



FRANCO-EGYPTIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MISSION OF WESTERN THEBES
ASSOCIATION FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF THE RAMESSEUM (ASR)
LAMS-UMR 8220 CNRS SORBONNE-UNIVERSITY
CENTER FOR STUDY AND DOCUMENTATION ON THE ANCIENT EGYPT
(CEDAE/SCA MINISTRY OF STATE FOR TOURISM AND ANTIQUITIES)
JANUARY 2022 — FEBRUARY 2022



FRANCO-EGYPTIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MISSION
OF WESTERN THEBES

LAMS/UMR 8220 CNRS [MAFTO] —ASR — CEDAE/SCA

THE RAMESSEUM
TEMPLE OF MILLIONS OF YEARS OF
RAMESSES II

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[THIRTY-THIRD CAMPAIGN]

PARTNERS

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH NATIONAL CENTER LAMS-UMR 8220 CNRS-
SORBONNE-UNIVERSITY

ASSOCIATION FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF THE RAMESSEUM (ASR)

SUPREME COUNCIL OF ANTIQUITIES OF EGYPT (SCA)
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR TOURISM AND ANTIQUITIES

CENTER FOR STUDY AND DOCUMENTATION
ON THE ANCIENT EGYPT (CEDAE)

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FRANCO-EGYPTIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MISSION OF WESTERN THEBES

LAMS/UMR 8220 CNRS [MAFTO] — ASR — CEDAE/SCA

REPORT OF SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES IN THE TEMPLE OF RAMESSES II (RAMESSEUM)



THIRTY-THIRD ARCHAEOLOGICAL
CAMPAIGN

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2022

ORGANIZATION OF THE XXXIIIRD ARCHAEOLOGICAL CAMPAIGN

The French Archaeological Mission of Western Thebes (MAFTO) is placed under the supervision of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities of Egypt and the Supreme Council of Antiquities (CSA). It involves several organizations and institutions: Center for the Study and Documentation of Ancient Egypt (CEDAE); National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS/LAMS, Molecular and Structural Archeology Laboratory, UMR 8220), Association for the Safeguarding of the Ramesseum (ASR), Italian Ministry of Culture (Soprintendenza ABAP di Milano; Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Firenze) and Inspectorate of Antiquities of Luxor and Gournah.

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Dr. Hisham Elleithy (General Director of the CEDAE)

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Mr. Fathy Yassin Abd El-Karim Selim (Director General of Luxor and Upper Egypt), Mr. Baha Eddin Abdel Gaber (Director of the Gurnah Antiquities Inspectorate), Mr. Ezzedin El-Nouby Kamal (Director-deputy of the Gournah Antiquities Inspectorate), Mr. Ramadan Ahmed Ali (director of the Office of Missions at the Gournah Inspectorate), Mr. Abdel Ghani Abdel Rahman (responsible for the central area of the Gournah necropolis).

INSPECTION OF ANTIQUITIES AND RESTORATION CSA-CEDAE

Khaled El-Tayeb Mohamed (CSA inspector, Ramesseum store), Mohamed Abou Saoud (CSA inspector, excavations), Mina Gamal Milade (CSA inspector, excavations), Mohamed Mahmoud Ahmed Basri (CSA inspector, restoration), Mahmoud Moussa Mohamed (CSA inspector, restoration), Samah Nabil Mahmoud (CEDAE inspector), Rabab Hamdi Ali (CEDAE inspector), Wessam Saad Morsi (CEDAE inspector), Ossama Bassiouni El-Damanhouri (CEDAE inspector).

MEMBERS OF THE MISSION

Egyptologists : Christian Leblanc (MAFTO/CNRS); Julian Sanchez (MAFTO/ASR); Hélène Guichard (Louvre Museum) ; Victoria Asensi Amoros (MAFTO/ASR) ; Anne-Hélène Perrot (University of Munich) ; Sameh Mohamed Zaki (CEDAE) ; Tommaso Quirino (Soprintendenza ABAP di Milano) ; Flavio Ridolfi Riva ; Anna Consonni (Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Firenze) ; France Jamen (University of Lyon II) ; Gwenaëlle Le Borgne (University of Montpellier 3) ; Martina Terzoli ; Ossama Bassiouni El-Damanhouri (CEDAE) ; Wessam Saad Morsi (CEDAE) ; Rabab Hamdi Ali (CEDAE) ; Samah Nabil Mahmoud El-Sherbiny (CEDAE). **Architects, archaeologists and topographers**: Guy Lecuyot (MAFTO/CNRS) ; Jean-François Carlotti (CNRS, University of Lille) ; Eraldo Livio (ASR). Excavation documentalist : Jocelyne Hottier (MAFTO/ASR). **Anthropologists** : André Macke (University of Lille) ; Michèle Lhomme (MAFTO), Margherita Malvaso (Università degli Studi di Milano). Professor-researcher : Mohamed Ahmed Ali Zienelabdein (Faculty of Archaeology, University of Luxor). **Restorers and stonemasons** : Eric Desèvre (ASR), Nahla Mohamed Saleh (Gurnah Antiquities Inspectorate/ASR), Sylvie Ozenne (MAFTO/ASR). **Photographers/3D Imaging** : Pascal Pelletier (MAFTO/ASR), Marie Grillot (MAFTO/ASR); Daniel Lefebvre du Prey (MAFTO/ASR).

The 33rd archaeological campaign at the Ramesseum began on January 1 and ended on February 28, 2022. Like the previous ones, it focused not only on the temple itself but also on the raw brick outbuildings and in particular on those built in the northern part. Thus, in the northeast sector (STG), the clearing of several rooms revealed the existence of funerary shafts from the Third Intermediate Period which could be explored. In the western part, a wall in the STI yielded a wall-burial containing three coffins and fine remains of cartonnages. It is in this same sector (STI.TR) that the excavation was able to resume in the burial of Sehetepibrê, a dignitary of the Middle Kingdom. The shaft and the funerary rooms were completely emptied of their spoil and revealed new information on the history of this tomb in which, according to anthropologists, no less than a hundred people had been buried between the 21st and 25th Dynasty. Very many remains of cartonnages and coffins in painted wood have been collected and are currently being studied. Elements of boat models (oars, rowers, cabin, masts) belonging to funerary furniture from the Middle Kingdom were added to these finds. The plan of the tomb could be fully drawn up.

On the western processional way (APO), the excavation of a Middle Kingdom tomb (APO. CN21) was able to resume and it was above all a question during this campaign of finding its initial entrance which was under the Ramesside way. A major excavation has been undertaken in the filling and has already made it possible to carry out a whole series of observations and to find the northern and southern limits of the courtyard. Remains, including a wooden coffin and a mummy, have been extracted from this context, the research of which will have to continue during the next campaign. The 2022 season has seen a large part of the disappearance of a new section of the southern «cavalier de déblais» which covers this processional way of the Ramesseum in the APS sector. There were animal statues identified last year to be androcephalic sphinxes, bordering a paved limestone path, a section of which has already been cleared. This work has brought to light numerous archaeological remains belonging to different periods (more particularly the 18th Dynasty and the Ramesside Period). Amulets, but also objects with a ritual or religious connotation, elements of the architecture of the temple or even witnesses from the workshops, stores or the per-ânkḥ (House of Life) of the Ramesseum were thus collected during excavation.

Several restoration works have also been carried out in the temple itself. First of all, it was possible to complete on the south side (BCS-ZHS sector) the reconstruction in elevation of the stone structures that had disappeared, from the Osirian complex to the west to the portico with Osirian pillars which closed the second courtyard to the east. Thanks to this laborious work which today enhances the architecture of the south part of the temple of Ramses II, the reading of this space is now made much easier for visitors. At the same time, the limestone paving of the south-west portico with Osirian pillars, long gone, was partially restored. On the program of this mission, was also planned to implement the project of restitution of the structures constituting the sanctuary of the Ramesseum (ZSC). A meeting was held on the site with the officials of the Inspectorate of Antiquities of Luxor and the Restoration Service of the Inspectorate of Antiquities of Gournah, to define together the choice of materials and the principle of restitution which would be retained. After a common agreement, the work was able to begin with the restoration on a sandstone base of the walls closing off the Osirian and Solar complexes from the west and the northern side wall of the temple itself. Finally, in the site store (STH), the team of restorers was able to continue processing the excavated objects in order to then ensure their conditioning.

Our 33rd archaeological campaign was made possible thanks to the benevolence and trust placed in us by the Egyptian authorities. For their unfailing support and friendly collaboration,

we would like to especially thank His Exc. Prof. Dr. Khaled El-Enany, Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, Dr. Mostafa Wasiri, Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities of Egypt, Dr. Nashwa Gaber, Director of Archaeological Missions and Dr. Hisham Elleithy, Under-Secretary of State and General Director of the Center for Study and Documentation on Ancient Egypt (CEDAE).

For their constant and very appreciable support, our gratitude is also expressed to the heads of the inspectorates of Luxor, in particular Mr. Fathy Yassin Abd El-Karim Selim (General Director of Luxor and Upper Egypt), Mr. Baha Eddin Abdel Gaber (Director of the Gournah Antiquities Inspectorate), Mr. Ezzedin El-Nouby Kamal (Deputy Director of the Gournah Antiquities Inspectorate), Mr. Ramadan Ahmed Ali (Director of the Office of Missions at the Gournah Inspectorate), Gournah), Mr. Abdel Ghani Abdel Rahman (responsible for the Central Area of the Gournah necropolis).

Finally, we thank the inspectors of the Supreme Council of Antiquities made available to the Mission during these two months: Mr. Khaled El-Tayeb Mohamed (CSA inspector, Ramesseum store), Mr. Mohamed Abou Saoud (CSA inspector, excavations), Mina Gamal Milade (CSA inspector, excavations), Mohamed Mahmoud Ahmed Basri (CSA inspector, restoration), Mahmoud Moussa Mohamed (CSA inspector, restoration).

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THE RAMESSEUM TEMPLE AND PERIPHERY

I. EXCAVATION WORKS (see fig. 1)

I.1. OUTBUILDINGS OF THE TEMPLE ITSELF

I.1.1. SOUTH PROCESSIONAL WAY SECTOR [APS]

Team: Gwenaëlle Le Borgne (University of Montpellier 3); Julian Sanchez (MAFTO/ASR); Wessam Saad Morsi (CEDAE); Jocelyne Hottier (MAFTO/ASR); Samah Nabil Mahmoud El-Sherbiny (CEDAE).

The 2022 Excavation Season saw the disappearance of a large part of a new section of the «cavalier de déblais» which covers in this sector the southern processional way and the external enclosure wall of the Ramesseum. There were animal statues identified last year to be androcephalic sphinxes, bordering a paved limestone path, a section of which has already been cleared.

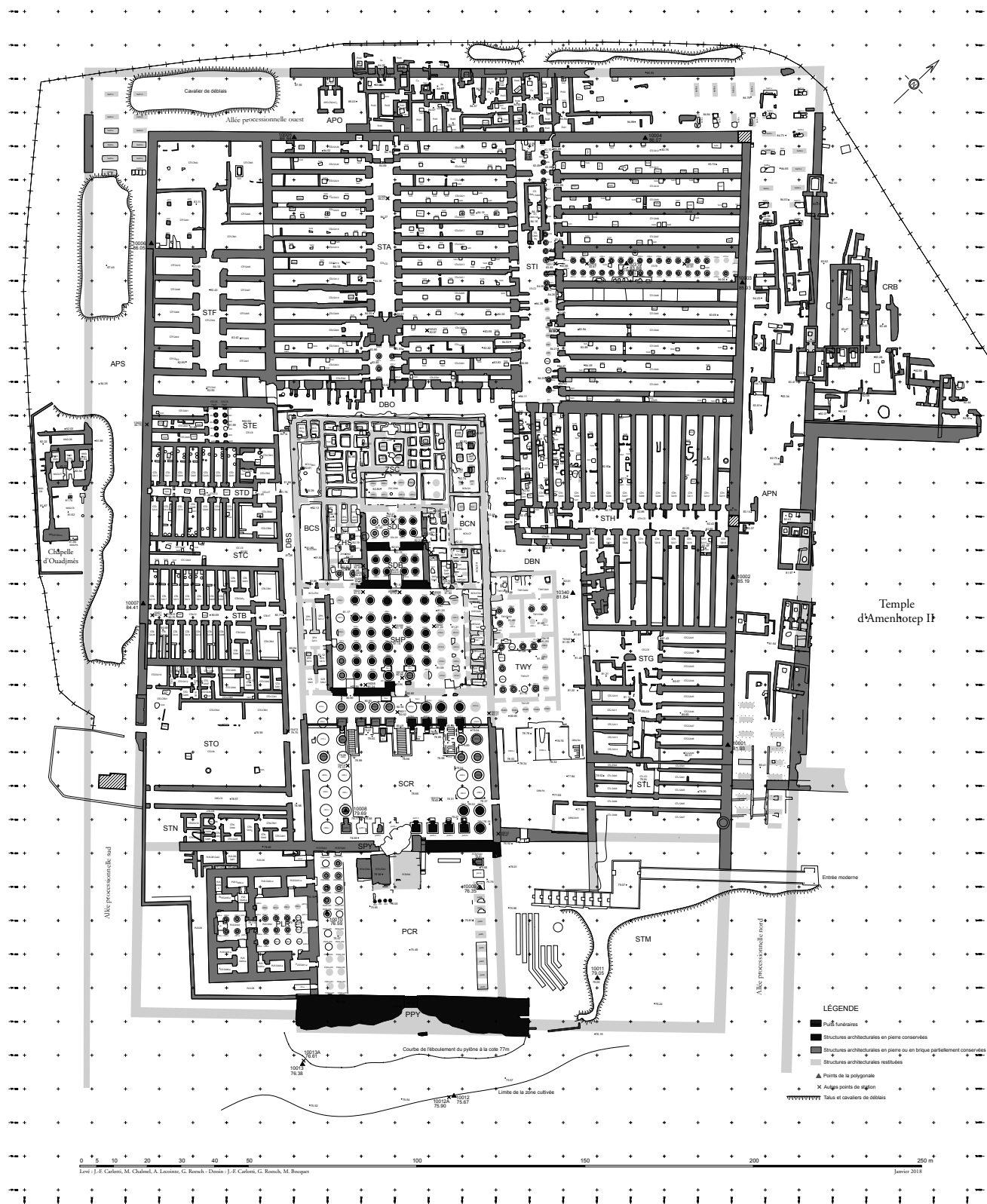
Compared to those that were to the north or west, we know that the southern «cavaier de déblais» is the most important since it has a surface width of 14 m to go up to 29 m at its base, its cross-sectional shape being trapezoidal. This year, between January and February, no less than 300 m³ were removed in successive layers.

This work has brought to light numerous archaeological remains belonging to different periods (more particularly the 18th Dynasty and the Ramesside Period). Amulets, but also objects with a ritual or religious connotation, elements of the architecture of the temple or witnesses from the workshops, stores or the per-ânkḥ (House of Life) of the Ramesseum were thus extracted from the search. Among these, we note fragments of Hathor votive beds in terracotta, the most complete of which shows the god Bes and a rowing young girl on a boat (2022.APS.032), weavers equipment (spools of different sizes 2022.APS.067, spindle whorls 2022.APS.068, tool for refining linen threads 2022.APS.078, earthenware weights 2022.APS.082) wine jar stoppers and labels, ostraca, some being school exercises inspired by *Kemyt* (2022.APS.008) or literary or documentary texts (2022.APS.011, 2022.APS.038, 2022.APS.048, 2022.APS.059, 2022.APS.071 and 2022.APS.077). We should also mention an original limestone amulet (2022.APS.034), fitted with a bail, representing a monkey playing the harp, comparable examples of which have been discovered in private homes, especially at Tell el-Amarna. This type of amulet is related to Hathor and parturients.

The variety of objects found suggests that when the southern «cavalier» was established, the excavations did not always come from nearby peripheral sectors, but sometimes from further away. It should also be remembered that when the Italian Mission of the University of Pisa cleared the neighboring temple of Thutmose IV, the spoil from this excavation came to swell those of the «cavalier» of the Ramesseum. This is undoubtedly what can explain the presence of objects dating more particularly from the XVIIIth Dynasty.

I.1.2. WESTERN PROCESSIONAL WAY SECTOR [APO]. TOMB APO.CN21.

Team: Hélène Guichard (Louvre Museum); Victoria Asensi Amoros (MAFTO/ASR); Anne-Hélène Perrot (University of Munich/ASR); Rabab Hamdi Ali (CEDAE); Ossama Bassiouni El-Damanhoury (CEDAE); Eraldo Livio (ASR).



After having completely excavated the funerary chamber and the underground corridor of this large tomb (APO.CN21) which seems to be dated to the Middle Kingdom, it remained to find, on the surface, its initial entrance, hidden by the western processional way put in place by Ramesses II. A first survey was carried out east of the tomb in 2012 following a small landslide. It made it possible to see only the upper part of the door, while suggesting the existence of a courtyard (see fig. 2). The sector being occupied on the surface by several funerary chapels from the Third Intermediate Period, it was therefore necessary, before being able to continue the excavation, to dismantle at least one mud brick wall belonging to one of these late installations. Thanks to the authorization granted to us by the Supreme Council of Antiquities, research was able to resume during this campaign.

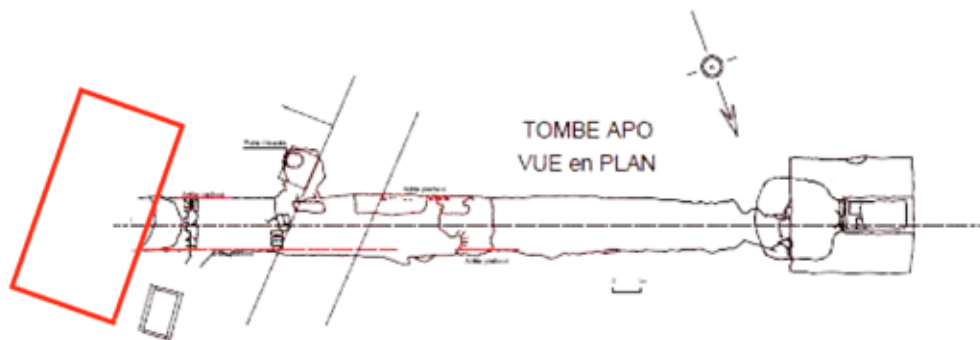


Fig. 2 — Implantation of the entrance and the court of the tomb APO.CN21 (in red).

Before its dismantling, the wall was photographed for a 3D rendering (Ossama Bassiouni El-Damanhoury). Under the dismantled section, about fifteen centimeters below the last course of bricks, several limestone slabs of the Ramesside processional way still in place were discovered and raised by E. Livio.

Excavation of the backfill levels of the courtyard below the processional way showed that remains from the Third Intermediate Period, presumably discards from looting, stood alongside older elements, from the early New Kingdom and the Ramesside Period. Indeed, the space of the courtyard seems to have been alternately opened and filled in according to the epochs.

In addition to a child's coffin discovered at the same level where we had reached in 2012 (2012.APO.009), two other finds were added this year : that of a rectangular painted wooden coffin, without decoration, containing a reclining skeleton on the right side (2022.APO.018) and that of a found mummy lying on the ground. These remains were unearthed along the southern wall of the courtyard, about two meters above its original floor and just above that of the upper opening of tomb APO.CN21, proving an occupation places at the end of the Second Intermediate Period or even at the beginning of the New Kingdom.

It is likely that remains from the Middle Kingdom tomb are still buried in the unexcavated lower level, on the floor of the courtyard. While waiting for the next campaign to complete this excavation, the survey has been temporarily filled in with modern mud bricks.

Already, we can say that the 2022 season has been rather successful since part of the volume of the yard's spoil has been cleared and its northern and southern limits, carved into the rock, have been identified. Moreover, it was possible to ascertain that its space, at different levels, had been used not only towards the end of the Second Intermediate Period but also at the beginning of the New Kingdom, before being finally filled in by the Ramesside navvies.

I.1.3. NORTHEAST OUTBUILDINGS SECTOR [STG]

Team: Tommaso Quirino (Soprintendenza ABAP di Milano); Flavio Ridolfi Riva; Anna Consonni (Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Firenze); Martina Terzoli; Ossama Bassiouni El-Damanhour (CEDAE); Rabab Hamdi Ali (CEDAE); Eraldo Livio (ASR); Margherita Malvaso (Università degli Studi di Milano).

The campaign was devoted first to the excavation of a tomb whose entrance had been identified in 2019 inside the wall that separates the STL sector from the STG sector (STG.CD.To1/STG.CD.To2), then to the clearance of tomb STG.SA14.To1.

STG.CD.To1, STG.CD.To2 (cf. fig. 3)

Tomb STG.CD.To1 appears as a very irregular rectangular shaft, with an opening of approximately 1.90 m x 1.60 m granted from the ruin of the great wall which separates the STL sector from the STG sector. The burial chamber, cut to the north to a depth of at least 5.50 m, has an irregular quadrangular shape, with a size of 4.30 m x 3.50 m and a maximum height of approximately 2.25 m. The main characteristic of this tomb is that it did not have a single access to the funerary chamber, but two: once the chamber was reached, in fact, it was possible to recognize the filling cone of a second well which had not yet been identified on the surface, now called STG.CD.To2. It is possible that when one of the two shafts was dug in the past, either the position of the previous one or the position of the chamber was not known. Thus, when those who dug the second shaft reached the chamber of the first, they decided not to dig a new chamber but to reuse the one already available to them. The stratigraphy of the chamber confirms this hypothesis, since two different levels of deposits have been found.



Fig. 3 — Position of the tombs STG.CD.To01 and STG.CD.To02. (Drawing Tommaso Quirino).

The filling of the two shafts was quite similar in their composition: in fact, a large quantity of pottery fragments belonging to vases dating from the Ptolemaic Period were found there, some of which could be reconstructed, as well as numerous human bones and animals. At the foot of the To1 shaft, in the upper part of the filling of the chamber, the presence of the almost complete remains of a bovid in anatomical connection was particularly remarkable. Unfortunately, the human and animal

bones were in a poor state of preservation, probably due to the humid context. Inside the burial chamber, two different phases of occupation have been identified: the first and most recent included the traces of three burials (SK1-3) two of which constituted a set of at least two coffins, one external with a rectangular shape and an anthropoid-shaped internal. Associated with these burials were the remains of three oushebtis boxes (2022.STG.062, 2022.STG.064, 2022.STG.070), two scarabs (in terracotta, 2022.STG.041, and in stoneware, 2022. STG.057) and three different concentrations of tubular and circular earthenware beads in different colors (2022.STG.060, 2022.STG.061, 2022. STG.068). Scattered in the sediments of this level were also two bronze eyes (2022.STG.054, 2022. STG.055) with a shell pupil, one with an eyebrow. They had belonged to the decoration of one or two coffins. The tomb, from the objects found and the apparent shape of the coffins, dates back to the XXVth Dynasty.

STG.SA14.To1

Excavation of the tomb continued from where it left off in late 2019, when traces of two coffins, two undamaged conical vases (2019.STG.044, 2019.STG.045, transferred to MoA Carter Magazin) and two boxes of oushebtis (2019.STG.043, 2019.STG.044, also transferred to MoA Carter Magazin) had been discovered. The burial chamber, located about 6 m deep, is cut to the north and measures about 3.00 m x 2.30 m, with a maximum height of 2.80 m. Inside the chamber, two more boxes of ushabtis appeared at the foot of the two coffins. The wood of the coffins was not preserved because of the considerable humidity which characterized the place. The ushabtis were concentrated in a rectangular and well-defined area: the first box, located at the foot of the western coffin, had a size of 14 x 28-30 cm and contained 190 ushabtis (plus 8 fragments) in green-blue earthenware (2022. STG.005), including 168 mummies and 22 raïs ; the second box (12 x 28-30 cm), located at the foot of the eastern coffin, contained 191 ushabtis in blue earthenware (2022.STG.006), including 172 mummies and 19 raïs. Some of the ushabtis in the second box had the name of the deceased stamped on the back. From a chronological point of view, it is confirmed that the typology of the vases and the ushabtis makes it possible to date the tomb in a preliminary way to a transitional phase situated between the XXVth and the XXVIth Dynasty.

STG.CR

A multi-room structure, possibly corresponding to a Third Intermediate Period funerary chapel, located in the southeast corner of STG.CR, was also excavated. Inside the largest hall of this structure, the entrance to a new burial shaft, STG.CR.To01, has been identified. The clearing of this tomb was started during this mission but could not be completed.

STG.CR.To1

Tomb STG.CR.To1 is a rectangular shaft, with an opening of approximately 1.30 m x 1.05 m and a depth of almost 5 m. It has a single west-facing chamber, irregularly rectangular in shape, with rounded corners and slightly concave walls, approximately 3.00m x 2.30m. In the filling of the shaft and in a large part of the chamber, only a few scattered shards and amulets were found. In the shaft at a depth of 1.50 m, however, a block of sandstone was discovered with a sign drawn in red paint, certainly corresponding to a «quarry mark» (2022.STG.075). This tomb seems to have been most likely identified and excavated by archaeologists at the end of the 19th-beginning of the 20th century. Further study of amulet typology should better date this context to the Third Intermediate Period.

I.1.4. NORTH-WEST OUTBUILDINGS SECTOR [STI-TR.To06]

Team: Christian Leblanc (MAFTO/CNRS); Sameh Mohamed Zaki (CEDAE); Ossama Bassiouni El-Damanhour (CEDAE); Eraldo Livio (ASR).

In the STI sector, the condition of the est wall of the room being very degraded, we have scheduled its restoration. This work required going down to the foundations in order to be able to rebuild it more soundly. It was during this work that an abacus with cartouches of Ramesses II was discovered (certainly coming from the architecture of the columned room of the Treasury-Annex) and a wall-tomb (STI-TR.To06) dating from the Third Intermediate Period, composed three side-by-side burials, head east and feet west, whose anthropoid coffins, in the state of vestiges were still *in situ* with their ushebti boxes (2022.STI.041) completely devoured by termites. A set of mistreated human bones was also found in this context, as well as elements of funeral beadwork (2022.STI.034), several beautiful fragments of cartonnages, one of which, in large format, shows the god Thoth ibiocephalus facing Rê-Horakhty whose image is only very partially preserved (2022.STI.030). Another, of great finesse, still represents a scene of lustration of the deceased performed by a hieracocephalic deity (2022.STI.035). The human remains were entrusted for study to anthropologists. The position as orientation of the coffins in the wall indicates that they were introduced there from the STI-TR room and not from the the room SA.06. An archaeological survey and another orthophotographic were carried out before the restoration of the wall definitively covers the context of this excavation.

As room STI.SA06 was largely filled with rubble, a team of workers was able to undertake its systematic cleaning. On this occasion, several disparate remains were discovered, including new fragments of ushabtis in the name of Pashedkhonsu (2022.STI.127-128), Tchouymès (2022.STI.124), other terracotta anepigraphs (2022.STI.024, 2022.STI.032, 2022.STI.036), a fragment of a sandstone offering table (2022.STI.018) and a mold with the effigy of the goddess Ma'at (2022.STI. 028).

I.1.5. NORTH-WEST OUTBUILDINGS SECTOR [STI-TR. To07] : TOMB OF SEHETEPIBRE

Team: Christian Leblanc (MAFTO/CNRS); Sameh Mohamed Zaki (CEDAE); Eraldo Livio (ASR).

During the last archaeological campaign in the sector of the northwest outbuildings (STI-TR) of the Ramesseum (campaign XXXII, 2021), we were able to excavate the entire underground structure of the tomb of Sehetepibrê (STI-TR.To07), namely the corridor and the terminal room. The results of this work had been recorded in an article published in volume XXXI of the *Memnonia*, which therefore gave a description of this burial from the beginning of the descent decorated with painted scenes, to the end of the underground corridor, where on the on the north side, a very wide and deep shaft, still encumbered with cuttings.

This year, our work consisted of first clearing away the two crevices or cavities that had been identified last year in the north and south walls of the underground corridor, then emptying the shaft located in the terminal room to reach the chamber where was buried Sehetepibre, a character still very enigmatic since he is known until now only by his name.

In fact, it was found that the shaft in the terminal room, 3.50/3.75 m deep, did not lead to one but to two funerary chambers, the first (A) facing west and which seems having been reserved for the original owner of the tomb, the second (B) oriented towards the northeast and dug, it seems, later and less carefully. These two chambers were not excessively filled with spoil and contained, especially the first, human remains and four dogs. Another canid carcass was counted at the bottom of the well. The presence of these skeletons in these places suggests that the animals accidentally fell into the shaft at some point and could not get out. We must deduce from this that one could enter, at least through

a hole, in the underground corridor and that the well was not yet filled in, as was probably the case later. Unless we consider that he arrived there incidentally, the discovery of a note written in English and referring to photographic plates of the Ilford mark, found on the floor of the vault (A), seems to indicate that J. Quibell had could access it. Going back to his report, which is nevertheless confused, one might think so since he describes having seen at the bottom of the shaft «two chambers, both entirely spoiled».

The discoveries made in the shaft and the two underground chambers could suggest that they were not completely emptied by the English archaeologist, because remains from the Middle Kingdom were still there, such as an oar (2022.STI. 082), a hull (?) (2022.STI.070) and a boat mast (2022. STI.056) that belonged to a model, very compact silt jar stoppers (2022.STI.052), a fertility ritual figurine or «paddle doll» (2022.STI.069) with parts of her pearl wig (2022.STI.081) and remnants of esparto (2022.STI.079). The well has also delivered other remains, those contemporaneous with the reign of Ramesses II and the Third Intermediate Period, all of which leads us to believe that they had been thrown there at a time which remains undetermined. Among these later finds are stoppers bearing the stamp of the Ramesseum (2022.STI.048), a beautiful fragment of a wooden coffin with a white background representing a ritualistic priest consecrating offerings (2022.STI.046), ushebtis of different styles, including a series in raw earth painted with green in the name of Ankhefmaât (2022. STI.057-058-059-060>068), a character known elsewhere and who seems to have been buried in the cavity dug in the south wall of the underground corridor.

The cleaning of the chamber (B) enabled us to note by the presence of an indentation in the left wall, the existence of another tomb (STI-TR.To08) adjoining that of Sehetepibrê. This tomb, contemporary of the Middle Kingdom as confirmed by the remains that were still there, was therefore prior to the digging of the chamber (B) since it was accidentally, during this digging that the wall, thin with the neighboring tomb (\pm 50 cm), had partly been gutted. Witnesses of a restoration which was then necessary to block this opening, one can still see *in situ* several pieces of plaster adhering to the rock. These observations seem to clearly indicate that the chamber (B) of the tomb of Sehetepibre had been planned for a burial *a priori* after the Middle Kingdom and whose owner remains unknown for the moment.

During the looting(s) of tomb STI-TR.To08, everything suggests that the thieves must have penetrated through this crevice to vandalize it, because curiously the ancient door of this tomb at the bottom of a vertical shaft has retained its mud brick blocking. In the chamber that we were able to explore, there was still, against the northwest wall, an incomplete and partly burned mummy of a man, under the head of which was discovered a copper mirror whose handle had disappeared (2022 .STI.119). Other remains unquestionably come from one or more ship models: wooden sailors (2022.STI.107, 2022.STI.117), seated rowers (2022.STI.108, 2022.STI.116), oars boat (2022. STI.110), fragments of masts (2022.STI.112) and polychrome wooden boat cabin (2022.STI.120). From this context were also extracted many shards and jar stoppers in very compact and pointed silt (2022.STI.106, 2022.STI.109).

II. SURVEY AND STUDY WORKS

II.1. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SURVEYS IN THE OUTBUILDINGS

Responsible : Eraldo Livio (ASR).

During this archaeological campaign, the remains of the wall-tomb (STI-TR.To06) unearthed in the est wall of room STI-TR were the subject of an archaeological and architectural survey. Eraldo Livio was also able to establish a complete survey (plan and sections) of the Sehetepibre tomb (STI-TR.To07) after the excavation of the north and south cavities of the underground corridor, the shaft, the two chambers (A and B) and also the tomb STI-TR.To.08. In the STG sector, he was able to carry out the architectural survey of the excavated funerary shafts, and he also drew the remains of the *in situ* limestone paving of the western processional way, in the sector of tomb APO.CN21.

II.2. STUDY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MATERIAL (BOARDS AND COFFINS)

Responsible: France Jamen (University of Lyon II/ASR).

The work consisted of the study of numerous fragments of mummy cartonnages and wooden coffins unearthed in the context of the tomb of Sehetepibrê (STI-TR.To07) during the 2019-2020, 2021 and 2022 missions. With regard to these fragments, a general sorting by materials was first undertaken. In other words, the coffin fragments were separated from the cartonnages fragments. Then, a sorting by group, that is to say all the fragments belonging to the same coffin or the same cartonnage could be made according to the color of the background of the decoration, the iconographic motifs, the inscriptions and manufacturing materials. Then connection tests between the different fragments were attempted.

It will be observed that several types of coffins with a yellow background, in the state of fragments, were unearthed in the descent, the underground corridor and the southern annex of the tomb. The motifs are those usually found on coffins dating from the 21st Dynasty and the beginning of the 22nd Dynasty.

Among the remains collected, there were also about a hundred fragments that belonged to a coffin decorated and then bituminized, and we know that certain coffins dating from the end of the 21st Dynasty, or even from the beginning of the 22nd Dynasty, could thus be covered with this material, for reasons perhaps corresponding to a religious ritual. Other fragments of a polychrome coffin with a white background could belong to a manufacture dating back to the same period, just like the fragments of cartonnages with a white background found in the different sectors of the tomb.

Other remains of later coffins dating from the XXVth and XXVIth Dynasties were also discovered in the spoil of the descent of the tomb of Sehetepibre. One of these fragments has a black cursive text, typical of this period, inscribed on a painted and varnished yellow background. It gives us the beginning of the name of the owner, a man named Hor[...] who acted as «divine father of Amon».

The abundance of archaeological material found as the first classification and dating of this material, attest that the tomb of Sehetepibre experienced several reuses, which suggests that it was reopened several times during the Third Intermediate Period and probably until in the XXVth-XXVIth Dynasties. These successive and apparently numerous burials seem to be corroborated by the study carried out by anthropologists on the human material from this tomb (see below).

II.3. STUDY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MATERIAL (ARCHITECTURAL FRAGMENTS)

Responsible: Guy Lecuyot (MAFTO/CNRS).

Several sandstone elements belonging to the architecture of the temple have been identified. These are claustras or fragments of openwork reliefs coming in particular from windows or sideboard walls. Others (joint covers) should rather have belonged to the roof of the Ramesseum. Some of these remains are decorated in true relief (or bas-relief) and bear only the name of the coronation of Ramesses II in its first version (Usermaatre) suggesting that these elements were to take place in the sanctuary, because only this part seems to have been processed using this technique. Those decorated in relief «in the hollow» probably come from other parts of the temple or from the royal palace in which a claustra decorated with cartouches and disced falcons had been discovered during its exploration.

A corpus prepared during this mission contains all these fragments and is published in the volume XXXII (2022) of *Memnonia*.

II.4. STUDY OF HUMAN REMAINS (ANTHROPOLOGY)

Team: André Macke (University of Lille); Michele Lhomme (MAFTO).

The study of human bones from sector STI-TR.To07 (tomb of Sehetepibre) confirms the extreme destruction of the bodies reduced to the state of skeletons in all the sectors of the tomb. The looting and above all the destructive relentlessness which fragmented the majority of the bones into multiple pieces, was accompanied by rejection throughout the tomb making it difficult to count accurately. None of the bones bear traces of mummification and there was no further excerebration on the skulls studied. Only a late-type mummified body was observed at the entrance to the tomb.

| SITUATION | TOTAL ADULTS | TOTAL CHILDREN |
|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| CORRIDOR | 31 | 16 |
| SHAFT | 16 | 17 |
| CHAMBER A | 10 | 9 |
| CHAMBER B | 6 | 1 |
| TOMB STI To08 | (1) | 0 |
| TOTAL | 64 | 43 |

Tableau 1. Total minimal per sector without dispersion.

The accounting that has been established takes into account the most found bone by sector or the one most present in the whole of the tomb.

Taking into account a margin of error of 10, the interred population in the whole tomb can be estimated within a relative minimum range between 53 and 64 adults (63 adults if one does not count the tomb STI-TR.To08) and between 38 and 43 children.

During this mission, the anthropologists were also able to examine the human remains from the tombs of the STG sector (STG.SA14To01, STG.SA11To01), of the STI sector (west wall of room STI.SA06) and of the APO sector (APO.CN21).

III. RESTORATION AND CONSERVATION WORK AND VALUATION

III.1. RESTORATION AND VALUATION WORKS IN THE TEMPLE ITSELF

III.1.1. MATERIALIZATION OF STRUCTURES ON THE SOUTH SIDE [BCS-ZHS]

Team: Eric Desevre (ASR); Jean-Francois Carlotti (CNRS); Christian Leblanc (MAFTO/CNRS).

The work that was undertaken on the south side (BCS-ZHS sector) was to complete the restoration and valuation of this part of the stone temple, which was known only from its foundations. After the archaeological excavation of this sector conducted a few years ago by Jean-François Carlotti, it was possible to bring back the missing stone structures in elevation. During the time of this campaign, the objective was to close this restitution program by making the junction from the Osirian complex to the west to the portico with Osirian pillars which closed the second courtyard to the east. Entrusted to Eric Desèvre and his team, it was possible to complete this laborious work which today enhances the architecture of the south side of the temple of Ramesses II, the reading of which is now made much easier for visitors.

At the same time, the limestone paving of the south-west portico with Osirian pillars, long gone, was partially restored.

III.1.2. MATERIALIZATION OF THE STRUCTURES OF THE SANCTUARY [ZSC]

Team: Eric Desevre (ASR); Guy Lecuyot (MAFTO/CNRS); Jean-Francois Carlotti (CNRS); Christian Leblanc (MAFTO/CNRS).

On the program of this mission, it was planned to implement the project of restitution of the structures constituting the sanctuary of the Ramesseum. We were able to observe, during the archaeological excavation of this sector, that only the foundation trenches remained of this part of the temple. Giving a negative plan (cf. fig. 4), they made it possible to reflect on the choice that would be made of the restitution of the walls of the main sanctuary, the side chapels and the Osirian (to the south) and Solar (to the north) complexes. A meeting was held on the site with the responsables of the



Fig. 4. Ramesseum. Main sanctuary, side-chapels, osirian and solar complexes seen from a balloon.
(Cl. Christian Leblanc).

Inspectorate of Antiquities of Luxor and the Restoration Service of the Inspectorate of Antiquities of Gournah, to define together the choice of materials and the principle of restitution which would be retained. After a common agreement, the work was able to begin with the restoration on a sandstone base of the walls closing off the Osirian and Solar complexes from the west, then with the restoration of the north side wall of the temple itself.

The project will be above all, at first, to bring back the main sanctuary with four pillars, preceded by a hypostyle hall (now completely disappeared), the two complexes (BCS and BCN) and the north wall of the temple.

III.1.3. FIRST PYLON SAFEGUARD PROJECT [PPY]

The Korea National University of Cultural Heritage and the National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage were able to visit the Ramesseum and sign a memorandum of understanding with the Supreme Council of Antiquities regarding a project to safeguard the first pylon of the Ramesseum. A meeting was held at CEDAE in Cairo between representatives of these two South Korean institutions and the director of MAFTO to define the procedures prior to this operation.

III.2. RESTORATION, CONSERVATION AND VALUATION WORKS IN THE TEMPLE OUTBUILDINGS

III.2.1. RESTORATION OF RAW EARTH STRUCTURES IN THE NORTHEAST [STG] AND NORTH-WEST SECTOR [STI-SA06]

Team: Christian Leblanc (MAFTO/CNRS); Mahmoud Abdallah Nasreddin and his team.

During this campaign, the team of masons was able to continue the restoration of the walls of the STF sector (temple workshops) and ensure that of two other walls in the STG sector, namely the large wall US 14, which separates the STL sector from the STG sector (STL.ES02 from STG.SA10), and the US 83 wall, which separates STG.SA10 from STG.SA11. In the STI sector, the entire length of the west wall of room SA06 was also rebuilt.

III.2.2. RESERVE OF STUDY MATERIAL AND LABORATORY FOR THE RESTORATION AND CONDITIONING OF EXCAVATED OBJECTS. THE [STH] SECTOR

Team: Sylvie Ozenne (MAFTO/ASR); Khaled El-Tayeb Mohamed (CSA), with the collaboration of Nahla Mohamed Saleh (CSA/Louqsor Inspectorate).

The processing and conditioning of the excavated objects concerned several sectors : WAD (sector of the chapel of Wadjmes) 1994; ZSC (sanctuary sector) 1999-2002; STF (workshop sector) 2006-2016 (still to be done 2017-2018); STI (north-west sector of the outbuildings) fragments of coffins and boxes.

At the same time as this work and as every year, the conservation and restoration of the excavated objects were carried out at the request of the site archaeologists.

Apart from the official program, the restorer inspectors of the Gournah Antiquities Inspectorate asked Sylvie Ozenne to begin the conservation of the paintings from the tomb of Sehetepibrê (STI-TR.To07), a complex intervention due to the short time she had. More logically, this operation was postponed until after the roofing of the ramp, scheduled for the next mission.

The last week of February was devoted to recording alterations to the tomb of Paser (TT369) in collaboration with CEDAE.

Several excavated objects left the Ramesseum store this year, to join the Carter Department magazin of the Supreme Council of Antiquities: 2005.APS.013 (ostraca) = SCA 99a; 2012.APS.047 (weight) = SCA 101; 2012.APS.066 (weight) = SCA 101; 2019.APS.002 (ostracon)=SCA 103; 2019.APS.010 (ostracon)=SCA 103; 2019.APS.013 (ostracon)=SCA 103 ; 2019.APS.066 (ostracon)=SCA 99b ; 2019.APS.075 (ostracon)=SCA 103 ; 2003.STO.057 (molds) = SCA 100 ; 2009.STF.002 (ostracon)=SCA 98 ; 2007.STF. 002, 005-008, 011-012, 019, 022-025, 030, 032, 046, -048 (ostraca) = SCA 98; 2009.STF.014, 027, 031, 039, 043, 047-048, 054, 066, 069, 073, 102, 106, 113, 129 (ostraca) = SCA 102; 2018.STG.060 (terracotta) = SCA 97; 2019.STG.016 (amulet) = SCA 100; 2019.STG.019 (amulet) = SCA 100 ; 2019.STG.042 (ushebtis) = SCA 103 ; 2019.STG.043 (ushebtis)=SCA103; 2019.STG.044 (terracotta) = SCA 96; 2022.STG.005 (ushebtis) = SCA 103 ; 2022.STG. 006 (ushebtis) = SCA 103.

IV. PHOTOGRAPHIC WORKS AND DOCUMENTARY ARCHIVES

Team: Pascal Pelletier (MAFTO/ASR); Marie Grillot (MAFTO/ASR); Daniel Lefebvre du Prey (MAFTO/ASR); Ossama Bassiouni El-Damanhourri (CEDAE).

As during previous missions, photographic coverage of the various sectors in operation was gathered. Similarly, the different sectors have been the subject of filmed documentary archives in order to show, from one year to the next, the evolution of research and restoration work carried out in the temple and its outbuildings. Documentation in 3D and orthophotography was also carried out.

Christian LEBLANC

Director of the French Archaeological Mission of Western Thebes
President of the Association for the Safeguarding of the Ramesseum

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Bottom : Reconstruction of pottery from the excavation carried out in the STI-TR sector. (Photo Christian Leblanc).

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A.- Clearing carried out in front of tomb APO.CN21 with a view to finding its initial entrance. Remains of limestone paving in the Ramesside western processional way. (Photo H       Guichard).

B.- By progressing in the excavation of this sector, discovery of a wooden coffin and a mummy. (Photo H       Guichard).

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A.- Progression in clearing the «cavalier de d  blais» covering the southern processional way (APS). The central alley paved in limestone and marked locations of the foundations of the animal statues. (Photo Jocelyne Hottier).

B.- Third Intermediate Period tombs excavated in the STG sector. (Photo Tommaso Quirino).

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B.- Box with earthen ushabtis discovered in the context of the wall-tomb (STI-TR.To06). Third Intermediate Period. (Photo Sameh Mohamed Zaki).

Plate IV A-B

A.- Partial mummy cartonnage on a white background, with representation of ibiophage Thoth in front of a partially disappeared hieracophage divinity. Provenance: wall-tomb (STI-TR.To06). Third Intermediate Period. (Photo Christian Leblanc).

B.- Cartonnage with representation of a hieracophage deity carrying out a lustration of the deceased. Provenance: wall-tomb (STI-TR.To06). Third Intermediate Period. (Photo Christian Leblanc).

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B.- Fragment of cartonnage with white background. Deceased with pink flesh. Provenance: Sehetepibre tomb (STI-TR.To07). Third Intermediate Period. (Photo Christian Leblanc).

C.- Joined fragments of a cartonnage with representation of Behedet's Horus, hieracophalus and pterophore. Provenance : wall-tomb (STI-TR.To06). Third Intermediate Period. (Photo Christian Leblanc).

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A.- North cavity of the underground corridor of the tomb of Sehetepibre, with remains of a mud brick wall. (Photo Sameh Mohamed Zaki).

B.- The northern cavity of the underground corridor with the two human skulls *in situ*. (Photo Sameh Mohamed Zaki).

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B.- The funerary chamber [A] of the tomb of Sehetepibrê, before clearing. (Photo Sameh Mohamed Zaki).

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B.- The crevice giving access to the funerary chamber of the adjoining tomb (STI-TR.To08). View before the excavation. (Photo Sameh Mohamed Zaki).

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B.- Remains of a mummy and traces of calcination in the funerary chamber of the tomb STI-TR.To08. (Photo Sameh Mohamed Zaki).

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B.- Oushebtis with the name of Ankhefmaât, divine father of Amon, found in the shaft of the tomb of Sehetepibre. Third Intermediate Period. (Photo Christian Leblanc).

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B.- The same sector, after the completion of the restoration works. This part of the temple is now valued and visitors can now better understand its architecture. (Photo Jocelyne Hottier).



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Provenance : wall-tomb (STI-TR.To06).
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(Photo Christian Leblanc).



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