



THE ANCIENT EGYPTIAN HERITAGE AND ARCHAEOLOGY FUND NEWSLETTER

Issue 1

2015

Introducing the Fund

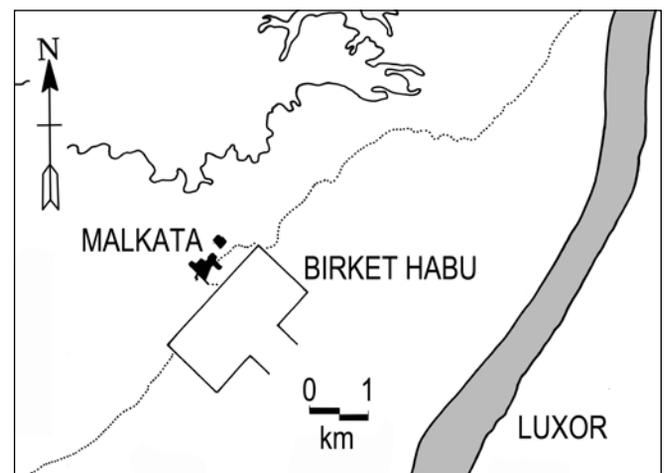
The Ancient Egyptian Heritage and Archaeology Fund is a private nonprofit organization with a mission to support the research and conservation of Egyptian history and culture. In particular it seeks to record and publish sites and monuments at risk from agricultural and urban expansion, looting, vandalism and climate change. The organization will also work to foster a greater awareness of the risks to Egypt's archaeological heritage and to promote education and training in site management and protection.



The Fund's logo depicts the Ancient Egyptian hieroglyph determinative kꜥ "to build"

The work of the Fund in the 2015 Season

This year the Fund participated with the Department of Egyptian Art of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in the Joint Expedition to Malkata (JEM), which began work on January 31 and finished on February 28. Dr. Diana Craig Patch from the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Dr. Peter Lacovara of the Ancient Egyptian Heritage and Archaeology Fund served as co-directors. The Fund was principally concerned with the conservation and stabilization of the Palace of the King and continuing the work of previous seasons.



Painting Conservation at Malqata

This season the Fund sponsored the work of conservator Hiroko Kariya at the Palace of the King and together with Tony Crosby made preliminary recommendations for a long term conservation program for the painted mud plaster walls and the fragments that are still found scattered throughout the site. Her work included trial stabilization of the mud plaster and experimental reburial of the painted wall in the King's Bed Chamber. Various cleaning methods and consolidation materials were tested and a storage system was developed for the loose fragments of painting. Based on these tests, the most suitable consolidant and method will be chosen to conserve the remaining painted walls and floors still *in situ* throughout the Palace of the King and the numerous painted fragments will be collected, preserved and stored.



Hiroko cleaning and stabilizing the remaining wall painting in the King's Robing Room

Rebuilding the Palace

The Fund augmented the American Research Center in Egypt's Antiquities Endowment Fund* for the conservation work by the Joint Expedition in the Palace of the King at Malqata, allowing it to continue for longer than originally planned.

We were again fortunate to have Tony Crosby supervise the conservation and reconstruction work and this season he was ably assisted by Gina Salama, a Luxor architect.

The manufacture of mud bricks for the restoration and preservation project began in the late fall of 2014 for use in 2015. 20,000 smaller bricks were delivered to the site and over 19,000 were used.

We continued the work begun last year on the Central Court of capping the walls with new mud bricks to protect them from erosion, and then moved to the rooms west of the central court. The purpose is also to make the walls, and hence the "footprint" of the palace, understandable to future visitors. This work is time consuming, requiring first the comprehensive documentation of the walls, the identification of the brick bonding patterns and the sizes of bricks used, the physical preparation of the tops of the walls, and the placement of clean sand and a plastic geogrid to serve as a separation layer.

Sometimes one, but normally two new courses of brickwork are added to the existing walls for protection; additional courses are added as needed to



Gina and Tony in the Palace

restore the walls to the level necessary to interpret the room relationships.

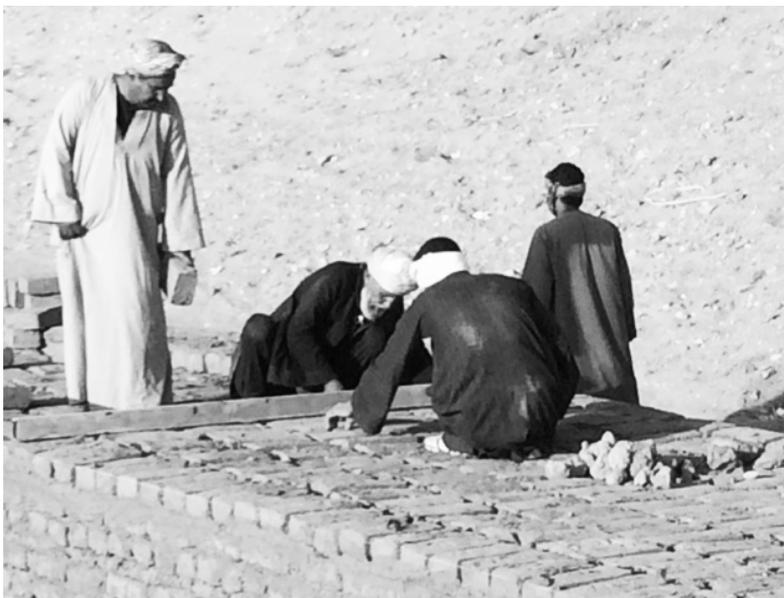
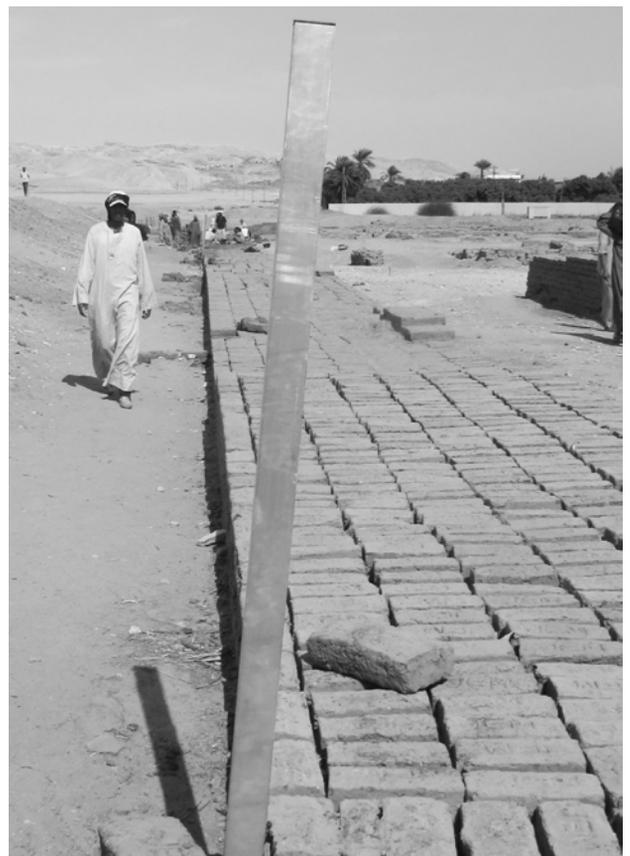
Doorways are defined where they are known to exist, as they are necessary to understand room uses and relationships. If evidence of a doorway does not exist, even though it may be suspected, it is not restored. Likewise, if the continuation of a wall is suspected, but physical evidence does not exist, the restored part is stepped down as a visual indicator of the absence of information. Some of the original walls are severely undercut and the bases have to be stabilized prior to any additional restoration.

Walls that have eroded to the extent that a considerable portion of their thickness is missing present additional problems of stability. We try to see that the original thickness is restored, replicating the bonding and pointing patterns of the original brickwork and ensuring that this restoration is structurally connected to form a cohesive wall section.



Pointing the new mud bricks

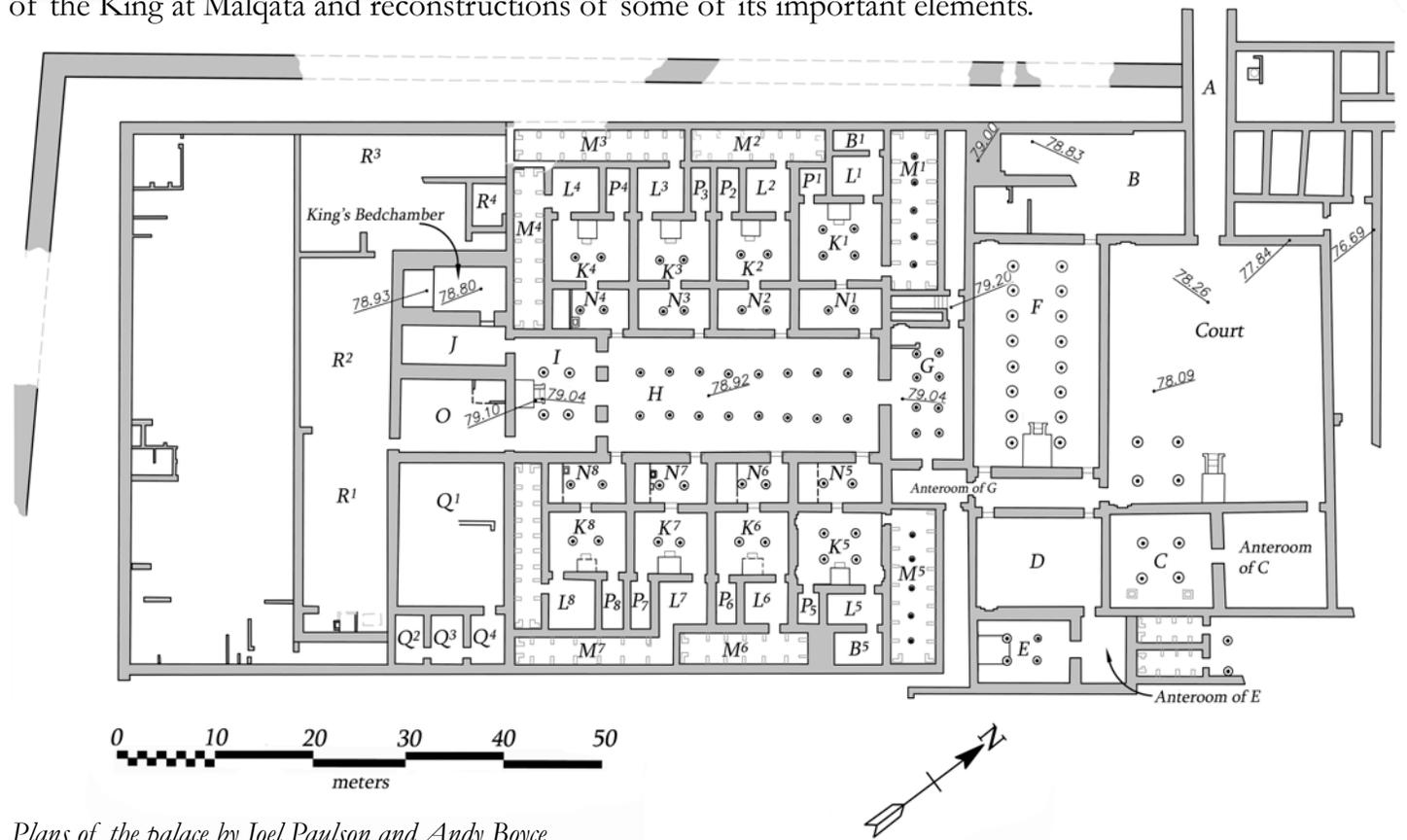
** ARCE's Antiquities Endowment Fund (AEF) supports the conservation, preservation and documentation of Egypt's cultural heritage and the dissemination of knowledge about that heritage. This important program was funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) as allocated by the U.S. Congress.*



Restoration work on the battered exterior wall of the Palace

New Palace Plans

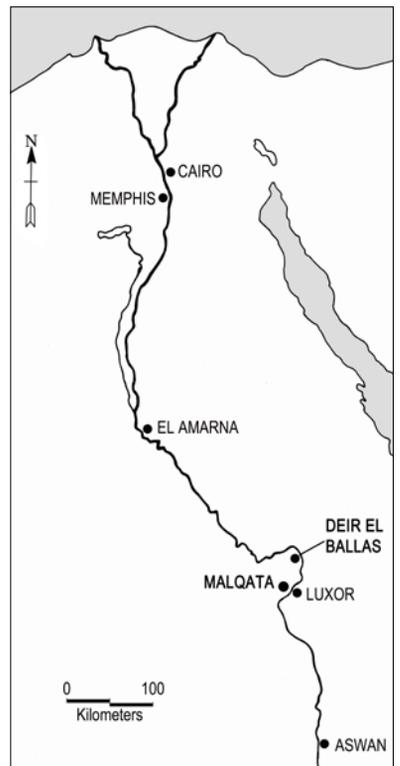
The Ancient Egyptian Heritage and Archaeology Fund helped underwrite the work of archaeological illustrator Andy Boyce in making new plans and drawings of the Palace of the King at Malqata and reconstructions of some of its important elements.



Plans of the palace by Joel Paulson and Andy Boyce

For Next Time

Next season the Ancient Egyptian Heritage and Archaeology Fund hopes to expand its work to include survey and protection of the important palace-city of Deir el-Ballas just to the north of Luxor. The site is in danger from uncontrolled urban, agricultural and industrial expansion. A new program of survey, stabilization, restoration and site management is planned to safeguard this little known site that was pivotal to the history of ancient Egypt.





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