.
- 4 During the season in February and early March 2019, the programme of the mission was to complete the documentation of the relief fragments, belonging to the former decoration of the treasury, as well as to continue the documentation of small size objects. 1 422 limestone fragments with relief decoration have been published by Helen Jacquet-Gordon in the volume *Karnak Nord VI* ³, some of them have been assembled to scenes. The work with the relief fragments began already in 2018, by then all fragments were cleaned with a soft brush, and the relief chips were organized according their location in the storerooms of 36 shelves. Before the mission was starting to check the relief fragments, all published fragments have been entered in a database by their find number and including the indication of the published drawings, so that the comparison of the real fragment with the drawing was facilitated.
- 5 The first half of the material from the shelves 1-17 was already photographed and packed in 2018, in 2019 the second half of the material had to be registered and documented.
- 6 In 2019 the mission was working between February 4th and 28th with the relief chips, and from 2nd until 11th of March with small objects inside the magazine.
- 7 Within this period of work we could identify an approx. amount of 41% of the already published relief fragments. The higher amount of fragments belongs to the unpublished material, 3 515 unpublished fragments could be documented.
- 8 The total amount of fragments registered in two years 2019 and 2018 is therefore 3 515 from 2019, plus 3 723 from 2018, plus the published 1 422 fragments, resulting a total of 8 660 relief fragments (see fig. 1). All fragments are photographed at the front and at the back side, in order to recognize also former registration numbers (see fig. 2 and 3). For the storage all fragments were wrapped in cotton, with layers of sponge in between, and packed in either cotton bags or plastic boxes, preserved in larger wooden crates. On the 3rd of March the crates were transported to the magazine of Sheikh Labib.

Fig. 1. Illustration about the recorded relief fragments from the treasury of Thutmosis Ist in 2019 (Graphic design: I. Hein).



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Fig. 2. Relief fragment KNUV-732 (photo no.2019-P2055. K. Hutter)



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Fig. 3. Back view of relief fragment KNUV-732 (photo no.2019-P2056. K. Hutter).



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- 9 The second task of the season 2019 was to continue the documentation of small objects, that were transferred to the magazine of Sheikh Labib in 2013. This group of finds from the treasury still needs to be studied and published, therefore during the last 12 days of work we documented small clay figurines and fayence objects.

Communications

- 10 – Irmgard Hein, Universität Wien, May 17th, 2019, "Die hinterbliebenen 'Schätze' Thutmosis' I. - Funde in den Magazinen aus dem Schatzhaus Thutmosis' I. in Karnak Nord."
- 11 – Irmgard Hein, Kopenhagen, Danish Egyptological Society, September 26th 2019: "The treasury of Thutmosis I at Karnak - finds in the storerooms."

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Helen Jacquet-Gordon, *Karnak-Nord VI. Le trésor de Thoutmosis I^{er} : la décoration*, FIFAO 32, Le Caire, Ifao, 1988.

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Jean Jacquet, *Karnak-Nord VII. Le trésor de Thoutmosis I^{er} : installations antérieures ou postérieures au monument*, FIFAO 36, Le Caire, Ifao, 1994.

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Helen Jacquet-Gordon, *Karnak-Nord VIII. Le trésor de Thoutmosis I^{er}. Statues, stèles et blocs réutilisés*, FIFAO 39, Le Caire, Ifao, 1999.

JACQUET 2001

Jean Jacquet, *Karnak-Nord IX*, FIFAO 44, Le Caire, Ifao, 2001.

JACQUET-GORDON 2012

Helen Jacquet-Gordon, *Karnak-Nord X. Le trésor de Thoutmosis I^{er} : La céramique*, FIFAO 65, Le Caire, Ifao, 2012.

NOTES

1. JACQUET 1983; JACQUET-GORDON 1988; JACQUET 1994; JACQUET-GORDON 1999; JACQUET 2001; JACQUET-GORDON 2012.
2. Due to a visiting professorship of I. Hein in 2013 in Sweden, the first mission was undertaken in cooperation with the University of Uppsala.
3. JACQUET-GORDON 1988.

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Subjects: IFAO

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