

**PROGRESS REPORT No1**

**November 29, 1999-February 6, 2000**

**“Documentation and Conservation of King Khasekhemwy’s Funerary Monument at Abydos”**

**David O’Connor, Matthew Douglas Adams**

**Egyptian Antiquities Project**

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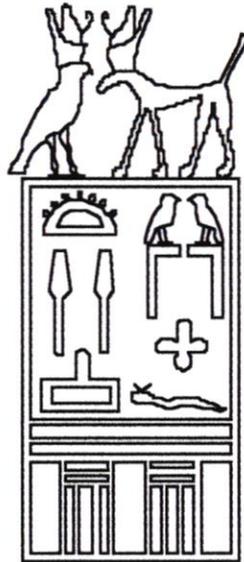
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8 MAY 2000

# DOCUMENTATION AND CONSERVATION OF PHARAOH KHASEKHEMWHY'S FUNERARY MONUMENT AT ABYDOS



**Progress Report No. 1**

**May 17, 2000**

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Institute of Fine Arts, New York University

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# **PHARAOH KHASEKHEMWHY'S FUNERARY MONUMENT AT ABYDOS**

## **Introduction**

The first field season of the Egyptian Antiquities Project-sponsored sub-project "Documentation and Conservation of Pharaoh Khasekhemwy's Funerary Monument at Abydos" took place between November 29<sup>th</sup>, 1999, and February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2000. The aims of Field Season I were as follows:

- initiation of the topographic survey of Shunet ez-Zebib and environs by the Associate Project Director
- detailed mapping of footprint of primary Shunet architecture by the Surveyor and Associate Project Director
- initiation of detailed and systematic architectural survey of Shunet structure by the Chief Architect
- photographic recording of existing condition of exposed architecture and its setting by the Architectural Photographer
- evaluation of Shunet by Structural Engineer
- evaluation of Shunet by Mudbrick Conservation Specialist
- evaluation of Shunet and environs by the Associate Project Director for planning of archaeological work

All these aims were successfully achieved during the course of the field season, as will be discussed in detail below, and the sub-project is, as a result, positioned to proceed.

The team of Field Season I consisted of Matthew Adams, Associate Sub-project Director, Richard Barnes, Architectural Photographer, Geoffrey Compton, Surveyor, Anthony Crosby, Mudbrick specialist, Conor Power, Structural Engineer, and William Remsen, Chief Architect.

The Sub-project Directors would like to thank those who helped make Field Season I a success. Sincere thanks are due to the Supreme Council of Antiquities, Dr. Gaballa Ali Gaballa, Chairman, and its officials and representatives. Dr. Yahia el-Masry, Director General of Antiquities in Sohag Governorate provided invaluable assistance, as did Mr. Ahmed el-Khattib, Chief Inspector, Balliana. The sub-project benefited greatly from the hard work and good humor of our inspector, Mr. Mahmoud Mustafa. Particular thanks are due to the staff of the Egyptian Antiquities Project (EAP) at the American Research Center in Egypt, Cairo, for their assistance and support during Field Season I. Special thanks are due to Robert K. Vincent, Jr., Director of the EAP, for his enthusiasm and support for the project and his help in dealing with the unpredictable and complicated nature of "on the ground" realities. Special thanks are also due to Ms. Cynthia Shartzer, for her patience and assistance in administrative and budgetary matters. Mark Easton, Director of the American Research Center in Egypt, Cairo, provided the sub-project with advice and support at a number of critical junctures. Very special thanks are due to Madame Amira Khattab, Assistant Director of ARCE, whose tireless efforts on behalf of the sub-project and its directors were absolutely invaluable. Mr. Amir Abdel Hamid of ARCE assisted with a number of important logistical matters.

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### **Chronology of Field Season I**

The Associate Sub-project Director arrived in Egypt on November 29<sup>th</sup>, 1999. On November 30<sup>th</sup>, the contract with the Supreme Council for Antiquities was signed at SCA headquarters, Cairo. The Associate Sub-project Director met with Robert K. Vincent, Jr., Director, and Cynthia Shartzer, Grant Administrator, of the EAP on December 1<sup>st</sup> to discuss plans for the field season. The Associate Sub-project Director proceeded by train to Abydos Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>. December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> the Associate Sub-project Director did initial setup of workspace and met to discuss logistical matters for the field season with Janet Richards, Ph.D., of the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, who was already at Abydos for an unrelated field season. On December 5<sup>th</sup> the Associate Sub-project Director met in Sohag with Dr. Yahia el-Masry, General Director of Antiquities, Sohag Governorate, who assigned the SCA inspector for the field season, Mr. Mahmoud Mustafa. Work began on-site on Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> with the surveyor, Mr. Geoffrey Compton of the University of Michigan. Detailed mapping work of the footprint of the Shunet el-Zebib continued through December 8<sup>th</sup>, as Mr. Compton had to leave the site on December 9<sup>th</sup>. The Associate Sub-project Director conducted an initial examination of the condition of the Shunet beginning Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> and continuing thereafter, and detailed topographic mapping of the exterior perimeter and environs of the Shunet el-Zebib was conducted by the Associate Sub-project Director between Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, with the assistance of a specially trained local workman. The Associate Sub-project Director returned by train to Cairo Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> and remained there until Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> to deal with a number of sub-project matters for which there had not been time at the start of the season. The Associate Sub-project Director met Mr. Steve Lyons of the Regional Security Office of the United States Embassy on Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> and received the security briefing required by USAID and EAP. While in Cairo, the Associate Sub-project Director also met with officers at the Commercial International Bank, finalized a number of matters with Egyptian customs, and set up the sub-project's liability and accident insurance with the National Insurance Company. The Associate Sub-project Director returned by train to Abydos Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>. During the period Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>, 1999 – Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>, 2000, the Associate Sub-project Director continued with topographic mapping and general survey and observation of the Shunet and environs, and coordinated with local officials and project personnel in anticipation of the arrival of the rest of the team. He returned to Cairo by train on Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>, return to Cairo to make final arrangements for the arrival of the remainder of the team. William Remsen, Conor Power, Anthony Crosby, and Richard Barnes arrived in Cairo on Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>. The security briefing by Steve Lyons, Assistant Regional Security Officer at the United States Embassy, took place on Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>. The sub-project team members were joined by Robert K. Vincent and Michael Jones of the EAP. The members of the sub-project team went to SCA headquarters on Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>, for the required security check-in. On Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>, the Associate Sub-project Director and all team members proceeded to Abydos by train. Work began on-site Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> and continued until each team member departed the site. Power left for Cairo on Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>, Remsen and Crosby Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>. Barnes and Adams Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>. The Associate Sub-project Director departed for the U.S. Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>, ending Field Season I.

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## **General Comments**

The startup of the field season did not take place in October, 1999, as scheduled in the Subagreement between ARCE and NYU due primarily to two factors. Finalization of the subagreement between ARCE and NYU took somewhat longer than anticipated, and was not in place in time for an on-time startup. Additionally, a last-minute development of a personal nature with the sub-project Surveyor, Mr. David Anderson (namely, the sudden illness and ultimate death of an immediate family member) led to a delay while the Associate Sub-project Director and Surveyor waited for the situation to resolve in such a way that the Surveyor could still participate in the field season. Ultimately, however, this was not possible, and alternative arrangements were made with Janet Richards, Ph.D., of the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology of the University of Michigan, who was on-site at Abydos directing the Abydos Middle Cemetery Project, to have the use of her project's surveyor, Mr. Geoffrey Compton. Robert K. Vincent, Jr., Director of the EAP, was most helpful in facilitating the work of the sub-project in light of this last-minute development.

The inability of Mr. Anderson to participate in the field season left the sub-project with a reduced capacity to complete the mapping work which had been planned. However, Mr. Compton's participation, as well as supplemental work by the Associate Sub-project Director, permitted the successful attainment of the most important of the mapping goals for the field season, namely the mapping of the footprint of the currently exposed architecture of the Shunet. This provides a record of the existing condition of the monument and a baseline against which all future work of the sub-project may be compared. A schematic plan generated by this work is shown in **Figure 1**. This mapping data was provided to the Chief Architect and the members of the International Preservation Associates, Inc., team. The Associate Sub-project Director also trained a local workman to be the "pole-person" for topographic mapping, and most of the exterior perimeter and environs of the Shunet were mapped during the field season. Supplemental topographic recording will be undertaken in Field Season II, and a complete topographic map of the area of the Shunet will be generated thereafter and included in a future progress report.

The Associate Sub-project Director, prior to the arrival at the site of the IPA team, undertook a systematic, though informal, visual inspection of the Shunet, which he had last observed in 1995. He was able to identify several important changes which had occurred since that time in the structure. These included significant areas of "mud wash" on several of the wall faces, presumably the result of torrential rains at Abydos in 1996, and a large area of collapsed brickwork in the northwest wall of the main enclosure, which had been standing in 1995. Additionally, he was able to observe the most obvious areas of structural concern. These include large areas in which the brick fabric of the wall has been "scooped-out" to create small rooms or cells, which probably date to the Coptic period. Another obvious structural issue is the presence of large vertical cracks near the ends of existing wall segments. A third obvious structural issue is the presence of many large animal burrows at or near the bases of large sections of the wall of the main enclosure. These appear to be especially numerous along the inner faces of the southwestern and northeastern walls of the main enclosure. Although no large animals were observed on-site during this

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field season, in previous years the Associate Sub-project Director observed many foxes in and around the Shunet, which had dens in at least some of these holes. These observations were related to the Chief Architect and the other members of the International Preservation Associates, Inc., team upon their arrival at Abydos.

The on-site time of the International Preservation Associates, Inc., team was slightly reduced from what was scheduled due to unforeseen developments in Cairo. The team, as well as the architectural photographer, arrived in Cairo on January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2000, and had planned to visit SCA headquarters for the required security check-in on Thursday, Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>. However, the SCA implemented a new policy of being closed on Thursdays, and the team members could not do this until the 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Conor Power, whose on-site time was most limited, was able to extend his stay by a few days, in order to have adequate time to undertake the systematic evaluation of the structural stability of the Shunet. William Remsen and Anthony Crosby were able to work on days off and extra hours during the day to ensure that all critical tasks were completed. The Architectural Photographer stayed until the end of the season to ensure that his work was completed.

The Associate Sub-project Director had a most productive working relationship with the members of the IPA team, as well as with the Architectural Photographer, and undertook to facilitate their work so as to ensure its success. As indicated in the attached Appendix, the members of the IPA team were able to systematically examine the Shunet, to evaluate its condition from an architectural, conservation, and structural point of view. Some initial observations are indicated in their attached preliminary report. Detailed analyses and recommendations for solutions will be provided in a future progress report. The Architectural Photographer was able to complete the systematic photographic documentation of the existing condition of the exposed architecture of the Shunet. This was done in multiple photographic formats: digital photographs, 35mm color slides, 35mm black and white negatives, with 4 x 5 black and white as well as color negatives used selectively on features judged to be most significant in consultation with the Associate Sub-project Director and the members of the IPA architectural team.

The Associate Sub-project Director, after consulting with the members of the IPA architectural team, undertook two small test excavations, in order to facilitate the architectural, structural, and conservation evaluation of the Shunet. Test Unit 1 (**Figure 2**) was excavated in the perimeter corridor between the main enclosure wall and the perimeter wall near the northern corner of the structure. The purpose was to expose an area of the main enclosure wall in which the original facing plaster and white wash was preserved. Remains exposed above the pre-excavation ground surface indicated that the selected area would provide adequate exposure of these features. In addition, the excavation in Test Unit 1 exposed the foundation course of both the main enclosure wall and the perimeter wall. The test excavation also revealed a large segment of the original mud plaster floor in the perimeter corridor. Test Unit 2 (**Figure 3**) was excavated just inside the southern gateway through the main enclosure wall. The original wall faces and facing plaster were found not to be preserved in this area, although the foundation course of the main enclosure wall was visible. Substantial segments of the original mud floor of the Shunet were also found to be

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preserved in this unit, around the edges of a large intrusive pit which contained the broken remains of large ceramic jars and ibises. In the Late Period the Shunet was the focus of the cult of the sacred ibis, and many ibis burials have been encountered in previous excavations in the area. The architectural team was able to make close observations of important features of the walls revealed by the test excavations. The test units were back-filled at the close of the season to protect the buried remains.

### **Team Activities**

#### Associate Sub-project Director

- Initial observations of the condition of the Shunet el-Zebib, last observed directly in 1995
- Working with surveyor for mapping of Shunet footprint
- Topographic mapping of the Shunet's environs
- Facilitation and coordination of activities of the sub-contracted IPA group and direction of the work of the architectural photographer
- Test excavations: Perimeter corridor & SW gateway
- Regular consultations with sub-contracted group from International Preservation Associates, Inc.

#### Surveyor

- Tying Shunet work into existing Abydos global coordinate system
- Mapping of Shunet footprint with Associate Sub-project Director.

#### Architectural Photographer

- Systematic documentation in multiple photographic formats of the existing condition of the exposed architecture of the Shunet el-Zebib

#### Architectural Team (International Preservation Associates, Inc.)

- Activities as outlined in the appended Preliminary Report

### **Conclusion**

The major goals of Field Season I of the EAP sponsored sub-project "Documentation and Conservation of Pharaoh Khasekhemwy's Funerary Monument at Abydos" were successfully achieved. Initial but substantial documentation was undertaken of the monument's existing condition, and its structural and conservation needs were systematically evaluated. The detailed results of this evaluation and recommendations for structural and conservation solutions will be submitted in a future progress report.

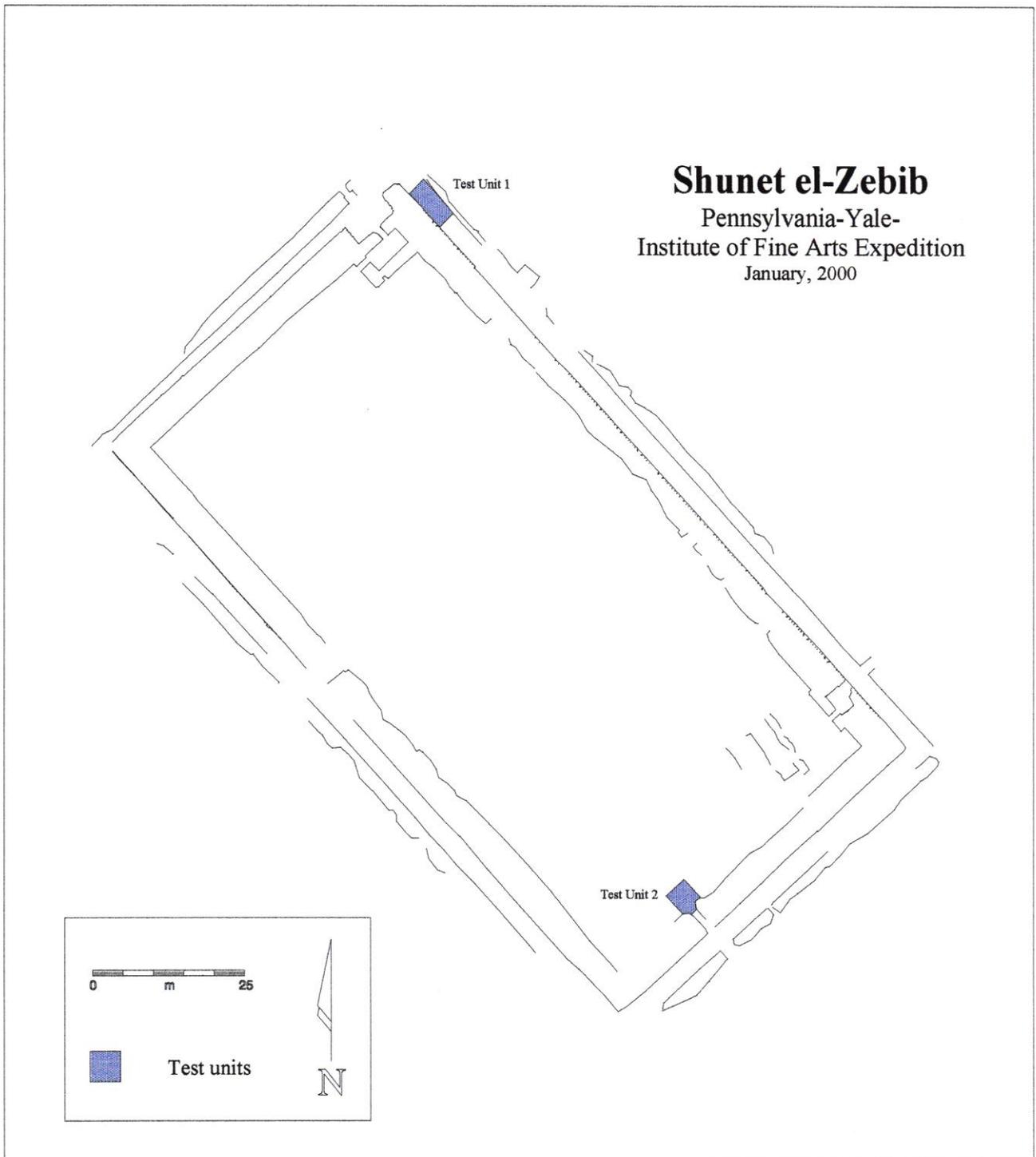


Figure 1: Schematic plan of the Shunet el-Zebib, showing the location of the two test units excavated during Field Season I.

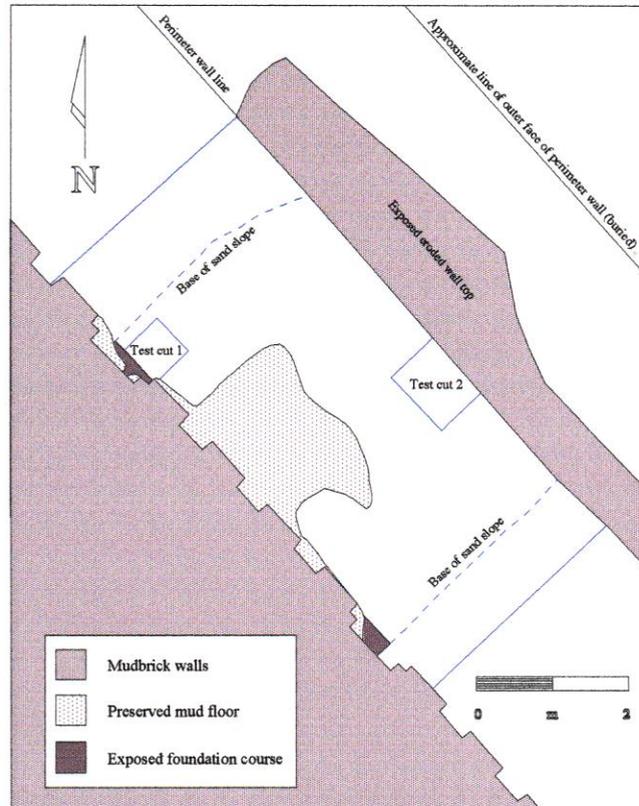


Figure 2: A portion of the northeastern perimeter corridor of the Shunet el-Zebib showing Test Unit 1 and the main features revealed therein. The locations of two small test cuts made to expose the foundation courses of the walls are indicated.

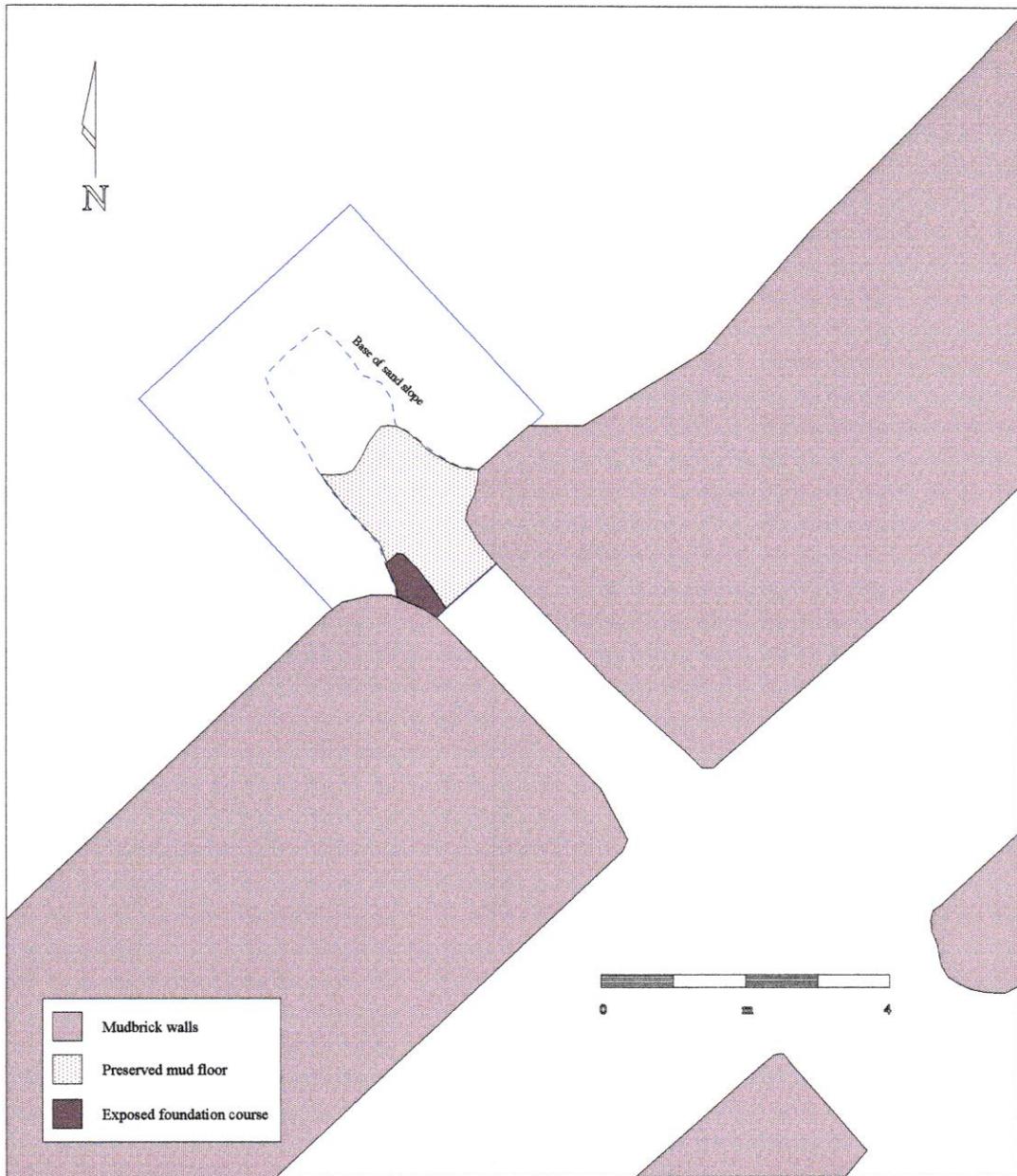


Figure 3: Schematic plan of Test Unit 2, located just inside the south gateway of the Shunet el-Zebib.

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**Appendix:** Preliminary Report on Site Visit 1 from International Preservation Associates, Inc., Sub-contractor

**PRELIMINARY REPORT  
FIRST SITE VISIT TO THE SHUNET EL-ZEBIB, ABYDOS, EGYPT  
JANUARY 2000**

International Preservation Associates, Inc. Team

William "Bill" C. S. Remsen, AIA, Preservation Architect, IPA Inc., Team Leader  
Anthony "Tony" Crosby, RA, Preservation Architect and Mud Brick Conservator,  
Anthony Crosby Architectural Conservation  
Conor Power, PE, Structural Engineer, Structural Technology, Inc.

This Report is a brief summary of the activities of the I.P.A. team on site in Egypt for its first site visit in January 2000. Final conclusions and specific details of findings and recommendations shall be included in later interim and Final Reports.

The Team would like to thank everyone who specifically made this visit possible. The Supreme Council of Antiquities representatives, both in Cairo and Inspector Mahmoud Mustafa at Abydos were friendly and helpful at all times. The Government of Egypt's Security forces who guarded us on site and at the dig house twenty-four hours a day were diligent, hardworking and friendly. EAP Director Chip Vincent and his wife Fran were particularly welcoming to the team, as was ARCE Director Mark Easton and the ARCE staff. Madame Amira Khattab proved invaluable, as usual, in solving countless scheduling and other detailed problems. The Abydos house staff and guards provided great care and support. Project Director David O'Connor provided strategic oversight and coordinated last minute activities before our departure. The Team would have had great difficulties without the invaluable, upbeat and constant assistance and support of Associate Project Director Matthew Adams both in Cairo and at Abydos. In addition the Associate Director must be complimented for his realistic understanding of the Shunet's problems and his sensitivity to its value.

Chronology of Visit After the Team leader was notified by Abydos Director Dr. David O'Connor to proceed to Egypt as scheduled on January 11, 2000, the Team assembled at Kennedy Airport and flew to Cairo on EgyptAir. Upon arrival, Associate Director Matthew Adams, who related that the SCA would be unexpectedly closed on 13 January and the Team's required SCA registration would be postponed until 15 January, met the Team. This reduced the field time of the team by two days. Conor Power generously extended his time in Egypt to accomplish his work. While in Cairo the Team and EAP staff received an important security briefing from Steve Lyons, Assistant Regional Security Officer, at the US Embassy.

After SCA registration on 15 January, the Team proceeded by train on 16 January to Balliana (a seven and a half-hour ride), which is near to the archaeological site of Abydos. Abydos Project staff met the Team at the station and conducted us to the dig house with the assistance of local Security forces. On 17 January, Associate Director Matthew Adams conducted a brief tour of the site and the Team's work on the Shunet El-Zebib began.

The Team's typical day consisted of departure to the Shunet on foot at 0700, breakfast at 0900 – 1000; return to the Shunet until lunch from 1400 - 1430; return to the Shunet until 1630, when failing light and cooling temperatures forced a return to the dig house. Work continued in the dig house's work room, where each Team member was assigned a large desk, until dinner at 1900. Team members continued working after dinner as necessary.

All Team members worked straight through until their departures from the site. Conor Power departed for Cairo on 24 January and William Remsen and Anthony Crosby departed the site on 26 January.

Team Activities Following the basic outlines of the various Scopes of Work, the Team members individually and collectively performed extensive documentation and recording to understand the current conditions, the construction technology and the techniques utilized, and the various building pathologies. The Team developed an understanding of the cause-and-effect relationships of decay at the Shunet in order to propose future conservation interventions.

Team members regularly met on site to coordinate work, to discuss conditions and possible solutions to perceived problems. These future conservation interventions will need to be carefully coordinated with the Project's proposed archaeological excavation of the entire Shunet structure.

Team members worked together remarkably well, with each person's skills, tools, and experiences complicating those of the others. Team members also worked with other Abydos project staff on site, performing photographic documentation, surveying elevations and clearing portions of the building to reveal essential information.

Consultation with Project Associate Director Interim and final briefings were held with Matthew Adams on site to keep him informed of pertinent points, especially concerning structural safety at the Shunet, and the serious implications of the current hazardous conditions for the schedule and scope of the proposed archaeological excavations. Later reports will, of course, contain details of all work performed by the Team, information collected, and conservation interventions.

Site Conditions: Meteorology January weather did not interfere with work, although strong winds and dust did reduce efficiency. Such conditions would also delay future research and especially the photogrammetric work proposed for 2001. Although there was some atmospheric mist and smoke at dawn on some days, each day ultimately was clear with bright sun. Cool morning temperatures warmed in the afternoons. These conditions would not interfere with future conservation work, research or photogrammetric documentation. A Team member operated a data logger recording relative humidity and temperature at the site during the Team's visit so that potential climatic causes of decay could be identified. A simple, automated weather station will be proposed for the site.

Topography The local topography, water courses, and the local water table were evaluated as necessary to determine their impact on the decay of the Shunet.

Building Condition Initial investigations into the types, rates and chronology of decay and weathering were conducted. Localized and general conditions were examined, compared and hypotheses developed to explain actual conditions. The uppermost parts of many of the walls were not fully accessible because an adequate ladder was not available. A thirteen-meter extension ladder has been ordered by the Project and will be used in the future. Binoculars were utilized to examine these inaccessible areas.

Proposals will be made to address the problem conditions as feasible. Many interventions will involve tradeoffs in access, long term durability, cost, or safety.

Because there is so little published material and so few early photographs of the Shunet, the specific rates of decay are difficult to estimate or quantify. It will very important for the archives of late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century excavations of the Shunet to be reviewed and historic photographs copied and compared to present conditions. Associate Director Matthew Adams will pursue this research in late 2000 and hopefully will share the results with the Team to refine their interpretation of condition and decay rates.

Causes of Decay A wide variety of intrinsic and extrinsic destructive factors were investigated. These included actions by animals, such as foxes and birds, humans in the Coptic period, a variety of insects, as well as various environmental factors were investigated. Other causes and factors will be developed further in the final reports, such as the wind erosion, changes in the microenvironment, etc.

Many of these destructive forces are quite active today and will continue to seriously damage the building. The structural and architectural integrity of the building are threatened by these forces and portions will catastrophically collapse unless major conservation interventions are performed. Although made of fragile mud brick, the buildings was constructed in such a massive manner that it has been remarkably resistant to decay or millennia. However, the forces of decay have been operating for so long that they have literally undermined the building's ability to resist much further.

Evaluations of the quality and design of the ancient structure in terms of their influence on the type decay have been investigated. While the nature of some of these destructive forces was clear, future research will expand on the many subtle interactions at the building to further clarify the relationships between causes and effects. For example, future research on microscopic ecology within the building materials is especially important in understanding the building's pathology.

Construction Sequence and Details of Construction Many construction details and much information concerning the bonding of brickwork, the design of the Shunet, the quality of instruction, the possible intent of the original builders, and the construction sequence and techniques were recorded. Many construction details have ramifications for

patterns and types of decay. Issues of secondary constructions and modifications were investigated. Coptic cells were reviewed specifically for their role in wall decay and instability. Nevertheless, many unexplained details have been noted and will be investigated further on future visits. Previously unrecorded details of construction have been noted.

Structural Stability and Solutions

Great effort was expended to examine all structural conditions at the Shunet, particularly in regards to safety and building stability. A wide variety of structural problems were encountered. While some problems can be rectified with moderate work, others only can be corrected with great effort. Portions of the structure are unstable and unsafe at the present time.

Many structural problems will require serious intervention before archaeological excavations can commence safely in adjacent areas. These interventions will need carefully prepared safety measures to protect the workers. This situation may have major impacts on proposed excavation schedules, excavation locations and project budgets. In addition, the hazards associated with many of these structural repairs will require professional skills and supervision that are probably practicably beyond the abilities of local workmen or archaeological staff. More limited conservation interventions can be conducted by local workmen after they have been trained, as was originally conceived.

Clearing the structure fully with integral archaeological excavations will expose the well-preserved lower portions of the walls. This is essential to fully understand the intended design and construction of the building. The decayed portions of the building are "the tip of the iceberg" in terms of recoverable information from an architectural and archaeological point of view. In addition, there is some evidence that significant structural damage has occurred in portions of the walls currently partially buried. Any conservation plan for the exposed portions of the walls cannot ignore potentially fatal structural problems hidden beneath the surface. Excavation is essential to simply prepare for much of the needed conservation intervention work.

Future Research

While certain portions of the research have been essentially completed, many, many additional tasks remain. Team members have made lists of future investigations and tests to be performed. These include much further documentation and survey of the building's construction, comparison with other nearby First and Second Dynasty structures, etc. When walls will be cleared much additional information will be exposed and appropriate responses developed. Material samples from the Shunet have been collected and tests specified. Permission will be requested from the SCA to remove samples from the site to Cairo for future scientific analysis in Egypt.

Conclusion

The Shunet El-Zebib is the oldest standing monumental building in the world. It has amazingly survived remarkably well preserved for nearly 5,000 year. Although beset by a wide variety of intrinsic and extrinsic destructive forces over its long history, the massive walls still tower 10 meters above the unexcavated surface. Our initial investigations have shown that it is currently structurally unstable in many areas and

portions are in active failure. It is unsafe to excavate or even approach many areas adjacent to the walls unless major structural conservation interventions are performed. Significant protective efforts during the subsequent conservation and excavation work will also be required.

The Team's approach has been to focus on determining the most significant threats during this field visit. A hierarchy of perceived threats and proposed interventions will be prioritized in later reports. However, a great deal of data was collected and will not be fully analysed until after this field trip. This analysis may reveal issues and questions that cannot be resolved without further fieldwork, testing, analyses and/or experimentation.

Low technology approaches and local materials will be utilized for conservation interventions as possible because of costs, local labor skills and the appropriateness of this approach from a philosophical and practical point of view.

However, the needed interventions are still massive, extensive, and complex and far exceed the type of conservation intervention envisioned from the available material originally supplied to IPA Inc. by the Project. In truth only this first field visit by the Team members, or equivalent personnel with similar backgrounds and experiences, could provide the necessary preliminary data to develop a relatively comprehensive conservation plan. Scheduling and managing the various complexities of the needed conservation work will be a major challenge for all participants. It will require great patience and flexibility to respond to unforeseen conditions and circumstances. The large portions of the building currently buried below encumbering sand dunes is unknown and conditions in those areas cannot be evaluated until the areas are cleared. There are other conservation issues which require action today in order to prevent their development into more critical problems in the future

Still, the Shunet is a profoundly valuable and uniquely important monument from an archaeology, engineering, and architecture history perspective. It is recommended that the building and the site be nominated for World Heritage Site status. The Shunet is worth all possible resources that can be directed to its conservation and protection. Hopefully the envisioned conservation efforts will permit this amazing monument to survive far into the future.