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Report on the excavations in the Middle Kingdom Court at Karnak, 2020-2021

Luc Gabolde, Ahmed Mahmoud Mohamed Al-Taher, Abdulrahman Nusair,
Florie Pirou, Sylvie Marchand

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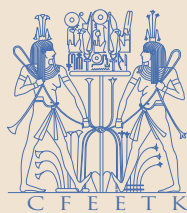
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CAHIERS DE KARNAK



17



CFEETK

Centre franco-égyptien d'étude des temples de Karnak

2024

Centre franco-égyptien d'étude des temples de Karnak

MEAE - UAR 3172 du CNRS, CSA - MoTA

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En couverture : Les statues restaurées d'Amon et d'Amonet dans la salle des Annales de Thoutmosis III

In the cover: The statues of Amun and Amunet restored in the Annals room of Thutmose III

Photographie CFEETK n° 213223 © CNRS-CFEETK/É. Saubestre

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**REPORT ON THE EXCAVATIONS
IN THE MIDDLE KINGDOM COURTYARD
2020-2021 (OP191)**

Luc Gabolde, Ahmed Al-Taher,
Sylvie Marchand, Abdulrahman Nusair, Florie Pirou

THE QUESTION of the date of foundation of the great temple of Amun at Karnak still remains uncertain even though old and recent researches have already contributed to clarify the state of knowledge¹. The present operation (OP191) proposed to explore once more the sandstone platform on the west side of the Middle Kingdom court and, in order to go further, to partly dismantle it with the hope to find reused inscribed material, foundation deposits or new archaeological data refining our understanding of the site's development.

1. Dates

Along the successive campaigns, the 2021 excavation operations took place at the following dates:

- From March 22nd until end of May 2021 and then were followed by a restoration and rebuilding campaign which ended on July 7th 2021.
- An extra sounding was then opened in the central part of the MK sandstone platform from September 23rd until October 20th 2021.

2. Participants

2.1. Directors of the operations

- Dr. Luc Gabolde, director of the USR 3172 of the CNRS and co-director of the CFEETK.
- Dr. Ahmed al-Taher (SCA-CFEETK), co-director of the CFEETK.

2.2. Field excavation's responsible

- Dr. Matthieu Vanpeene, architect archaeologist CNRS at the CFEETK,

1. Summarized in GABOLDE 2018, P 191-201.

2.3. Graphic documentation, photogrammetric survey, photography

- Team of the photographic service for the photos (Emilie Saubestre, CNRS-CFEETK, H el ene Cannaud assimilated CNRS-CFEETK, Karima Dowi CSA-CFEETK; Ahmed Roubi CSA-CFEETK);
- Agn es Oboussier chief of the restoration unit CNRS-CFEETK,
- Hassan al Amir, restorer, lent by the IFAO
- Team of 2 workers from outside for restoration
- Dr. Sylvie Marchand, ceramologist, lent by IFAO
- Florie Pirou, draftswoman and epigraphist CNRS CFEETK
- Abdulrahman Nusair, architect and archaeologist

2.4. Inspectors, Ra is of field works, ingeniery

- The inspectors of the SCA have been alternatively:
 - *Peter Fady*
 - *Saddam Mohammed*
 - *Shaima Mohammed Hussein and Aly Mohammed Ahmed El-Naggar and then*
 - *Fatima Ahmed, and Tala'at Sa'id.*
- The Ra is Awad Abd el Radi Mohammed and his team of around 10 workers for the excavation proper (Gaber Abd El-Radi, Mahmud Hussein, Fathi Abdallah Mohamed Abdel Naceri, Jamal Mohamed and daily specialists).
- The Ra is Mahmoud Farouq and part of his team for the blocks handling.
- Engineer Ashraf at the crane

3. Geographical frame

The geographical frame of the operations was circumscribed to the Middle Kingdom Courtyard and more precisely to the platform mainly made of sandstone which remains at the centre of the western part of the court (highlighted in red on the fig. 1).

4. Short summary of the previous archaeological explorations in the Middle Kingdom court

Mariette begins in 1858-1860 and once again in 1870 to remove the eolian, alluvial and human dumps of debris which covered the central area of the Karnak temple², but he did'n't remove completely the debris by legitimate fear to fragilize the remains.

Borchardt is the first to note on a plan the presence of the sandstone platform to the western part of the Middle Kingdom court³.

Chevrier, in 1947 explores for the first time the area and sees the sandstone platform, the limestone raft and the remains of earth in-between which he — wrongly — identifies to a mud brick wall⁴, starting point of a long-lasting misinterpretation.

2. MARIETTE, 1874, Texte, p. 7-8. Plates, pl. 5.

3. BORCHARDT. 1904, p. 3.

4. CHEVRIER, 1947, p. 177.

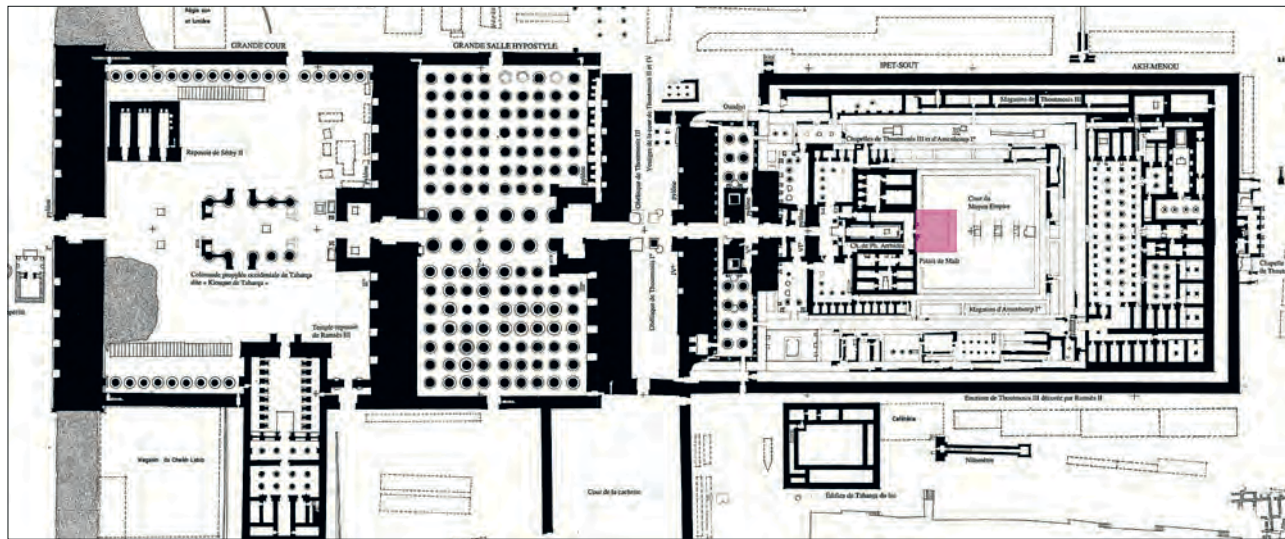


Fig. 1. The location, in pink, of the sandstone platform in the temple of Karnak (J.-Fr. Carlotti © CNRS - CFEETK).

Fig. 2. Photo of the excavations of H. Chevrier ≈ 1947-1950. Photo P. Barguet n° 56702 © CNRS - CFEETK.



He also covered the platform with the dump of debris issued from the clearance of the northern part of the limestone foundation raft (fig. 2), contributing thus to the dissemination of debris from the surface, particularly of the byzantine items.

Lauffray reopens the area in 1979 (fig. 9)⁵ he is followed by J.-Fr. Carlotti, E. Czerny, L. Gabolde in 1999⁶ and then by Charloux and Mensan in 2005⁷. Significant details of these modern operations will be given hereunder.

5. LAUFFRAY, 1980, p. 21. See also LAUFFRAY, 1979, p. 124

6. CARLOTTI, CZERNY, GABOLDE, 1999, p. 46-47 and CARLOTTI, CZERNY, GABOLDE, 2010, p. 119-121.

7. CHARLOUX, in Charloux, Mensan *et alii*, 2011, p. 130-131; MENSAN, *in ibid.*, p. 420-422 et fig. 236-237 et p. 425-426.

5. The archaeological and heritage issues

Scheduled in 2019 but actually initiated and implemented in 2020, inside the “Karnak des origines” programme funded by the French MEAE, the archaeological and architectural project on the Middle Kingdom court in the great temple of Amun-Ra at Karnak aims first at getting reliable chronological information to give an exact historical date to the sandstone platform.



Fig. 3. The site before the present excavations showing the protruding remains of the primeval temple threatened by the eroding.

This structure has indeed been attributed, according to the diverse theories, either to the Middle Kingdom or to the early New Kingdom. The operations aimed also at checking whether a primeval mud brick structures several times postulated, really existed on the spot or not.

Moreover, the sandstone remains of the primeval structure, arising on the surface were threatened by the intense abrasion generated by the flows of touristst (fig. 3).

The understanding of this area by the guides and visitors was finally almost impossible due to the extensive filling of the sector with sand, hiding the primeval structures. The site was not readable.

6. The 2020 operations

In 2020, the Egyptian authorities of the SCA gave to the CFEETK the authorization to implement the researches and also to dismantle and rebuild part of the structure. Notwithstanding the difficulties generated by the Covid 19 pandemia, a preliminary cleaning of the surface of sand covering the area could be undertaken (from March 16th until April 16th 2020 and then from September 15th until October 15th 2020). It permitted to bring anew to light the sandstone remains already known. The 3D orthophotogrammetric and topographical recording of the structure could then be undertaken.

In the same time, a mud-brick retainer wall was build up to protect the structure from the earth collapse and from the intrusion of tourists. A wooden bridge was also installed in order to canalize the flow of visitors (fig. 6).

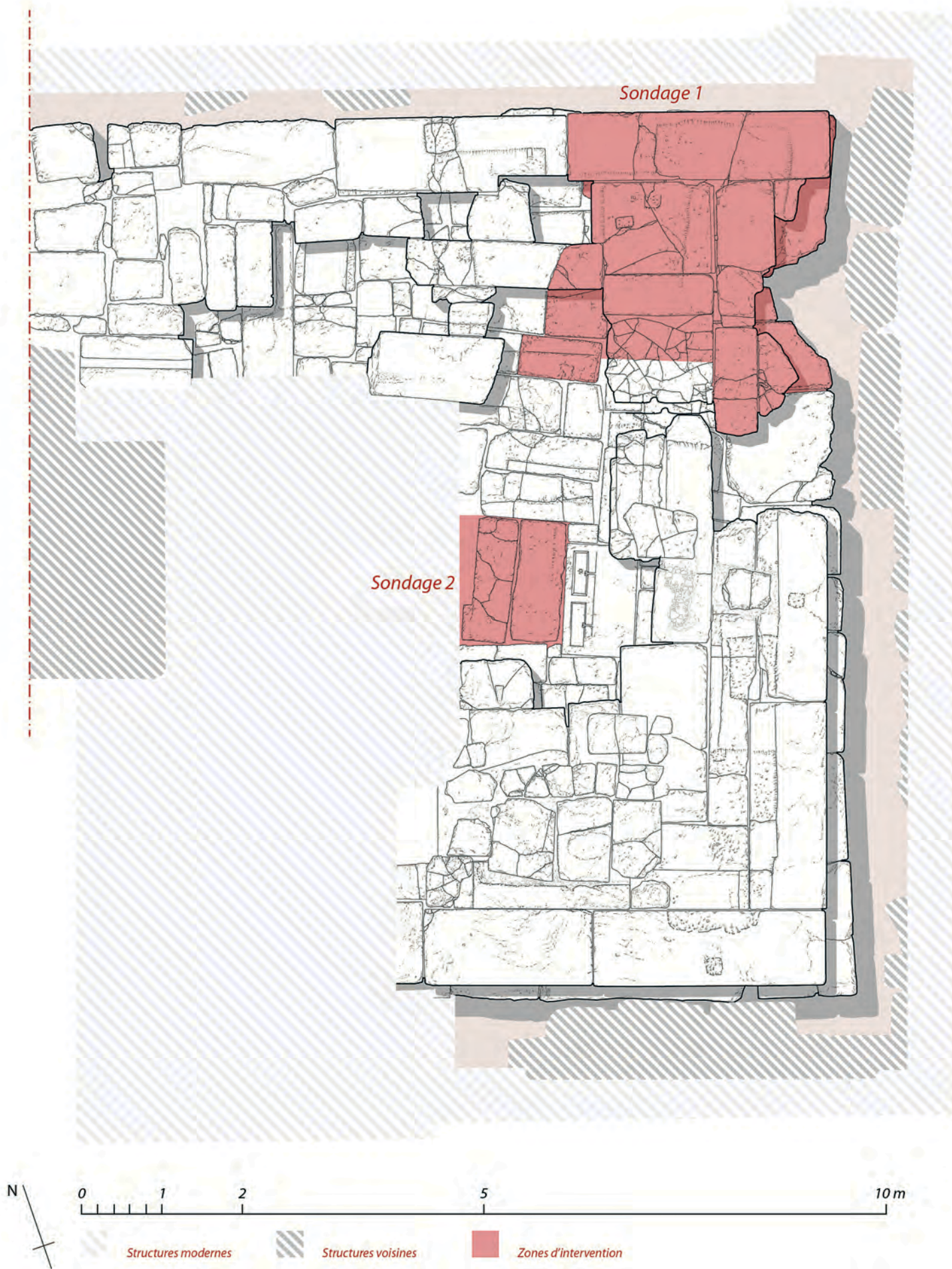


Fig. 4. Soundings 1 and 2 on the plan of the platform. (M. Vanpeene © CNRS - CFEETK).

7. The 2021 operations

In the right line of the previous campaign which had resulted in unearthing and cleaning the remains and in building a wooden track for the visitors, the project of this campaign was to dismantle entirely, stone by stone, the North-East corner in order to have access to a new documentation, to potentially (inscribed) reused blocks, to the substratum and contingently to foundation deposits. Two soundings were thus planned: sounding 1 at the North-East corner and sounding 2 in the centre of the platform (fig. 4).

8. The removal of the blocks

The operations began at the North-East corner. The removal of the blocks took around one week. With the help of the crane, 25 blocks were removed: 8 from the upper layer of the structure (blocks A27 to A33 plus one fragment of block A24), and 14 from the lower course, (blocks B 10 to B 19, blocks B 21 and B 22, blocks B 28 and B 29), and 3 belonging to slim layers of stones under thin blocks (fig. 5). Some blocks were very fragmented and necessitated restorations.

A storage area was thus installed to the north of the excavations. The blocks were restored in a structure with tents on the site by the team of restorers under the direction of Dr. Hassan al-Amir kindly lent by the IFAO.

Blocks were 3D documented, first in situ and then in the storage area, through orthophotogrammetric method. The process of 3D files generating is still on-going.

Most of the blocks are reused materials and bear traces of previous arrangements, with specific cut-outs, layout delineations, levers marks. A reused block from a cavetto cornice shows de trace of an unachieved sun disc or of a broken unachieved gargoyle (fig. 7 and 8).



Fig. 5. Removal of the blocks by mean of a crane (E. Saubestre © CNRS - CFEETK).



Fig. 6. The platform after October 2020 (A. Nusair © CNRS - CFEETK 203259).



Fig. 7. The fragment of a cavetto cornice with an unachieved solar disc or a broken gargoyle.
M. Vanpeene © CNRS - CFEETK)



Fig. 8. The remain of the cavetto-cornice block not extracted (M. Vanpeene © CNRS - CFEETK).

9. A levelled surface (patching ? dallage adjustment ?)

The present surface of the platform shows traces of depressions fillings made of small limestone slabs often rather thin⁸, sealed with large areas of plaster or lime mortar, which seem to point to a secondary modification and arrangement. Swallow-tails clamps are visible on the surface. A good deal of arguments point to a dating of these structures to the Middle Kingdom. A continuation of the soundings in the Middle Kingdom court may provide us, later on, with more definite data.

10. The excavation of the sandstone platform's foundations

The excavations were undertaken immediately after the removal of the slabs in order to avoid as much as possible risks of materials contamination (fig. 10).

The maximal depth reached is of almost 2 meters. The exploration was stopped at the level of the water table, which varied during the operations between 71,90 and 71,93 m asl.

The sounding n°1 at the North-East corner was undertaken on a surface of around 3,40 x 3,40 m.

8. Quite a similar situation with thin (reused) slabs placed between thick limestone layers inside stone foundations is attested at the same time at the inner enclosure wall of Senusret I at Licht (ARNOLD, 1991, p. 112 and fig. 4.2).



Fig. 9. Cleanings by Lauffray showing the state of the surface smoothed.

11. The upper layers and the intrusive late period holes

The stratigraphic organization of the layers was rather similar for the two soundings 1 and 2 (fig. 11-13) and can be described as follows:

A first stratigraphical unit (US 000, for both soundings) was isolated, composed of the content of the joints and of the upper surface of the underlying foundation sand. The platform and its wide-open joints had indeed been submitted to many afterwards destinies and material collected in such a situation could jeopardise or falsify the results.

In the sounding n° 1, on the East Side, a hole (FOS 002) had been dug to the depth of 72,72 (thus partly cutting the slightly anthropised natural substratum (US 004), as already notified by Lauffray. A fragment of grey granite white crown was left by previous explorers on its surface (fig. 4).

An intrusive hole (FOS 003) was also found in the sounding n° 2 down to level 73.21, cutting there the upper part of the upper layers (US 012).

Taking into account the pottery present their content, FOS 002 and 003 were apparently dug out in a very late period, byzantine or even modern times.



Fig. 10. The Sounding 1 at the North-East corner (view towards the south) (H. Canaud, © CNRS - CFEETK).

12. The grey sand layer and the gravels layer

Once the holes emptied, we excavated the layer of very fine grey sand (US 001 and US 010) containing pottery mainly dated to the Middle Kingdom and a very small quantity of (intrusive) byzantine potsherds. This layer (varying from ≈ 5 cm to occasionally 20 cm thickness) contained a very small amount of sandstone chips probably resulting from the stone cutting. Some fragments of charcoal, of bones and a ceramic token (MKC 001-02, fig. 29.2) were recorded there. The lower level of this sand layer was comprised between 73.52 and 73.40 m asl.

Under this sandy layer, a thick layer of gravels/pebbles was found (US 002 and US 012), with a granulometry comprised between 3 mm and 3,5 cm. This layer contained scarce fragments of mud, ferric nodules, fragments of ceramics, mainly dated to the Middle-Kingdom (50 items), one ptolemaic and seven of the byzantine era. A flint was also discovered (MKC 002-12, fig. 6), together with a faience bead (MKC 002-04, fig. 7) and scarce bone fragments.

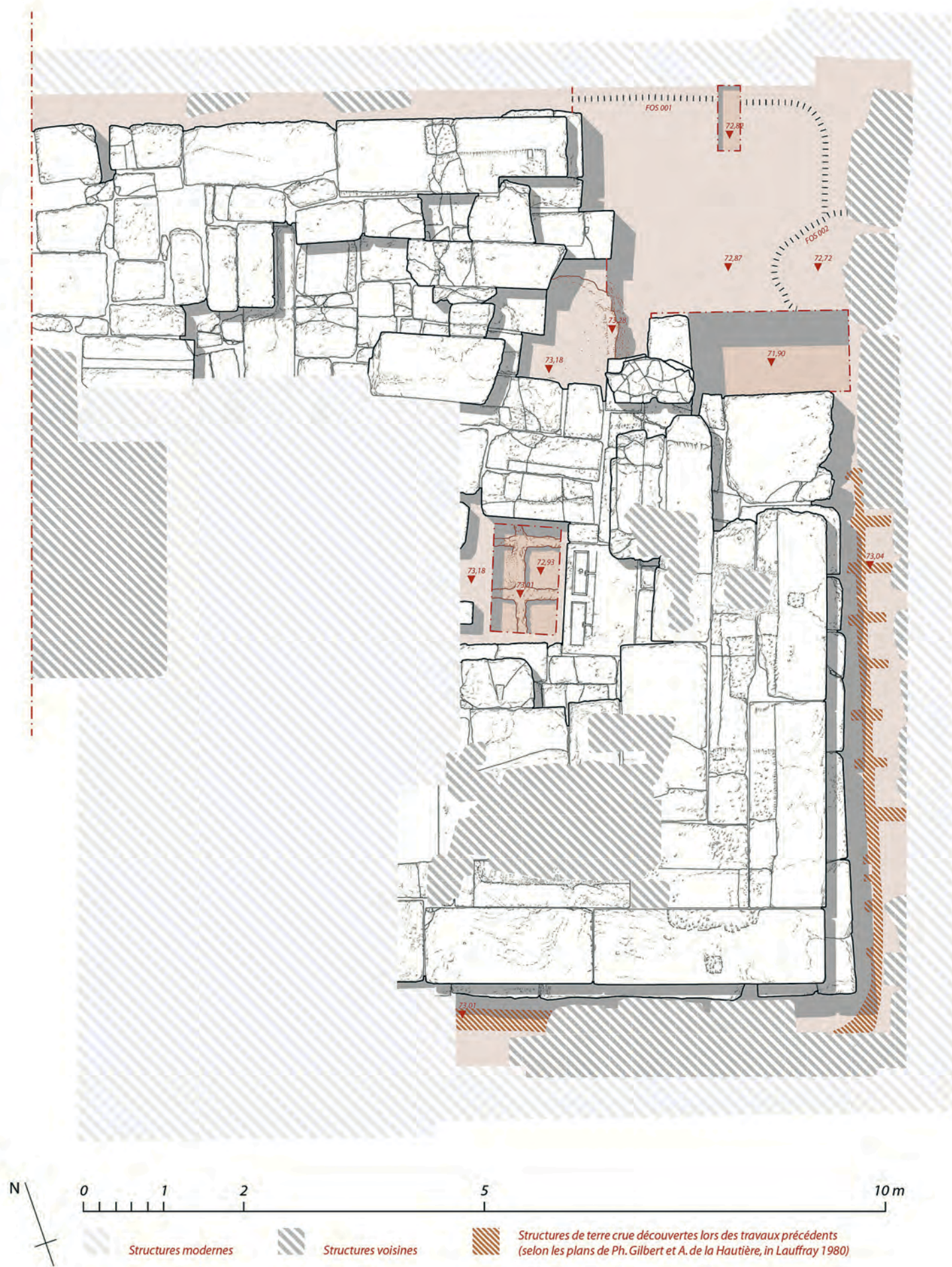


Fig. 11. Layout of the platform with the soundings 1 et 2 (M. Vanpeene © CNRS - CFEETK).

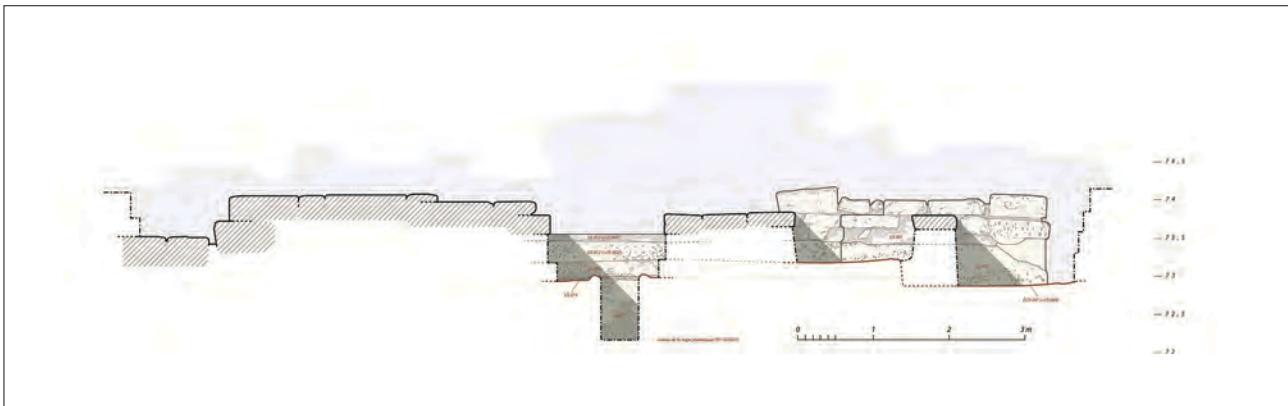


Fig. 12. North-South section looking towards the West, through soundings 1 and 2 (M. Vanpeene © CNRS - CFEETK).

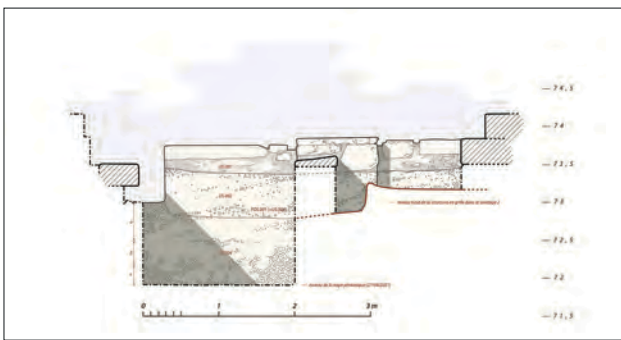


Fig. 13. East - West section looking towards the South (M. Vanpeene © CNRS - CFEETK).



Fig. 14. Sealing print with upper part of a granit white crown.

Fig. 15. Sealing print with pattern of flower and volute

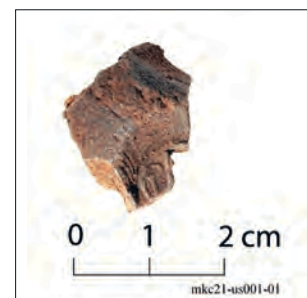


Fig. 16. Flint.



Fig. 17. Faience bead..



H Canaud, E. Saubestre, M. Vanpeene © CNRS - CFEETK.



Fig. 18. (toward south-west)

Fig. 19. (toward north).



The substratum, higher in the center ($z=73,18$), trace of the foundation trench of a smaller and earlier project of building, slightly raised on the north and east edges ($z=73,28$). A deeper U-shaped foundation trench surrounds it, down to the level $z = 72,91$ in the middle and $z = 72,84$ on its edges
(L. Gabolde © CNRS - CFEETK.).

At the interface of the sand and the gravel, at the top and, more importantly at the interface between the bottom and the mud substratum, crystallized salts have indurated the pebbles on 1 or more cm of thickness, giving the aspect of a mortar layer.

This thick layer of gravels is very uncommon⁹ and has only very hypothetical explanations. It is not impossible that it was intended as a drain in order to keep foundations and superstructures constantly dry, the temple being installed in the silty wet mud plain, far from the djebel.

13. The substratum and the two interlocked foundation trenches

Under the gravels, the substratum was found (US 003 = FOS 001). It is divided into two features; first a primeval foundation trench (FOS 001a) in the centre, at a higher level ($z=73,18$, a little raised on the north and east edges at $z=73,28$). It may have belonged to smaller and earlier project of building (potentially unachieved), of around 6,80 m north-south and around 8 m East-west (fig. 18-19), scheduled for example for a temple of stone slabs and mud bricks, like those of the kings of the XIth dynasty found at Elephantine¹⁰. Second, a deeper U-shaped foundation trench surrounds it (FOS 001b), down to the level $z = 72,91$ in the middle and $z = 72,84$ on its edges, marking an enlargement and a deepening, potentially linked to a decision to built (or rebuilt) all the new structure on a larger scale and entirely in stone masonry. The gravel filling of the two foundation trenches (FOS 001a and b) is the same and was apparently deposited in one phase.

The bottom of the foundation trench was scattered with negative traces of horizontal roots (fig. 20).



Fig. 20. The negative net of roots (L. Gabolde © CNRS - CFEETK).

9. Though quite positively attested in pharaonic construction (and covered with a layer of sand, under stone slabs) at the temple of Ramses III at Medinet Habu (GOLVIN, GOYON, SIMON-BOIDOT, 2004, p. 234-235 and fig. 258).

10. KAISER, 1999, fig. 8, p. 92: Temple of Satet of Mentuhotep II in mud bricks plated with stones: around. 5,42 m width by 6,00 m long for example.

14. A garden-like feature

As already mentioned, a sounding (sounding 2) was conducted in the central part of the sandstone platform, west of the visible reused offering table. Once removed the surface layer (US 000) contaminated by the late period intrusive pits (FOS 02 containing US 011), the grey sand layer (US 010) and the gravel layer (US 012) were also removed. This arrangement was quite similar to that found in the sounding 1. The indurated salty crust agglomerating the lower part of the gravels at the interface of the higher foundation trench (FOS 001a), already seen in the first large north-east sounding n°1, was also found, at the level 73,19, as expected.

Deepening the excavation we encountered, around 16 cm lower, at the level 73,04-72,99, a hand made feature consisting in a sort of grid made of earth-levees of compacted mud delineating some kind of (postulated square) basins (US 014) ((fig. 21).

By its similar level and shape, this feature can be connected with the structures seen to the east by Chevrier around 1947-1950, Lauffray in 1979 at the level 73,04 (fig. 22), and to the south by Mensan in 2005 at the level 73,01 (fig. 22-23) and which they had both identified as mud-brick walls though absolutely no brick or joints were ever isolated there. Obviously, their morphology and their nature are extremely similar to the feature we found this season (compacted mud, not bricks).

The grids traceable from the structures previously recorded can reasonably superimposes the one another and one may imagine that they belonged to one grid system. The reconstituted size of the grid would be of one by one cubit (52,5 cm) separated by frame borders of around 15 - 20 cm width.



Fig. 21. Feature consisting in a grid made of earth-levees of compacted mud delineating some kind of postulated square basins (the dark background has been artificially brightened in order to make the garden-like feature visible) L. Gabolde © CNRS - CFEETK.

This enigmatic feature (US 014), which strongly evokes a garden, is extremely thin (from 73 ,03 to 72,93 at the most) as it is just composed of compacted earth levees and basins. It can be considered as restricted to a mere worked surface. The density of human artefacts in the earth of US 014 was slightly higher than upper or under. The ceramic collected in this structure (5 potsherds) is exclusively dated to the Middle Kingdom (XIth to XIIth dynasties.)

Samples of the earth were collected inside the basins in order to submit them later on to a paleobotanical study.



Fig. 22. Eastern part of the mud modelled structure appeared at the level 73,01 between the foundation trench of the sandstone platform and the foundation trench of the limestone substructures (of Senusret I). Photo A. Bellod, © CNRS - CFEETK n° 15588.

Explorations continued under this feature down to the ground water table which was found at 71,90. The soils there (US 015) was composed of homogeneous Nile silt, with very few items: very rare and small fragments of potsherds entirely dated or datable to the Middle Kingdom (158 items). Rhizo-concretions, which characterize the natural dumps, were on the contrary abundant (fig. 28). This layer corresponds with the natural substratum, which is never completely virgin in heavy historical areas.

Indeed, along so remotely occupied river banks (in time and space), pottery is naturally transported in the river stream and small size items happen to be deposited within the natural silting.



Fig. 23. Remains of modelled mud found to the south of the platform by R. Mensan at the level 73,01.
Photo R. Mensan, © CNRS - CFEETK n° 78093.

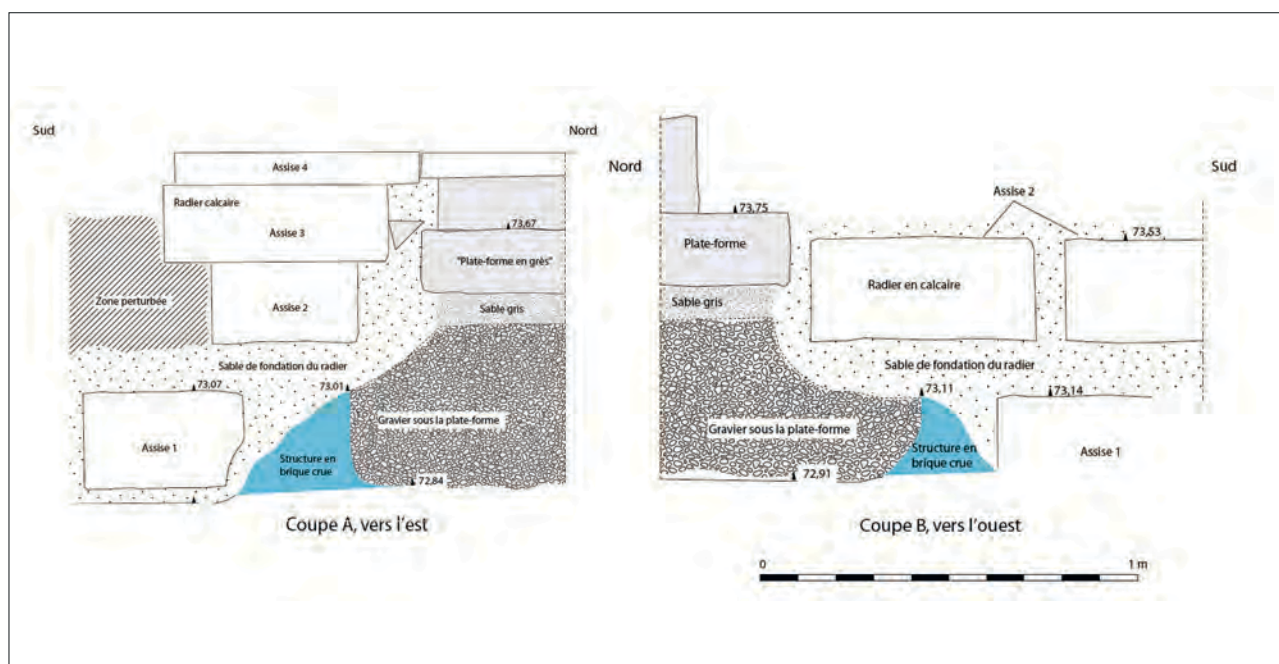


Fig. 24. Sections by R. Mensan with misinterpretations as mud brick structures (in blue) of the garden-like remains and of the natural substratum (after Mensan, Charloux 2011, fig. 237, 238, p. 422.) R. Mensan, © CNRS - CFEETK.

15. Parallels and interpretation

The uncommon grid structure of compacted mud we identified shows significant similarities with a structure very close in time and space, found on the west bank of Luxor in the excavations of the team of J. Galán, in 2017, in the courtyard of two early XIIth dynasty tombs of Dra Abu el Naga¹¹ (Fig. 25a).

Galán positively identifies his discovery with a funerary garden and the provisional results of the paleobotanical studies revealed the presence of remains and seeds of coriander, melon and daisy. His enquiries on this specific matter have led him to establish quite convincing parallels with the mythological funerary gardens known from some phases of the funerals, for example in the tomb of Reneni at Elkab (fig. 25b).

It is tantalizing to also connect our garden-shaped enigmatic feature at Karnak with a potential primitive “garden of Amun-Ra”¹² similar to the so-called « garden of Min »¹³, positively associated with the ithyphallic aspect of Amun since at least Senusret I (fig. 25c).

Would this interpretation be confirmed, it would appear that the oldest built structure preserved on the site was a garden. Its orientation slightly differs from that of the sandstone platform (which was oriented on the sunrise at winter solstice), so that it may have been dictated by other parameters, or having been set less accurately.

11. GALÁN, 2019 = J. GALÁN « Twelfth Dynasty funerary gardens in Thebes », *Egyptian Archaeology* 54, 2019, p. 4-8. GALÁN, 2020 = J. GALÁN « The Djouty Project. Discovering a 12th Dynasty Funerary Garden in Thebes », *Scribe* 6 2020, p. 4047

12. Under Thutmose III, the text of the *Annals* describes orchards, plantations and bassins offered by the king to the temple of Amon-Ra (GABOLDE (L), GABOLDE (M.) 2015, p. 72-76, 96.

13. GABOLDE (M.), 2002, p. 137-145.



a.



b.



c.

Fig. 25.

a. Garden of the early XIIth dynasty found by the mission led by J. Galán at Dra Abu el-Naga, (© J. Galán).

b. The mythological garden from the Tomb of Reneni at Elkab (© L. Gabolde).

c. The lettuce garden of the ithyphallic Amun-Ra on one of the pillars of the «Chapelle Blanche» of Sensusret I (, scène, 19, KIU 1083, photo A. Chéné © CNRS - CFEETK, n° 71865).



Fig. 26. Tentative proposal of restitution of the grid frame of the presumed garden.

16. The deep sounding 1

We have already described the deep sounding 2 which was conducted in the central part of the sandstone platform, under the remains of the putative garden and which had reached the ground water table at 72,09.

A previous deep sounding has been conducted in the south-east part of the sounding n° 1. It was realized on a surface of 2 m (east-west) by 1 m (north-south) starting from the surface of the lower foundation trench (z= 72,87).

This sounding explored the substratum (US 004) to a depth of almost 100 cm, reaching the ground water table at z = 71,90.

This substratum is the matter in which were successively dug, 1. The lower foundation trench of the sandstone platform and the, 2. The U-shaped foundation trench of the limestone substructure of Senusret I¹⁴ (fig. 26).



Fig. 27. The deep sounding, south east of Sounding 1 view towards the south. M. Vanpeene © CNRS - CFEETK.

A close examination reveals that it is composed of the following elements:

- A natural fine silty mud, without degreaser, rather dark, and drying with dense deep cracks getting a light grey-yellow hue;
- Natural rhizo-concretions, rather abundant (and more dense in the lower strata). Collected during the excavations, they totalized 236 items weighing 1,47 kg in the whole US 004 (fig. 27);
- Small limestone and sandstone chips, rather scarce;

14. We here follow the convincing conclusions of L. Gabolde, (GABOLDE, 2018, p. 224-233) as to the date of the U-shaped limestone foundations: Senusret I, which fits with inscribed blocks found in this sector bearing his name. Absolutely no blocks bearing the name of Amenhotep I were ever found in this area, which constitutes another reason to discard the hypothesis of Larché (LARCHÉ, 2020 p. 83-118) to locate there monuments of this king.

- Fragments of ceramics of the Middle Kingdom (transition XIth-XIIth dynasties), counting 89 potsherds;
- More surprising, byzantine ceramic, in rather abundant quantity, represented by 50 potsherds (but with a density reaching almost 50 % in some of the deepest layers and holes)
- And finally one XXVth-XXVIth dynasties potsherd, not that significant taking into account its loneliness.



Fig. 28. The rhizo-concretions collected in the deep sounding, (US 004). L. Gabolde © CNRS - CFEETK.

17. The Pottery (S.M.)

The present note aims at providing a summary of key data from the Middle Kingdom Courtyard (MKC) excavation held in April-May 2021 and September 2021. The question asked for the analysis of ceramics is purely chronological, it provides essential clues for the establishment of a chrono-stratigraphic sequence in the absence of any other archaeological furniture that could date. Given the main objective of this study, which is to put furniture into chronological perspective, the present study does not therefore place itself at the level of a “classical” ceramic synthesis. The chronological periods identified are well known in the temple of Amun at Karnak, and the sherds belong to very common categories of containers.

Two chronological periods completely dominate the archaeological documentation discovered during the survey: the Middle Kingdom and the Byzantine era, these two periods are attested in varying proportions in almost all archaeological layers. The other attested periods, Low Period and Ptolemaic Period, are very anecdotal since one individual is counted for each of these two periods.

For this note, it was not considered useful to give a bibliography, here are the books consulted the most useful for our expertise.

1. For the period of the Middle Kingdom we will refer to the following works:
 - R. SCHIESTL, A. SEILER (éd.), *A Handbook of Pottery of the Egyptian Middle Kingdom*, Volume I, Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften Austrian Academy of Sciences Press, Vienne, 2012.
 - L. GABOLDE, J.-Fr. CARLOTTI, E. CZERNY, « Sondages de la plate-forme en grès de « la cour du Moyen Empire » à Karnak », *Cahiers de Karnak* 13, 2009, p. 126-134.
 - G. CHARLOUX, R. ANGEVIN, S. MARCHAND, H. MONCHOT, J. ROBERSON, H. VIRENQUE, *Le parvis du temple d'Opet à Karnak. Exploration archéologique (2006-2007)*, *BiGen* 41, 2012, p. 69-124.
 - H. JACQUET-GORDON, *Karnak-Nord X. Le trésor de Thoutmosis I^{er}. La céramique*, *FIFAO* 65, Le Caire, 2012, documente la céramique du secteur de Karnak-Nord du Moyen-Empire à l'époque romaine.
 - T. RZEUSKA, « Grain, Water and Wine. Remarks on the Marl A3 Transport-Storage Jars from the Middle Kingdom Elephantine », *CCE* 9, 2011, p. 461-530.
 - S. MARCHAND, « Dendara » in R. Schiestl, A. Seiler (éd.) *A Handbook of Pottery of the Egyptian Middle Kingdom, Volume II*, Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften Austrian Academy of Sciences Press, Vienne, 2012, p. 273-297.
2. For the so-called Late Periods, including the Late Roman/Byzantine Period, one will first refer to the recent works published in the area of the temple of Ptah:
 - R. DAVID, « La céramique d'un habitat du v^e siècle à Karnak », *Cahiers de Karnak* 14, 2013, p. 287-297.
 - C. GRATALOUP, *La céramique tardive (ptolémaïque, romaine et copte) du temple d'Amon -Rê à Karnak*, doctorat de III^e cycle, université de Lyon 2, 1989.
 - H. JACQUET-GORDON, *Karnak-Nord X. Le trésor de Thoutmosis I^{er}. La céramique*, *FIFAO* 65, Le Caire, 2012.
 - D. DIXNEUF, *Amphores égyptiennes. Production, typologie, contenu et diffusion (III^e siècle avant J.-C. - IX^e siècle après J.-C.)*, *ÉtudAlex* 22, le Caire, 2011.
 - A. MASSON, « Persian and Ptolemaic Ceramics from Karnak: Change and continuity », *CCE* 9, 2011, p. 269-310.

We would like to thank Florie Pirou (designer Cnrs/Cfeetk) for the drawings of ceramics and objects and their clean-up, and Hélène Canaud (Intervenante extérieur Cnrs/Cfeetk) who made the photos of ceramics, objects and macroscopic photographs of ceramic pastes.

17.1. Catalogue of the ceramics from the Middle Kingdom Court soundings (April-May 2021 et September 2021)

For clarity, all chronological information by archaeological layer is grouped in a table (see below). We observe that the survey extension in September 2021 (sounding 2) has brought to light perfectly homogeneous layers that can be dated to the Middle Kingdom, without any recent intrusive sherds. These are the layers US 014 & US 015.

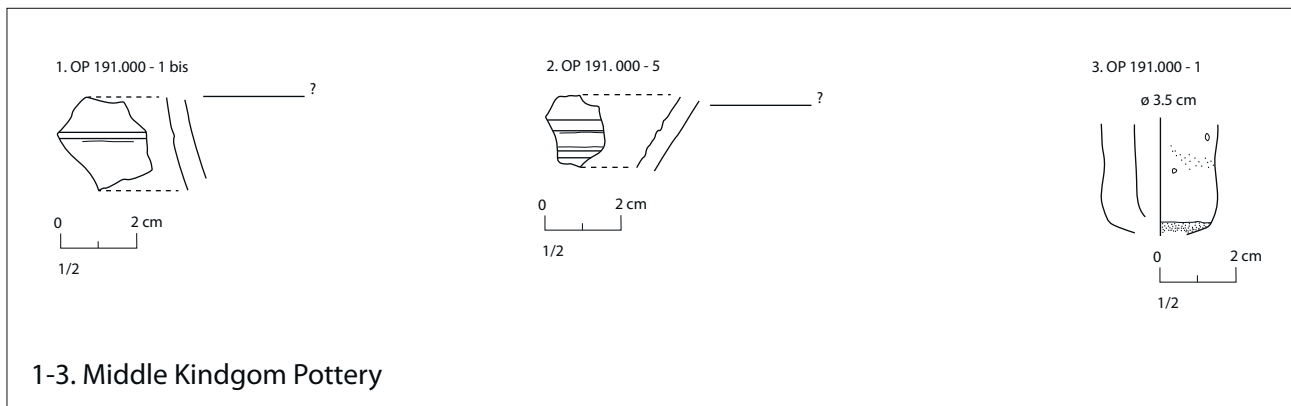


Fig. 29.1. Middle Kingdom Ceramics from the US ooo. Fl. Pirou © CNRS - CFEETK.

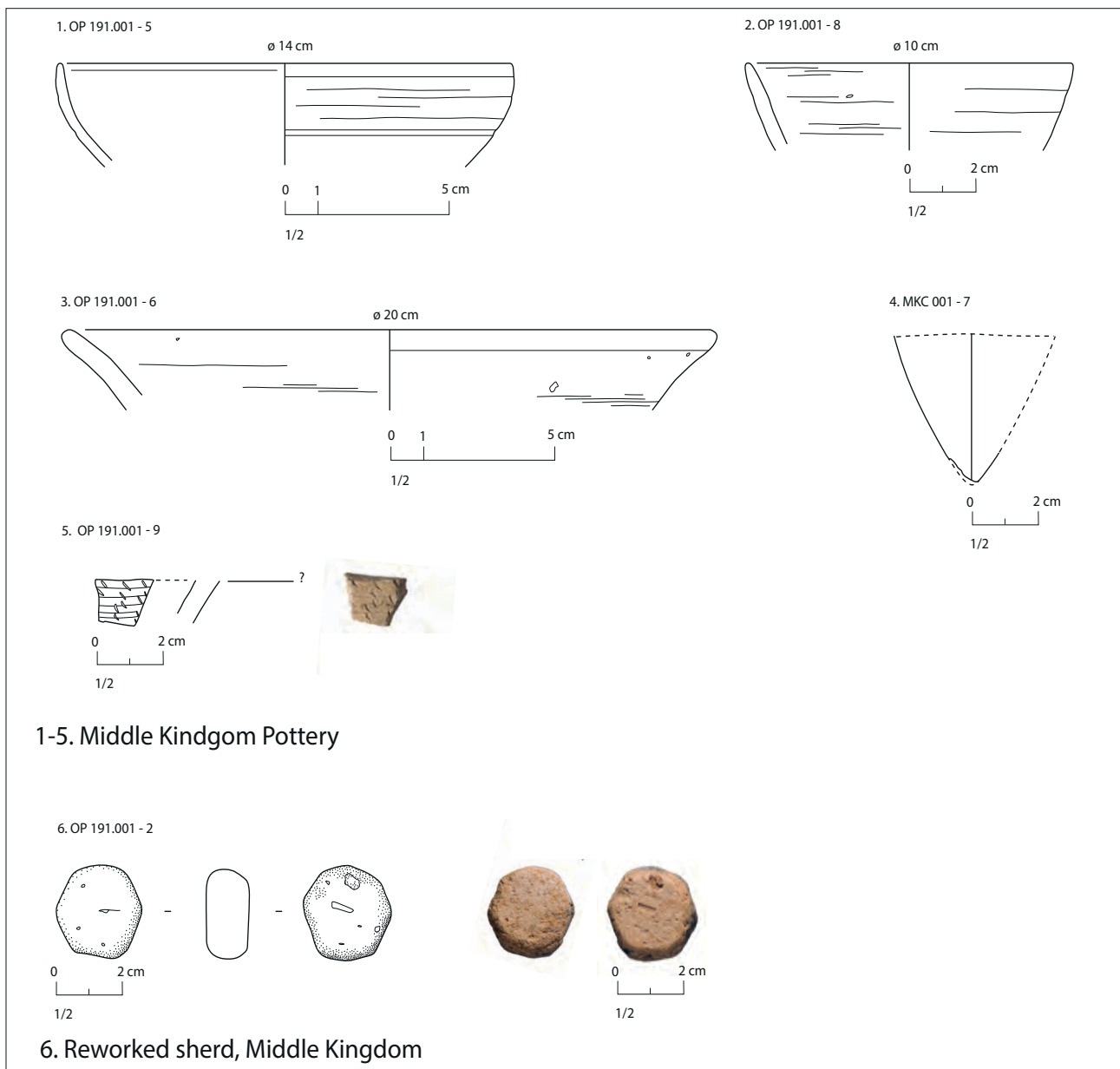
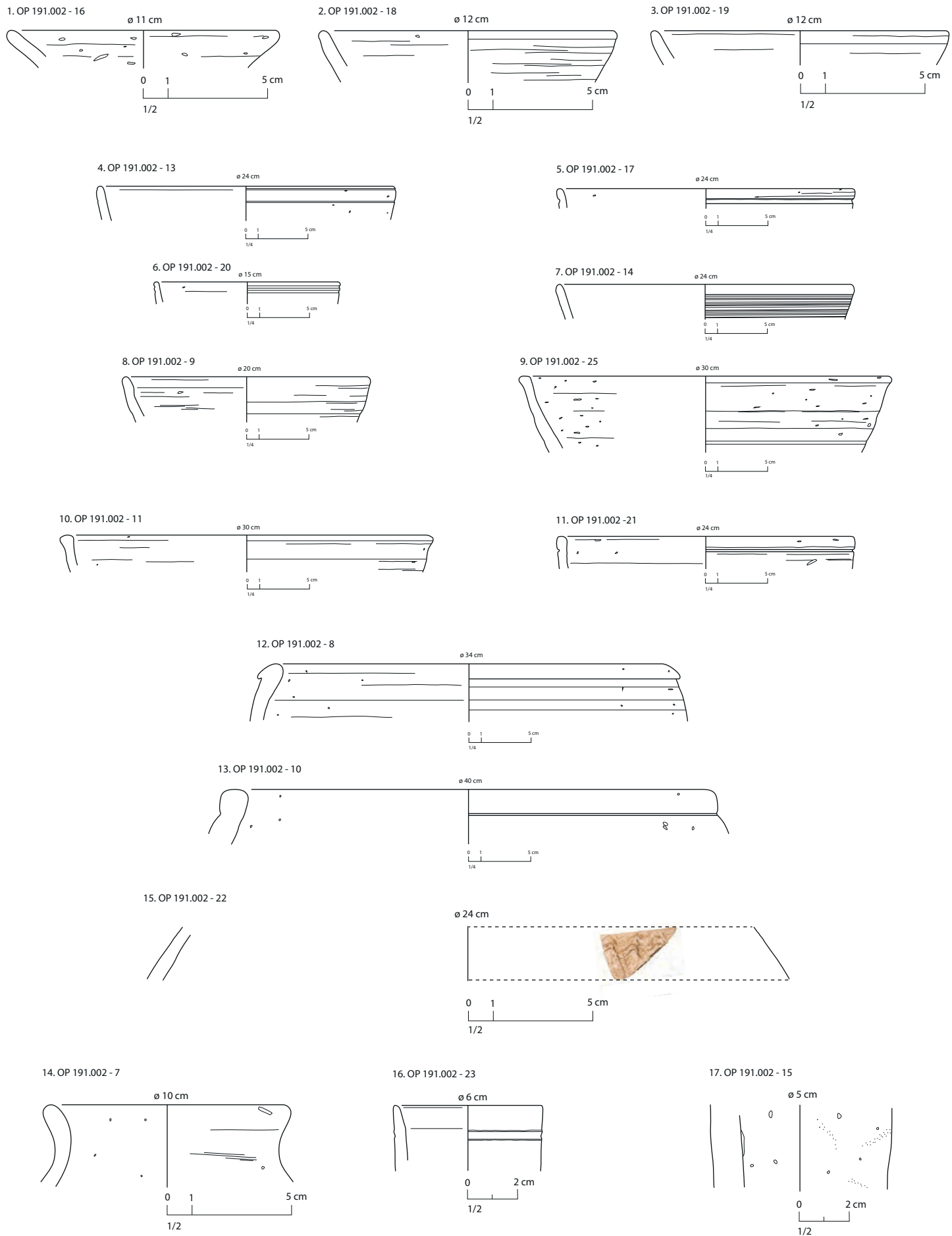


Fig. 29.2. Middle Kingdom Ceramics from the US oot. Fl. Pirou, © CNRS - CFEETK.



1-17. Middle Kingdom Pottery

Fig. 29.3. Middle Kingdom Ceramics from the US 002. Fl. Pirou © CNRS - CFEETK.

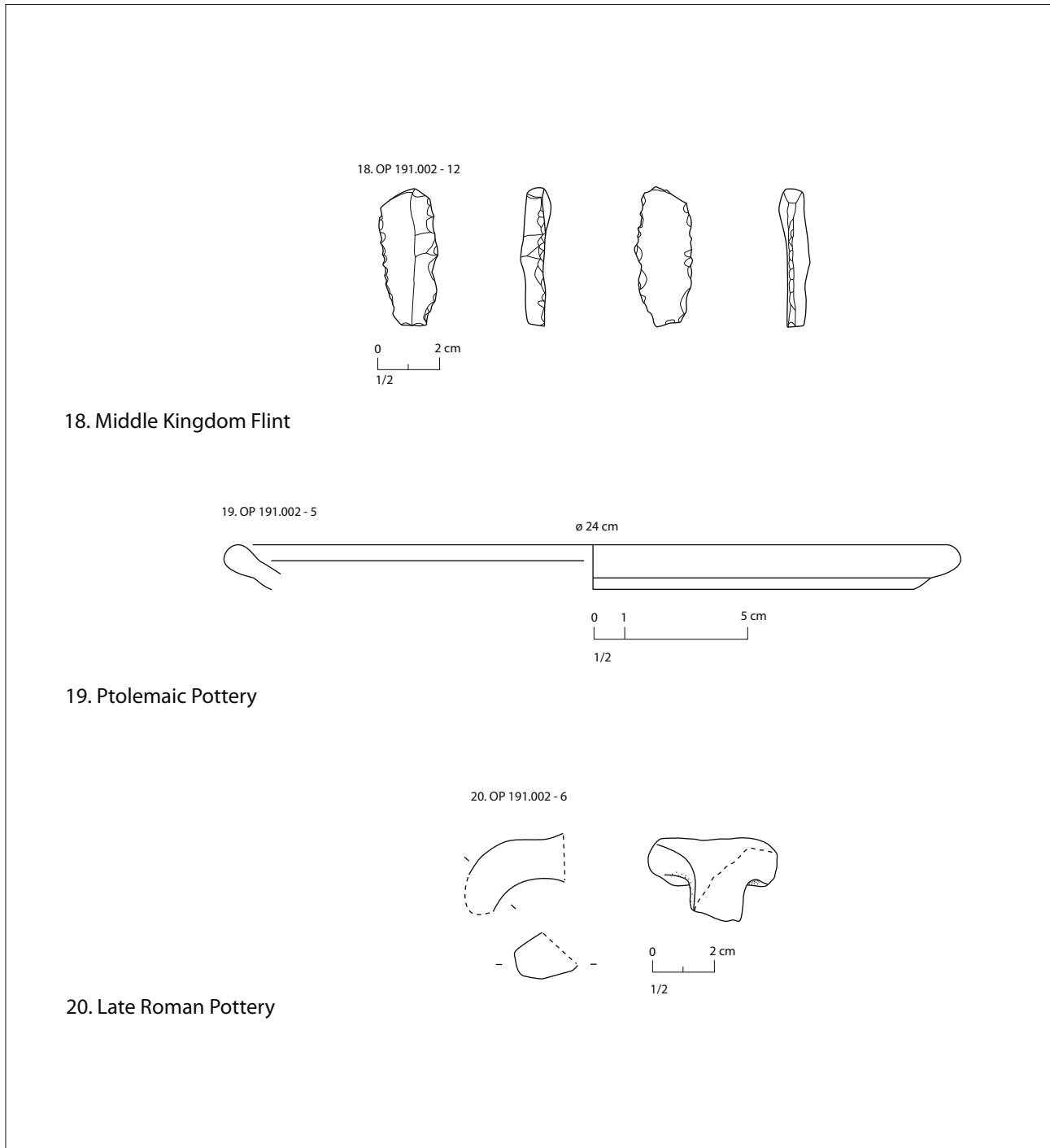


Fig. 29.4. Middle Kingdom ptolemaic and byzantine Ceramics and flints from the US 002 (suite). Fl. Pirou © CNRS - CFEETK.

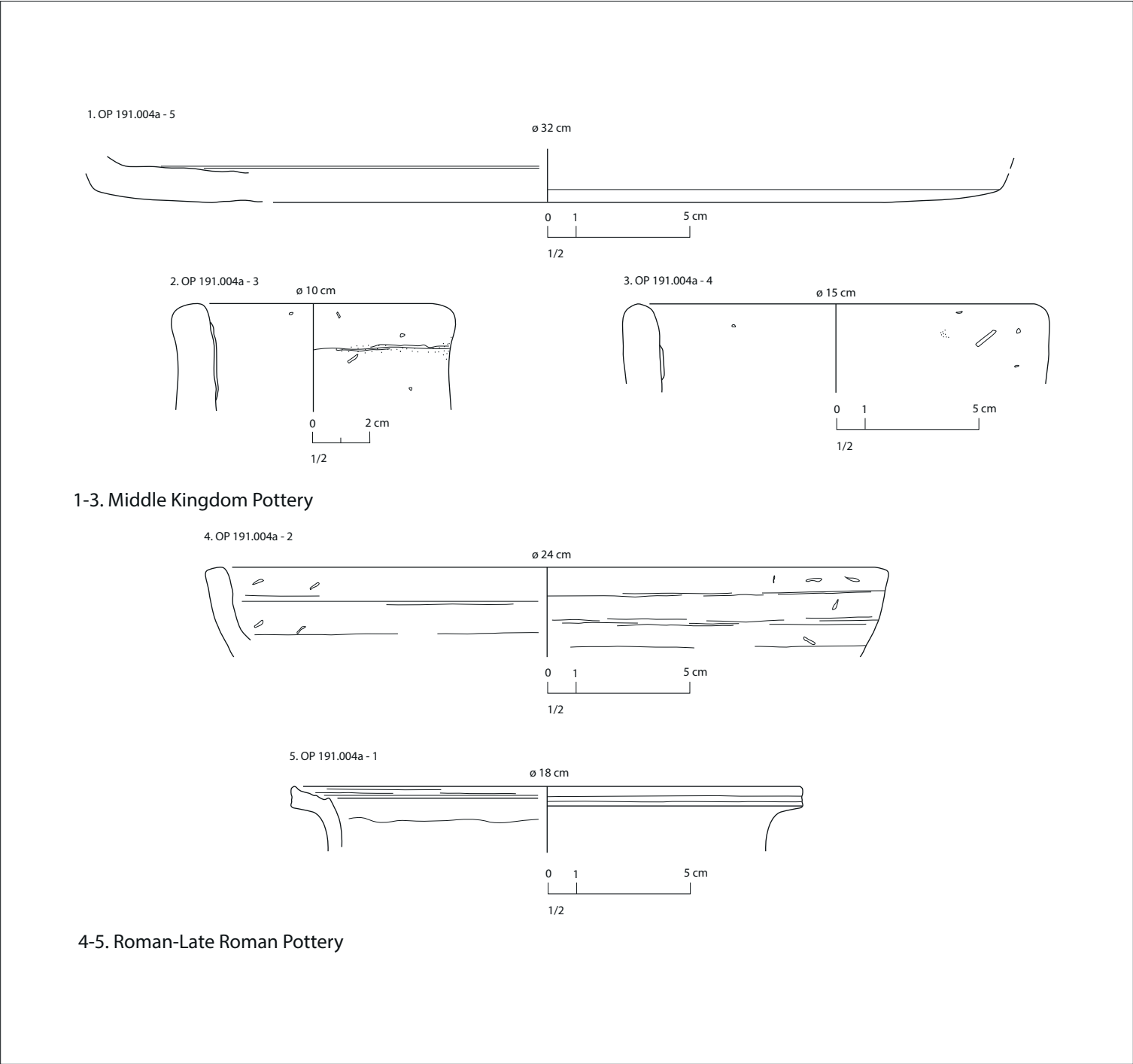
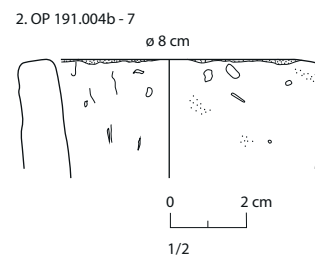
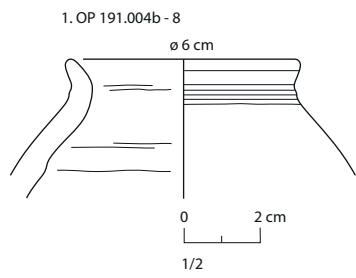
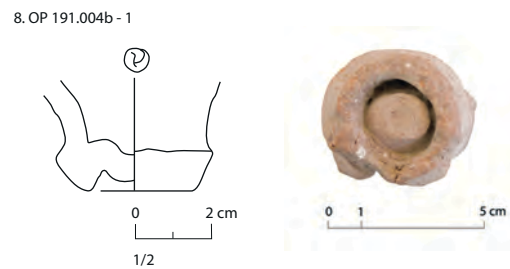
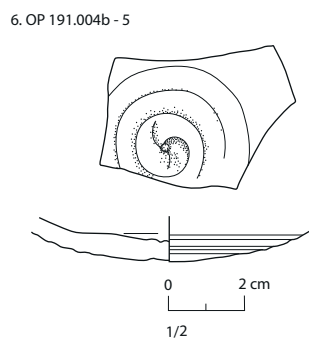
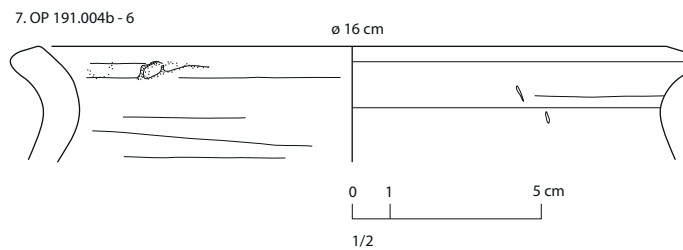
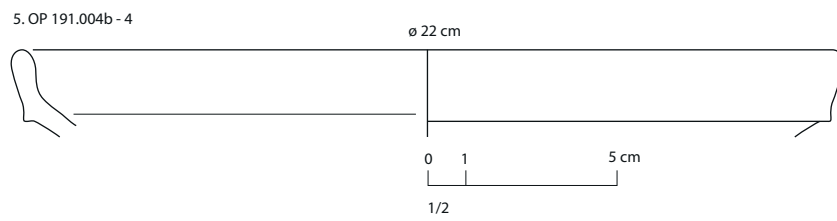
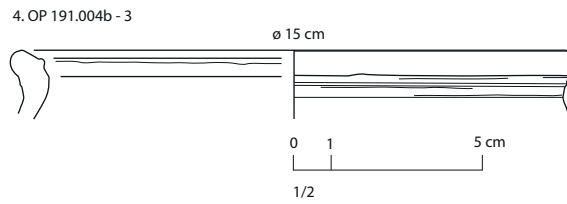
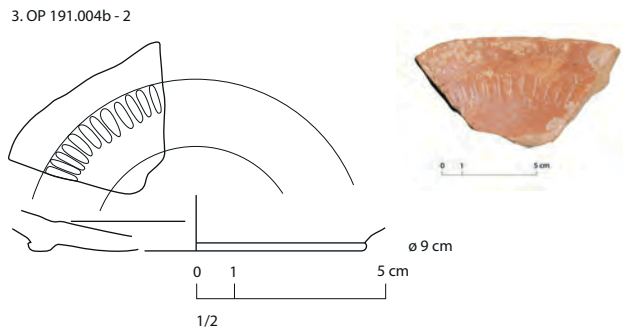


Fig. 29.5. Middle Kingdom and byzantine Ceramics from the l'US 004-a. Fl. Pirou © CNRS - CFEETK



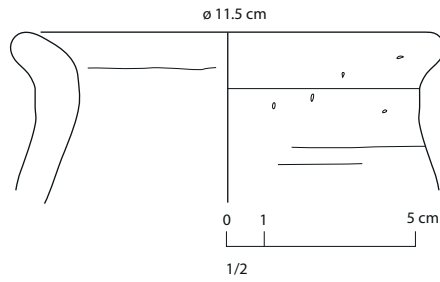
1-2. Middle Kingdom Pottery



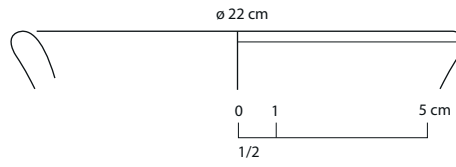
3-8. Late Roman Pottery

Fig. 29.6. Middle Kingdom and byzantine Ceramics from the US 004-b. Fl. Pirou, © CNRS - CFEETK.

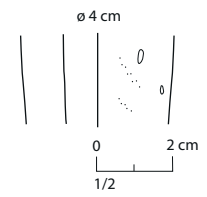
1. OP 191.004c - 1



2. OP 191.004c - 2

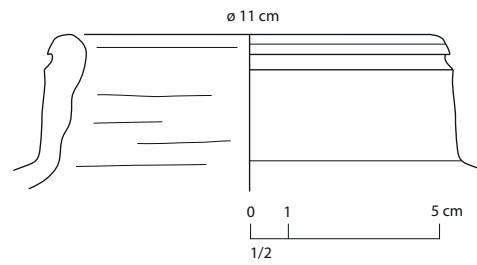


3. OP 191.004c - 3



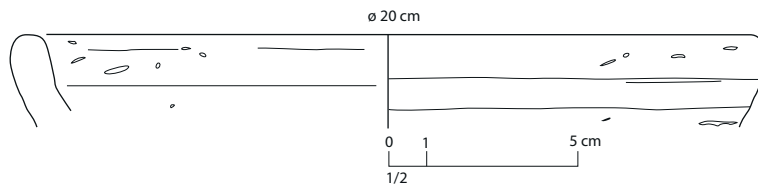
1-3. Middle Kingdom Pottery

4. OP 191.004c - 14



4. Late Period Pottery

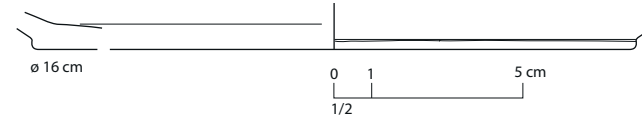
5. OP 191.004c - 7



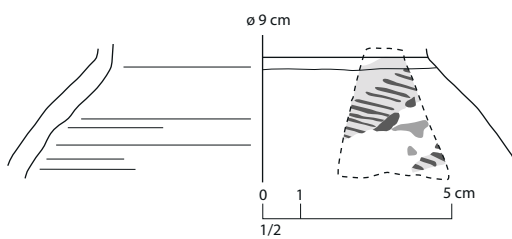
6a. OP 191.004c - 5



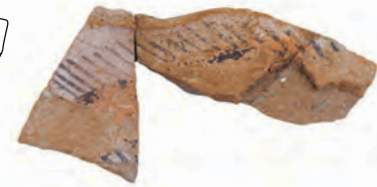
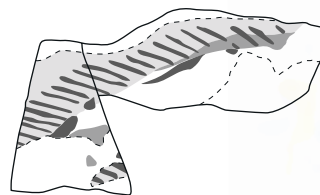
6b. OP 191.004c - 5 bis



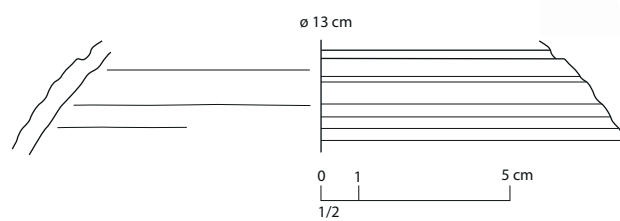
7. OP 191.004c - 11



■ Noir
 ■ Rouge
 ■ Blanc



8. OP 191.004c - 4



5-8. Late Roman Pottery

Fig. 29.7. Middle Kingdom Late Period and byzantine Ceramics from the l'US 004-c. Fl. Pirou, © CNRS - CFEETK.

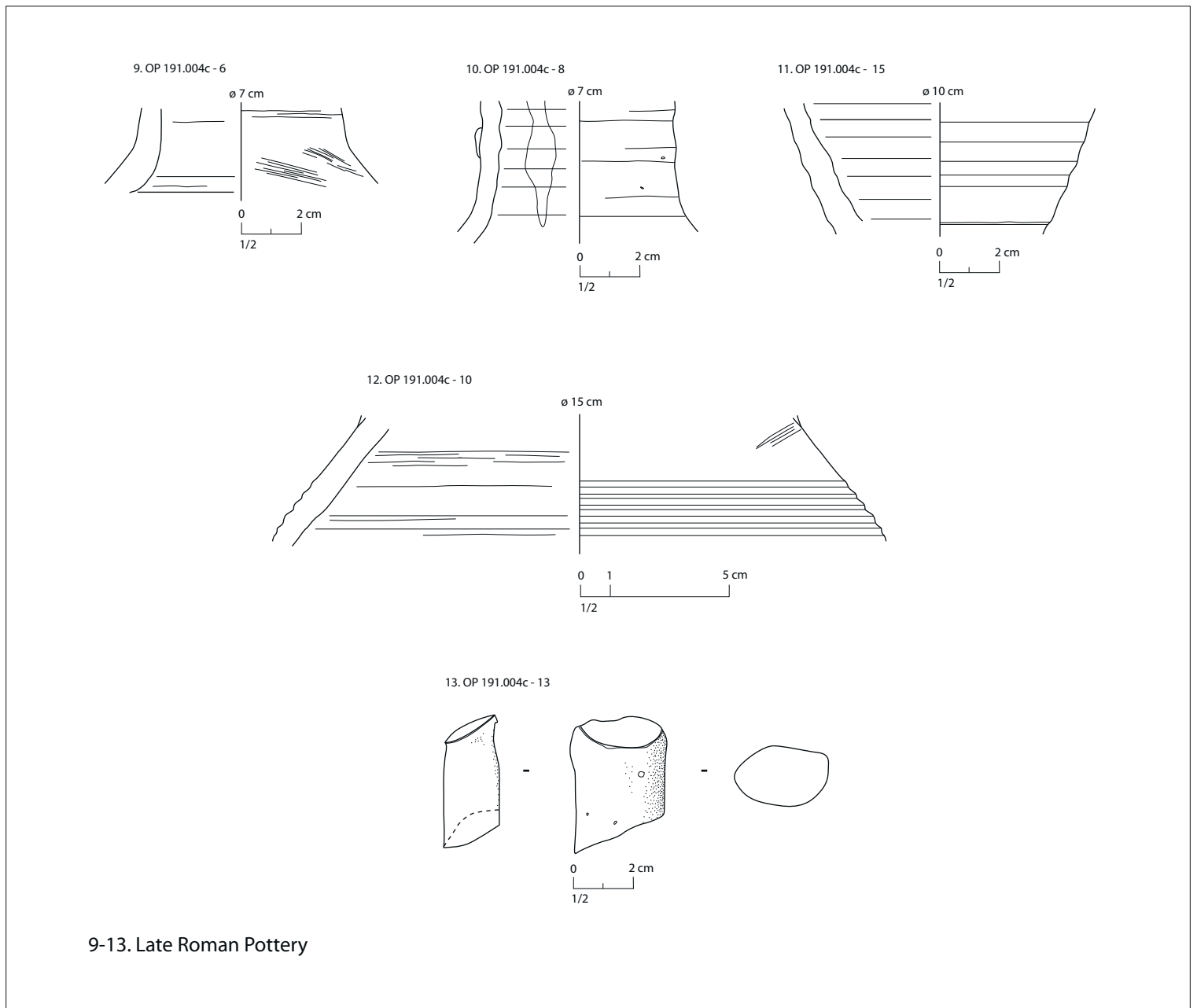


Fig. 29.8. Byzantine Ceramics from the US 004-c (fin) Fl. Pirou, © CNRS - CFEETK.

17.2. Summary table of archaeological layers (US) with archaeological material

- *Sherds*: fragments of uninformed ceramic vessels not attributable to a specific ceramic group.
- *Markers*: ceramic individuals link to a ceramic group and a specific time period.
- *Total number of ceramics*: number of ceramic sherds including individual markers and uninformed sherds.

<i>MKCourt 2020-2021 U.S. number</i>	<i>Archéological Context N° of Sounding</i>	<i>Total Number of pottery</i>	<i>Pottery forms & sherds. Markers of Middle Kingdom</i>	<i>Pottery forms & sherds. Markers of Late Period</i>	<i>Pottery forms & sherds. .Markers of Ptolemaic era</i>	<i>Pottery forms & sherds. Markers of Byzantine era</i>	<i>Drawings Fig.</i>
US000.a	S. 1. Surface	36	Pot. Form: 6 Sherds: 30	0	0	0	Fig. 28.1-1.3
US000.b	S. 2. Surface	12	Pot. Form: 0 Sherds: 10	0	0	Pot. Form: 0 Sherds: 2	
US001	S. 1. Layer of grey river sand	127	Pot. Form: 37 Sherds: 88	0	0	Sherd: 2	Fig. 28.2-2.6
US002	S. 1. Gravels under sand	58	Pot. Form: 17 Sherds: 33	0	Pot. Form: 1	Pot. Form: 1 Sherds: 6	Fig. 28.3- 3.20
US004a	S. 1. Sandy silt anthropized.	38	Pot. Form: 3 Sherds: 33	0	0	Pot. Form: 2	Fig. 28.4-4.5
US004b	S. 1. <i>Idem</i>	36	Pot. Form: 2 Sherds: 17	0	0	Pot. Form: 6 Sherds: 11	Fig. 28.5-5.8
US004c	S. 1. <i>Idem</i>	66	Pot. Form: 7 Sherds: 27	Pot. Form: 1	0	Pot. Form: 15 Sherds: 16	Fig. 28.6-6.13
US005	S. 1. Recent pit	51	Sherds: 12	0	0	Pot. Form: 5 Sherds: 34	No Fig.
US010 (≈ US 001)	S.2. Layer of grey river sand	15	Pot. Form: 4 Sherds: 12			Pot. Form: 0 Sherds: 3	OK
US011 (≈ US005)	S.2. Late Period hole	11	Pot. Form: 0 Sherds: 5			Pot. Form: 1 Sherds: 6	No Fig.
US012 (≈ US002)	S.2. Gravels under sand	43	Pot. Form: 7 Sherds: 41			Pot. Form: 0 Sherds: 2	OK
US013	S.2. Filling over garden	14	Pot. Form: 2 Sherds: 11			Pot. Form: 0 Sherds: 3	No Fig.
US014	S.2. Levee of compact silt	5	Pot. Form: 0 Sherds: 5			Pot. Form: 0 Sherds: 0	No Fig.
US015 (≈US004)	S.2. Substratum	158	Pot. Form: 7 Sherds: 158			Pot. Form: 0 Sherds: 0	OK
Total Pottery forms & sherds / period		610	Pot. Form: 92 Sherds: 482	Pot. Form: 1	Pot. Form: 1	Pot. Form: 30 Sherds: 85	

Fig. 29.9. Table of the pottery distributed by stratigraphic units (S. Marchand, © CNRS - CFEETK).

18. The conclusions of the pottery examination and the question of the byzantine items

From the pottery examination and study of Dr. S. Marchand, a first observation keeps the attention: though in other sectors of the site, items dating back to VIth dynasty or the First Intermediate Period have positively been found¹⁵, though occupation of the predynastic or early Old Kingdom can also be suspected¹⁶, no ceramic older than the XI-XIIth dynasties range has apparently been found in our soundings. This absence is interesting as it could result from the fact that this area had only recently emerged (it was a *mw3wt*) and was lower than contemporaneous structures¹⁷, as it was also noticed on the site, at the temples of Ptah and Opet¹⁸.

The upper layers of our soundings 1 and 2 show a rather coherent view, though the presence of 2 byzantine potsherds in a total of 161 Middle Kingdom potsherds in the upper interstitial material (US 000) and in the grey river sand layer (US 0001a and b), is puzzling but explainable by some kind of incidental contamination from the top, whereas the proportion remains very eloquent. Similarly, the thick gravel layer (US 002 and 012) contained 74 potsherd datable to the Middle Kingdom and 8 dated to the byzantine era, which could be explained by a lateral contamination as the vertical limit of this gravel layer has long been widely exposed to exterior elements. Noticeable is the very small size of the byzantine potsherds in all the soundings.

18.1. The byzantine potsherds of the deep sounding

For the deep sounding n° 1 in the substratum, the proportion of the different dated ceramic potsherd, acknowledging their contexts, has been a little puzzling:

- 89 potsherds dated to the transition XIth-XIIth dynasties were in no way surprising.
- 50 potsherds of the byzantine era were more unexpected.
- 1 potsherd of the XXVth-XXVIth dynasties is not really significant due to its loneliness.

The find of byzantine ceramics in deep layers has been surprising for the team and has led to question anew our view of the history of the sector.

We have tried to elaborate diverse explanations for this strange situation but they always resulted in more or less irreducible contradictions.

18.1.1. The hypothesis of a wide byzantine foundation hole

- In the presence of abundant byzantine ceramic staff in some of the lower layers, the logical reasoning leads to the conclusion that this substratum and all the structures which topped it should be byzantine: the sandstone platform, its sand and gravels foundations, its silty-mud substratum, but also the all the granite thresholds, their limestone foundation and the entirety of the remaining limestone layer of the U shaped foundation raft till now assigned to the reign of Senusret I.
- This hypothesis is however far to be free of contradictions, and some of them are merely prohibitive:

15. MILLET, 2008 (unpublished thesis), p. 320-21, quoted in: MASSON, MILLET, 2010, p. 5: « recent research has found some ceramic material from the late Old Kingdom associated with mud-brick structures » (MILLET 2008); CHARLOUX *et alii*, 2021, p. 17. DEBONO dans LAUFFRAY, 1980, fig. 17, p. 48).

16. GABOLDE, 2018, 135-136; FRANCHET, 1917.

17. MILLET, 2007, pl. XXXIX.

18. It was the provisionnal conclusion of the 2018 synthesis (GABOLDE, 2018, p. 77-78), and for the similar statement at Ptah see CHARLOUX *et alii*, 2021, p. 6: « This represents the first evidence of human activity on the river bank and is dated to the middle of the Eleventh Dynasty, according to ceramic typology and radiocarbon-dating (2193-1978 cal BC). Natural flood and windblown sediments then accumulated above the hearth (level 1b) », as well as at Opet Temple: CHARLOUX *et alii* 2012, p. 253-54.

- It would imply that the byzantine builder would have dug a gigantic trench, more than 2m deep, of which none of the lateral and inferior limits have ever been found. Our substratum, as have shown the previous explorations of Carlotti, Czerny, Gabolde, Mensan and Charloux and the present ones of 2020-2021, does in fact continue under all the above mentioned remains. There is no parallel for such deep and large foundation hole, so far, for the byzantine era.
- It is paradoxical to imagine that a very big hole was dug, then filled up and then dug another time to create de foundation trench for the limestone raft slab. There is an equally paradoxical situation if some limestone blocks have been set in the foundation trench in the byzantine era, when we take into account the fact that the dismantling of the limestone structures had specifically aimed at recovering the limestone to make lime.
- It is extremely puzzling to notice that the sandstone reused in the platform is exclusively constituted of grey to pink sandstone from the Shatt er-Regal quarries which was exclusively used at Thebes during the XIth dynasty. One can hardly imagine that such an unachieved monument of the very early Middle-Kingdom could have survived somewhere at Karnak and could have been still standing in the byzantine era, to be extensively reused in the platform.
- Reliefs reused in the sandstone (and limestone) platform, a well as the reused offering table are undoubtedly to be dated to the early Middle Kingdom ¹⁹.
- If it were the foundations of a byzantine building, it is then extremely surprising that the superstructure, which would be the most recent architecture of the sector, had so completely disappeared: no block, no surviving architectural structures (even on the oldest photos, pls. 32-36), no pottery except tiny potsherds. A contrario the byzantine architecture of the courtyard between the VIIth and VIIIth pylon (almost deprived of foundations) had survived to a high level until the XXth century (fig. 29.bis).
- The thorough alignment of the 4 granite thresholds (of which some doorjamb remains still bearing the name of Senusret I) in level as well as in azimuth on the sun rise at winter solstice (in 2000 BC) does not make any sense in the case of blocks reused in the byzantine era (the church itself is oriented N-N-E to S-S-W).
- The installation by Thutmose III of a monumental raised threshold (the door jambs bear his name) at the entrance of the Middle Kingdom courtyard has resulted in cutting and removing the western half of the granite threshold of Senusret together with the recut of the surrounding masonry, especially a limestone block L-shaped recut to the north (fig. 29). This limestone block thus predates Thutmose III (we assign it to the reign of Senusret I) and the sandstone structures (the platform) on which it lays thus predates it, in frontal incompatibility with any byzantine dating.
- The cases of byzantine installations, especially of churches, in temples show that they are directly built on the pharaonic pavement, after partial or total removal of the superstructures, without any attempt to dig foundations.
- The very small size of the byzantine fragments of ceramics is not compatible with an abandonment level of a late period building (which should show bigger pieces and even intact ones) but attests of the percolation of the small potsherds during the digging operations of the lime makers and then, overall, during the successive archaeological excavations.

19. CARLOTTI, CZERNY, GABOLDE, 2010, p. 114-118.



Fig. 30. Remains of the byzantine monastery in the courtyard of the VIIth-VIIIth pylons, reusing kushite blocks, before their dismantling by M. Pillet. Photo © CNRS-CFEETK, photo n° 68416, archives M. Pillet.



Fig. 31 a-b. The threshold set by Thutmose III which resulted in a L-shape recutting of a limestone channel block which is thus anterior to this king. Thus all the sandstone blocks lying under it are themselves older. (L. Gabolde @ CNRS-CFEETK).

18.1.2. Hypothesis of Middle Kingdom structure

If we follow the standard view which prevailed until now and which considered the series of structures remaining in the Middle Kingdom court as positively dating of the Middle Kingdom, then the chronology of the sandstone platform appears to be really coherent when dated to the XIth and XIIth dynasties:

- The gey-pink sandstone of Shatt er-Regal quarries is exclusively employed at Thebes in the XIth dynasty.
- The dates of the reused blocks, of the offerings table and of the reliefs fit closely with Middle Kingdom production.
- The two intricated foundation trenches under the sandstone platform make some sense if we imagine a rapid succession of Middle Kingdom projects mostly unachieved or modified during their implementation. They make no sense in the frame of a byzantine project. Similarly, the great U-shaped foundation which encircled in a second time²⁰ the sandstone platform and was filled up with a great limestone foundation raft makes sense when interpreted as a rebuilding of the whole temple by Senusret I, whereas these heteroclite foundation system makes no sense in the case of a byzantine substructures (fig. 28-31).
- We have seen the question of the threshold inlaid by Thutmose III and which leads to a dating of the limestone block it covered and thus of the under laying sandstone structures to a period necessarily older than it. It fits well with their assignation to the Middle Kingdom and is anyway incompatible with any byzantine dating (fig. 31).
- The granite threshold, which transversal groove is typical of the Middle Kingdom, can be positively associated with granite doorjambs and a lintel found there and bearing the name of Senusret I²¹.
- The layer of mud-levées (primeval garden) and its substratum, in the almost undisturbed sounding 2 (US 014 & US 015), appeared to have contained exclusively Middle Kingdom ceramics (a total of 163 items): the garden remains seal the primitive Middle Kingdom layers and all the byzantine potsherds found in lower layers of the periphery of the sandstone plate-form must therefore be, per force, all considered as intrusive.

Prohibitive contradictions are however raised by the fact that byzantine pottery was found deep in the substratum: scarce in the joins, the foundation sand and the filling gravels but more abundant in some of the lower silt layers. It seemed a-priori to imply that all what covers it is post byzantine. Except if we suppose that the very proximate intrusive pit containing the US 005 of byzantine potsherds could have provided the surrounding area with contaminating ceramics, which is, in fact, highly possible and even very plausible.

18.1.3. A challenging situation and new tentative proposals

Facing the irreducible difficulties raised by both hypothesis, it's a real challenge to find a solution, however, an experimental tentative explanation can be proposed, admitting possible potsherds migrations by deep trampling action of the lime searchers and excavators, potentially accompanied by motion of matters drained by subterranean streams.

20. As proposed by L. Gabolde in 1998 (GABOLDE, 1998a), then proven by J.-Fr. Carlotti, E. Czerny and L. Gabolde in 1999 and 2010 (CARLOTTI, CZERNY, GABOLDE, 1999, p. 31-49; CARLOTTI, CZERNY, GABOLDE, 2010, p. 111-193) and finally confirmed by the excavations of Charloux and Mensan (MENSAN-CHARLOUX *et alii*, 2011, p. 198).

21. GABOLDE, 2018, p. 308-313.

It is first necessary to stress, indeed, the fact that the lime exploitation, apparently in byzantine, medieval and modern times, by hundred of successive workers) has resulted in the destruction of all the superstructure and of two thirds of the foundations ($\approx 3\,000\text{ m}^3$) which were punctually in deep explored along lime maker trenches following a process well exposed by J. Jacquet²²: by the mean of deep trenches, the entrails were brought to light, in open air, exposed to plundering, weathering and thus to extensive material contaminations. The soil is then embarrassed with the dumps of lime maker, and then regularly recovered with alluvial and eolian silting, occasionally pierced of plunderers craters as show the photos of de Campigneules (≈ 1848) of Maxime du Camp (≈ 1850), of Bonfils (≈ 1870), of Greene and others (fig. 32-35).

Such an exposure of the entrails of the Middle Kingdom foundation raft has inevitably favoured the motion of anthropic material down to the bottom of the trenches made so accessible.



Fig. 32. The Middle Kingdom courtyard on photo of Fougeroux de Campigneules (≈ 1848).

22. JACQUET, 1983, p. 18-19: « (...) à l'époque romaine (...) les chafourniers, partant de la surface actuelle du site, ont creusé de profondes tranchées pour aller récupérer ce qui restait des murs de calcaire. Ces tranchées, qui suivaient la plupart des murs du Trésor <p. 19> représentent la dernière activité sur le site. Elles ont traversé toutes les installations tardives, ce qui n'est pas pour faciliter l'interprétation de leurs vestiges. »

Lauffray indeed noted the presence of potsherds which he estimated “Romans” but which could be byzantine, as well, on the surface of the salty crust separating the sand from the natural anthropized substratum at the bottom of the limestone foundations (of Senusret I)²³.

We also know that Ehrlich came there to remove sand inside the foundation for the consolidation of the great hypostyle hall²⁴ adding chaos to the chaos ! And Chevrier too, by covering the sandstone platform with dumps from the Middle Kingdom court cleaning, contributed strongly to the contamination of all the primeval structures (fig. 2).



Fig. 33. The Middle Kingdom courtyard photographed by Maxime du Camp ≈ 1850 (Photo MMA, Robert O. Dougan Collection, Gift of Warner Communications Inc., 1981 N° 1981.1229.6.5, public domain. DP116182).

23. LAUFFRAY, 1980, p. 23: « *Presque partout, jusqu'à la couche cristalline (= the one identified at the bottom of the U shaped foundation trench of the limestone raft of Senusret I), on trouve des intrusions de tessons romains et des fragments de la chapelle de granit de Philippe Arrhidée, même dans des zones laissées intactes par Chevrier. Les carriers et les chercheurs de trésor ont tellement <p. 24> bouleversé les stratifications que le matériel mobilier ne peut servir à établir une chronologie absolue des structures in situ dont nous constatons la succession.* »

24. EHRLICH, 1900, p. 207: « (...) *et je cherchai à m'approvisionner de sable bien sec; j'en trouvai une quantité suffisante dans les fondations du temple détruit de la XI^e (sic, pour XII^e) dynastie, à l'Est de la chapelle de Thotmès III (sic, pour Philippe Arrhidée). Les sacs, chargés et liés sur place, étaient transportés par baudets à pied d'œuvre; là, une équipe spéciale les recevait, les transportait sur le mur et les posait.* »



Fig. 34. The Middle Kingdom courtyard photographed by Maxime du Camp. DP116182, ≈ 1850 MoMA.



Fig. 35. The Middle Kingdom courtyard on photos of Bonfils ≈ 1870, CFEETK n° 13305.



Fig. 36. The Annual flood in the MK courtyard. Photo © CNRS-CFEETK no 63815.

It is worth reminding here that, the interior of the foundation having been exposed from around 500 BC until the last century, the archaeological field was submitted to around 1500 annual floods (fig. 36) and droughts, of tides and declines so that even few millimetres motions per year would have generated substantial motions over centuries.

Droughts during the low water season conducing to deep cracks in the earth favoured the descent of small artefacts.

Water may thus have significantly percolated deep in the substratum, carrying down, by the way, fallen potsherds. The presence, close to the MK courtyard and “upstream”, of the reservoir of the Sacred Lake²⁵ may also have played some role in the subterranean stream directly connected with the flood dynamics²⁶.

²⁵. For a canalization joining the Nile to the sacred lake see GABOLDE, AZIM, 2015, p. 1-21.

²⁶. Phenomenon brought to light by Traunecker (TRAUNECKER, 1975, p. 131-140).

The variations of the ground water table in different parts of the temple and in the Nile bed creates heavy pressures in the flaky layers of silt resulting in small channels for water streams, especially when the waters drain into the Nile, as noted by Legrain and Maspero²⁷.

Although this phenomenon of items migration remains hypothetical and till now unattested elsewhere, it could provide a global explanation to the state of the archaeological arrangement and byzantine potsherds contamination as discovered in our excavations, when accompanied by the deep trampling of the lime makers which role was prominent in this dissemination of materials.

19. Historical conclusions and archaeological appraisal of the operations

The two excavations campaigns of 2020 and 2021 had for main goal to precise the date of foundation of the primeval temple of Karnak through an extensive re-examination of the remains present in the Middle Kingdom courtyard.

If all the questions didn't find answers, however, the operation implemented this year have permitted to solve a whole set of historical and archaeological problematics which remained open. Some facts till now much debated can now be definitely fixed:

1. There was definitely no mud-brick structures before the creation of the sandstone platform and the digging of its foundations trenches.
2. But there was positively a garden-like feature, made of mud levees and basins, identified in the central part of the platform and which can appropriately be connected with similar features unearthed to the east and to the south, at the same level, by Lauffray and by Mensan. This garden-like feature is, to date, the oldest hand-made structure inside the temple of Karnak. From the ceramic diagnosis it may date to the XIth dynasty. The existence of such garden is attested elsewhere, at Thebes and is dated to the XIIth dynasty by its discoverer J. Galan. This discovery at Karnak, if confirmed, would pave the way to fruitful theological, archaeological and historical interpretations.
3. We could also bring to light the existence of two intricated foundation trenches corresponding apparently to one small — unachieved ? — project then enlarged and deepened to house the building which was erected on the present sandstone platform. It may have marked the shift from a sacred architecture made of mud bricks with only plated sandstone slabs to an entirely stone built architecture.

27. LEGRAIN *et alii*, 1900, p. 135, in the report on the collapse of columns on October 3 1899: « *Le lavage de la salle hypostyle venait d'être fait et les eaux s'étaient retirées plus rapidement que d'habitude, ainsi qu'il résulte du rapport de M. Legrain sans doute par suite de la baisse rapide du Nil. Seules quelques mares d'eau étaient restées dans la salle, qui se sont épuisées d'elles-mêmes par infiltrations en quelques jours. Les fondations se vidant de leur trop plein d'eau, rien de plus logique qu'un tassement, dans ces conditions, se soit produit brusquement.* » and also LEGRAIN, 1906b, p. 115: « *Ces eaux n'arrivaient pas par suintement, mais étaient fournies par de véritables sources paraissant provenir de poches d'eau souterraines. L'an passé nous avions été fort incommodés par une source de ce genre venant du nord, dans la direction du pylône d'Amenothès II (= 8^e pylône). Elle coula quatre longs mois. Cette année elle était tarie, peut être parce que les infiltrations n'avaient pas été hautes. Les sources étaient rares et sans durée du côté est de la fosse. Elles étaient et elles sont abondantes et nombreuses du côté ouest. L'une d'elles coula pendant toute la durée de nos travaux sans cesser de fournir une eau abondante, claire et limpide, dont, après le professeur Schweinfurth, nos gens se désaltéraient à l'envi. Deux autres ne purent jamais être tariées, aussi profond que nous descendissions. La découverte de ces sources était toujours produite par l'extraction d'un bloc ou d'une statue qui bouchait son orifice. L'endroit où nous fouillions, barricadés derrière des remblais d'argile et de paille malaxés ensemble, était presque aussitôt envahi par le jet de la nouvelle source; le travail était suspendu et la source aveuglée provisoirement, si possible, ou canalisée et détournée vers les chadoufs. Les jets de source entraînaient avec eux des morceaux d'argile dure, des cailloux, des graviers, de minces feuilles d'or, de petits bronzes de 10 à 15 centimètres de hauteur, et d'autres menus objets antiques.* »

4. The complete absence of ceramics remains older than the XIth dynasty confirms that the foundation of the temple proper of Amun-Ra occurred on an only recently emerged land (a *m3wt*) in a way echoed by the recent results gained by Charloux in the deep soundings at Ptah temple and at Opet temple.
5. The unexpected presence of byzantine ceramics in the deepest layers led us to imagine multiple contamination processes and even the possibility of artefacts migrations caused by underwater circulations. If confirmed this phenomenon would contribute to reassess our view of the excavations bias and would lead to pay more attention to the context of items we generally discard considering them as intrusive or contaminating and which thus are kept under the radar.
6. One of the disappointing results of our research was the complete absence of inscribed materials. One would have expected foundation deposits: they were absent in the north east corner and in the central part of the platform. The sandstone of the platform was also extensively composed of reused blocks, though, surprisingly enough, all deprived of inscriptions. It seems that the dismantled buildings were entirely unachieved when put down. This is confirmed by the unachievement of the cavetto cornice with an unfinished trace of a solar disc or of a gargoyle (fig. 6-7).

20. Phasing and periodization

1. Sequel of the Nile global motion to the west, a “New Land” (*m3wt*) — made by accumulation of natural silting with scarce traces of anthropic material and containing abundant rhizo-concretions — appears at the end of the First Intermediate Period in the location of the future “Middle Kingdom court” (US 015 ≈ US 004);
2. A garden, made of grid of mud (US 014), is laid out on this substratum of natural and almost virgin soil, on a surface clearly larger than the sandstone platform. The compacted mud levees raises at $z=73,01$ and the basin’s depth at $z=72,93$. It appears to be around 77 cm over the average high Nile level estimated at 72,16 at this time²⁸. If this level seems appropriate for cultivation lands, it is not really enough for a safe foundation for a temple.
3. A high dump of earth, made of light silty and sandy mud (US 013), of around 80 cm of high/thickness is then spread all over the garden in order to raise the projected building’s ground level up to level ≈ 73,80.
4. The project of a first foundation pit (FOS 001a), around 60 cm deep down to level 73,18, is launched probably intended for an (unachieved) project of temple made of sandstone and mud bricks, with a layout of around 6,80 m by 8 m.
5. Before it was achieved or even implemented a new U-shaped foundation trench (FOS 001b) is dug around the previous one, deepening to the North, the South and the East the extension to level 72,87 and enlarging the dimensions of the projected temple to around 10,52 (20 cubits) North-south and more than 10 m East-West.
6. The two intricated foundation trenches (FOS 001a & b) are filled up with a single thick filling of gravels topped with a layer of pure grey river sand.
7. A large sandstone foundation is established. Its filling and building material is composed mainly

²⁸. GABOLDE 2018, p. 68, fig. 30. Though the floods seem to have been of higher range in the Middle Kingdom, *id. ibid.*, p. 61.

of anepigraphic reused sandstone slabs, including a cavetto cornice, one unachieved offering table, a reused column basis, one piece of granite (threshold ?). This podium is exactly oriented to the point where the sun rises at winter solstice.

8. A sandstone and possibly also limestone temple is erected on this surface, maybe that for which a red granite naos basis was made, for a statue of Amun, under the reign of Amenemhet I.
9. The temple is dismantled, leaving on the spot globally the two lower courses of sandstone.
10. The irregularities of the surface are levelled, by patching small and thin limestone slabs, occasionally inscribed or decorated in depressions. Large areas are sealed with chips of stones agglomerated with a plaster or lime mortar.
11. A deep U-shaped foundation trench is dug to the north, the east and the south of the sandstone platform in year 19 of Senusret I in order to set the limestone foundation raft of his new enlarged temple.
12. Fragments of broken mud bricks are spread over the surface before the filling with layers of white-yellow foundation sand.
13. The foundation courses of limestone (occasionally reusing earlier limestone monuments, stelae, sandstone architraves of the XIth and XIIth dynasties etc.) surround and cover the sandstone platform. 4 granite thresholds are installed at the same upper level — the first inserted in the sandstone platform — and are aligned on a unique axis pointing to the sunrise at winter solstice.
14. The superstructure of the temple of the temple of Senusret I, made of Turah limestone and red granite axial doors is built up. A façade wall, preceded by a pillared osirid portico, frames the entrance granite door to the west. A great scene representing an enthroned Senusret I, under his dais convening his courtiers, followed by a long inscription which content is similar to that of the *Berliner leather roll* adorns the south wall.
15. Amenhotep I adds his monuments to the west, including new walls leaning against the antis walls of Senusret I.
16. Hatshepsut and Thutmose III remove the façade pillared portico and all the monuments of Amenhotep I and replace them by the upper raised “Hatshepsut rooms”. A new raised threshold replaces the western half of the first granite threshold of Senusret.
17. The monuments remain until the Roman Empire with apparently several restorations, the last made under the reign of Tiberius.
18. In byzantine time, a church occupies the hypostyle of the neighbouring Akhmenu. Then the temple of Senusret I is exploited by lime factories agents until very deep in some parts of the foundations, partly bringing to light, by the way, the old sandstone platform. Deep pits are dug until the substratum. Nothing of the limestone superstructure and of the two upper courses of the foundation raft survives, except under the granite thresholds.
19. Centuries of watering and silting thanks to the yearly inundations, eolian and human sedimentations. Beginning of uncontrolled excavations.
20. At the end of the 19th century, Mariette begins the cleaning of the area, removing the dumps from the eolian, human and flooding earth accumulations. The sandstone platform is duly noted on the plans of the area drawn by Borchardt.
21. Legrain and Pillet continue the cleaning while Ehrlich removes an important quantity of foundations sand from the bottom of the foundations of Senusret I

22. Chevrier continues the removal of the sediments and covers the sandstone platform with his dump of (byzantine) debris. First description of the structure and of its whereabouts.
23. Lauffray makes the first systematic exploration of the sandstone platform in 1979.
24. Excavations of Carlotti Czerny and Gabolde in 1998.
25. Excavations of Mensan and Charloux in 2005.
26. Present excavations of Gabolde and Al-Taher, Vanpeene, Nussair *et alii.*, implemented in 2020-2021, with dismantling of the north-east corner, extensive excavation, rebuilding, site management.

21. Table of the encountered Stratigraphic units

N° of US	Nature, constitution and correspondances	High level	Low level	Sounding
US 000	Surface dump	≈ 73,85	≈ 73,75	1
US 001	Grey river sand (corresp. to US 010). Scarce potsherds.	≈ 73,75 à 73,85	≈ 73,45	1
US 002	Layer of river gravel and pebbles. Scarce potsherd (corresp. to US 012).	≈ 73,45	73,18-73,28 and 72,87	1
US 003	Foundation trench of the sandstone platform dug in the substratum (corresp. to FOS 001)	73,78 (estim.)	73,18-73,28 et 72,87	1
US 004	Natural anthropized substratum (corresp. to US 015)	72,87	71,90 water reached	1
US 005	Filling of the big late period/modern hole from sounding 1 (FOS 002)	≈ 72,90	72,72	1
US 0010	Grey river sand (corresp. to US 001)	≈ 73,55	≈ 73,45	2
US 0011	Filling of the late period / recent hole FOS 003 from sounding 2	≈ 73,55	73,21	2
US 0012	Layer of river gravel and pebbles. Scarce potsherd (corresp. to US 002)	≈ 73,45	73,18	2
US 0013	Dump of light sandy silt .	73,18	73,04	2
US 0014	Compacted earth levees and basins (« garden » ?).	73,04 – 72,99	72,93	2
US 0015	Natural anthropized substratum (corresp. to US 005).	72,93	71,90 eau atteinte	2
FOS 001	Set of two foundations trenches, the upper central one (FOS 001a) and the lower surrounding one (FOS 001b) on which the sandstone platform is founded.	73,78 (estim.)	72,87	1 et 2
FOS 002	Late period or modern plundering hole of sounding 1 filled up with US 005	≈ 72,87	72,72	1
FOS 003	Late period or modern plundering hole of sounding 2, western side.	≈ 73,60	73,21	2

22. Plans of the two successive projects of the primitive temple (fig. 37-38)

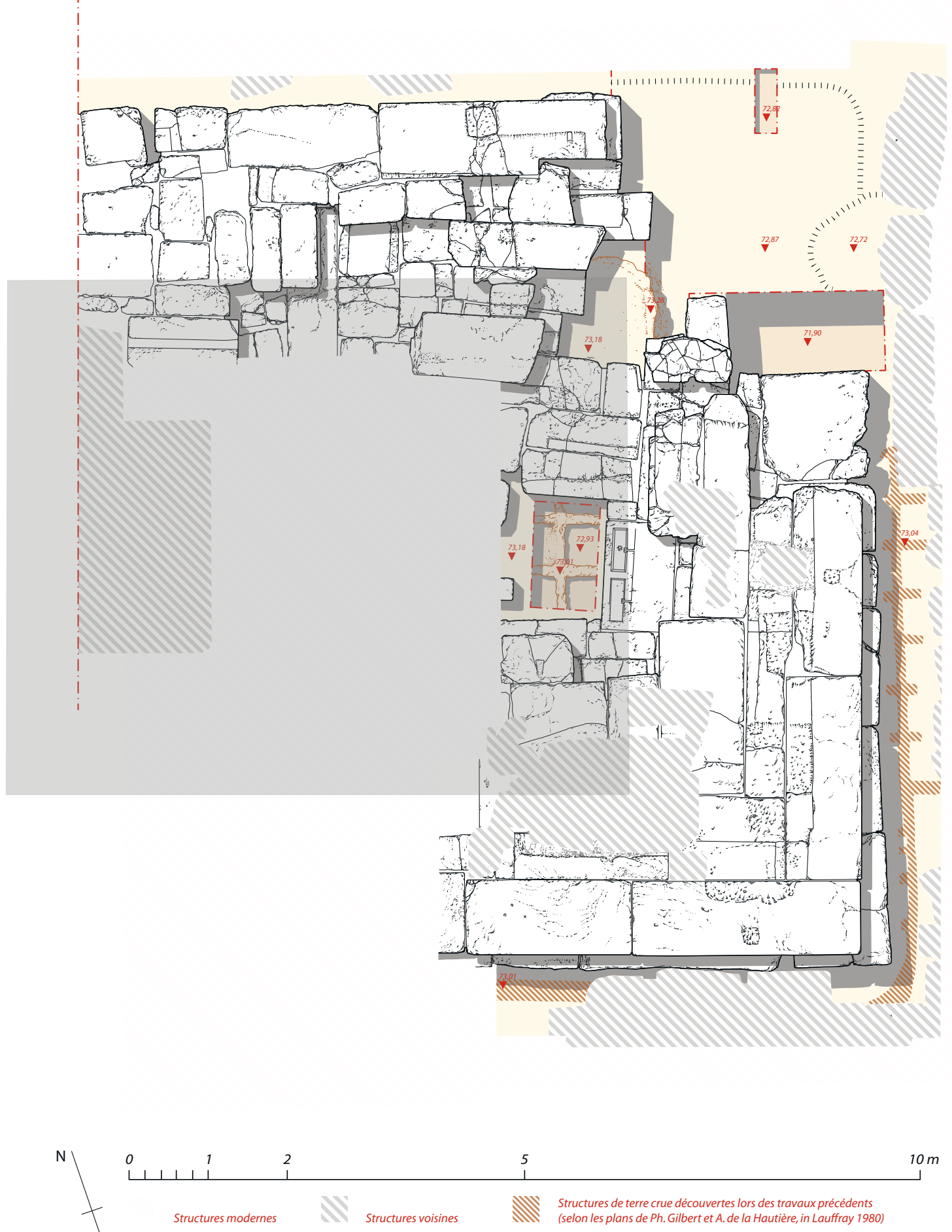


Fig. 37. In grey, location of the very first unachieved architectural project corresponding to the upper small foundation trench. (M. Vanpeene, L. Gabolde).



Fig. 38 In light grey, location of the enlarged secondary architectural project corresponding to the lower U-shaped deeper foundation trench. Probably Amenemhat I. (M. Vanpeene, L. Gabolde).

23. Sections of the successive phases of evolution of the sector of the primitive temple (views are looking west, fig. 39-42)



Fig. 39. Phase 1. New land and primeval garden: First Intermediate Period or XIth dynasty.

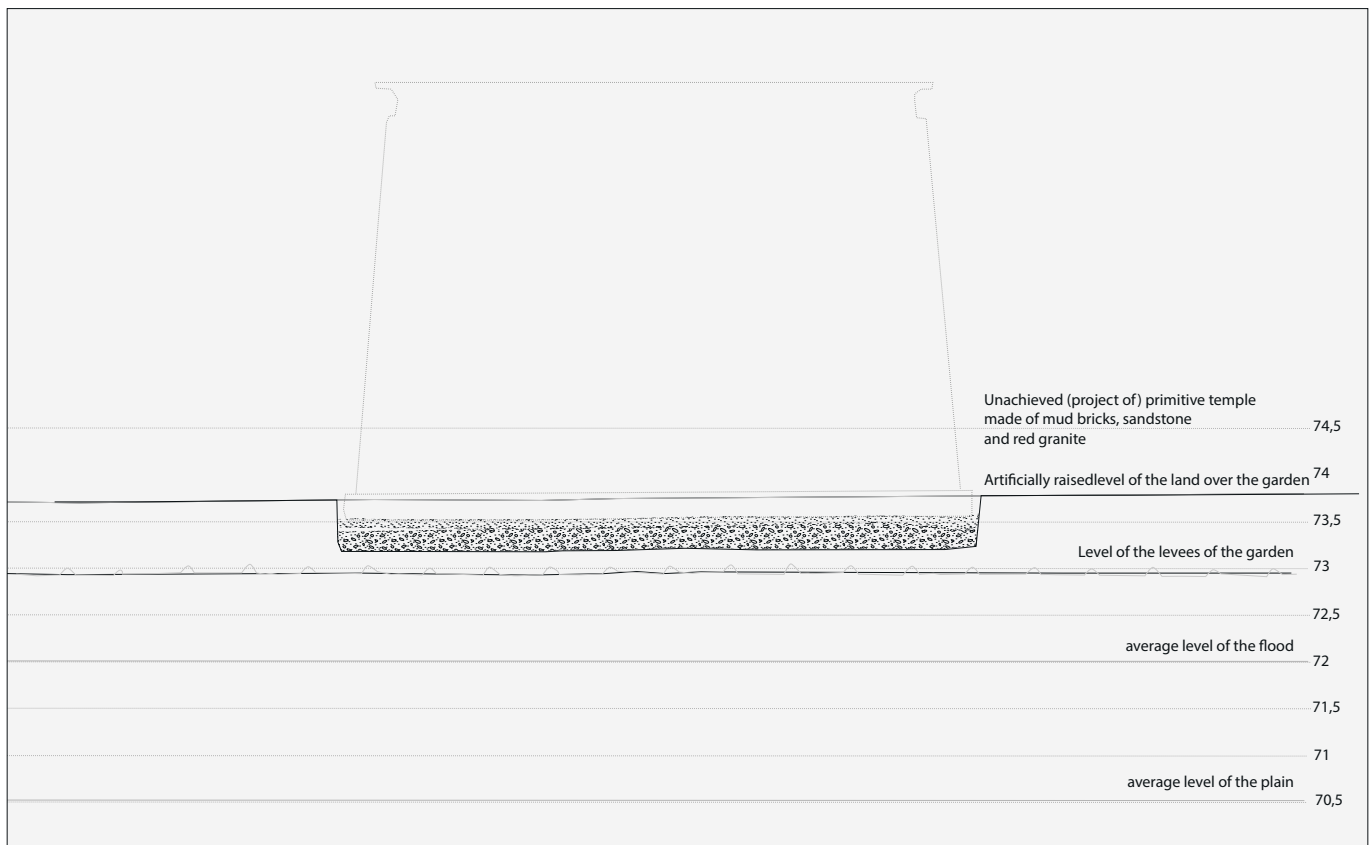


Fig. 40. Phase 2. Primeval project of temple (unachieved) end of XIth or early XIIth dynasty.

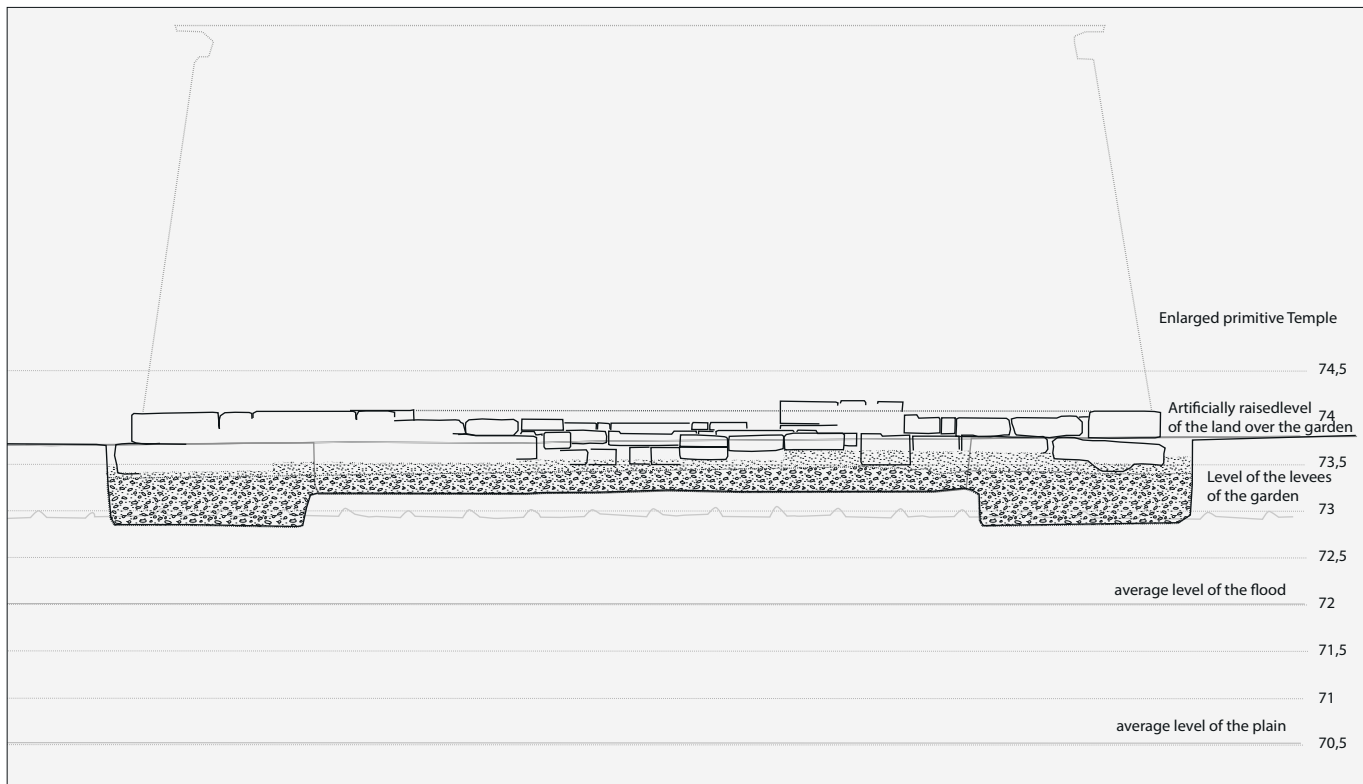


Fig. 41. Phase 3. Primeval temple enlarged with deepened U-shaped lateral foundations (end of XIth or early XIIth dynasty) (Incorporating reused (unfinished and undecorated) blocks (of the previous temple ?).

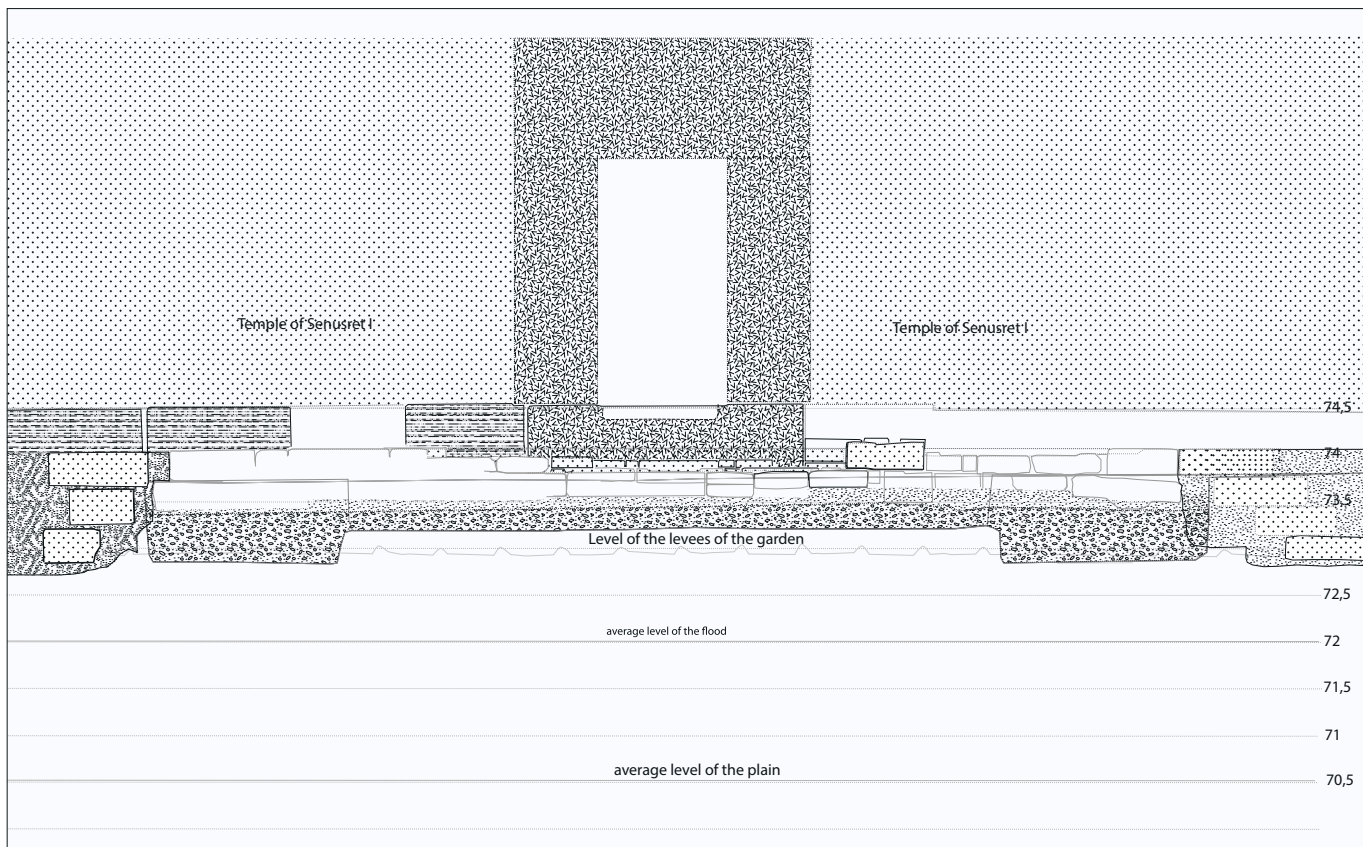


Fig. 42. Phase 4. Temple of Senusret I with new U-shaped foundation trench surrounding the primeval temple. The new foundation raft is composed of limestone covering the previous temple first courses with filler patches made of limestone slabs and plaster. The superstructure was made of limestone incorporating granite thresholds and reused sandstone uninscribed architraves.

24. Restorations, rebuilding and site management

24.1. Restorations

The blocks composing the sandstone platform were hewn out a very specific stone, the fine grey-pink sandstone from the quarries of Shatt er-Regal, which was used in the Theban area only in the Middle Kingdom (essentially in the XIth dynasty). 25 of them were removed during the excavation process.

As the slabs were often slim the stones were cracked. This sandstone is of finer texture than the one of Gebel al-Silsilah used in the New Kingdom, but it is also less cohesive.

Under the supervision of Dr. Hassan al-Amir (kindly lent by the IFAO) and of Agnès Oboussier, a consolidating treatment with ethyl silicate was implemented for most of them before a re-fixing of the fragments together with Epoxy resin glue, reinforced with glass fibre dowels, and finally completed with a lime based filling paste mortar (fig. 43).



Fig. 43. The very fragmented block A 27 in process of restoration.
Photo L. Gabolde © CNRS-CFEETK.

24.2. Rebuilding

The deep sounding was filled up with sifted sand (incorporating some modern coins). Mud-brick walls were built up to figure a grid of isolated bunkers later on filled up with sand. The restored blocks were then replaced exactly at their original location on the sand layer, in the reversed order of their dismantling process (fig. 44).

24.3. Site Management

In order to protect the remains but also to have them pedagogically displayed and presented to the public of visitors, a site management was undertaken.



Fig. 44. replacement of the restored blocks in their original location.

A wooden platform and bridges, with protective fences had been set in the center of the sandstone platform last season in order to canalize the stream of visitors and to protect the remains (fig. 45). A protective mud brick wall, initiated last year, was completed this season, and reinforced with a rope barrier. Thus the most ancient architectural remains of the temple of Karnak are now visible, understandable, and protected.



Fig. 45. The wooden bridge and platform with the information aluminium panels.
Photo E. Saubestre © CNRS-CFEETK, n° 203968.

Two panels were added to provide the visitor with explanations. They are made of aluminium with an enamelled ink and seem rather resistant (fig. 46).

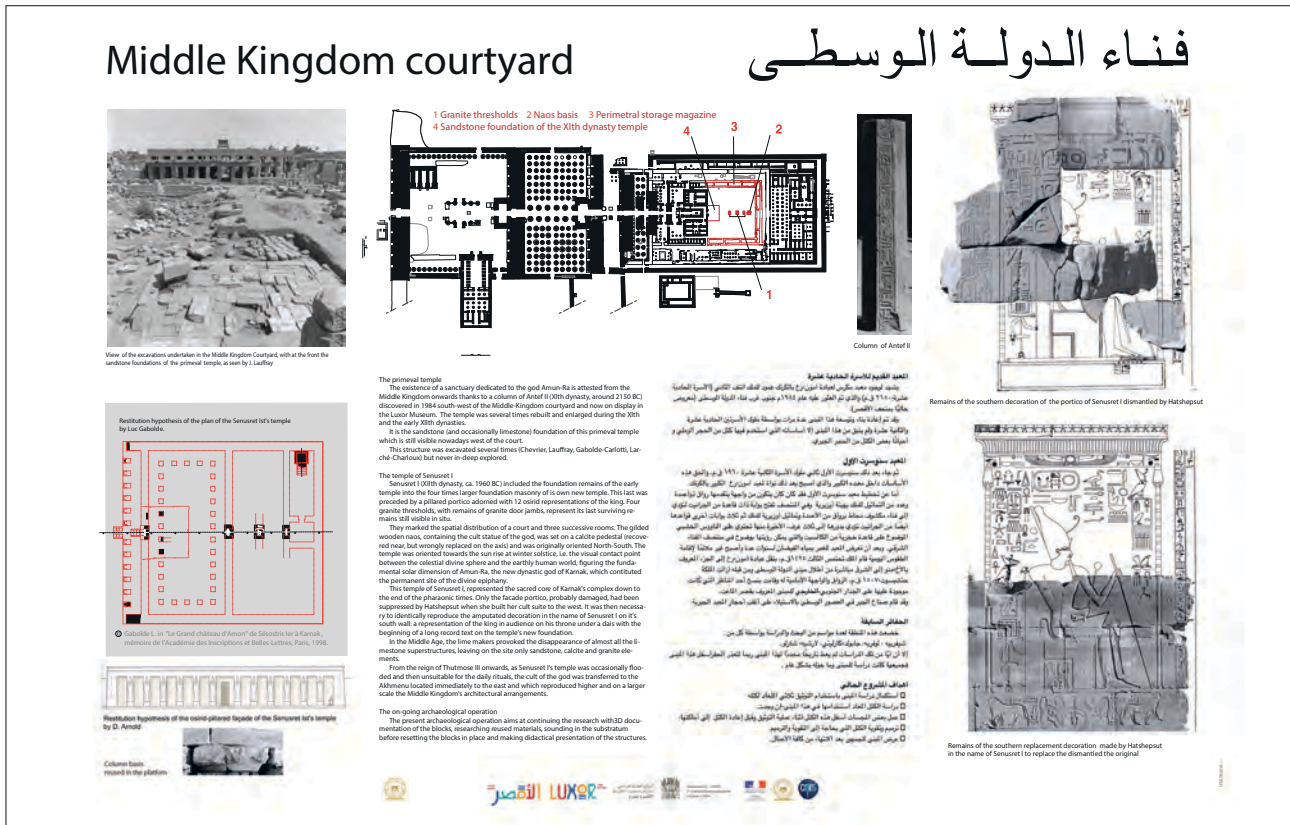


Fig. 46. The information aluminium panels set in two exemplars on the excavation site.

25. Trainings

At each step of the research, the inspectors Shaima Mohammed Hussein, Aly Mohammed Ahmed El-Naggar, Fatima Ahmed et Tala'at Sa'id were associated to the research and were proposed the complementary training they may wish.

26. Publications prospect and mediatiation

The main excavation programme in the Middle Kingdom court can be considered as achieved and the main goals reached. Only very few complementary researches could be scheduled in future seasons.

It is however not necessary to wait for their conclusions for the publication of the present archaeological report.

Results will also appear through the internet, in the social media and on the site of the CFEETK: <http://www.cfeetk.cnrs.fr/>; <https://twitter.com/cfeetk>; <https://www.facebook.com/CFEETK/>.

27. Potential future operations

In order to complete our view of the sector and to fill the blanks parts of the archaeological plan, it could be appropriate to bring to light the substructures already seen and explored in the south part of the MK courtyard (as attest photos of the archive) but never documented. This could provide an opportunity to re-examine the archaeological relations between the sandstone platform, its foundations, the limestone raft, its foundations, the first granite threshold and its foundations (fig. 47)

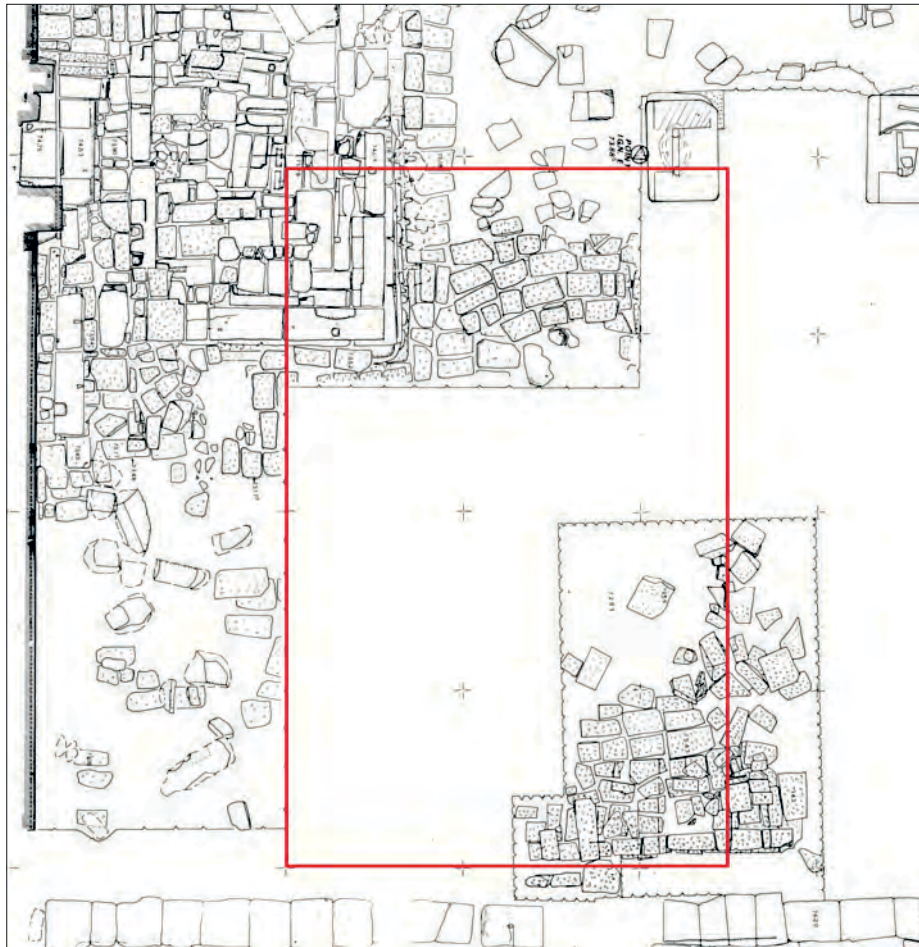


Fig. 47. Scheduled sounding 1 in the MK courtyard, south part.

A punctual sounding at the contact point between the limestone raft foundations, the sandstone platform and the foundations of the Hatshepsut rooms is expected to give new insight into the problem of the potsherds dissemination, especially the byzantine ones, nobody, nowadays, questioning the date of these last rooms (fig. 48).

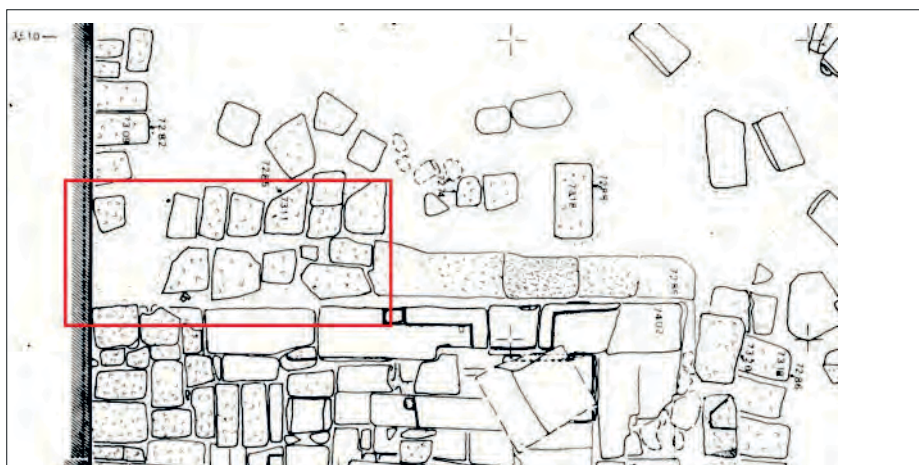


Fig. 48. Scheduled sounding at the contact of the limestone raft, the sandstone platform and the Hatshepsut rooms.

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ENGLISH SUMMARIES

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“The Southern Chamber of Amenhotep II’s Edifice between the IXth and Xth Pylons at Karnak Temple” (pp. 15-26)

This article deals with the publication of the southern chamber of the so-called edifice of Amenhotep II at Karnak, which was built between the IXth and Xth pylons of the temple. It focuses on the decoration of the pillars, including scenes and texts.

The southern chamber of Amenhotep II’s edifice consists of a hall connected to three annexes, two to the east (Annex A and B) and one to the south (Annex C). Four square pillars stand in this hall. The pillars S2 and S3 are partly preserved, but the two others (S1 and S4) are now destroyed except their bases. Pillar S2 and S3, both of which have lost their capitals, have four faces, each face being decorated with a scene and bearing below two lines of text. Amenhotep II is embraced by Amun, while the king is wearing different crowns in each side.

Mohamed Raafat Abbas

“The Depictions of Three Ramesside Stelae in the War Scenes of Karnak” (pp. 27-40)

The Ramesside war scenes of Karnak are main historical source for the study of imperial policy of Egypt in the Levant and Nubia during the New Kingdom, as well as the political situation in the ancient Near East during the Late Bronze Age. On the other hand, some of the remarkable Ramesside stelae that were discovered in Egypt, Nubia and the Levant, provided important historical information on the military achievements of the Ramesside warrior pharaohs as well. Egyptologists and historians have noted that some details of the texts of these Ramesside stelae have been depicted in the war scenes of Karnak. This article surveys and discusses the depictions of three Ramesside stelae in the war scenes of Karnak.

Ahmed Altaher

Khonsu and Montu Temples Graffiti Project : An Overview” (pp. 41-54)

The history of graffiti practice at Karnak appears to be consistent with the temple’s early beginnings. The oldest documented graffiti dates back to the Twelfth Dynasty. The development of graffiti in the place was in line with the development and expansion of the temple’s architecture. The features of graffiti became clearly evident from the second half of the New Kingdom.

Two types of graffiti were practiced, one individual and the other official. Most individual graffiti practice was limited to temple employees. The official graffiti is embodied in divine images of deities. It was used as secondary places of worship for the temple staff.

This article takes a look at the graffiti left on the outer western wall of Khonsu temple of and the eastern wall of the Montu Temple at Karnak. Where the practice of graffiti varied between individual and institutional.

At least 200 graffiti are inscribed on these walls: about 90 in Khonsu and 110 in Montu. These two *corpora* offer a wide range of graffiti, from simple incised images of gods to carefully inscribed divine images. Personal images, sacred symbols, hieroglyphic, hieratic, and a few demotic texts were left.

Jean-François Carlotti

“Les plaies de Karnak. La nature et l’Homme” (pp. 55-68)

The decay of the Karnak’s monuments is due to several factors. Nature and Man have both widely contributed to the degradation of the buildings. Nature through water in all its forms, while earthquakes and vegetation have also ravaged the site. However, Man is probably the main destructive agent, through the vandalization of the monuments, the reuse of the materials, the transformation of space in all its aspects.

Guillaume Charloux, Raphaël Angevin

“Quarante ans après. Retour dans la cour du X^e pylône à Karnak. Projet de publication des fouilles conduites par Michel Azim en 1975-1977” (pp. 69-78)

In the mid-1970s, the excavation led by Michel Azim in the courtyard of the 10th Pylon constituted one of the first large-scale archaeological explorations undertaken along the south-north processional avenue of the great temple of Amun-Ra at Karnak since the work of Georges Legrain at the beginning of the XXth century. Despite its importance, this excavation remained largely unpublished and the results of this work were only the

subject of preliminary reports. In order to fill this gap, a collective research project was initiated in 2015, under the direction of G. Charloux and R. Angevin, in the perspective of the monographic publication of this work, with the support of the Shelby-White Leon-Levy foundation of the Harvard University and the Franco-Egyptian Center for the Study of the Karnak Temples (Cfeetk). By recalling the archaeological and stratigraphical problematics of this operation, the history of the fieldwork and the main findings of these investigations, this article aims to highlight the issues and problems raised by the publication of ancient excavations, based on partial or incomplete documentation. Above all, it wishes to shed light on the major contribution of Michel Azim to the knowledge of Karnak and its long-term evolution, through his numerous interventions.

Gabriella Dembitz

“La scène de Toutânkhamon et sa niche (mur est de la cour de la cachette, face est)” (pp. 79-106

As a result of the anastylosis of the walls of the Cachette courtyard project, the loose blocks belonging to the large format decoration of Tutankhamun usurped by Horemheb regained their original place on the outer face of the eastern wall of the court of the seventh pylon between 2015–2018. This article presents the complete epigraphic publication with translation and commentary of the two symmetrical scenes of Tutankhamun in front of the Theban triad, of the central scene in the form of a stela, and of the newly discovered niche below it. Thanks to the inscriptions and the position of the niche we have a better understanding of the original purpose of the remnants of the sole edifice of Tutankhamon that remained in its original place in the Temple of Amun at Karnak until the walls of the Cachette courtyard were destroyed around 330 A.D. to facilitate the transport of the so-called Lateran obelisk on the request of Constantine the Great.

Benjamin Durand

“Une stèle commémorative d’époque romaine dans le temple de Ptah à Karnak : ultime témoignage d’un culte millénaire” (pp. 107-112)

The Roman-period stela here presented was found in a secondary context in a byzantine dwelling adjacent to the temple of Ptah at Karnak. Although largely degraded, the main elements which constitute this commemorative stela can be restored. The numerous parallels known elsewhere not only allow us to confirm its composition, but also to propose a dating. It is thanks to these parallels, but also by putting it into perspective with the scene on the rear side of the temple of Ptah, that this stela takes on its full meaning and that, in the light of this documentation, its importance can be restored.

Amira Fawzy

“Terracotta Figurines from the Excavations in Front of Karnak Temples” (pp. 113-122)

During the last 7 years, the excavations in front of Karnak Temples in Luxor have brought to light rich material, like coins, amulets, molds, grinding stones, and the most popular: terracotta figurines, which are considered an important element for documenting different aspects of the daily life in ancient Egypt during the Greco-Roman period, in addition to a part of the intensive activity of the Ptolemaic and Roman ceramic workshop. In this paper, we will try to shed light on the symbolic meaning of the types of assemblage of hand-modeled female figurines excavated recently by the Supreme Council of Antiquities.

Luc Gabolde, Ahmed Altaher, Sylvie Marchand, Abdulrahman Nusair, Florie Pirou

“Report on the Excavations in the Middle Kingdom Court 2020-2021, (OP191)” (pp. 123-176)

Report on the excavations carried on at Karnak, on the sandstone platform located in the west part of the Middle Kingdom court in 2019-2021. Description of the archaeological operations : dismantling, documenting, restoration and rebuilding of the north east corner of the sandstone platform. Noticeable is the absence of inscribed material and the absence of foundation deposits. Discovery of two successive foundation trenches, one in the centre and another one, deeper, surrounding it, all containing the same gravel deposit covered by a grey river sand layer, bearing the sandstone blocks of the platform. This structure is extensively composed of reused architectural blocks hewn out the typical Middle Kingdom reddish sandstone from the quarries of Shatt er-Regal. Discovery of the remains of a primeval garden, which traces match similar scarce remains found by Lauffray and seen by Charloux and Mensan around the sandstone platform.

The date of the primeval garden, that of the two successive foundation trenches and that of the sandstone platform is clearly end of the XIth or the beginning of the XIIth dynasty and without any doubt anterior to the vast limestone raft of the large temple of Senusret I which surrounded covered and the sandstone remains.

The extensive exploitation of the limestone in the Middle-Age together with the numerous plunders pits and the successive excavations have widely and deeply spread the byzantine potsherds throughout the whole site and have contaminated even some very low layers. Hopefully some intact Middle Kingdom levels were identified in crucial sectors, allowing the present cohesive understanding of the structures.

Ahmed Altaher, Luc Gabolde, Jérémy Hourdin

“Rapport sur la restauration de la statue d’Amon de Toutânkhamon et sur les opérations complémentaires menées a cette occasion” (pp. 177-194)

From 2019 to 2021 an ambitious program of restoration was undertaken on the quartzite statue of Amun of Tutankhamun behind the 6th pylon. Old restorations of Legrain were removed, the proportions of the statue improved and spare pieces hewn out of sandstone replaced. The statue of goddess Amaunet was then also restored. The wall of the Annals of Thutmose III was on this occasion restored and completed with rediscovered loose blocks. Its north side was also restored and completed. The red granite gate was dismantled and rebuild and the right part of the lintel, reused in antiquity in the village of Dendara, was brought back and inlaid into the assemblage. A small excavation was made under the location of the statue before its re-installation

Luc Gabolde, Marc Gabolde

“Compléments au texte du mur sud Akhmenou” (pp. 195-216)

Some unknown fragments (now lost) of the great inscription engraved on the southern wall of the Akhmenu appear on a photo of Legrain published by M. Azim and G. Reveillac. These remains provide us with mentions of various buildings at Karnak, including the gates of the VIth and of the VIIth pylons, some obelisks, together with a mention of the great riverine bark ‘Amun-Userhat’. These occurrences lead to question the date of this text and suggest to place it rather to the end of the reign.

Jean-Claude Golvin

**“L’abattage de l’obélisque du VII^e pylône de Karnak.
Essai de restitution de l’aspect du chantier” (pp. 217-232)**

Complementary studies on the process of pulling down the western obelisk of the 7th pylon — upper part now in Istanbul — in the reign of Constantine, with an attempt to restore the worksite’s aspect. Precisions on the height of the scaffolding, the solutions to grasp the shaft, the anchoring pits used for the ropes relaying and re-orienting systems. Evocation of the break of the obelisk during the operation and description of the quasi-military organization of the work team, of the schedule and of its steps. Finally, an insight into the ramps arrangement leading to the Nile river.

Jean-Claude Goyon

“Michel Azim et les archives de Karnak. Un énigmatique chapiteau hathorique et la découverte de ceux du temple d’Opet” (pp. 233-240)

Research on a fragment of an Hathoric capital stored to the south of Ramses III’s temple at Karnak. Enquiry on the parallels found on the site, on the enigma of the whereabouts and context of the discovery. Examination of the potential links with the festival of drunkenness.

Jérémy Hourdin

**“Un document thébain de Nécho II usurpé par Psammétique II (Cheikh Labib 94CL1276)”
(pp. 241-254)**

Publication of a block previously stored at Karnak (Sheikh Labib, 94CL1276) which is decorated with the names of the Saite king Necho II and partially usurped by his son Psamtik II. This monument, a copy of a Ramesside relief from Abydos, provides new insight into Necho II’s activities, which are still poorly documented in the Theban region.

Khaled Ismail

“A Study of relief of Dionysus kept in Luxor Museum” (pp. 255-264)

This paper aims to address the interpretation of the decoration carved on a high relief sandstone block from Karnak. This block is kept at the Luxor Museum, probably dating to the Roman period. It was excavated in front of the first pylon of the temple Amun-Re at Karnak by Jean Lauffray in 1969-1970 as he reports. The block, carved in high relief, shows a naked young man leaning on a legged sofa, above a semi-circle water spout. This iconography makes the object an exceptional and extremely specific case among all the artifacts and archeological finds which were excavated at Karnak.

Françoise Laroche-Traunecker, Franck Monnier

**”L’érection et la fixation des mâts à oriflammes
d’après la documentation relative au II^e pylône de Karnak” (pp. 265-294)**

This study proposes a reconstruction of the device used for attaching flagpoles in the openings of the pylon facade, as well as a view of the process and operations required to install them. To this end, we have based our analysis on the 2nd pylon of Karnak, the largest pylon ever built for which the setup of flagpoles after its completion is an established fact. The history of its construction and the characteristics of the huge imported pieces of wood lead us to reconstruct their erection with several possible solutions.

Cédric Meurice

**“Formules, plagats et surenchères entre voyageurs :
le discours sur l’Égypte copte instrumentalisé” (pp. 295-308)**

In the 17th and 18th centuries, Western travelers often used their accounts of Coptic Egypt to prove to their readers the quality and veracity of their discourse. As time passed and the process of discovery progressed, they developed a particular vocabulary in which places, legends and numbers played an important role. Today’s reader must therefore make a careful selection of travel relationship and read them carefully.

Jean-Guillaume Olette-Pelletier

**“ Le roi et l’oiseau : note sur trois emplois d’écriture énigmatique sur le pavillon jubilaire de
Sesostris I^{er} à Karnak ” (pp. 309-320)**

The White Chapel of Senwosret I features new uses of Middle Kingdom cryptic iconography and enigmatic writing. The 8’ scene (KIU 1040) of the monument, displaying the ancient Min’s ritual of erecting the *shnt*-chapel, owns clues of a new understanding and reading of some engraved hieroglyphic signs. Behind the ritual and its visible textual description, a cryptic writing, nearby a cryptographic system, can be found. It seems to be added and dedicated to an ancient hierogrammatical and linguistic ”elit of the elit”, able to read this kind of visual hieroglyphic composition.

Renaud Pietri

**“Les *talatates* 29/137, 29/358 et 27/45 du IX^e pylône de Karnak et
la réception culturelle du char à l’époque amarnienne” (pp. 321-332)**

This article discusses three *talatat* blocks (29/137, 29/358, and 27/45) that were discovered in the IXth pylon of Karnak. These blocks originate from a list of taxes collected in various temples across Egypt by Amenhotep IV/Akhenaton for the benefit of the cult of Aton in Karnak. They refer to ceremonial chariots in connection with specific festivals. The paper aims to publish these *talatats* – with pictures and fac-similes – and to discuss the question of the ceremonial chariots in the broader perspective of the cultural reception of these vehicles in pharaonic Egypt

Florence Thill

“De Saï à Karnak : le rituel de fondation des temples égyptiens et son évolution au cours du Nouvel Empire” (pp. 333-374)

In homage to Michel Azim, who carried out the excavation of the foundation deposits of Temple A of Sai, in Sudanese Nubia, before uncovering, a few years later, the Horemheb's deposits in the foundations of the 9th pylon of Karnak Temple, this paper highlights the evolution of the foundation ritual of Egyptian temples, during the New Kingdom through three types of sources: texts, figurative representations of the ceremony – the most frequent of them featuring the king and the goddess Sechat during the ceremony of “stretching the rope” – and archaeological sources – the deposits themselves. So, it turns out that the early New Kingdom, and in particular the reigns of Hatshepsut/Thutmose III, was a key period in the development of this ritual, which was revived by Hatshepsut, as evidenced by the texts, representations and objects discovered in the Theban region, as well as in remote but strategic provincial sites such as Saï between the 2nd and 3rd cataracts.

Claude Traunecker

”Orientations réelles et imaginaires dans l’architecture égyptienne” (pp. 375-390)

Egypt is a very unique country. The constants of its landscape, with the Nile flowing towards the north, between two deserts, impact the inhabitants of the valley, like a kind of perennial compass. This continuous intuition of absolute orientation deeply permeated the Egyptian civilization. Furthermore, the rich symbolism of the temples' decoration involves canonical oppositions such as the king of the North is the king of the South. The present study aims at identifying the complex rules which governed the distribution of these elements, whatever the real orientation of the building was. This method of analysing the decoration allows new readings regarding the symbolic meaning of some temples and their reciprocal links. An excursion explores the consequences of Egyptian intuitive orientation and especially the noticeable absence of a circular monument among the architecture of the pyramid builders

Robert Vergnieux

“Une image dynamique des temples d’Aton figée dans la dispersion de ses vestiges au sein du IX^e pylône du temple d’Amon-Rê à Karnak” (pp. 391-398)

The study of the dispersal of the *talatat* in the foundations of the 9th pylon at Karnak opens up new perspectives for understanding the organization of the dismantling of the Aten temples. These data not only improve our understanding of the way the stones were assembled together, but also enable us to perceive the spatial distribution of the decorations on the original walls of the Aten temples. This potential would never have been possible without the quality of the work carried out by the CFEETK teams and, above all, the great rigor with which Michel Azim led the archaeological dig to extract the *talatat* from the west tower of the 9th pylon of the Karnak temples.

والم يكن ذلك ممكنا لولا جودة العمل التي قام بها فريق المركز المصري الفرنسي لدراسة معابد الكرنك (CFEETK)، وبشكل خاص، الدقة الكبيرة التي أظهرها ميشيل أزييم أثناء قيادته للحفائر الأثرية لاستخراج أحجار التلاتات من الجناح الغربي للصرح التاسع في معابد الكرنك.

صيغ، اقتباسات، وتنافس بين المسافرين: استغلال الخطاب حول مصر القبطية (ص ٢٩٥-٣٠٨)

سيدريك موريس

في القرنين السابع عشر والثامن عشر، غالبًا ما استخدم الرحالة الغربيون رواياتهم عن مصر القبطية ليثبتوا لقراءهم جودة خطابهم وصدقهم. ومع مرور الوقت وتقدم عملية الاكتشاف، طوروا مفردات معينة لعبت فيها الأماكن والأساطير والأرقام دورًا مهمًا. لذلك يجب على قارئ اليوم أن يقوم بمراعاة ذلك في هذه الكتابات وقراءتها بعناية.

الكتابة المعماة في المقصورة البيضاء (ص ٣٠٩-٣٢٠)

جان غيوم أوليت بيليتيه

تتميز المقصورة البيضاء لسنوسرت الأول باستخدامات جديدة للأيقونات المبهمة في الدولة الوسطى والكتابة المعماة. يظهر المنظر الثامن (KIU ١٠٤٠) الطقوس القديمة للمعبود مين في إقامة مقصورة الشنت، ويشير إلى فهم وقراءة جديدة لبعض العلامات الهيروغليفية المنقوشة خلف الطقوس ووصفها النصي المرئي، نري كتابة مبهمه، تقترب من نظام الكتابات المعماة. يبدو أنها مضافة ومخصصة لـ "نخبة النخبة" الهيروجرامية واللغوية القديمة، القدرة على قراءة هذا النوع من التركيب الهيروغليفي البصري.

أحجار ثلاثات ١٣٧/٢٩، ٣٥٨/٢٩ و ٤٥/٢٧ من الصرح التاسع من الكرنك.

ملاحظات حول استقبال العربية في الثقافة المصرية القديمة (ص ٣٢١-٣٣٢)

رينو بيترى

يناقش هذا المقال ثلاث كتل أحجار ثلاثات (١٣٧/٢٩، ٣٥٨/٢٩، ٤٥/٢٧) تم اكتشافها في الصرح التاسع بالكرنك. تتعلق هذه الكتل بقائمة الضرائب التي تم جمعها في المعابد المختلفة في جميع أنحاء مصر من قبل أمنحتب الرابع / أخناتون لصالح عبادة آتون في الكرنك. وهي تشير إلى المركبات الاحتفالية المتعلقة بمهرجانات معينة. ويهدف البحث إلى نشر هذه الثلاثات - بالصور والرسم الخطي ومناقشة مسألة العربات الاحتفالية ضمن المنظور الأوسع للاستقبال الثقافي لهذه المركبات في مصر الفرعونية.

من صاي إلى الكرنك: طقوس تأسيس المعابد المصرية وتطورها خلال عصر الدولة الحديثة (ص ٣٣٣-٣٧٤)

فلورنسا ثيل

تكريماً لميشيل أزييم، الذي أجرى أعمال تنقيب في ودائع الأساس بمعبد صاي في النوبة السودانية، وبعدها بسنوات قليلة كشف عن ودائع أساس من عصر حورمحب في أساسات الصرح التاسع لمعبد الكرنك. يسلط هذا البحث الضوء على تطور طقوس تأسيس المعابد المصرية خلال عصر الدولة الحديثة. ويعتمد على ثلاثة أنواع من المصادر: النصوص، ومناظر الطقوس - وأبرزها ظهور الملك والمعبودة سيشتات خلال طقوس "مد الحبل" - والمصادر الأثرية - والودائع نفسها. يظهر من خلال البحث أن فترة أوائل الدولة الحديثة، خاصة في عهدي حتشيسوت/حتشمس الثالث، كانت فترة حاسمة في تطور هذه الطقوس، والتي أعادت حتشيسوت إحيائها، كما يظهر ذلك من النصوص والمناظر والآثار المكتشفة في منطقة طيبة، وكذلك في المواقع الإقليمية النائية ولكن الاستراتيجية مثل صاي بين الشلال الثاني والثالث.

حول مغزى الاتجاهات الفعلية والتخيلية في العمارة المصرية (ص ٣٧٥-٣٩٠)

كلود ترونكر

مصر بلد فريد للغاية. إن ثوابت مناظره الطبيعية، حيث يتدفق نهر النيل نحو الشمال، بين صحراويتين، تؤثر على سكان الوادي، مثل نوع من البوصلة الدائمة. هذا الحدس المستمر للتوجه المطلق تغلغل بعمق في الحضارة المصرية. علاوة على ذلك، فإن الرمزية الغنية لزخرفة المعابد تنطوي على معارضا قانونية مثل أن ملك الشمال هو ملك الجنوب. وتهدف الدراسة الحالية إلى التعرف على القواعد المعقدة التي تحكم توزيع هذه العناصر مهما كان الاتجاه الحقيقي للمبنى. تتيح هذه الطريقة في تحليل الزخرفة قراءات جديدة فيما يتعلق بالمعنى الرمزي لبعض المعابد وارتباطاتها المتبادلة. إنها رحلة تستكشف عواقب التوجه البديهي المصري وخاصة الغياب الملحوظ للنصب الدائري بين الهندسة المعمارية لبناء الهرم.

صورة ديناميكية لمعابد آتون الموجود بقاياها داخل الصرح التاسع». لمعبد آمون-رع في الكرنك (ص ٣٩١-٣٩٨)

روبرت فيرنيه

تفتح الدراسة آفاقاً جديدة لفهم تنظيم عملية تفكيك معابد آتون من خلال تحليل انتشار أحجار الثلاثات في أساسات الصرح التاسع في الكرنك. هذه البيانات لا تعزز فقط فهمنا لطريقة تجميع الكتل بشكل أفضل، بل تساعدنا أيضاً في فهم التوزيع المكاني للمناظر على الجدران الأصلية لمعابد آتون.

وتم تفكيك وإعادة بناء البوابة المصنوعة من الجرانيت الأحمر، كما تمت إعادة الجزء الأيمن من العتب، الذي أعيد استخدامه في العصور القديمة في قرية دندرة، ووضع في مكانة الصحيح. وتم إجراء حفائر صغيرة أسفل موقع التمثال قبل إعادة تركيبه.

إضافات إلى نقوش الجدار الجنوبي للأخ منو (ص ١٩٥-٢١٦)

لوك جابولد، مارك جابولد

تظهر في صورة لليجران بعض القطع الغير المعروفة (التي فقدت الآن) من النقش الكبير المحفور على الجدار الجنوبي للأخ منو نشرها ميشيل أزييم و ج. ريفياك. تقدم لنا هذه القطع إشارات حول مبان مختلفة في الكرنك، بما في ذلك بوابات الصرح السادس والسابع، وبعض المسلات، جنباً إلى جنب مع ذكر للمركب النهري العظيم "أمون-أوسرحات". تثير هذه الحقائق تساؤلات حول تاريخ هذا النص وتشير إلى أنه من الممكن تحديد موقعه في نهاية الأمر.

عملية هدم المسلة الغربية للصرح السابع في الكرنك: محاولة لاستعادة مظهر موقع العمل (ص ٢١٧-٢٣٢)

جان كلود جولفان

تتناول المقالة دراسات تكميلية حول عملية إنزال المسلة الغربية للصرح السابع - الجزء العلوي الآن في اسطنبول - في عهد قسطنطين، مع محاولة لاستعادة شكل موقع العمل. وتوضيحات حول ارتفاع السقالات والحلول للسيطرة على كتلة المسلة وحفر التثبيت المستخدمة لأنظمة إعادة توجيه الحبال. مع إستحضار لاحتمالات كسر المسلة خلال العملية ووصف للتنظيم شبه العسكري لفريق العمل والجدول الزمني وخطواته. وأخيراً، لمحة عن ترتيب المنحدرات التي تؤدي إلى نهر النيل.

ميشيل أزييم وأرشيف الكرنك. السرايب الحثورية الغامضة واكتشافها في معبد الإبت (ص ٢٣٣-٢٤٠)

جان كلود جويون

يركز البحث على جزء من رأس عمود حثوري مُخزن إلى الجنوب من معبد رمسيس الثالث في الكرنك. و تسليط الضوء على أوجه التشابه الموجودة في الموقع، ومكان وسياق ولغز الاكتشاف وفحص الروابط المحتملة مع مهرجان السكاري.

وثيقة طبية للملك نكاو الثاني معاد استخدامها بواسطة الملك بسماتيك الثاني (مخزن الشيخ لبيب ١٣٧٦c٩٤) (ص ٢٤١-٢٥٤)

جيريمي هوردان

تهدف هذه الورقة إلى نشر كتلة حجرية تم تخزينها مسبقاً في الكرنك (مخزن الشيخ لبيب ١٣٧٦c٩٤)، والتي تم تزيينها بأسماء الملك الساسي نكاو الثاني وتم اغتصابها جزئياً من قبل بسماتيك الثاني. يقدم هذا الأثر، الذي يعد نسخة من نقوش عصر الرعامسة في أبيدوس، رؤية جديدة حول أنشطة الملك نكاو الثاني، التي لا تزال غير موثقة بشكل كاف في منطقة طيبة وتحتاج إلى إعادة التقييم.

دراسة لنقش ديونيسوس المحفوظ في متحف الأقصر (٢٥٥-٢٦٤)

خالد عصام

تهدف هذه الورقة البحثية إلى تفسير الزخارف المنحوتة بالنحت البارز على كتلة من الحجر الرملي عثر عليها في الكرنك. هذه الكتلة الحجرية محفوظة حالياً في متحف الأقصر، ويمكن تأريخها على الأرجح إلى العصر الروماني. لقد كشف جان لوفريه النقاب عن هذه القطعة في المنطقة الواقعة أمام الصرح الأول لمعبد آمون رع بالكرنك في موسم ١٩٦٩-١٩٧٠. يمثل النحت البارز المنحوت على تلك الكتلة الحجرية، صورة لشاب عار الجسد، متكئاً على أريكة ذات أرجل، فوق صنوبر (فتحة) نصف دائرية. إن هذا الموضوع الفني المصور جعل من هذه القطعة حالة استثنائية لها خصوصية بالغة من بين جميع القطع الأثرية التي عثر عليها في منطقة الكرنك.

تشديد وتثبيت ساريات الأعلام وفقاً للوثائق المتعلقة بالصرح الثاني في الكرنك (ص ٢٦٥-٢٩٤)

فرانسواز لاروش-ترونير، فرانك مونييه

تقوم هذه الدراسة بتقديم إعادة بناء للجهاز المستخدم في تثبيت ساريات الأعلام في فتحات واجهة الصرح، إلى جانب رؤية حول العمليات الضرورية لتثبيتها. ولتحقيق هذه الغاية، قمنا ببناء تحليلنا على الصرح الثاني للكرنك، وهو أكبر صرح تم بناؤه على الإطلاق والذي يعد إعداد سارية العلم له بعد اكتماله حقيقة ثابتة. إن تاريخ بنائه وخصائص القطع الخشبية الضخمة المستوردة يدفعنا إلى إعادة تشييده مع عدة حلول ممكنة.

منظر توت عنخ آمون ومقصورته (الجدار الشرقي لفناء الخبيثة، الواجهة الشرقية) (ص ١٠٦-٧٩)

غابرييلا ديمبيتز

نتيجة لعملية إعادة بناء جدران مشروع فناء الخبيثة، تم إعادة بناء كتل كبيرة لتوت عنخ آمون والتي اغتصبها حور محب إلى مكانها الأصلي بالجهة الخارجية للجدار الشرقي لفناء الصرح السابع بين عامي ٢٠١٥-٢٠١٨. يعرض هذا المقال النشر الكامل مع الترجمة والتعليق للمنظرين المتمثلين لتوت عنخ آمون أمام الثالوث الطيبي، والمنظر المركزي الذي على شكل لوحة، والنيشة المكتشفة حديثاً أسفله. بفضل النقوش وموقع النيشة أصبح لدينا فهم أفضل للغرض الأصلي لبقايا أثر توت عنخ آمون الوحيد الذي بقي في مكانه الأصلي في معبد آمون بالكرنك حتى تم تدمير جدران فناء الخبيثة حوالي عام ٣٣٠م لتسهيل نقل ما يسمى بمسلة اللاترين بناء على طلب قسطنطين الأكبر.

لوحة تذكارية تعود للعصر الروماني من معبد بتاح في الكرنك: شاهد نهائي على عبادة قديمة امتدت لعدة آلاف من السنين (ص ١٠٧-١١٢)

بنيامين دوراند

تم العثور على لوحة تذكارية من العصر الروماني والتي عثر عليها في سياق ثانوي داخل مسكن بيزنطي ملاصق لمعبد بتاح في الكرنك. على الرغم من التدهور الشديد، يمكن استعادة العناصر الرئيسية التي تشكل هذه اللوحة التذكارية. العديد من النماذج المعروفة في أماكن أخرى لا تسمح فقط بتأكيد تكوينها، ولكن أيضاً بتقديم تقدير زمني. إنه بفضل هذه النماذج، وأيضاً من خلال وضعها في منظورها الصحيح مع المنظر الموجود على الجدار الخلفي لمعبد بتاح، بحيث تأخذ هذه اللوحات معناها الكامل، وأنه في ضوء هذا التوثيق يمكن استعادة أهميتها.

تمائيل طينية من الحفائر أمام معابد الكرنك (ص ١١٣-١٢٢)

أميرة فوزي على

خلال السبع سنوات الأخيرة، كشفت أعمال الحفائر أمام معابد الكرنك في الأقصر عن قطع أثرية متنوعة، مثل العملات المعدنية والتمائم والقوالب وأحجار الصحن، وأشهرها: التماثيل الطينية، والتي تُعتبر عنصراً هاماً لتوثيق الجوانب المختلفة من الحياة اليومية في مصر القديمة خلال العصور اليونانية والرومانية. يُضاف إلى ذلك جزء من النشاط المكثف لورشة الفخار البطلمية. سنحاول في هذا البحث التركيز على المعنى الرمزي لأنواع التماثيل الأثوية المُصنعة يدوياً، والتي تم العثور عليها مؤخراً من قبل المجلس الأعلى للآثار.

تقرير عن الحفائر في فناء الدولة الوسطي (ص ١٢٣-١٧٦)

لوك جابولد، أحمد الطاهر، سيلفي مارشان، عبد الرحمن نصير، فلوري بيرو

يتناول هذا المقال تقرير عن أعمال الحفائر التي تمت بالكرنك على منصة الحجر الرملي الواقعة بالجزء الغربي من فناء الدولة الوسطى عام ٢٠١٩-٢٠٢١. وصف العمليات الأثرية: تم تفكيك وتوثيق وترميم وإعادة بناء الزاوية الشمالية الشرقية لمنصة الحجر الرملي. ومن الملاحظ عدم وجود كتل منقوشة وغياب ودائع الأساس. تم الكشف عن مستويين أساس متتاليين، أحدهما في الوسط والآخر أعمق يحيط به، ويحتوي كل منهما على نفس الرواسب الحصوية المغطاة بطبقة رملية نهريّة رمادية اللون لتتركز عليها كتل الحجر الرملي الخاصة بالمنصة. يتكون هذا المبنى على نطاق واسع من كتل معمارية مُعاد استخدامها، واستخدم في تشييده الحجر الرملي الأحمر المعتاد استخدامه في الدولة الوسطى حيث كان يُجلب من محاجر شط الرجال. وتم اكتشاف بقايا تقسيم منخفض لحديقة قديمة، والتي تتطابق آثارها مع بقايا نادرة مماثلة عثر عليها لوفري وشاهدها شارلو ومنسان حول منصة الحجر الرملي.. من الواضح أن تاريخ مبني الحديقة، وخنادق الأساس المتعاقبة، وتاريخ منصة الحجر الرملي، هو نهاية الأسرة الحادية عشر أو بداية الثانية عشرة، ودون أدنى شك، يسبق أساسات الحجر الجيري الضخمة للمعبد الكبير لسوسرت الأول الذي أحاطه وغطى جزء من أساساته بكتل الحجر الرملي. أدى الاستغلال المكثف للحجر الجيري في العصور الوسطى إلى جانب الحفائر الغير شرعية العديدة والحفائر المتعاقبة إلى إنتشار قطع الفخار البيزنطية على نطاق واسع وعميق في جميع أنحاء الموقع بأكمله، وتلويث حتى بعض الطبقات المنخفضة جداً. نأمل أن يتم تحديد بعض مستويات الدولة الوسطى السليمة في القطاعات الحيوية، مما يسمح بالفهم المتناسك الحالي للمباني.

تقرير عن ترميم تمثال آمون لتوت عنخ آمون والعمليات الإضافية التي تمت في هذا السياق (ص ١٧٧-١٩٤)

أحمد الطاهر، لوك جابولد، جيريمي هوردان

في الفترة من ٢٠١٩ إلى ٢٠٢١، تم تنفيذ برنامج ترميم طموح على تمثال الكوارتزيت لآمون والذي أمر بنحته توت عنخ آمون خلف الصرح السادس. تمت إزالة الترميمات القديمة لليجران، وتحسين نسب التمثال بنحت كتل جديدة من الحجر الرملي مكان تلك المفقودة. ثم تم أيضاً ترميم تمثال الإلهة آمونيت. أثناء ذلك تم ترميم جدار حوليات تحتمس الثالث واستكمال بعض الكتل التي وجدت متناثرة في الموقع. كما تم ترميم واستكمال جانب الجدار الشمالي.

تصوير ثلاثة لوحات من عهد الرعامسة في المناظر الحربية للكرنك (ص ٢٧-٤٠)

محمد رأفت عباس

تعد مناظر الرعامسة الحربية بالكرنك مصدرا تاريخيا رئيسا لدراسة السياسة الإمبريالية لمصر في بلاد الشام والنوبة خلال عصر الدولة الحديثة، وكذلك للوضع السياسي في منطقة الشرق الأدنى القديم خلال العصر البرونزي المتأخر. ومن ناحية أخرى، فإن بعض اللوحات الهامة من عهد الرعامسة والتي قد تم الكشف عنها في مصر والنوبة والشام، قد منحتنا كذلك معلومات تاريخية بالغة الأهمية عن المشروعات العسكرية لمملوك الرعامسة المحاربين. ولقد تلاحظ لدى علماء المصريات والمؤرخين أن بعض التفاصيل الخاصة بنصوص هذه اللوحات قد تم تصويرها في المناظر الحربية بمعبد الكرنك. يناقش هذا المقال تصوير ثلاثة لوحات من عهد الرعامسة في المناظر الحربية بالكرنك.

مشروع نشر الكتابات التذكارية في معبدي خونسو ومونتو: نظرة عامة (ص ٤١-٥٤)

أحمد الطاهر

بدو أن تاريخ ممارسة الكتابات التذكارية في الكرنك يتماشى مع البدايات الأولى للمعبد. فيعود أقدم الموثق منها إلى عصر الأسرة الثانية عشر. ولقد تماشى تطورها في المكان مع تطور وتوسع عمارة المعبد، حتى اتضحت ملامحها منذ النصف الثاني من الدولة الحديثة. حيث تم ممارسة نوعين من الكتابات التذكارية أحدهما فردي وآخر رسمي. واقتصرت في الغالب ممارسة الفردي على الموظفين في المعبد. وتجسد الرسمي في الصور المقدسة للمعبودات. حيث استخدم كأماكن ثانوية للعبادة للموظفين في المعبد. تلقى هذه المقالة نظرة على الكتابات التذكارية المدونة على الجدار الغربي الخارجي لمعبد خونسو والجدار الشرقي لمعبد مونتو في الكرنك والتي تنوعت ممارسة الكتابات التذكارية فيهما بين الفردي والمؤسسي. تم نقش ما لا يقل عن ٢٠٠ كتابة تذكارية: حوالي ٩٠ في خونسو و١١٠ في مونتو. تقدم هاتان المجموعتان نطاقاً واسعاً من الكتابات التذكارية، بدءاً من الصور البسيطة للمعبودات حتى الصور المقدسة المنقوشة بعناية. وتناولت صور لأفراد ورموز مقدسة وكذلك نصوص هيروغليفية، هيراطيقية وبعض النصوص الديموطيقية.

عوامل تلف آثار الكرنك الطبيعية والبشرية (ص ٥٥-٦٨)

جان فرانسوا كارلوتي

إن تلف آثار الكرنك يرجع إلى عدة عوامل. فقد ساهم كل من الطبيعة والإنسان على نطاق واسع في تلف المباني. فساهمت في ذلك الطبيعة من خلال الماء بجميع أشكاله، في حين أن الزلازل والنباتات ساهمت أيضاً في تدمير الموقع. ومع ذلك، من المحتمل أن يكون الإنسان العامل المدمر الرئيسي، من خلال تخريب الآثار، وإعادة استخدام المواد، وإعادة توظيف المساحات في جميع جوانب هذه الآثار.

أربعون عاماً بعد العودة إلى فناء الصرح العاشر في الكرنك. مشروع نشر الحفائر التي قام بها ميشيل أزييم في ١٩٧٥-١٩٧٧ (ص ٦٩-٧٨)

جيوم شارلو، رافاييل أنجفين

في منتصف السبعينيات من القرن العشرين، شكلت الحفائر التي قادها ميشيل أزييم في فناء الصرح العاشر في الكرنك واحدة من أوائل عمليات التنقيب الأثري التي تمت على نطاق واسع على طول الطريق الجنوبي-الشمالي لمعبد آمون-رع في الكرنك منذ أعمال جورج ليجران في بداية القرن العشرين. وعلى الرغم من أهميتها، بقيت هذه الحفائر غير منشورة إلى حد كبير، وكانت نتائج هذا العمل موضوع تقارير أولية فقط. ومن أجل سد هذا الفجوة، تم بدء مشروع في عام ٢٠١٥، تحت إشراف جيوم شارلو، رافاييل أنجفين، بهدف نشر هذا العمل بشكل مونوغرافي، بدعم من مؤسسة Shelby-White Leon-Levy في جامعة هارفارد والمركز المصري الفرنسي لدراسة معابد الكرنك (CFEETK). من خلال إعادة فحص الطبقات الأثرية المتعلقة بهذا العمل، وتوضيح تاريخ الأعمال الميدانية، والنتائج الرئيسية لتلك البحوث. يهدف هذا المقال إلى إبراز المشاكل والتحديات التي يطرحها نشر الحفائر القديمة، استناداً إلى وثائق جزئية أو غير كاملة. وفوق كل شيء، يسعى المقال إلى تسليط الضوء على الإسهام البارز لميشيل أزييم في فهم الكرنك وتطوره على المدى الطويل.

الملخصات العربية

مقدمة

لوك جابولد، أحمد الطاهر (X-IX)

ميشيل عظيم، عالم الآثار، الباحث، المستكشف الأرشيفي، العالم (٦-١)
لوك جابولد

ببليوغرافيا ميشيل عظيم ١٩٧٥-٢٠١٦ (١٠-٧)
لوك جابولد

محمد الصغير ٢٥ يوليو ١٩٣٩-٣٠ يوليو ٢٠٠٦ (١٢-١١)
مصطفى الصغير

ببليوغرافيا محمد الصغير (١٤-١٣)
مصطفى الصغير

الحجرة الجنوبية بمبنى أمنتب الثاني بين الصرحين التاسع والعاشر بمعابد الكرنك (ص ٢٦-١٥)
شيماء عبد الستار

يتناول هذا المقال نشر الحجرة الجنوبية لمقصورة الملك أمنتب الثاني بالكرنك، التي تقع بين الصرحين التاسع والعاشر للمعبد. ويركز المقال على زخرفة الأعمدة من مناظر ونصوص.

تتكون الحجرة الجنوبية لمقصورة الملك أمنتب الثاني من صالة ملحق بها ثلاث حجرات صغيرة، اثنان إلى الشرق (الحجرة الملحقة A و B) وواحدة إلى الجنوب (الحجرة الملحقة C). الصالة تحتوي على أربعة أعمدة مربعة، متبقي منها العمودين S٢ و S٣، ولكنهما فقدتا تيجانهما، ولكل عمود منهما أربعة وجوه، كل وجه مزين بمنظر ونقش أسفله سطرين من النص. المنظر يمثل الملك أمنتب الثاني يحتضنه المعبود آمون، بينما يرتدي الملك تيجاناً مختلفة في كل جانب. أما العمودين الآخرين (S١ و S٤) تم تدميرهما باستثناء قواعدهما.

صيغ، اقتباسات، وتنافس بين المسافرين: استغلال الخطاب حول مصر القبطية

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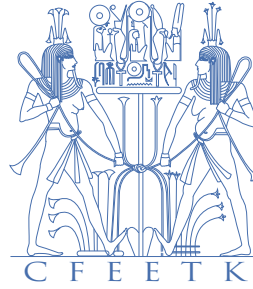
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