

Report on the Brooklyn Museum's 2006 Season of Fieldwork at the Precinct of the Goddess Mut at South Karnak

by Richard Fazzini, Brooklyn Museum

Abstract

The Mut Expedition uncovered the limestone foundations of the southwest corner of Temple A's forecourt where it meets the remains of the temple's first pylon. The expedition discovered five rooms built against the east wing of the Mut Temple's first pylon over remains of earlier buildings, including a possible cistern lined with baked brick and stone. Remains of another building were found to the north of these rooms.

Conservators treated a fallen ram sculpture inside the Precinct entrance and re-erected it on a new base. They dismantled, treated and re-assembled the east wing of the Lepsius Gate on a new foundation and restored the east doorjamb of Chapel D. A protective wall was built behind the statues on the north side of the Mut Temple's first court as part of the Sakhmet statue restoration program.

The Brooklyn Museum's archaeological expedition to the Precinct of Mut at South Karnak is conducted under the auspices of the American Research Center in Egypt and with the permission of the Supreme Council of Antiquities¹.

In 2006 the expedition continued its planned program of exploring the front of the precinct north of the Mut Temple. Fig. 1a-b shows the area at the beginning of the season and at the end. The results of this season's excavation are outlined below, followed by a brief description of conservation and restoration efforts.

Temple A Forecourt

The Mut Expedition first worked in this area in 1978-1979, uncovering the remains of the colonnade and south wall of the forecourt and the foundations of the first pylon, which had been destroyed down to its lowest course.² This year we removed a portion of the earlier baulks in the area, revealing the inner face of the forecourt's southwest corner where the colonnade meets the limestone facing of the east side of the pylon. Fig. 2 is a plan and photograph of this area at the end of the season. Between the foundations of the colonnade and the forecourt's outer wall we uncovered a later limestone paving of smaller, roughly-laid blocks into which three large storage jars had been set. One of the jars was full of pottery, primarily cups/beakers and broken storage jars of the Ptolemaic or early Roman Periods, while the other two jars contained less pottery. Extending the area of excavation to the west, we also uncovered the mud brick foundations of the pylon.

North of the Mut Temple's First Pylon

Excavations immediately north of the pylon in 1979³ revealed remains of mud brick structures built against the pylon face. One goal of the 2006 season was to begin the complete excavation of the area

¹ The Expedition acknowledges with gratitude the cooperation and assistance of officials of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, in particular Dr. Zahi Hawass, Secretary General of the SCA; Dr. Magdy El-Ghannour, General Director for Foreign and Egyptian Missions; Dr. Mansour Boreik, General Director for Luxor; Dr. Ibrahim Suleiman, Director for Karnak. The SCA inspector for this season was Essam Mahmoud Mohammed and the SCA conservator working with us was Khaled Mohammed Wassel; we thank both for all their help with the season's work.

The staff for this season were Richard A. Fazzini, Egyptologist, Director and Co-Field Director; William H. Peck, Co-Field Director and Architect; Mary E. McKercher, Assistant Director, archaeologist, and photographer; Elsie H. Peck, archaeologist and artist; Jacobus van Dijk, Egyptologist and epigrapher; Herman te Velde, epigrapher and consultant on ancient Egyptian religion; Lisa Bruno and Tina March, conservators.

Major funding for the 2006 season was provided by the Brooklyn Museum's Charles Edwin Wilbour Fund.

² R. Fazzini, W. Peck, "Archaeology in Egypt 1980: Mut Temple Expedition", *NARCE* 112 (Fall, 1980), pp. 39-40.

³ R. Fazzini, W. Peck, *NARCE* 112 (Fall, 1980), pp. 40-41.

and determine the relation between these structures, the Mut Temple's East Porch and Temple A's Porch, uncovered in 2005.⁴ Fig. 3 is a plan of the structures as uncovered this year. We hope that the completion of work here in 2007 will answer some of the chronological questions raised this year.

All the structures in this area were built on a layer of earth approximately 45 cm deep that accumulated or was purposely laid down east of the East Porch. It extends from the Mut Temple's First Pylon to the south side of Temple A's colonnaded porch. The threshold of the Lepsius Gate⁵, is also at this level, as is a late repair to the northeast corner of the pylon in which an upturned stone vessel on top of two hollow blocks of sandstone was used as the base for a new torus moulding⁶ (fig. 4). At the north end of the East Porch, this stratum sits on a thin layer of stone chips lying on the original paving east of the East Porch. At the south end the stone chips sit directly on packed earth; either the area was unpaved or the paving was removed in antiquity.

This year's excavations produced a total of 55 coins, mainly from room 4 and the walled court (see below). Most were quite worn and difficult to read. Of those we have been able to identify, only one (from room 3) is Ptolemaic. The remainder date from the early- and mid-2nd century AD, specifically to the reigns of Hadrian and Antoninus Pius.⁷

By the end of the 2006 season, the expedition had uncovered a row of 5 mud brick structures built against the pylon between the East Porch and the east end of the pylon. The three eastern rooms (rooms 1-3) were vaulted. The whole area shows evidence of a massive fire that collapsed the vaults of rooms 1-3. It seems to have been most intense in rooms 2 and 3: the bricks of room 2's south wall were almost vitrified and the west and east walls of rooms 2 and 3 respectively are burnt orange and quite friable.

On top of and penetrating the collapsed vaulting in rooms 1-3 and in the ruins of rooms 4-5 we found a number of thin sandstone blocks, some broken and some whole, most lying at an angle close to the face of the pylon. They do not appear to be facing from the pylon (both large surfaces are rough), which, indeed, shows no evidence of ever having been faced in stone. Perhaps they were thrown into the area during one of the periods when the Precinct was used as a quarry. Lying on its back in this debris in room 3 was a stela showing a pharaoh offering a temple or temple gateway to the goddess Mut⁸. While uninscribed, stylistically it is certainly late Ptolemaic or early Roman in date, recalling the Tiberius stelae describing work at the Precinct begun by Augustus and completed by Tiberius. Its original location is not known, but it is clearly earlier than the debris in which it was found.

Rooms 4-5, nearest the East Porch, are larger than rooms 1-3 and probably pre-date them, at least in their final phases: room 4's east wall was covered with a coat of plaster against which the west wall of room 3 was built. The east side of the porch may have served as room 5's west wall, but we cannot be certain as a trench at the porch's east face cuts the entire west side of this room. This trench cuts the south wall of an earlier building whose east wall is visible under room 5's east present wall. Room 5 may have been in ruins by the time of the fire as the ash layer ran over the highest preserved course of its north wall.

Room 4 shows three stages of development (see fig. 3). The doorway to this room is in the center of the north wall. On the west end of the original stone threshold are the marks where a door swung inward. The doorway was later widened and a new sill installed to the north of the original and

⁴ R. Fazzini, "Report on the Brooklyn Museum's 2005 Season of Fieldwork at the Precinct of the Goddess Mut at South Karnak", *ASAE* (forthcoming)

⁵ This uninscribed gateway, discovered in 1978, is referred to as the "Lepsius Gate" because it was visible on Lepsius' map of the site. See *LD*, Band II, Abtheilung I, Blatt 74.

⁶ The "torus" moulding of the northwest corner of the west wing of this pylon was originally of plaster that had been whitewashed, as had what was left of the northwest corner.

⁷ The expedition thanks Dr. Penny Slough, former Associate Curator of Ancient Art at the Detroit Institute of Arts, for undertaking the task of researching the coins.

⁸ To be published by R. Fazzini in the *Festschrift* for D. O'Connor.

set into a thickened north wall built on the stratum of refuse that had accumulated north of the rooms. This layer contained lenses of ash as well as many sherds. A small antechamber seems to have been built at the same time. A fire within the room deposited a layer of burnt debris that covered the floor and ran up to (but not over) the south side of the later sill. This threshold, the doorjambs and the floor of the room were eventually covered with plaster, creating a floor that sloped down towards the pylon face.

In the northern half of the room and around the entrance we recovered 21 coins from the plaster and the burn below it. Two coins have been identified as Hadrian, two as Antoninus Pius, and the rest seem to date to the 2nd century AD as well, suggesting that this phase of room 4, at least, dates no earlier than that period. Below the burn layer in this area we also found a small fragment of a barbotine vessel. In the southwest corner of the room, at a lower level, we uncovered a large bronze Ptolemaic coin along with a bronze uraeus fragment and the sandal-clad foot of a small bronze statue.

A mud brick wall was eventually built across the middle of the room above the plaster surface. It may have divided the room or may indicate a late re-use of the room, on a smaller scale, after the collapse of the northern section of the room.

Rooms 1-3 are smaller than rooms 4-5. The vaults in rooms 1-2 were partially preserved, but room 3's vault had collapsed entirely. Rooms 1 and 2 were entered by doorways at the west end of their north walls. We found no threshold in room 3 nor any evidence of openings between it and its neighbors. The doorway of room 2 shows at least two phases of construction before it was blocked with mud brick: over the original stone sill is a layer of earth on which a second sill has been laid (see fig. 5). The sill of room 1 does not seem to have been altered.

In room 2, below the burn level and defined on each side by it we discovered a single row of mud brick parallel to the east wall. It intersects a semicircular brick feature in the northeast corner that appears to run under the north and east walls, but we have not yet found any trace of it beyond the room (fig. 5)⁹. Baked brick and stone uncovered below the foundations of the room may be part of the same phase as the odd brick features, which may in turn be associated with the buildings to the north (see below). Further excavation is required to determine the relationships of these features.

In 1979 we uncovered the lowest courses of a wall that ran north from the northeast corner of room 1. Set into its south end is an east-west sill that is also of two phases, this time sandstone on granite. North of the sill the wall turns to the west, but was robbed out after a few meters (fig. 6). No further traces of this wall were found in 2006. Within the space framed by these walls and on top of the remains of the short east-west wall were sandstone blocks and fragments and one limestone column drum; all seem to be displaced.

At the same time we partially excavated an oval feature made of stone and baked brick to the north of room 1 and the walls just described. It was filled with pottery that spilled beyond its borders over the remains of a mud brick wall to its north. Oval, walls and pottery were buried under the thick debris from the burning of the vaulted rooms. We completed the excavation of this feature in 2006 and discovered it to be constructed of square baked bricks on three sides, its east side being a sloping wall of sandstone blocks. Its lip was framed with smaller bricks and pieces of sandstone, and its bottom was lined with mud brick. Its use is uncertain, but for convenience we refer to it as a cistern(?). It is visible in figs. 5 and 7. The cistern appears to have been cut through the north and west walls of an earlier structure (see fig. 3) and is probably contemporary with rooms 1-3 as the pottery with which it was filled is the same as the pottery found in these rooms.

North of rooms 2 and 3 is a later east-west mud brick wall with two pottery bins at its west end (see fig. 3), all built on a layer of pottery-filled refuse. The gradual build-up of this debris layer may be

⁹ Some 5th-6th century houses at Elephantine have somewhat similar walls around ovens (e.g., house M14 and its neighbor: F. Arnold, *Elephantine XXX: Die Nachnutzung des Khnumtempelbezirks* MDAIK 116 (2003) pp. 60-64 and abb. 21). To date, however, we have found no traces of an oven nor of burning within the feature at Mut.

the reason for raising the doorsills mentioned above. Presumably room 2's door was blocked when this wall was built. The wall may be the remains of a stairway that gave access to rooms 2 and 3 from above, with the bins lying in the space under the stairway. Logically, the stairway should lead to an upper storey or flat roof on room 4, but no evidence of either is preserved.

The bricks of the wall/stairway and the bricks bounding the bins north of rooms 2-3 were also blackened in the burning. The most intense area of burning was north of rooms 1-3, where a thick stratum of red and black burnt debris extends several meters north. As we discovered in 1979, the outer face of room 1's east wall was burnt and ash covered the surface north of the Lepsius Gate as well (see fig. 4). The ash spread as far west as the east wall of the East Porch and several meters north of rooms 4-5. A layer of sherd-filled earth accumulated over the ash layer at least north of room 4, suggesting it may have been less damaged in the fire and continued in use after the collapse of rooms 1-3. Since the ash ran over the remains of the wall of room 5, it was probably in ruins by the time of the fire.

The pottery found within the rooms, the refuse to their north and in the burn debris seems to date generally to the late 1st/early 2nd century to the 4th century AD, and perhaps into the 5th century. The lids of the bins north of room 3 are of the round flat type decorated with finger-impressed crosses that date to the 3rd-4th centuries at Elephantine.¹⁰ There are many fragments and several whole examples of red-slipped bowls and plates decorated in black/purple paint with either parallel horizontal lines around the bodies of bowls or on the flat rims of plates or rather crudely drawn plant motifs stems blob-like blooms or leaves. It has been suggested that this is a locally-made ware that had its origins in the Ptolemaic Period and continued to be popular, in the Theban area alone, into the mid- to late-4th century.¹¹ We have many examples of fine, pale beige eggshell-thin cups in Aswan clay whose upper parts are a dark brown. They resemble cups of Gempeler's types T602 and T605, both of which he dates to the 1st-4th century AD.¹²

Area north of the mud brick structures

The area between the mud brick structures and Temple A's colonnade was covered with a thick stratum of debris, probably dump from earlier excavations. Below was a surface scattered with broken stone, except where robbed out by an enormous pit cut through much of the northern half of the site. Further complicating matters, the chambers and tunnels of an extensive animal den riddled the entire area.

About 4 meters north of rooms 4 and 5 we uncovered an east-west wall that extended across the whole area and appears to have been constructed after the massive fire. The ash layer extends as far as this wall, but the wall itself shows no sign of burning. Its east end has been robbed out, and at its west end it seems to ride over a north-south mud brick wall that parallels the East Porch and is built on the refuse layer. This wall stops just short of the north wall of room 5 and lies under the layer of ash that covers the area. Where it meets the east-west wall we found a concentrated scatter of broken pottery and glass. A similar cluster of pottery in ash was found at the north end of the east wall of the structure in the northern part of the area (see below). Earlier excavations in the East Porch showed that this burn

¹⁰ R. Gempeler, *Elephantine X: Die Keramik römischer bis früh-arabischer Zeit* (MDAIK 43, 1992), form K820: p. 203 and pl. 131,2.

¹¹ J. Lauffray, *La chapelle d'Achôris à Karnak: 1. Les fouilles, l'architecture, le mobilier et l'anastylose* (Editions Recherche sur les Civilisations, 1995), pp. 88-95 and figs. 42-44, whose pottery closely resembles material excavated at Mut this year. See also K. Myśliwiec, *Keramik und Kleinfunde aus der Grabung im Tempel Sethos' I. in Gurna* (MDAIK 57, 1987), e.g., fig. 857-870 and p. 83. G. Pierrat, in "Evolution de la céramique de Tôd du II^e au VII^e siècle apr. J.-C.", *Cahiers de la Céramique Égyptienne* 4 (1996), p. 205, fn. 97, notes that similar pottery at Tod is known for the Ptolemaic Period alone. J. Hayes, on p. 388 of *Late Roman Pottery* (London, 1972) comments that some forms of Egyptian Red Slip Ware "A", copying African Red Slip Ware, only appeared in Thebes in the late 4th century, and until then "painted wares in the local tradition appear to have dominated the market".

¹² Gempeler, *Elephantine X*, T602: p. 122 and Abb. 70, 8-10; T605b: p. 124 and Abb. 70, 17-18.

layer continues into the area of the porch itself, the ash perhaps having been swept into the space between the Porch and the wall paralleling it. Across the area north of the wall was a quantity of broken sandstone, recalling the quarrying in evidence elsewhere. The broken stone does not continue south of the wall, suggesting it served to separate the work area in the north from the domestic or storage area to the south.

About 60 cm north of the mud brick wall just described we uncovered a second, earlier wall that proved to be the south wall of an enclosure whose north wall either ran parallel to or was formed by the south side of Temple A's colonnade. We can't be sure as the large pit mentioned above cuts through almost the entire north half of this room, which covers roughly half of the area north of the neighboring wall. Unlike the wall to the south, this structure was built directly on the layer of earth over the paving east of the East Porch and thus pre-dates that wall. We found no evidence of column bases or roof supports, suggesting it may have been a walled court. The inner faces of the building's remaining three walls showing signs of heavy burning, suggesting that it, too, was destroyed by fire, probably at the same time as the structures against the pylon. The interior of the structure was filled with burn debris, except for the pitted-out northern section. In the southwest corner of the court, in the lowest level of the burning, we found a number of items, including 11 scattered coins, a fragment of a faience Bes-plaque, many glass fragments, a *patella* with busts of Isis and Serapis and a lobed soapstone vessel. Published parallels for the *patella*¹³ indicate a probable 1st or 2nd century AD date for it. One coin has been dated to late in the reign of Hadrian; the remainder have not been identified with certainty but like the others uncovered this year appear to date between the late 1st and mid-2nd centuries AD.

East of this court was a concentrated area of burning mixed with a quantity of broken sandstone. On the upper level was a roughly-laid circle of stone on and surrounded by red and black ash, perhaps the remains of an outdoor hearth. Below the burning were several pieces of pottery apparently lying on a surface, but no traces of any architectural elements. South of burn but still north of the later east-west wall was what seems to be a pottery dump. This suggests the area was in use as a quarrying site and even a garbage dump, possibly even while the court and the rooms against the pylon were in use.

Earlier Structures in the area

A pottery-strewn surface covered most of the area and lay atop the destruction layer between the southern wall and the structures built against the pylon. When we began to remove this stratum we uncovered a square brick feature projecting from both the north and south sides of this wall. Removing the wall revealed a square made of baked brick and stone 3 courses deep (a tree hole?), with an earlier square of mud brick discernible at its northwest corner (see plan, fig. 3). To the east is a round bin from which we retrieved a badly broken barbotine jug of very fine pale ware. A similar, although less complete, square was found under the west end of the wall. Like the *patella*, barbotine ware is generally dated to the 1st-2nd centuries AD.¹⁴

As mentioned above, the cistern(?) cuts the north and west walls of an earlier structure (see fig. 3). On top of the remains of the west wall are two stone blocks, possibly a doorsill although too little of the wall is preserved to be certain. The wall east of the cistern, which has a stone door socle, appears to run under the extension to room 1's east wall mentioned above, and 2-course mud brick wall extends

¹³ For example, K. Parlasca, in *Das Römische byzantisch Aegypten. Akten des internationalen Symposions 26. – 30. September 1978 in Trier*. Aegyptiaca Treverensia 2 (Mainz am Rhein, 1983), pp. 151-160.

¹⁴ For example, S. Wenig (Ed.), *Africa in Antiquity: The Arts of Ancient Nubia and the Sudan*, vol. II: *The Catalogue* (exh. cat., Brooklyn, 1978), cat. 259; Gempeler, *Elephantine X*, p. 43 and Taf. 1,4; H. Willems, W. Clarysse (Eds.), *Les Empereurs du Nil* (exh. cat., Leiden and Paris, 2000), cat. 63; D. Wildung (Ed.), P. Der Manuelian (trans.), *Sudan: Ancient Kingdoms of the Nile* (exh. cat., Paris, New York 1997), cat. 427-429.

from the feature's south wall under room 1's north wall. A wall perpendicular to the west wall meets another wall further to the west. Fig. 7 illustrates the cistern(?) and walls.

These walls predate the vaulted rooms: the west and north walls are cut by the cistern(?) and the pottery spilling from it spread over the north wall. The west wall and wall to its west both disappear under the wall/stairway and bins north of rooms 2-3. This complex of walls may be contemporary with the walled court in the north of the area and with the two square brick features, but we will not know until we have excavated further.

From the cistern(?) and room 1 in particular we recovered a large number of broken amphorae, some coated inside with resin, suggesting that room 1 at least may have been a wine cellar. Most of the amphorae had tall necks to which the handles are attached just below the rim, ribbing at the shoulders and just above the join with the pointed base, and smooth sides. They are similar to amphorae found in the excavations of the chapel of Achoris at Karnak and at Tod, dated to the Roman Period.¹⁵

Summary

At this point we can identify seven phases of activity in the area north of the Mut Temple's First Pylon. The construction phases are indicated on the plan (fig.3) and summarized below:

Phase 1: the mud brick walls north of rooms 1-3, the walled court and the lower phase of room 5; and the square features (tree holes?).

Phase 2: the upper level of room 5 and the early version of room 4.

Phase 3: the cistern(?) and rooms 1-3, built against the west wall of room 4.

Phase 4: the blocking of the door to room 2 and construction of the wall/stairway north of room 2; the bins north of room 3; the widening of the north wall of room 4, which includes a new doorsill; and the addition of the wall north of room 5. This phase is built on a layer of refuse containing much pottery and some ash that had accumulated in the area.

Phase 5: the massive fire that destroyed rooms 1-3, and the walled court, damaged room 4, and spread a layer of ash and burn debris across the site.

Phase 6: construction of the east-west wall south of the walled court.

Phase 7: use of the area north of this wall for quarrying and dumping garbage from the structures to the south.

*Conservation and Restoration*¹⁶

Lepsius Gate

In 1979 the expedition partially excavated this small, undecorated gateway abutting the east end of the Mut Temple's First Pylon. When we cleared the gateway completely in 2006, we discovered that the north end of its east wing was leaning at a dangerous angle because its limestone foundations were severely deteriorated. We dismantled the gate, treated the blocks as necessary, constructed new foundations that included moisture barriers and then rebuilt the gate (fig. 8). This jamb contained several re-used decorated blocks, including one with partial cartouches of Merenptah, otherwise unattested in the Precinct. Another was a relief, possibly of the Ramesside Period, of a female wearing a Double Crown, presumably an image of the goddess Mut. In a hollow carved into the upper surface of a lower course of stone we found a Late Period falcon amulet, probably Horus, and a small strip of bronze. The amulet and the date of the reused blocks confirm that the gate is post-Ramesside.

¹⁵ J. Lauffray, *La chapelle d'Achoris*, p. 88-89 and fig. 42, no. 317; G. Lecuyot, G. Pierrat-Bonnefois, "Corpus de la céramique de Tôd: Fouilles 1980-1983 et 1990", *CCE* 7 (2004), p. 165 and pl. 6: Td84, which they suggest is 1st-2nd century at Tod.

¹⁶ The expedition acknowledges the significant contributions of Khaled Mohammed Wassel, the SCA conservator assigned to the expedition this year. Without him we could not have achieved the results we did.

Chapel D

In 2005 Dr. Jacobus van Dijk identified several fragments of the east jamb of Chapel D's entrance among the blocks uncovered during work at the site by the SCA in 2001-2003¹⁷. In 2006 the expedition reconstructed this part of the entrance and consolidated the foundations of the chapel's entrance and of two columns in its first room (fig. 9). It is hoped that more such reconstruction will be possible in the future, in part from blocks already known and in part from blocks waiting to be excavated from the debris next to Chapel D.

Ram Sculpture east of the precinct entrance

A row of five sandstone rams and sphinxes stands in front of the enclosure wall east of the precinct's main entrance. Four of these sculptures sit on bases restored by Maurice Pillet in the 1920s. The fifth, the ram nearest the entrance, was left lying on its side and was badly weathered and quite fragile, with large cracks along the bedding layers of the stone. In 2006 conservators from the Mut Expedition and the SCA consolidated the stone and inserted stainless steel rods to stabilize the layers of rock further.¹⁸ The statue was successfully righted and placed on a new base built on the foundations of the original base. Righting this statue also permitted treatment of the lowest courses of the small chapel immediately to its west. As can be seen in fig. 10a-b, the restoration of the ram this year and the reuniting last year of the head and body of the sphinx at the east end of the row of sculptures¹⁹ have made a great improvement in the appearance of the front area of the precinct.

Sakhmet Restoration Project

During 2006 the expedition placed the last of the Sakhmet statues on the north side of the Mut Temple's First court on new bases that isolate them from ground water. To prevent drifting dirt from reburying the bases of the statues and to provide a suitable backdrop for these sculptures the expedition built mud brick walls along the line of the south face of the temple's mud brick second pylon (fig. 11).

We also reassembled the upper and lower halves of the only standing statue of Sakhmet known to be in the Precinct, located before the Second Pylon of Temple A.

Future conservation efforts will focus on consolidating and restoring, where possible, architectural remains in the Brooklyn expedition's areas of responsibility.

¹⁷ R. Fazzini, *ASAE* (forthcoming)

¹⁸ The expedition is extremely grateful to the CFETK for the loan of the large crane needed to lift the sculpture and for the expertise of its staff. We also thank Franck Burgos, the mason who was working with the Johns Hopkins Mut Expedition, for his generous advice and assistance in placing the metal rods.

¹⁹ R. Fazzini, *ASAE* (forthcoming).



Fig. 1 (a) view to the south of the area where the expedition worked at the start of the season; (b) the same area at the end of the season. The southwest corner of Temple A's Forecourt is visible at the left side of both pictures.

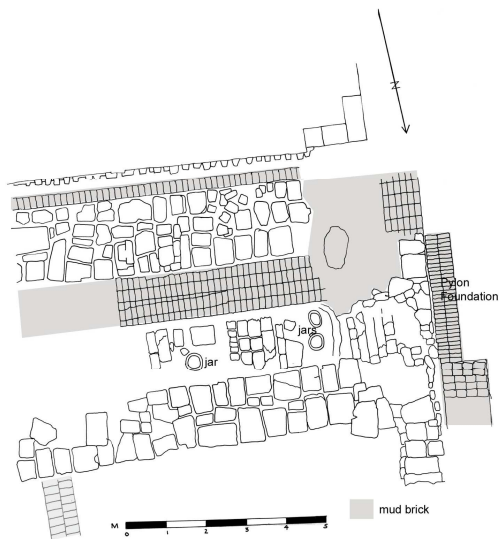


Fig. 2 Plan (a) and photograph looking south (b) of the southwest corner of Temple A's forecourt uncovered in 2006.

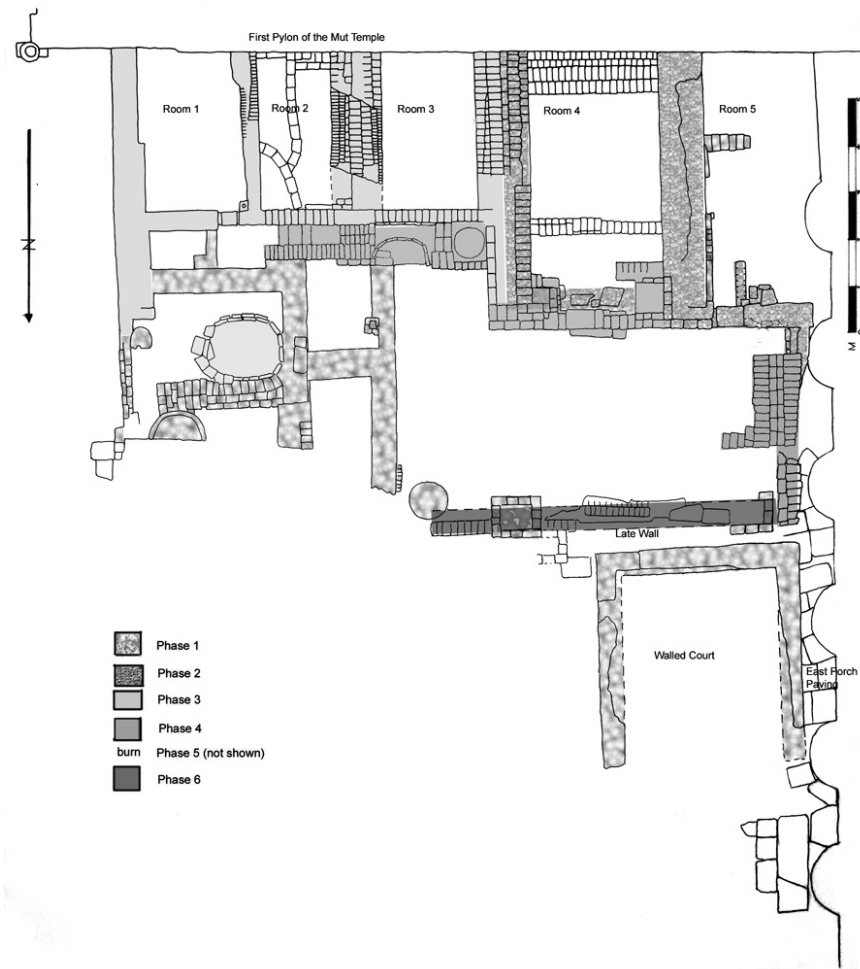


Fig. 3 Plan of the area north of the Mut Temple's First Pylon, with the phases of construction indicated. Since the burning (phase 5) and use of the area for quarrying (phase 7) are not construction, they are not indicated



Fig. 4 The east end of the Mut Temple's First Pylon showing the Roman repair to the torus moulding. The Lepsius Gate is on the left, and the east wall of room 1, with evidence of burning at its lower courses, is to the right



Fig. 5 The single-course mud brick features in Room 2 are probably an earlier phase of the room. The doorway was probably blocked when the wall north of the room was built. The cistern(?) and walls around it can be seen in the center of the photograph..



Fig. 6 View north of room 1 in 1979. The wall with the 2-phase sill that runs north from the room's northeast corner is visible on the right.



Fig. 7 A view to the northeast over rooms 3-1, with the cistern(?) and associated walls visible north of room 1.



Fig. 8 The Lepsius Gate after the restoration of the east wing. The block with Merenptah cartouches is the recessed block in the lowest course, and the re-used relief of Mut is visible in the center of the top course.



Fig. 9 The re-assembled east jamb of the entrance to Chapel D and one of the restored columns.



Fig.10 (a) The ram east of the precinct entrance at the start of the season; (b) the conserved sculpture on its new base, and the restored remains of the small chapel to its west.



Fig. 11 The Sakhmets along the north wall of the Mut Temple's First Court on the west (a) and east (b) sides at the end of 2006.