

**EGYPTIAN-POLISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CONSERVATION MISSION
OF THE**

**TEMPLE OF HATSHEPSUT
AT DEIR EL-BAHARI**



REPORT

SEASON 2011-2012

I. INTRODUCTION

The Egyptian-Polish Mission of the Hatshepsut Temple has worked at Deir el-Bahari almost 6 months, from October 29, 2011, to April 23, 2012; during the feast break (2011/2012), some reparation works have been carried on inside the Mission's dig-house.

The main objectives of the Mission's activity were as follows:

A. The **Royal Mortuary Cult Complex**, located to the south of the Upper Courtyard of the Temple is under current investigation of the Mission. The Mission has continued the conservation and restoration work as well as Egyptological documentation in the Complex, *Figs 1-4*. Our activity in the Royal Complex are carried on in order to prepare a further restoration project.

The planed **21 new original fragments from the West Wall of the Hatshepsut's Cult Chapel** went under conservation treatment. We plan to place them in their original places during next season.

B. We have continued **excavations** of the previous season program in the First (Lower) Terrace, see below, S.1/12, *Figs. 25-27*. The result of **geo-radar investigation** in the terrace, conducted in the previous season, was very helpful during this season excavations. **Inventory of objects**, found during excavation activities in different parts of the temple, has been continued; it was one of the significant tasks of the Mission's activity during this season.

C. We have continued the **conservation and consolidation work in the Vestibule of the Hathor Shrine**, in the Middle Terrace. Limestone slabs of the Vestibule's roof are finally consolidated, see below, *Figs. 5-7*.

D. We have continued **restoration of the second of the sandstone sphinxes** of Hatshepsut and study restoration of a sphinx' basis, see below, *Figs. 8-10*.

E. **Epigraphic, iconographic and 3D-documentation** have been carried on in the Chapel of Hatshepsut and in the Main Sanctuary of Amun-Re, including the Ptolemaic constructions, as well as documentation in other parts of the temples of Hatshepsut and Tuthmosis III. Building dipinti, unearthed in several places of the precincts, were also a special task of the documentation.

F. We have finished **restoration of Osiride XVI** – a monumental figure of Hatshepsut in the façade of the Upper (Coronation) Portico, see below, *Figs. 11 & 12*. Digital documentation of the previously restored Osirides has been completed, *Figs. 13-20*.

G. Some kind of **conservation work** was restricted to **selected temple blocks** and sandstone sphinx fragments (see **D**) stored in magazines and exposed in *lapidaria* of the Middle and Lower Terraces of the Temple. Conservation materials are those indicated in former rapports submitted to the Supreme Council of Antiquities and in publications dealing with the Mission's activity at Deir el-Bahri.

H. Beside the work in the temples at Deir el-Bahari, we have worked in **three magazines** (see below):

- 1) Storage room of the temple of Tuthmosis III at Deir el-Bahari;
- 2) Magazine-tomb MMA 828, located behind the Mission's dig-house ("*Metropolitan House*"), the so-called „tomb of the mummies”, *Fig. 21*;
- 3) Storage room in Tomb VIII (= S.7A/82) inside the Chapel of Hatshepsut, *Fig. 22*.

I. Documentation and preliminary studies have been carried on on the fragments rediscovered inside three wooden chests, found in rubbish (during season 2010/2011) close to the Middle Terrace; on one of the chests, there was date “1994” - written in Arabic. It has appeared that among hundred of fragments, there are pieces of the so-called Kiosk for the Bark of Amun-Re, *Fig. 29*, the fragments had been discovered by H. Winlock¹.

J There were temple's blocks reused in the so-called „**Tomb II**”, located in the mountain, to the west of the Temple of Tuthmosis III at Deir el-Bahari, *Fig. 23*; the tomb was robbed in Antiquity. We have remove the blocks from the tomb; they will be used in reconstruction works of the temple. The collected archaeological material, *Fig. 24*, indicates that the tomb was constructed in the 25th/26th Dynasty.

K. **Cleaning works** in the Lower Terrace and in the area between the temples of Hatshepsut and Mentuhotep II as well as in the temple of Tuthmosis III at Deir el-Bahari have been executed.

L. The Mission has **constructed banks** (*mastabas*) in aim to collect sets of block fragments representing temple decoration. The idea is to create a “Hatshepsut Temple Block-yard Open-air Museum”, *Fig. 31*.

¹ Winlock, *Notebook VII*.

II. CONSERVATION AND RECONSTRUCTION WORK

II.A. ROYAL MORTUARY CULT COMPLEX

In previous seasons, several parts of this structure went under conservation and reconstruction treatment. The documentation of relief decoration in different parts of the Complex have been carried on in order to prepare project of restoration of the Complex. The 3D photographic documentation and drawings are essential for the project. The documentation has covered not only the decoration existing *in situ*, but also hundreds of loose fragments attributed to this part of the Temple. Of particular interest are the fragments filling gaps in the inscriptions decorating the walls and ceiling of the Chapel of Hatshepsut, as well as the walls of the Chapel of Tuthmosis I, the Vestibule and the Courtyard of the Complex.

The conservation work in the Complex have been restricted to parts in need of urgent treatment and was synchronized with the progress of the documentation work.

II.A.1. CHAPEL OF HATSHEPSUT

The planed **21 new original fragments from the West Wall of the Hatshepsut's Cult Chapel** went under conservation treatment. We plan to locate them in their original places during next season.

The western part of the ceiling was cleaned and went under conservation treatment, *Fig. 1*. In the result of this work New Kingdom reparations and some parts of hieroglyphic texts have appeared, *Fig. 2*. At the same time, we intended to preserve and conserve parts of Coptic original decoration which still exists on some places of the ceiling.

II.A.2. WALLS of the COURTYARD and the VESTIBULE

The conservation and stabilisation work in **Niches A and B**, located in the **Eastern Wall of the Vestibule**, have be conducted. Under the pavement of Niche B, the foundations of its western, northern and eastern walls have been reinforced with red brick walls, *Fig. 3*, positioned on a solid structure. The space under the pavement was refilled with *gebel*-material and sand; a missing part of the pavement was preliminary reconstructed, *Fig. 4*.

II.B. HATHOR SHRINE IN THE MIDDLE TERRACE

II.B.1. ROOF OF THE VESTIBULE

We have conducted the conservation and preservation work outside the Vestibule of the Hathor Shrine. The top of the building has been consolidated with special steel construction. After a detailed examination of the ceiling slabs and architraves, it was decided to continue further

suspension of the slabs due to their numerous transverse cracks and extensive destruction of the surface. Both architraves - the middle and the south ones, as well as 9 ceiling slabs (8 above the Vestibule and 1 above Niche A), were selected for the reinforcement.

On account of cracks in the middle architrave, this block had been already reinforced in the past. However, after examination, it was found out that steel beams, which supported the block, contributed to the destruction of column capitals on which the architrave rested. For that reason it has been decided to suspend also this architrave in the way proposed during conservation works carried out in earlier seasons. Such a solution allows not only to secure the weakened block but also to remove the old unsuitable reinforcing construction. As a result, foreign elements, i.e. wooden beams, have been removed from the inside of the Vestibule.

Likewise the destruction of the south architrave (large crevice in its lower part) and its weak support on the strongly devastated south wall of the Vestibule resulted in making a decision of its suspension. In order to suspend the architrave to steel beams, it was also necessary to reinforce the south wall of the Vestibule and to build appropriate foundations, *Figs. 5 & 6*.

Ceiling slabs over the Vestibule are also suspended. Slabs A, E, F, G, I and J have required the usage of only a single reinforcing set, whereas slabs K and L have require a double one. All the limestone slabs of the Vestibule's roof were consolidated as well as the roof slabs of Niche A and Niche B (the last one were consolidated in previous seasons). Detailed solutions of the project are shown in the drawing, *Fig. 5*.

The final activity, dealing with the reinforcement of the ceiling of the Vestibule of the Hathor Shrine, concerns securing it by covering the whole building with a roof that will provide proper conditions for this monument. In future, the steel reinforcement of the Vestibule's slabs, *Fig. 6*, will be used as part for a construction covering the roof.

II.B.2. CONSERVATION OF WALLS

The southern and the lower part of the western walls inside the Vestibule, as well as the top of the façade of the Vestibule went under the conservation treatment. The outer face of the south wall was exposed to the sun, not covered, during almost a century. Paintings of southern wall were in bed condition. The painted relief went under conservation treatment; the gapes and spaces between blocks have been refilled in their preliminary, ground level, *Fig. 7*; final conservation touch is planned for next season. The top of the Shrine's façade was deeply eroded, therefore, the detailed conservation treatment of its blocks took us much more time than we expected; the conservation work will be continued next season.

II.C. CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION OF THE SPHINXES OF HATSHEPSUT

During season 2011-2012, the preliminary and study restoration of two of the sandstone sphinxes of Hatshepsut has been conducted.

Preliminary reconstruction of the sphinx wearing a *khat* head dress has been executed, **Fig. 8**. A 'model' sphinx-basis restoration has been made in digital form, **Fig. 9**, as well as that of the sphinx, **Fig. 10**.

The sphinxes were discovered in pieces by the Metropolitan Museum of Art Expedition in the 20s of the last century.² With the permission of the SCA, the fragments of the sphinxes were moved to the Temple of Hatshepsut at Deir el-Bahari in season 2008-2009. Study samples of sphinx' polichromy have been taken for further laboratory examination.

Preliminary study on the material, c. 4.500 fragments, allows restoration of three or more sphinxes. In future, the sculptures should come back in their original places, i.e., they will flanked processional path of the Lower Terrace.

The path formed then part of the main processional way leading from the Valley Temple, located on East Asasif, to the Temple at Deir el-Bahari. At the beginning of the 19th century,³ sphinx basses were still visible in Asasif, placed alongside this way leading to the temple of Hatshepsut, described as “*debris d'une avenue de Sphinx*”.

II.D. OSIRIDES - FIGURES OF HATSHEPSUT IN THE FORM OF OSIRIS

We have continued the restoration of the monumental figures of Hatshepsut in the façade of the Upper (Coronation) Portico. One more Osiride statue, no XVI, have been restored during this season, **Figs. 11 & 12**.

Digital documentation of the previously restored Osiride figures has been completed, **Figs. 13-20**.

Some of the previously restored figures went under cleaning treatment. Hands of thousand of tourists, who had left their visible dirty marks on the lower parts of the sculptures in the Upper Portico, have been only partly removed by our conservators. Cleaning of this devastation has costed the Mission a lot of time during this season.

² Cf. H. E. Winlock, *The Egyptian Expedition 1927-1928*, in: *BMMA* 23 (December 1928), 17-18; id., *The Egyptian Expedition 1930-1931*, in: *BMMA* 27 (March 1932), 10-14.

³ *DE*, vol. II, 1821.

III. OBJECTS IN MAGAZINES

III.A. STOREROOM OF THE TEMPLE OF TUTHMOSIS III AT DEIR EL-BAHARI

Following tasks have been conducted in the first part of season 2011-2012 in the Tuthmosis III Temple and Storeroom at Deir el-Bahari:

- Final preparations for the first volume of publication of the temple: architectural drawings of rooms D, G and H
- Preparing digital drawings of scenes from the Hypostyle Hall; adding details and making corrections (for the second volume of publication)
- Studies on the arrangement of scenes on the wall E of the Hypostyle Hall
- Further studies on the arrangement of decoration in the Bark Room and the Room of the Offering Table
- Checking the arrangement of scenes in room I
- Attempt on theoretical reconstruction of decoration in rooms J and K
- Photographing wall fragments for publication
- Constructing successive mud benches in lapidary for storing architectonic fragments (architraves, columns etc.)
- Putting in order decorated fragments of *kheker* friezes, architraves and columns left on the temple platform
- Inventory of architectural elements in the lapidary
- Cleaning and stabilizing the wall-painting on fragments of reliefs (especially on fragments which could be exposed in the site museum-to-be)
- Adding further reassembled blocks to the wall erected in the storeroom; blocks form the wall E of the sanctuary and are prepared for the future exposition in the site museum
- Constructing 3 new sets of shelves in the storeroom for assembled fragments of scenes
- Replacing old wiring system with new installation in the second part of the storeroom

III.B. MAGAZINE MMA 828, IN THE „TOMB OF THE MUMMIES”

Magazine-tomb MMA 828 is located behind the Mission's dig-house, it is the so-called „Tomb of the mummies”, *Fig. 21*. In previous season, during the examination of the stored material a fragment of architrave bearing the name of Khenemet-ankh was discovered; this is the name of the temple of Tuthmosis I – known only from written sources.⁴ During this season, the documentation work have been continued. The last registered fragment-block bears number 6501.

Separate, detailed report of the work in the magazine-tomb MMA 828 was submitted to the local SCA authorities at El-Gurna. The report includes full list of the studied fragment-blocks, their numbers and their photographs.

III.C. STORE-ROOM IN TOMB VIII

Undecorated shaft tomb of the Third Intermediate Period – Tomb VIII (= S.7A/82), located inside the Chapel of Hatshepsut, is prepared as store-room for the objects and fragments of decorated blocks discovered in the temple. A steel construction for wooden boxes has been installed

⁴ W. Helck, *Materialien zur Wirtschaftsgeschichte des Neues Reiches. Teil I*, Wiesbaden 1961, pp. 89-91.

inside its burial chamber, *Fig. 22*. On the shaft-mouth, a rectangular construction, made of steel wires in mortar, was executed in order to frame then a glass-door of the shaft. In future, a lighting system will show tourists the inside of the tomb.

III.D. STORE-ROOM IN TOMB II

Undecorated tomb of the late Third Intermediate Period – Tomb II, located in the mountain, to the west of the Temple of Tuthmosis III, was robbed in antiquity. The tomb, which will store pottery material found in the temple of Hatshepsut, was protected with a steel gate, *Fig. 23*.

The remains of archaeological material, found inside one of the tomb's upper chambers (Room A), point to the late 25th – the early 26th Dynasties as to the time of its execution. Among the discovered objects, a figurine of one of the Horus' sons, made of gilded wood, was found, *Fig. 24*.

IV. EXCAVATIONS

IV.A. LOWER TERRACE

In order to search remains of sphinx' bases, we have conducted excavations in the First (Lower) Terrace, to the north of the path leading from the main gate to the Lower Ramp, S.1/12. We have continued **excavation** of the previous season (S.1/11), in the area to the east of the northern T-shaped pond (i.e. S.1/12) and our previous trenches, *Fig. 25 & 27*. This area should be investigated before the placement of restored sandstone sphinxes of Hatshepsut (see above). The result of **geo-radar investigation** in the Terrace, *Fig. 26*, conducted in the previous season, was very helpful during the the excavations. The excavation in this area, *Fig. 27*, will be continued in next season.

IV.B. MIDDLE TERRACE

Excavation in the area located to the south of the Hathor Shrine-Vestibule (L.1A/10) have been conducted in order to have access to the outer face of the south wall of the Vestibule and to the roof of Niche A. In the result, both the constructions have been consolidated and went under conservation treatment. Besides, a large amount of sherds was found; they were placed in a secondary context. However, there are interesting forms of vessels dated to the 25th - 26th Dynasties.

IV.C. UPPER COURTYARD

Under the granite threshold of the main portal of the Upper (Festival) Courtyard, we have continued drilling a hole, 3 cm in diameter, in order to investigate foundation and a rock structure under the portal, S.4/11. A micro camera-endoscope (VOLTCRAFT BS 1000T), conducted inside

the hole, has registered pictures of the structure. According to preliminary analysis, it seems that, c. 1.5 metres deep, there is an empty space under the portal foundation. The investigation should be continued next season; two new holes are required, at least.

V. EPIGRAPHIC AND ICONOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION AND STUDIES

V.A. COMPLEX OF THE ROYAL MORTUARY CULT

Epigraphic work in the Royal Mortuary Cult Complex comprised verification of drawings of the decoration of the vaulted ceiling (southern part) of the Chapel of Hatshepsut. Documentation of the decorated fragments of the missing part of the ceiling has been made with the aim of preparation of the project of its reconstruction in the future. A project of the reconstruction of the western wall of the Chapel (with texts and depictions of Book of the Dead Chapter 148) has been prepared as well, including digital documentation of the blocks preserved *in situ* together with the dispersed fragments and those found during excavations conducted recently in this part of the temple. In addition mortuary texts of the uppermost register of the southern and northern wall were copied.

It is worth to notice that the new decorated fragments were attributed to the walls of the Chapels of Hatshepsut and Tuthmosis I, and to the two niches (A and B) in the Vestibule of the Chapel of Hatshepsut.

V.B. PUNT PORTICO

Studies of the hieratic graffiti in the temple were continued during the present season. As a result two new texts, dated to the 21th Dynasty, were found in the Punt Portico and on the northern wall of lower courtyard – the latter graffito is dated to the 6th year of Ramesses II. Tourist *dipinti*, dated to the 18th Dynasty, has been located in the Punt Portico and a number of building *dipinti* in the Complex of the Royal Cult (in Niche A, in the Chapel of Hatshepsut on its vaulted ceiling *in situ* and on its fragments). All the texts were documented in the form of facsimile and photographed. The most interesting graffiti are those dated to the 21st Dynasty. Besides those documented in the previous seasons new texts were found at the N-W entrance to the lower courtyard (previously noticed by H.E. Winlock in his archives kept in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York), near its N-E gate, and on the lower ramp (its northern side). All these graffiti has been documented together with that found in 2009 above the Chapel of Anubis. Newly found graffiti enable us to shed new light on the history of Deir el-Bahari area in the dark period of the 21st Dynasty.

V.C. MEASUREMENTS INSIDE THE HATHOR SHRINE

Checking exact measurements of scenes inside the Shrine has been conducted in order to provide proper reduction scales for the plates of vol. 1 of the Shrine's publication by N. Beaux-Grimal (to be printed in 2012). This volume deals with the Vestibule and Sanctuary of the Hathor Shrine in the Hatshepsut's temple.

V.D. BUILDING DIPINTI

The Documentation work was mainly focused on recognition and recording of building dipinti dated to 18th dynasty and coming from the construction times of the temple itself and from the reign of Hatshepsut.

Until last season documentation work included 6 areas in the Hatshepsut's Temple, it is as follows:

1. The Outer Face of the Southern Wall of the Hatshepsut Chapel;
2. The Outer Face of the Southern Wall of the Hatshepsut Chapel Vestibule;
3. Locus L.1/08, the so-called “*Hathor's well*” and its four walls;
4. The Outer Face of the Southern Retaining Wall of the Middle Courtyard – the so-called “Negative of the ramp of the Hathor Shrine”;
5. The Northern Retaining Wall of the Middle Courtyard – its Southern face;
6. South-East corner of the Middle Courtyard on the level of the Lower Courtyard at the Gate of the Ramp of the Hathor Shrine;

Beside those, the documentation work also comprised of separate blocks, mainly undecorated with building dipinti preserved on their faces. The blocks come from several different areas in the Temple.

So far, in the above mentioned areas, 392 building dipinti were recognised and recorded. The building dipinti were documented in the examined areas, in number, as follows:

Area 1: 29; **Area 2:** 2; **Area 3:** 75; in **Area 4:** N Wall – 86, S Wall - 4, S Wall [2] - 2, E Wall - 36, W Wall - 11; **Area 5:** 88; **Area 6:** 6.

In the current season the building dipinti documentation project in the area of the Hatshepsut's Temple was extended to one more new area (Area 7) - the Reliving Chamber above the Bark Hall, located above the Main Sanctuary of Amun (= BH-RC-SWall/WWall) and included one previous (Area 5) - the Northern Retaining Wall of the Middle Courtyard, where the documentation process was continued on its Northern face (= MT-RW-N-FN), **Fig.28**. In the aforementioned loculi, the building dipinti were recognised and recorded in numbers 8 and 129, respectively.

V.E. KIOSK FOR THE BARK OF AMUN-RE

Decorated fragments found in three wooden chests, rediscovered (in 2011) in a rubbish resulting from works on new lighting system in Deir el-Bahari, have appeared to be parts of a Hatshepsut's Kiosk – the Station for the Bark of Amun-Re, located then in the middle of the causeway leading from the Lower Temple to the Temple at Deir el-Bahari. The material was previously noticed by H.E. Winlock in his archives kept in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Preliminary study and conservation treatment have been carried on during this season, *Fig.29*.

V.F. STUDIES ON ROYAL ICONOGRAPHY

Studies on royal dress of Hatshepsut and Tuthmosis III, depicted on the wall of the temple, have been carried on during this season. The representations were documented in the form of drawings and photographs.

V.F. STUDIES ON SCULPTURES

V.F.1. FIGURE OF OSIRIS

Fragment of a small figure Osiris, made of sandstone (inv. no ST.98), was rediscovered in lapidarium of the Lower Terrace, located between the temples of Mentuhotep II and Hatshepsut. But a middle part of the sculpture, measured: H. $x + 34.5 + x$ cm, W. 35.5 cm, T. 23.5 cm, was preserved, *Fig. 30*. The object, most probably, was executed in the Third Intermediate Period. Its function in funerary customs of the TIP necropolis is a subject of further studies.

V.F.2. FIGURES OF SESOSTRIS III

Two statues of Sesostris III, standing on the temple of Mentuhotep II at Deir el-Bahari, were subject of photo documentation and iconographic studies. The sculptures are analogies to those of Hatshepsut which stood then in her temple. Small granite fragments of Hatshepsut's sculptures represent similar iconographic features and devotional attitude as these of Sesostris III.

VI. CONSTRUCTION OF BANKS (*mastabas*)

In previous seasons, in the lapidarium of the Lower and Middle Terraces, the Mission built banks (*mastabas*) in aim to collect sets of block fragments representing temple decoration. The idea is to create a “Hatshepsut Temple Block-yard Open-air Museum”. New *mastabas* has been built in the northern part of the Middle Courtyard, **Fig. 31**. The work will be continued during next season.

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Director of the Mission

Dr. Mirosław Barwik
Deputy Director of the Mission

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Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

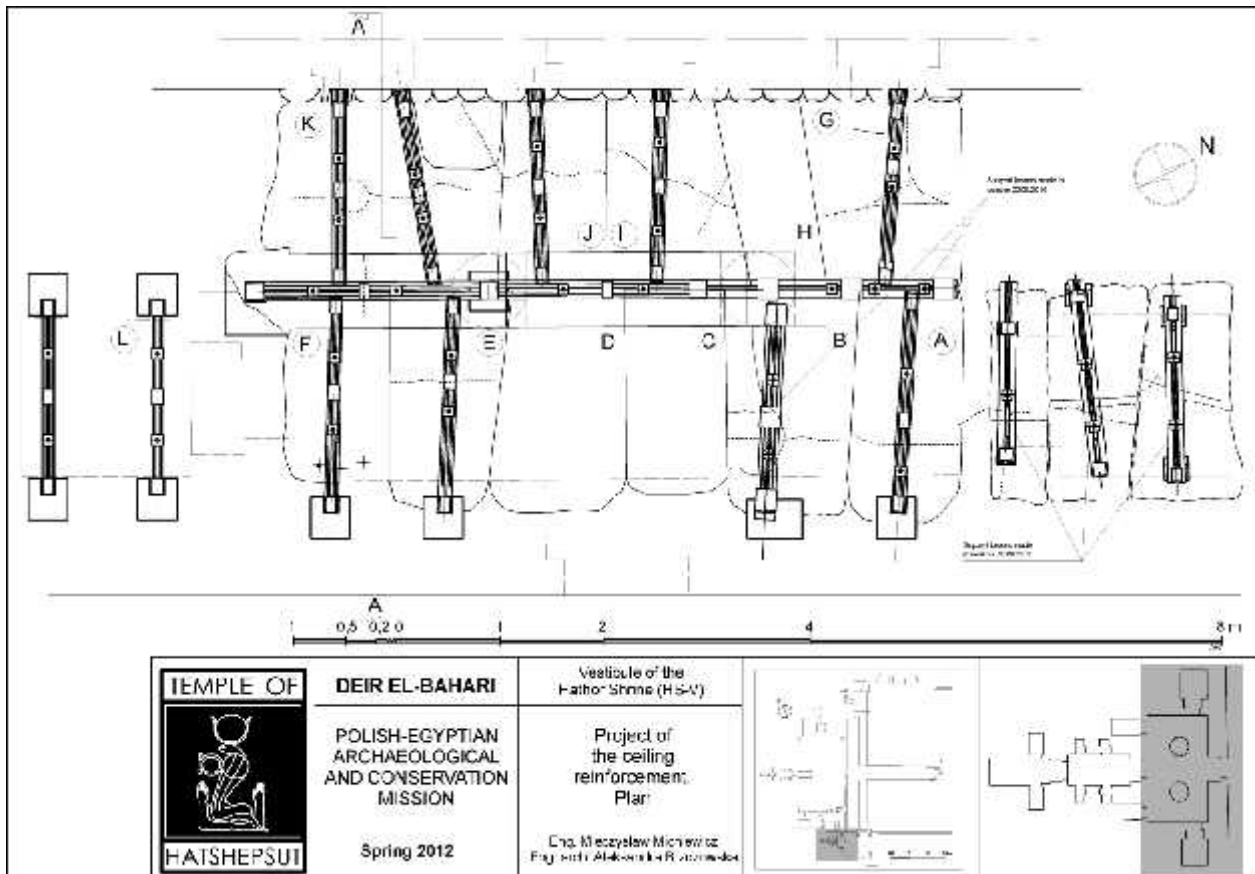


Fig. 6



Fig. 7

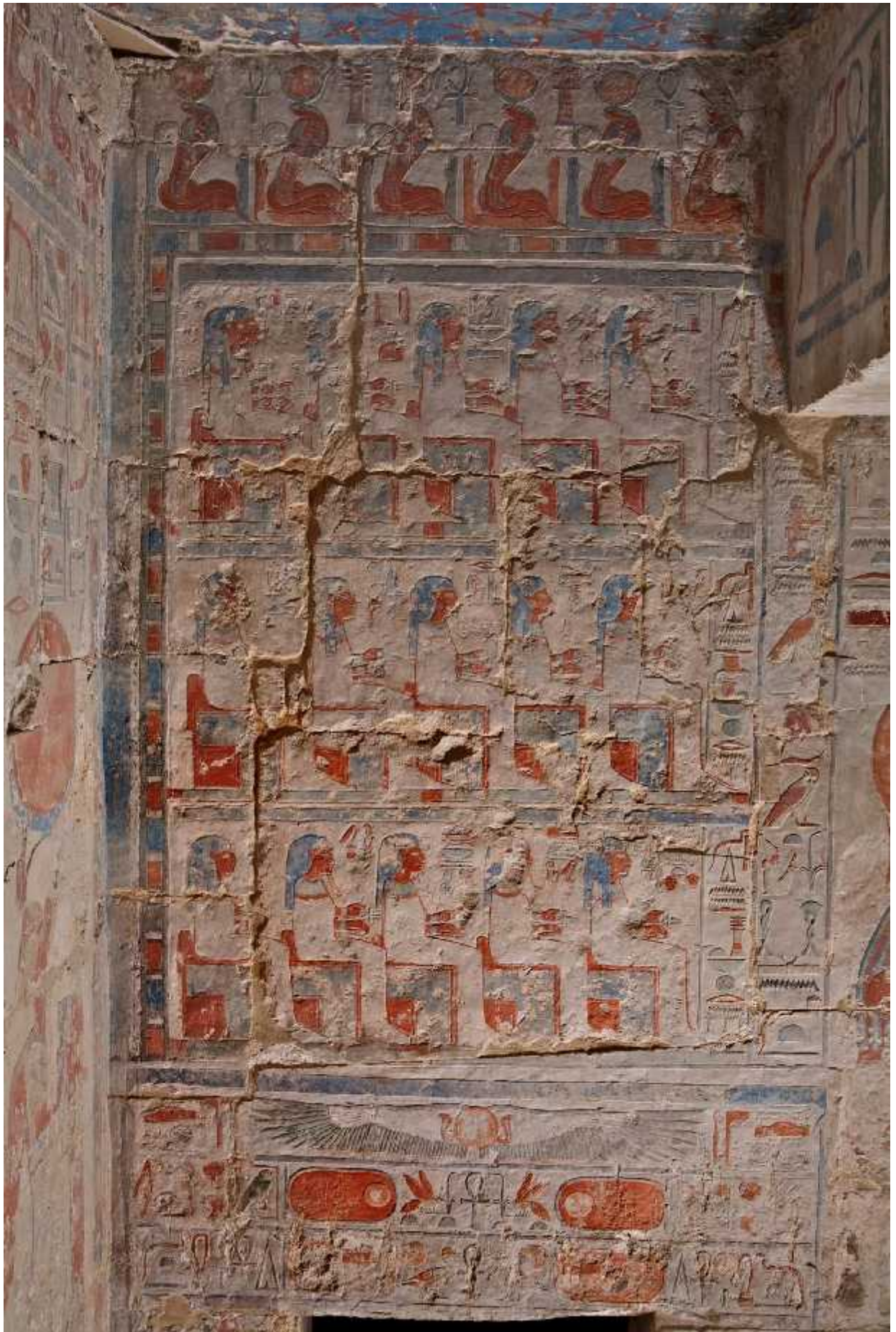
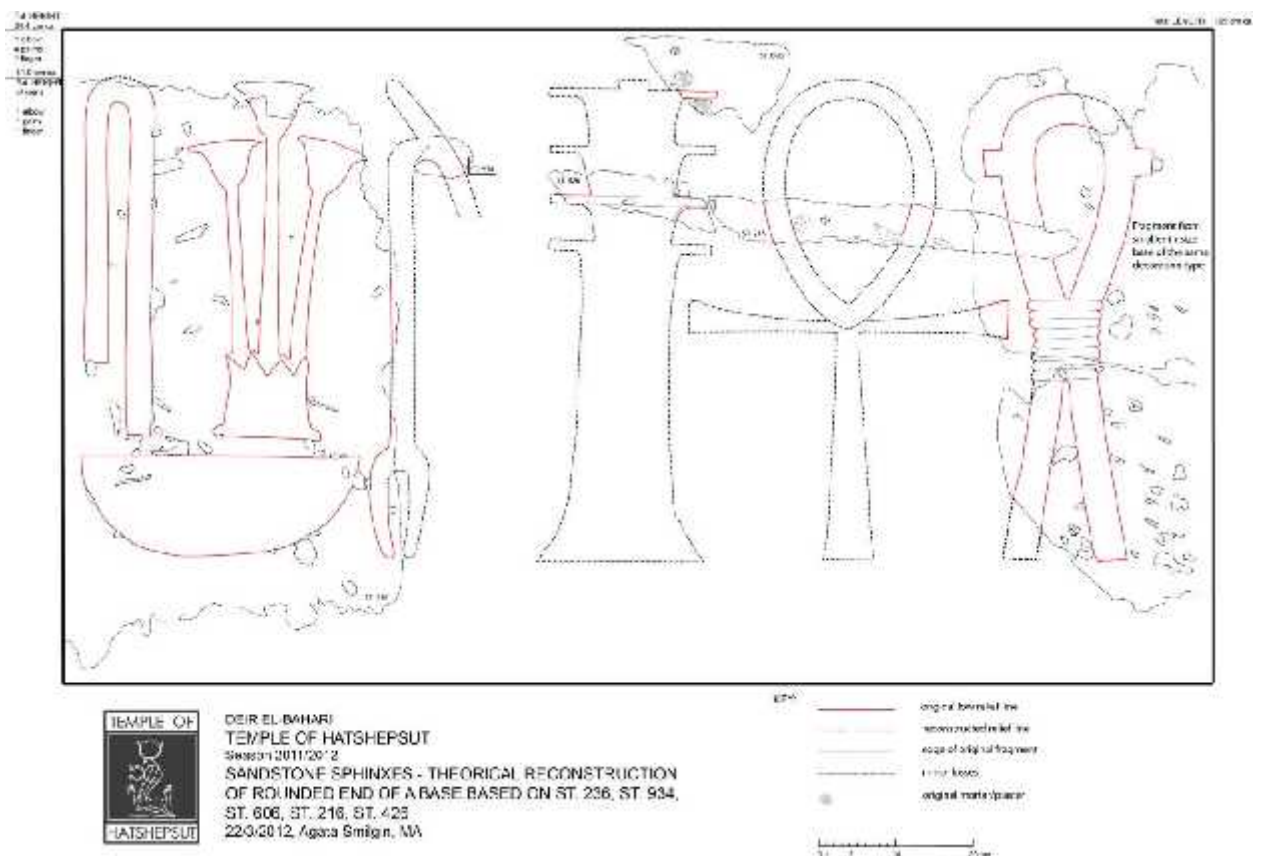


Fig. 8



Fig. 9



**TEMPLE OF
HATSHEPSUT**

EGYPTIAN-POLISH
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
MISSION





SEASON 2011-2012

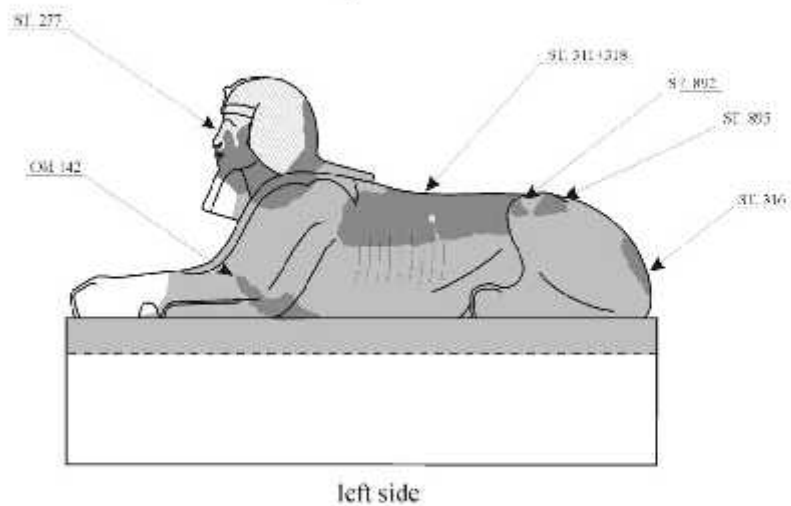
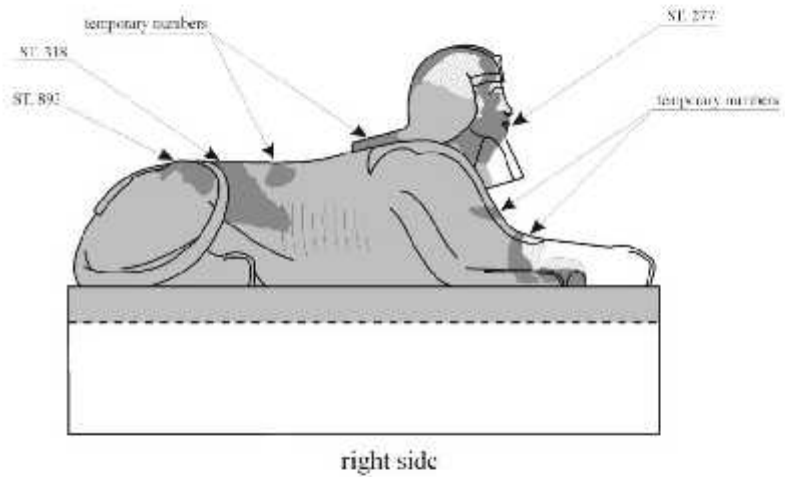
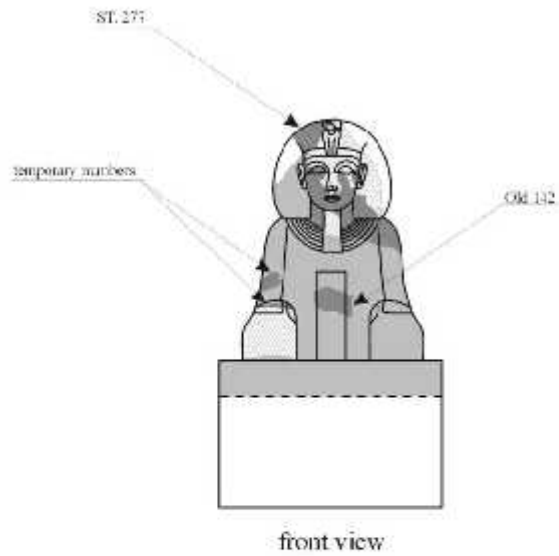
**HATSHEPSUT'S
SPHINX WEARING
THE KHAT**

Drawing:
A. Shukanau
A. Stupko
A. Smilgin

10.III.2012

LEGEND:

-  - original fragments
-  - reconstructed parts
-  - damaged surface of the original fragments
-  - missing fragments



0 50 100 cm

Fig. 11

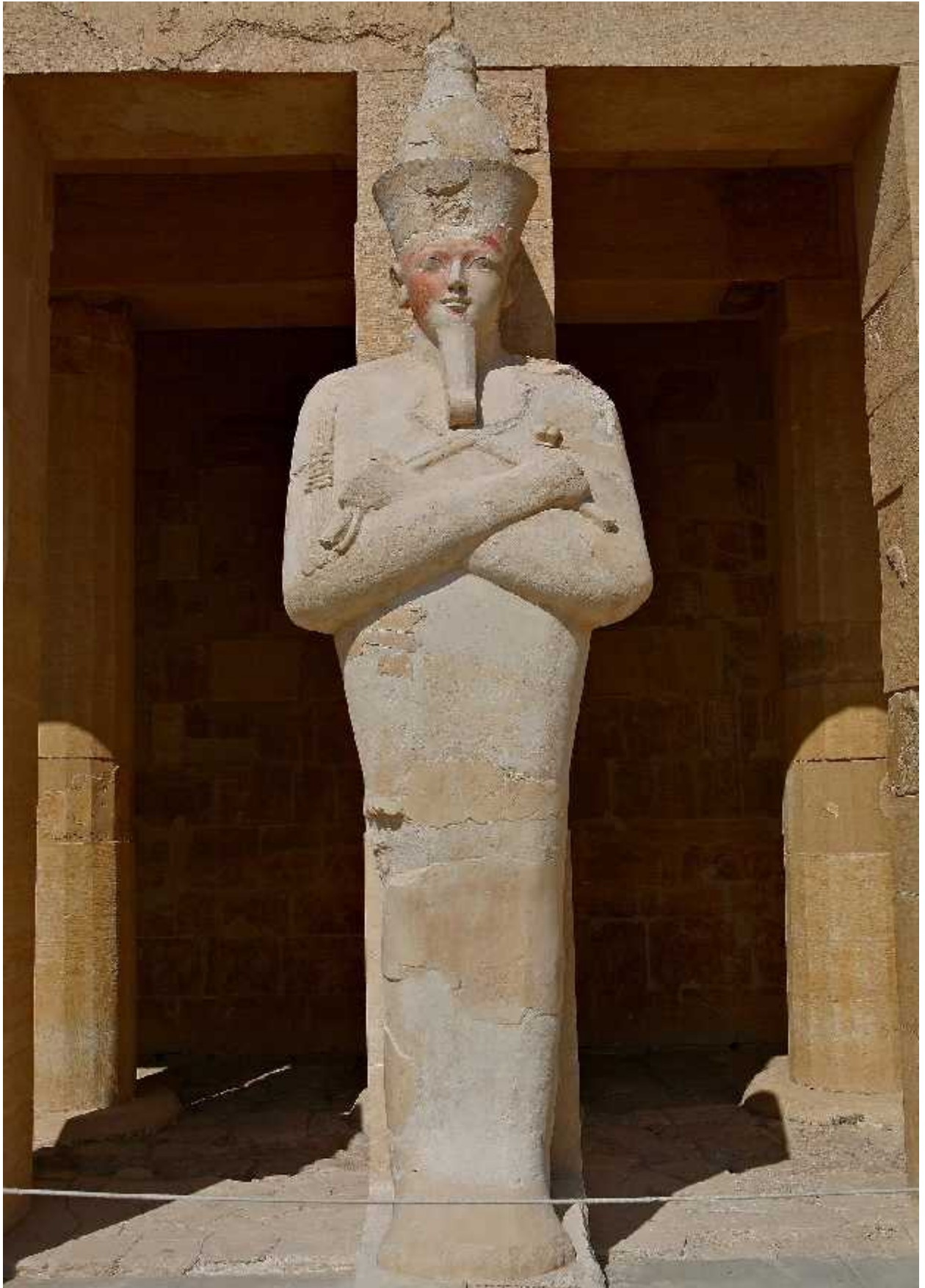


Fig. 12

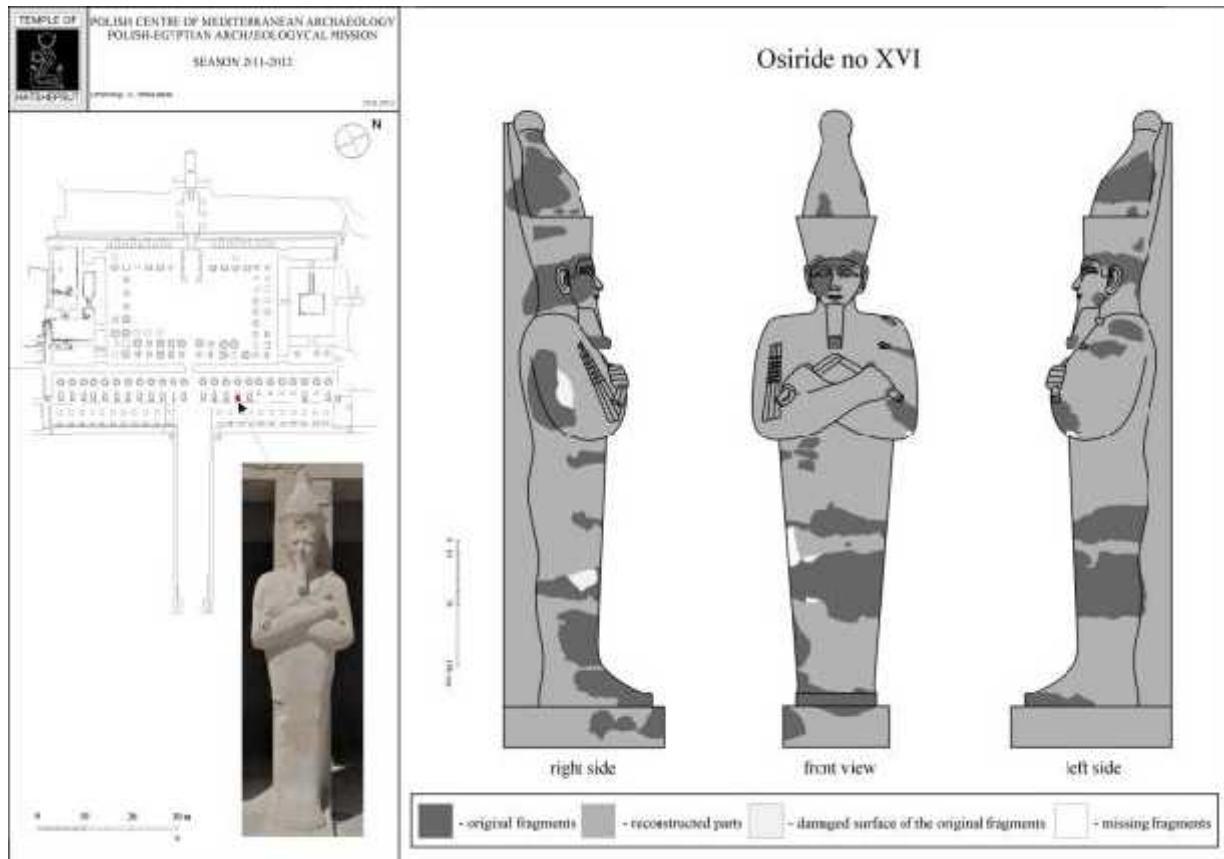


Fig. 13

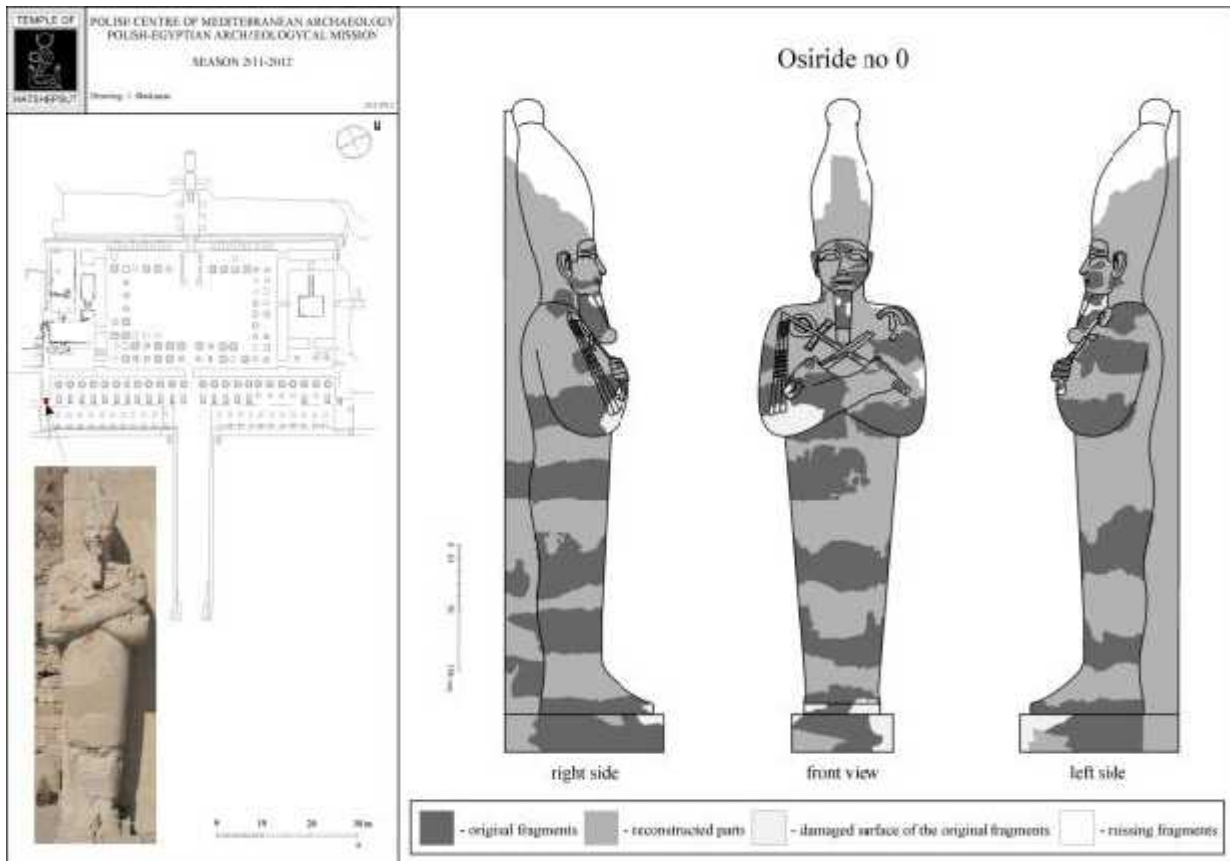


Fig. 14

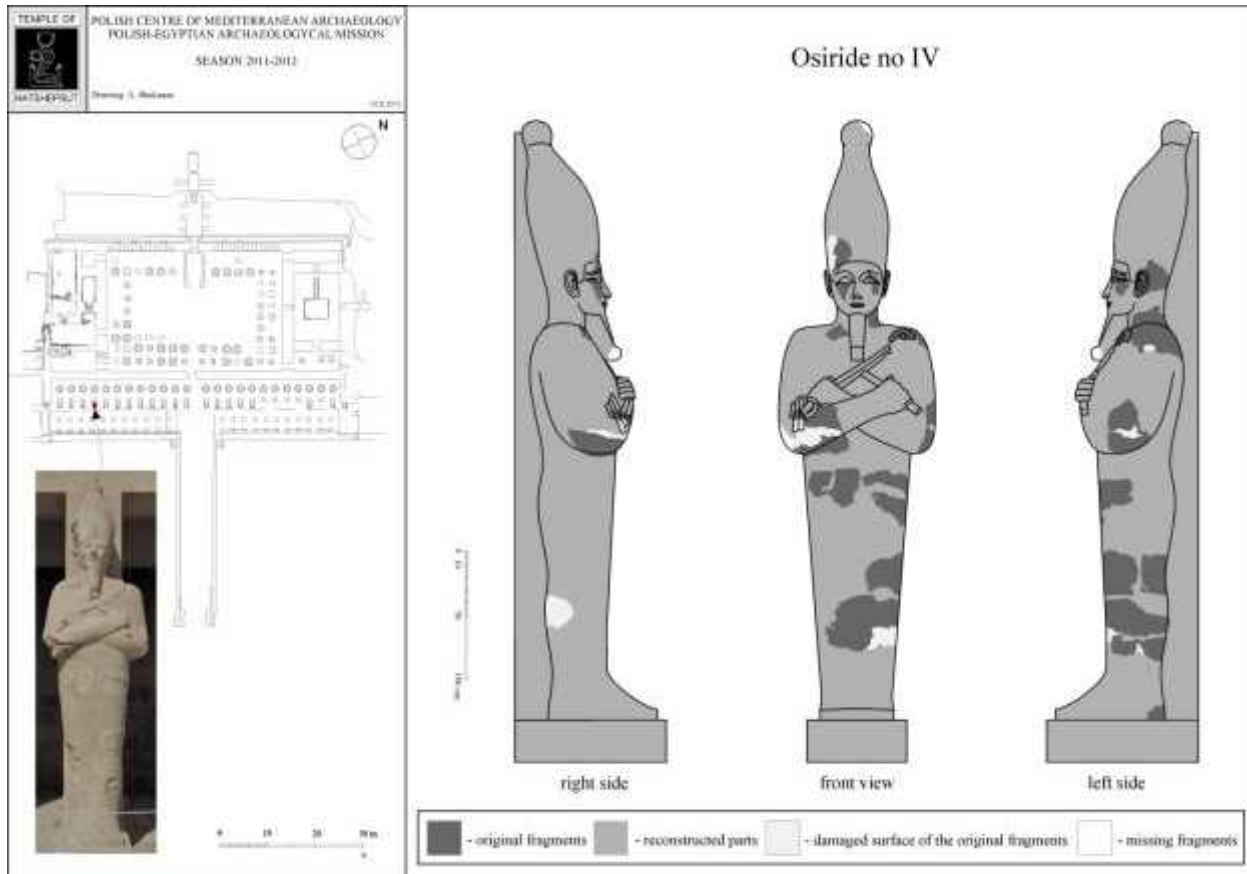


Fig. 15

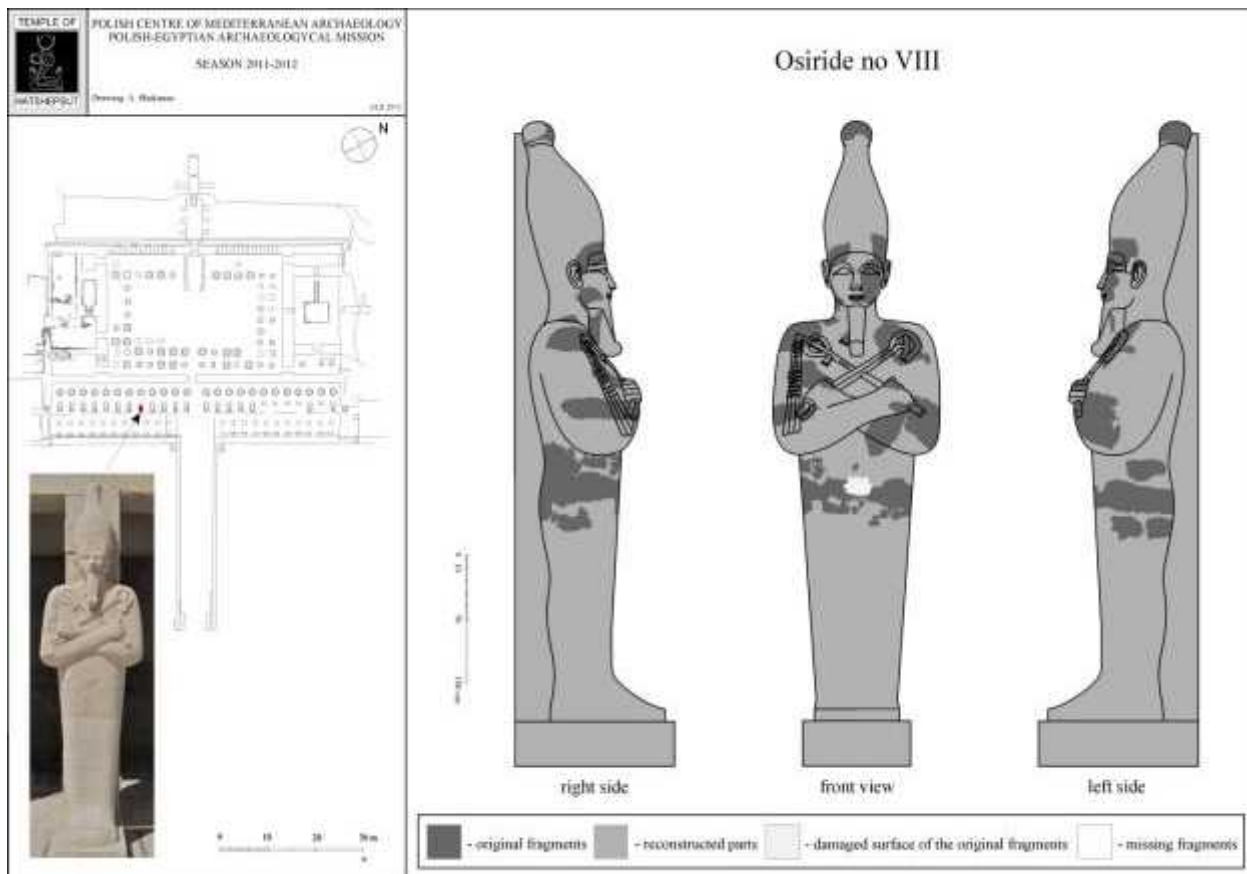


Fig. 16

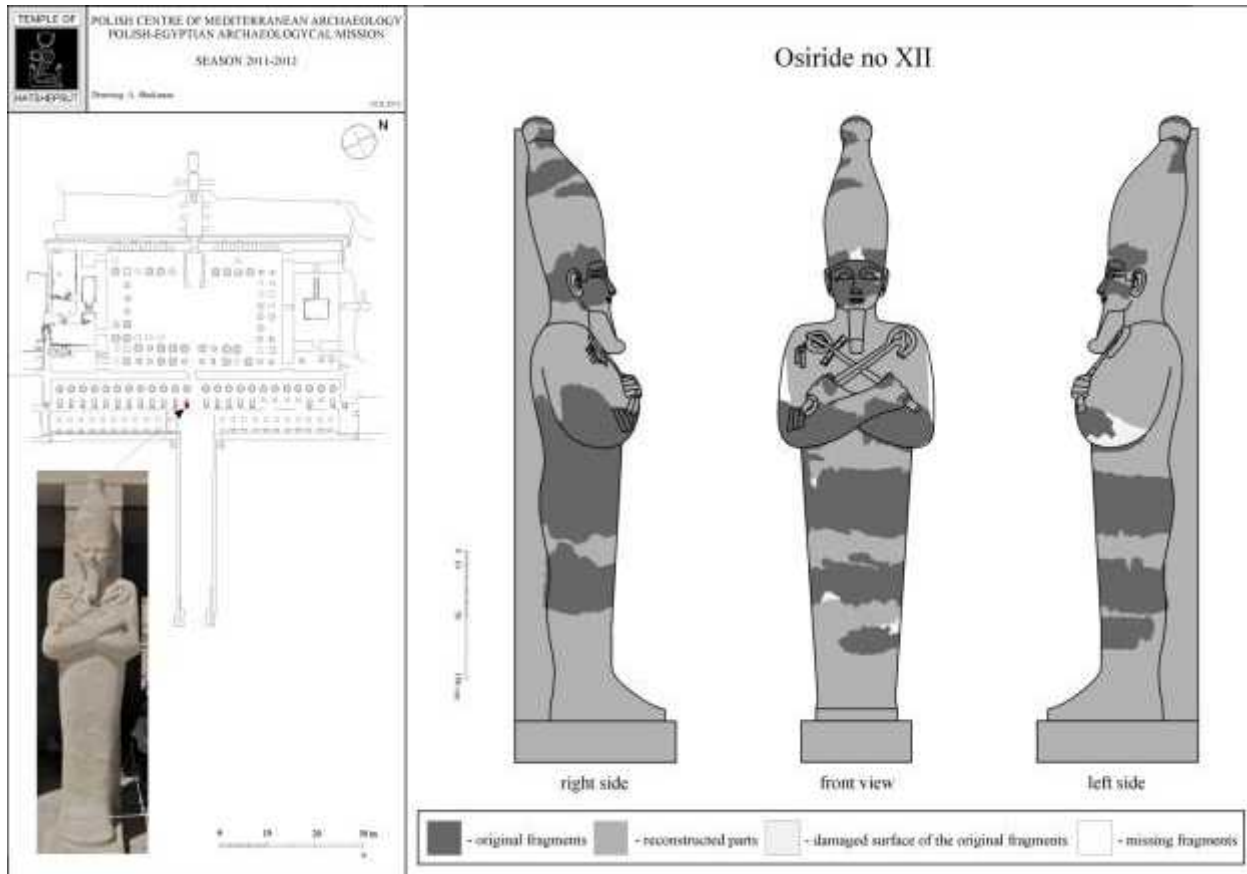


Fig. 17

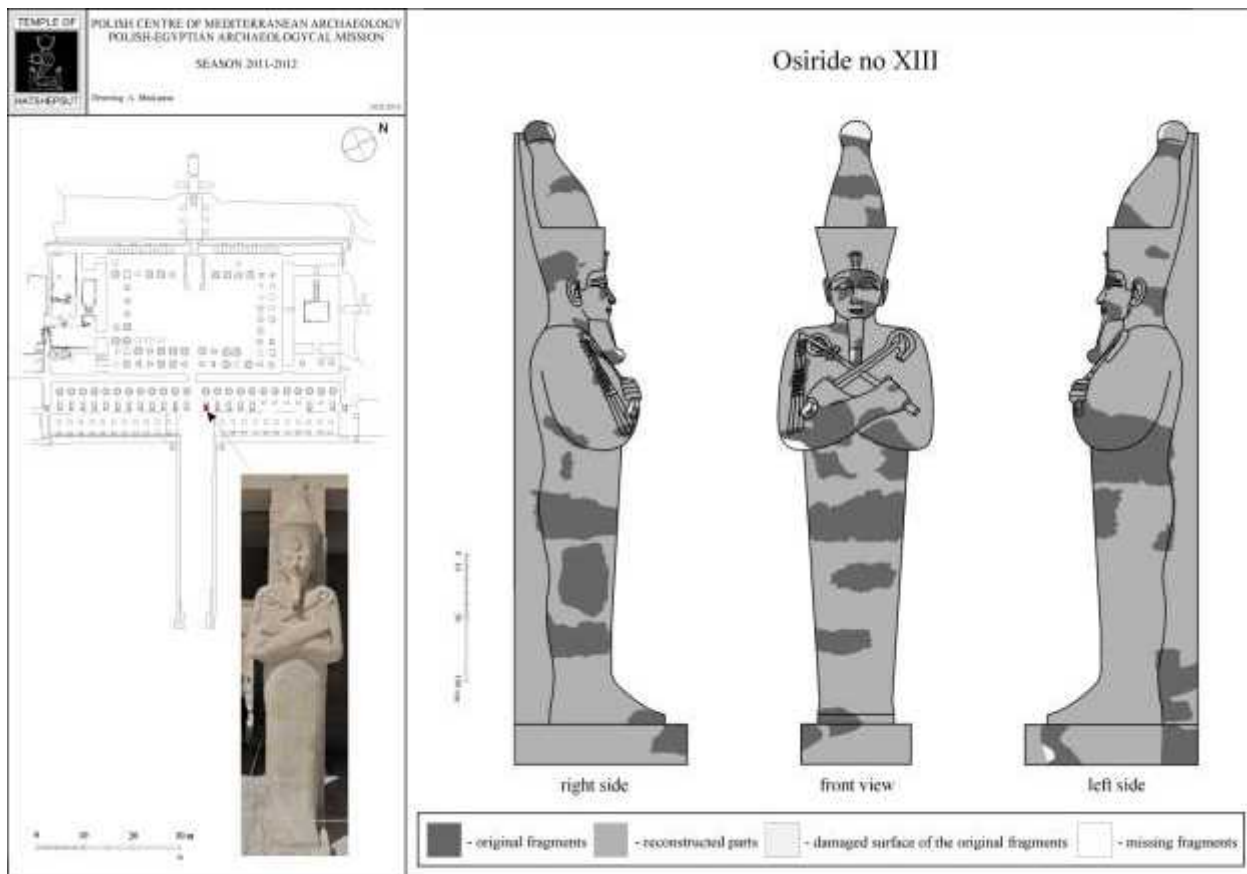


Fig. 18

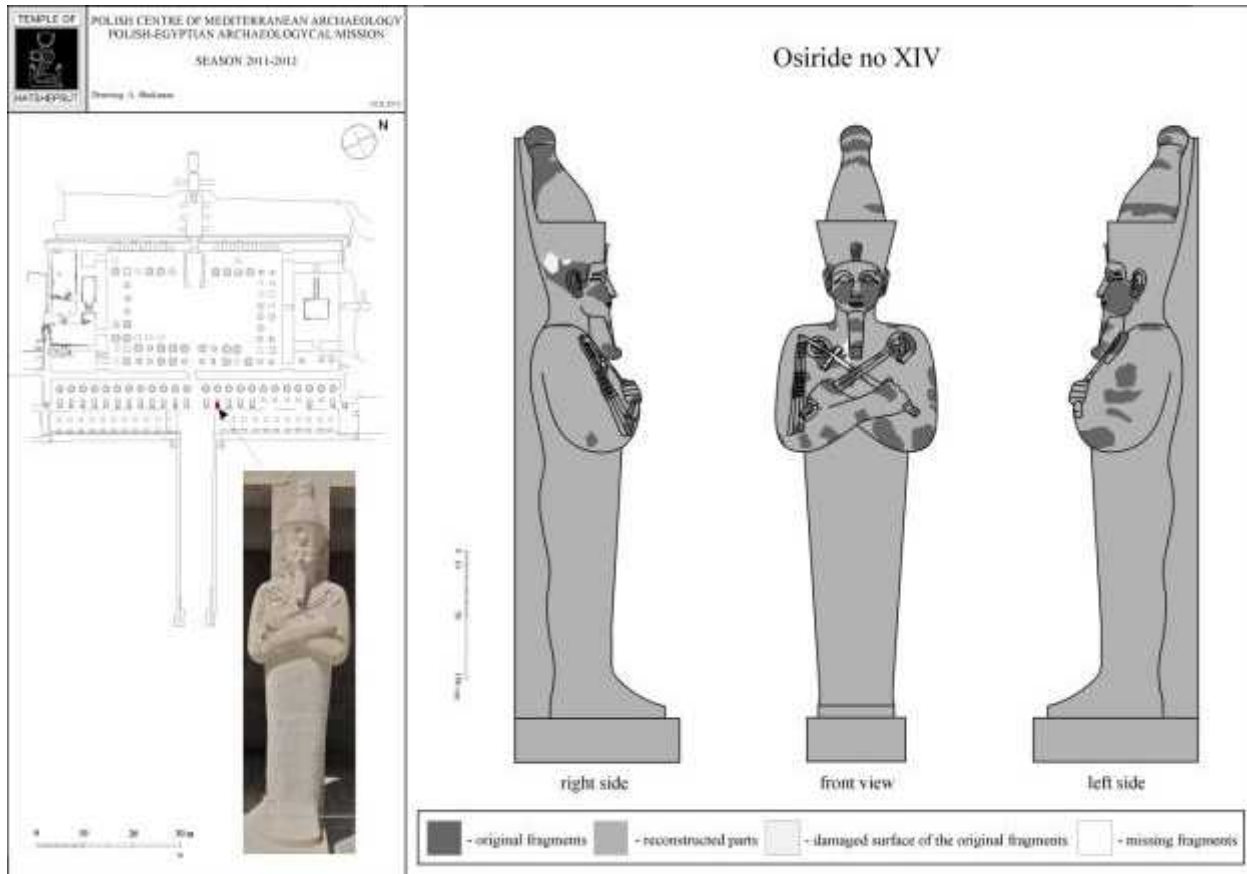


Fig. 19

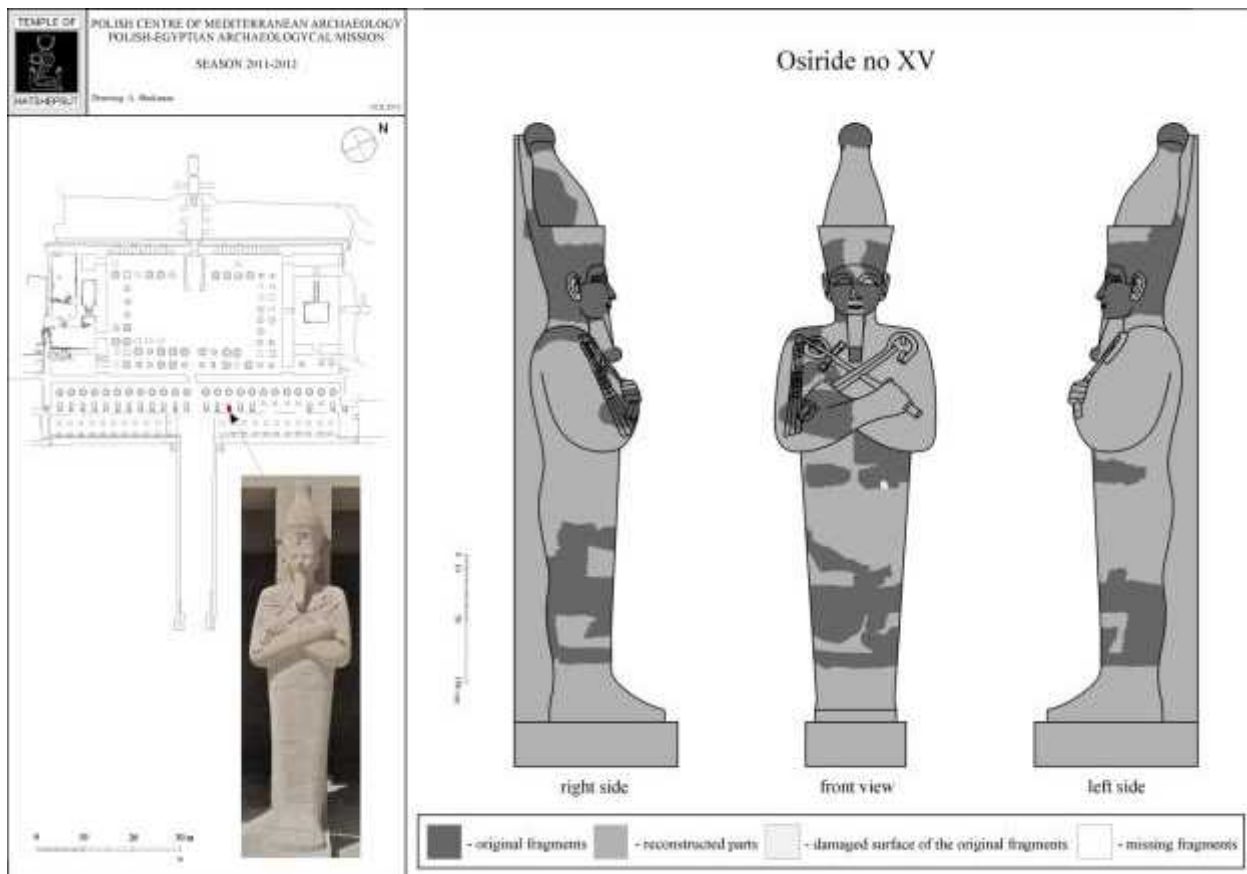


Fig. 20

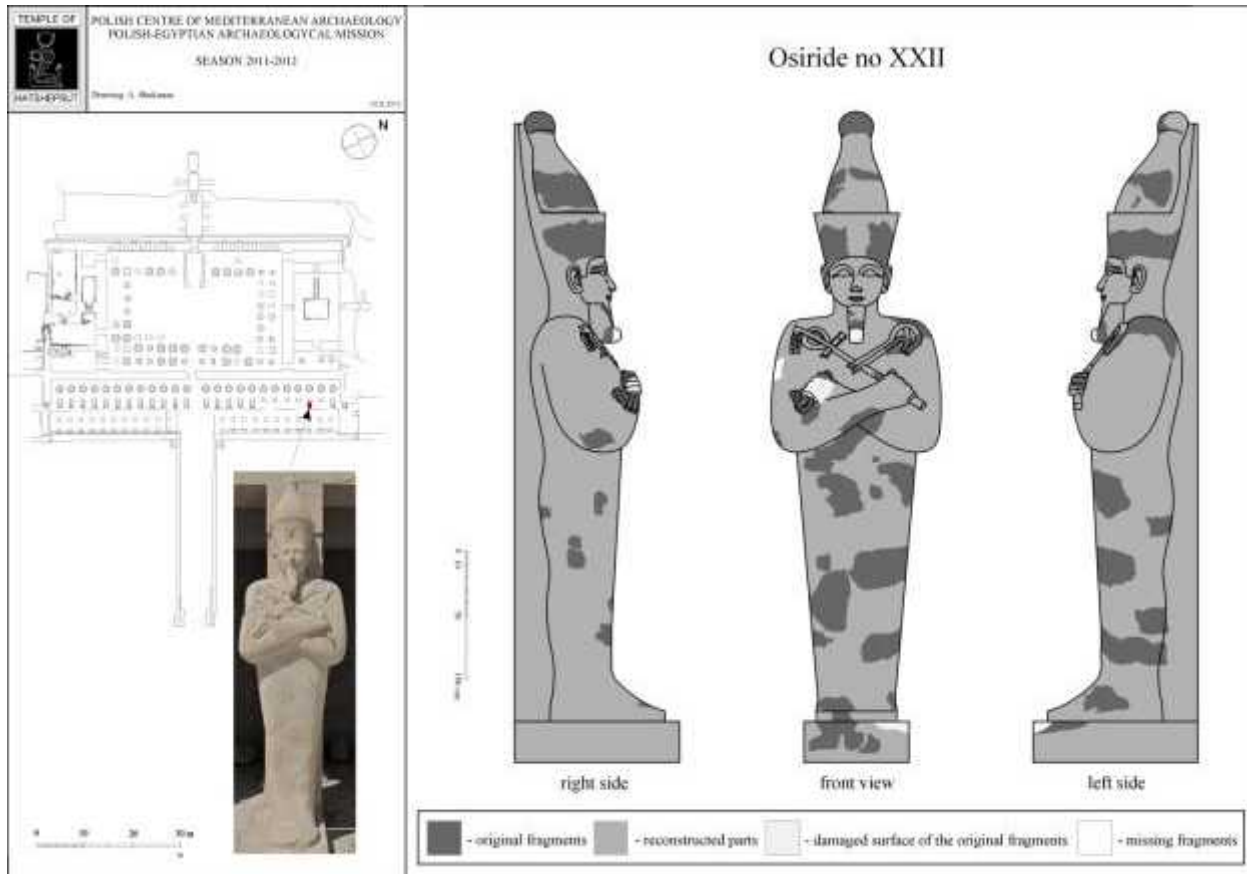


Fig. 21



Fig. 22



Fig. 23



Fig. 24



Fig. 25

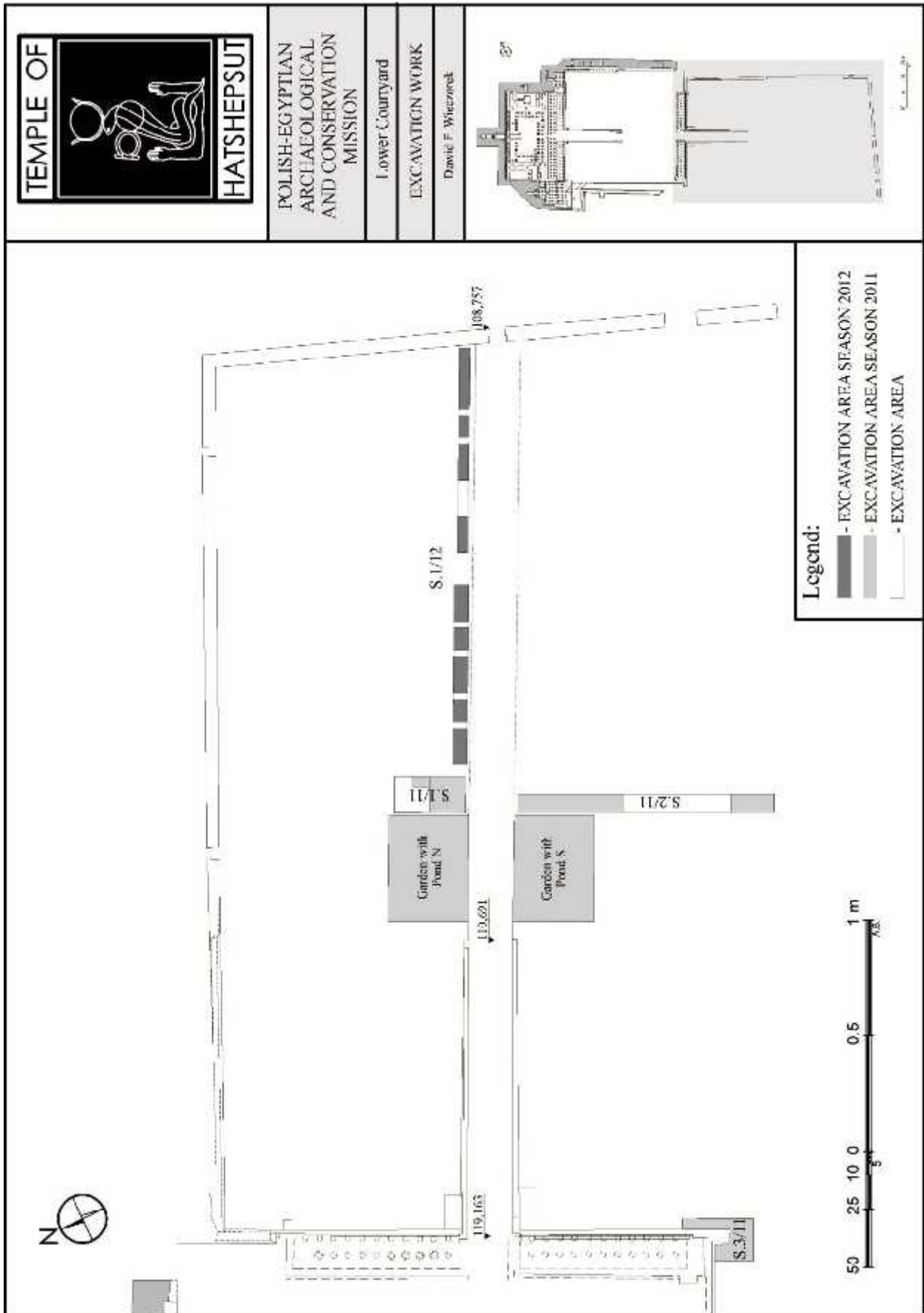
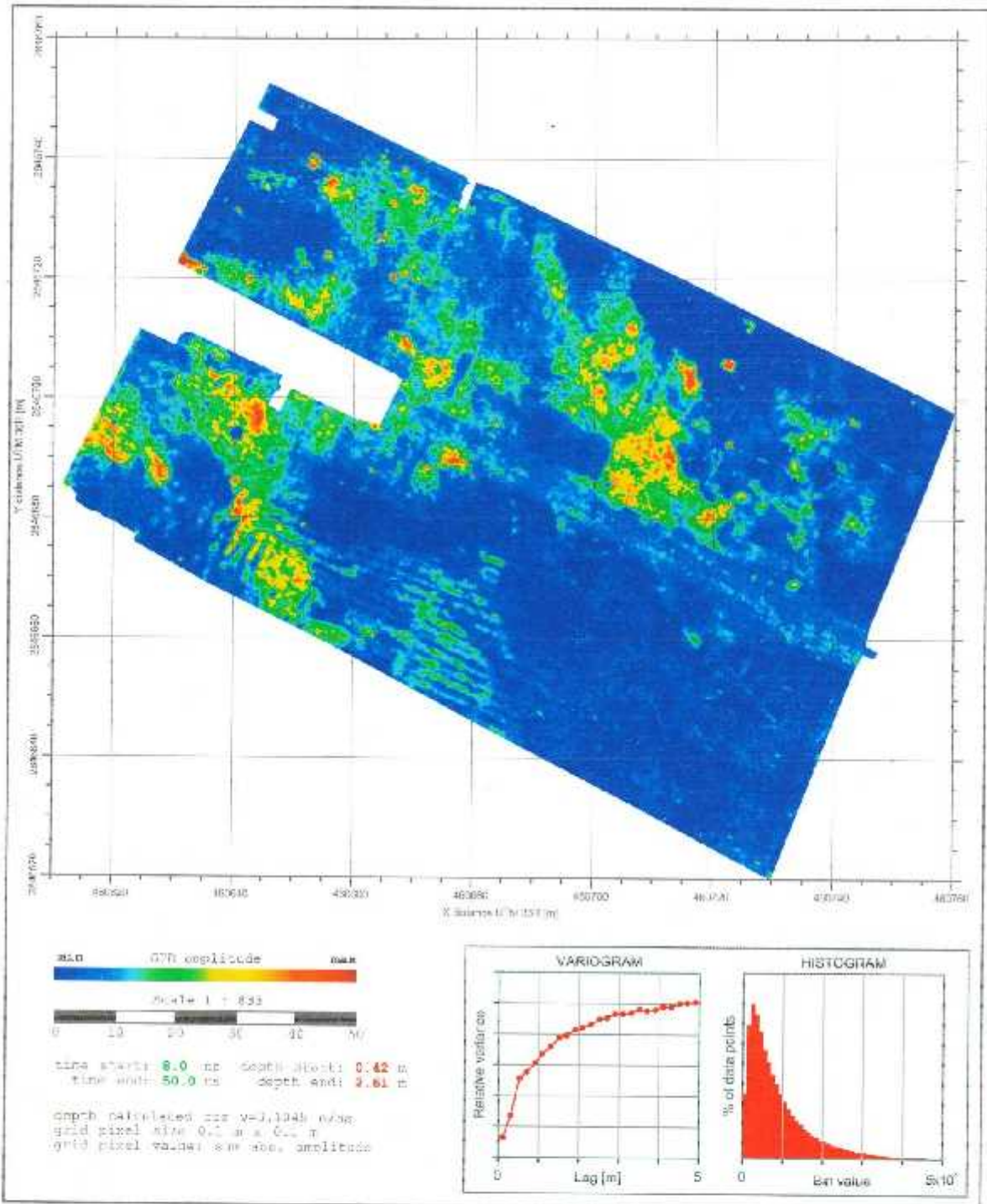


Fig. 26



	<p><i>Plate title:</i> GPR depth slice 0.42 - 2.61 m</p>	<p><i>Plate no.:</i> C-16</p>
	<p><i>Project:</i> GPR surveys - Hatshepsut Temple - Lower Terrace</p>	<p><i>Date:</i> Jan. 2011</p>
	<p><i>Location:</i> Deir el-Bahan, Luxor, Egypt</p>	<p><i>Version:</i> 1.0</p>
<p>GEO-RADAR Anna Groffik, Wilczyca, ul. Borowa 28A, 51-361 Wrocław, Poland, e-mail: info@gpr.pl, http://www.gpr.pl</p>		

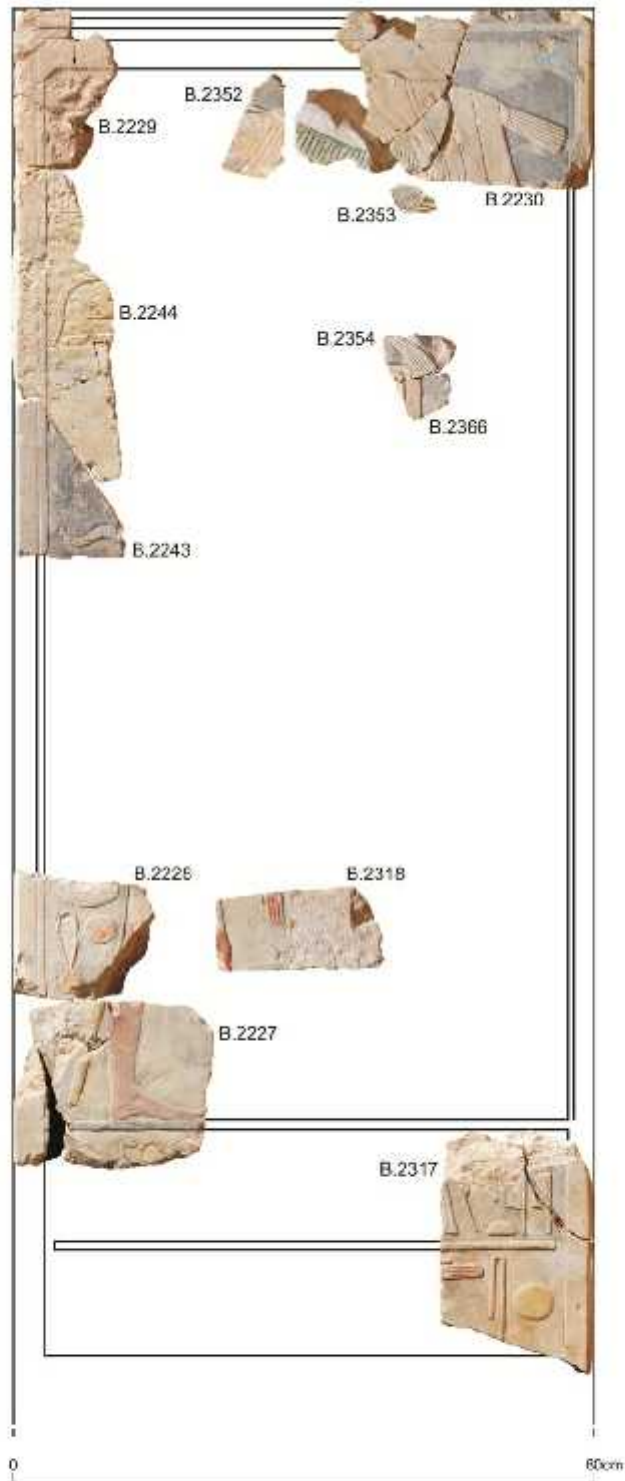
Fig. 27



Fig. 28



Fig. 29




TEMPLE OF  HATSHEPSUT	DEIR EL-BAHARI POLISH-EGYPTIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CONSERVATION MISSION	Spring 2012 Reconstruction of a pillar of The Processional Dark Station of Hatshepsut Drawing: mgr Dawid F. Wieczorek
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Fig. 30



Fig. 31

