

**ARCE/EAP Subproject  
Conservation of the Sarcophagus of Ramesses VI**

**Tomb of Ramesses VI (KV 9)  
Valley of the Kings, Luxor**

**Progress Report for June 2002**

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Rameses VI Sarcophagus Project June 2002 Work Report

I. Abstract

The Rameses VI Sarcophagus Restoration Project continued work this summer. During this period, more fragments belonging both to the box and lid were assembled. Final adjustments of the air circulation system were made, and arrangements were carried out for the completion, packing and transporting of the replica of the face from the sarcophagus lid in the collection of the British Museum.

## Rameses VI Sarcophagus Project June 2002 Work Report

### II. Introduction

Work commenced on 1 June 2002 to continue the reconstruction of the inner sarcophagus of Rameses VI in the burial chamber of KV 9, Valley of the Kings, Luxor. This season the work personnel included Edwin Brock, project director, Dany Roy, conservator, Lotfi Khaled Hassan, conservator, Nahed Samir, conservation technician, Ahmed Salleh Abdulah, conservation technician, Mohammed Mahmoud Hassan, conservation technician, Francis Dzikowski, photographer. The participating representative for the Supreme Council of Antiquities Qurna Inspectorate was Ezz el-Din.

The project director wishes to express his gratitude to the following to the Supreme Council of Antiquities for permission to carry out the continuation of this project, including, Dr. Zahi Hawass, Sabry Abdel-Azziz, Dr. Yahya Sabr el-Masry, Mohammed Ahmed Bakhit, Mohammed el-Bialy and Ibrahim Suliman. Thanks, are also due the personnel of the American Research Center in Egypt, including Dr. Robert Springborg, Amira el-Khattab, and staff of ARCE's Egyptian Antiquities Project, including Robert K. Vincent, Jr., Jaroslaw Dobriwalski and Michael Jones.

### III. Air Circulation system

Following the closing of operations in August 2001, the exhaust tube running from the fan and motor housing outside the tomb entrance up the hillside south of the entrance was removed by Qurna Inspectorate personnel and placed on the floor of the entry way. This season, what is hoped to be a more permanent, but a less visually obtrusive was adopted. A trench 49 cm. in width and 35 cm. deep was dug in the debris covering the hillside along the south side of the entryway. The tube was set into this trench and then covered with the debris excavated from the trench. The end of the tube was left open at the top of the trench with a rock lining and a screen insert to allow air flow and prevent clogging by debris and garbage.



Figure 1. Exhaust tubing set into trench.



Figure 2. Exhaust tubing in trench after being buried by debris.

It was noted that the plastic clips that had been used last season to hold the aluminum covered insulating covering the lengths of tubing running from the open entrance of tomb to the fan housing, as well as the exhaust tube had become brittle from exposure to the sun. This season, new plastic straps were attached as replacements and then covered with aluminum tape to protect them from the effects of ultraviolet rays.



Figure 3. Detail of foil-coated insulation covering exterior tubing.

#### IV. Sarcophagus Fragment Assembly

##### IV A. Sarcophagus Box Fragments

Much of the floor of the sarcophagus box was assembled last season and set in place on the limestone base prepared on the north platform of the burial chamber. Some additional fragments from the box floor were found this season as well as a few more joining the edges of the floor to the bottom of the sides. The head end third of the floor was lifted on end so that additional floor fragments could be glued in place.

Francis Dzikowski was able to spend a day on June 6 photographing on going work in the tomb. He recorded the state of the sarcophagus assembly at the beginning of the season, including a view from directly above while supported on the winch scaffolding, as well as the test assembly of the lid and work being carried out by members of the team.

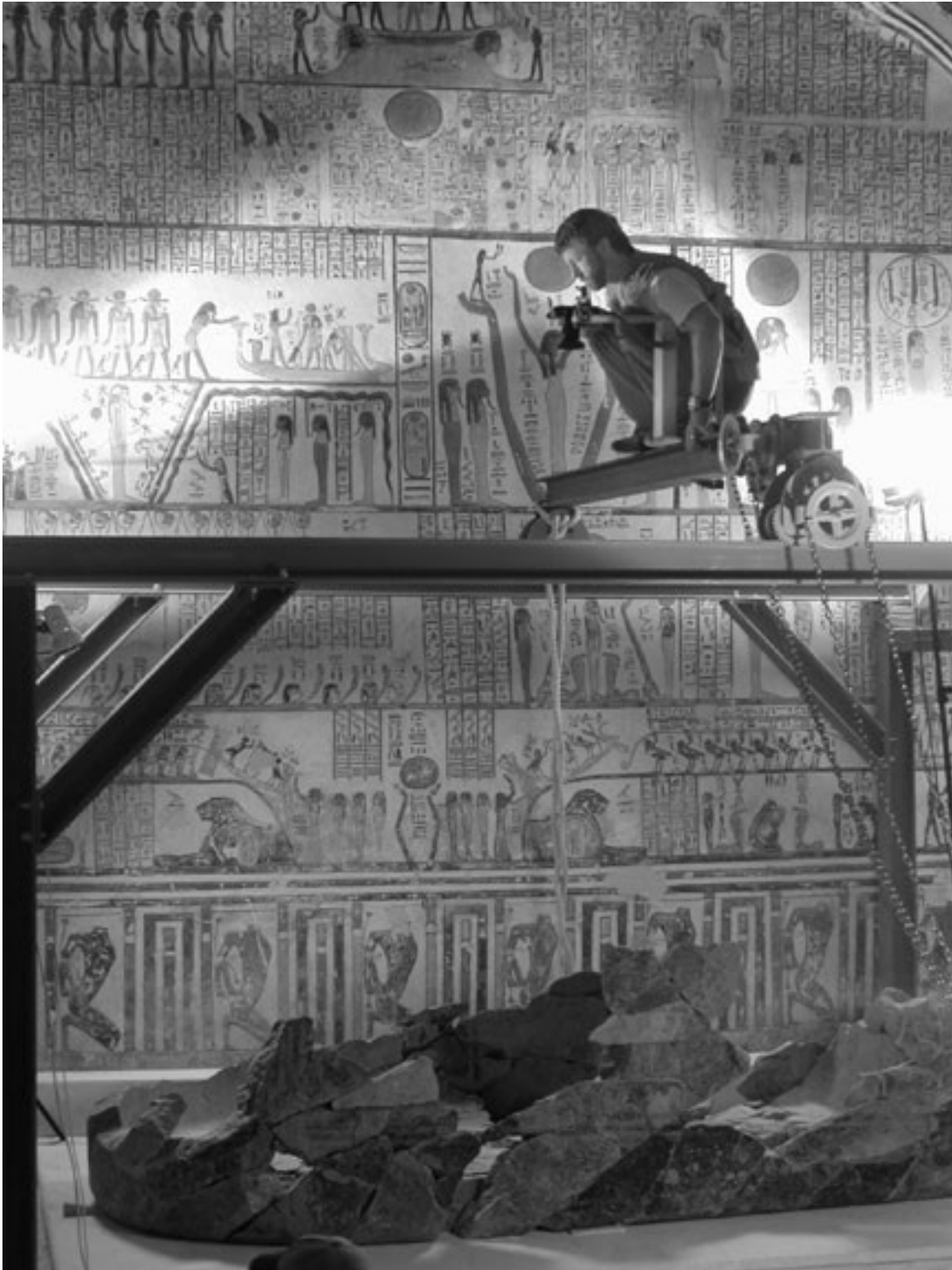


Figure 4. Francis Dzikowski photographing the sarcophagus from above.

Work continued assembling fragments belonging to the sides of the sarcophagus box into groups. Assembly of fragments into groups followed the cleaning of dirt from joint surfaces. Epoxy adhesive was used as the adhesive. In order to better accommodate the fragment groups being glued, a larger sand box was constructed on the temporary platform over the west end of the central floor pit.





Figure 5. Lotfi Khaled and Nahed Samir using the large sandbox to support fragment groups for gluing.



Figure 6. New and larger sand box for supporting glued fragment groups.

Assembled groups for the sides of the box were set in place over the upper edges of the floor of the box in order to test for joints. On the proper or occupant's right side it was possible to make joints in the central area from floor to 20 cm from the projected upper edge.



Figure 7. Dany Roy lifting assembled group into place on right side of box.

Another group of fragments extended from the central group on the proper right side to the right corner of the foot end. Unfortunately, because of missing fragments, there is a large gap here between the edge of the floor of the box and this group. In order to better support this "bridge" of fragments, fiberglass rods will be inserted vertically within the gap to add support.



Figure 8. Assembled fragments on right side of box.

A similar situation was discovered on the proper left side, between the foot end and the central area, with a large gap at floor level bridged by a group of fragments. Again, fiberglass rods will be used to add vertical support. As the fragment at the left foot corner that joins the side group does not have a very secure surface of juncture with the foot end beneath, it was secured by drilling a vertical hole, inserting a stainless steel dowel, and gluing it in place.

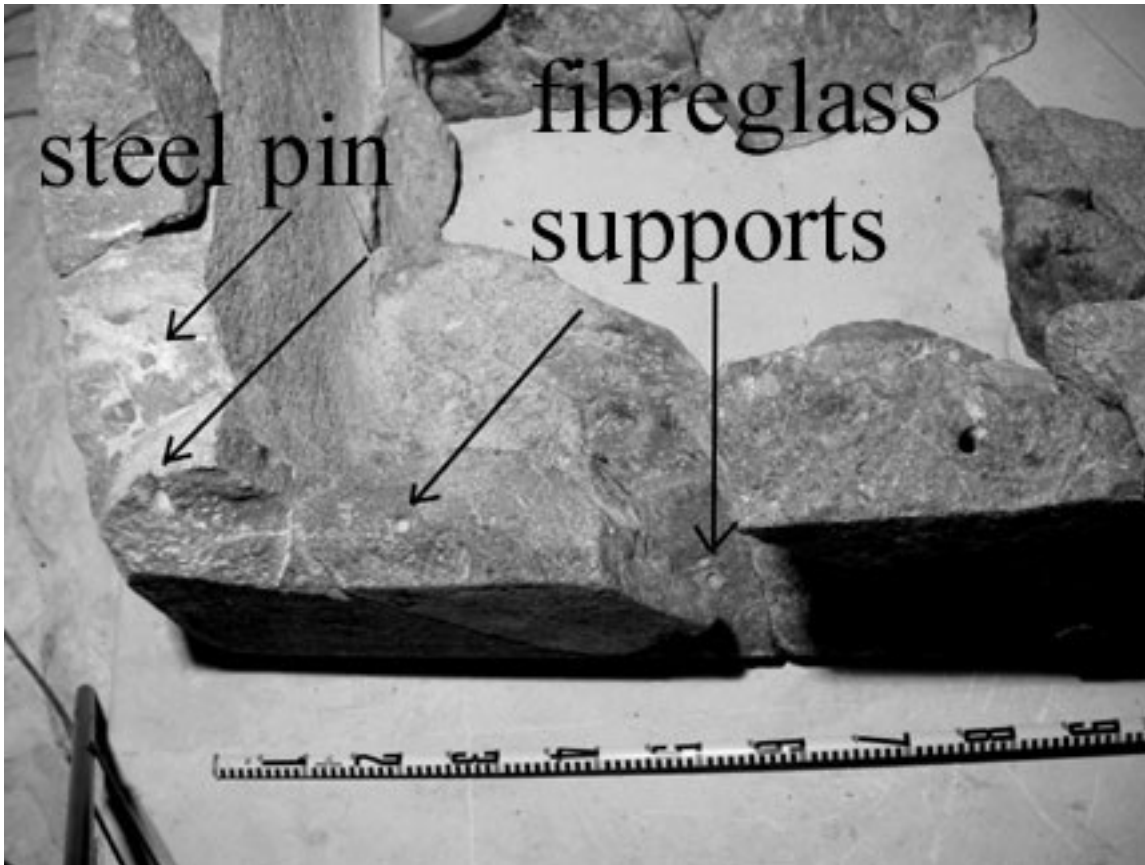


Figure 9. Detail of left foot corner showing holes drilled for steel pin and fiberglass support dowels.

Toward the head end on the proper right side a large fragment group that had a curved section was assembled but found to have no connection with the floor edge or adjacent side groups.

#### IV B. Sarcophagus Lid Fragments

As with the fragments belonging to the sarcophagus box, those pieces identified as coming from the lid of the sarcophagus were prepared for joining into groups, cleaned, and tested for joins. It was possible to join some fragments together in groups, including the proper left side of the nemes headdress and the left shoulder, parts of the proper right side of the headdress.



Figure 10. Test assembly of lid fragments.

#### V. BM Lid Fragment Replication

During April 2002, personnel of the conservation department of the British Museum began the production of a replica of the face from the sarcophagus lid now in the British Museum's Egyptian Antiquities collection (EA 140). The production of this replica in fiberglass resin was completed by the end of May. Completion of preparations are now underway for the packing and shipping of this replica to Cairo. It is expected to be flown to Cairo on either July 3 or July

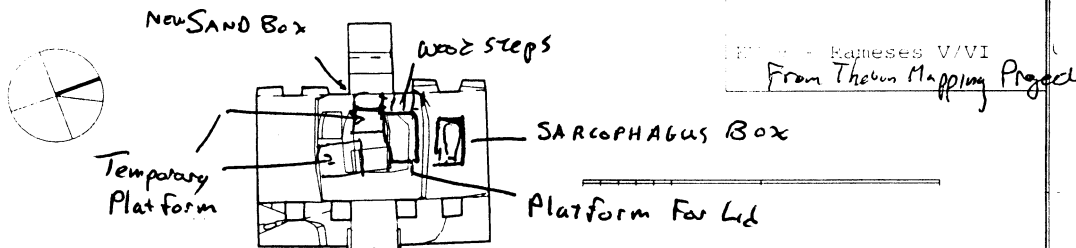
4. Arrangements are now being concluded for the replica to be received through Egyptian Customs by the appropriate representative from the Supreme Council of Antiquities. The replica will then be transferred to Luxor for incorporation in the sarcophagus lid restoration

#### VI. Future Work

During the month of July, the assembly of the remaining fragment groups for the proper left and right sides of the box will be installed that can be connected and supported. The large sandbox will be moved to the west end of the north platform where it will be used for holding glued group assemblies prior to installation.

The wooden ramp now leading to the west end of the north platform will be removed to make room for completion of the surface of the permanent platform intended for the assembled lid.

When the replica of the face from the lid is delivered to Luxor, it will be added to the other groups of assembled lid fragments. The scaffolding for the winch will be assembled above the wood platform intended to support the assembled lid where it will be used to maneuver the lid fragment groups into position for final assembly.



Exhaust  
 Tube  
 FAN  
 HOUSING