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# Baraize Excavations 1933–1934 at Giza: What is New with the Chapel of Amenhotep II

STÉPHANE PASQUALI

## Abstract

*Brief discussion concerning a group of unpublished photographs which bring to light the last excavations of E. Baraize at Giza in the area of the Sphinx.*

Excavations carried out by E. Baraize at Giza between 1925 and 1936 in the area of the Sphinx did not give rise to any publication nor—apparently—any personal note.<sup>1</sup> This work is known through the photographic archives of P. Lacau, supplemented by a few handwritten notes.<sup>2</sup> Regarding the last campaign which E. Baraize conducted from the winter 1933–1934, the Lacau archives contain two photographs which are dated 11/14/1933, showing a brick structure with thick walls (NW and E views) that does not appear on any map (figs. 1, 2).

This post-New Kingdom building has been described and discussed in the Ph.D dissertation of M. Lehner.<sup>3</sup> It was approximately 14.6 m (EW) to 17.6 m (NS) and was situated approximately 15 m NE of the Sphinx, in part on the location of the chapel of Amenhotep II which was buried at the time of its construction.<sup>4</sup> His door—oriented toward the Sphinx—had a limestone threshold. Nothing remains of this structure which was destroyed during the first excavation of S. Hassan in 1936–1937.<sup>5</sup>

The two photographs of the Lacau archives constituted the only expression of that last campaign until now. However, the Baraize archives of the *Institut français d'archéologie orientale* contain twenty-two photographs of Giza of which four provide additional information on the progress of Baraize's excavations and the discoveries that he made.

<sup>1</sup> Christiane Zivie, *Giza au deuxième millénaire*, BdE 70 (Cairo, 1976), 11; Mark Lehner, *Archaeology of an image: The Great Sphinx of Giza*, UMI dissertation services, vol. 1 (Ann Arbor, 1991), 40–72. I wish to thank Laure Pantalacci, Director of the IFAO, and Christiane Zivie-Coche, Director of studies at the EPHE-V<sup>e</sup> section (W. Golénischeff Center), for allowing me to publish the photographs which illustrate this article. This article is the fourth in a series devoted to Giza during the New Kingdom: Stéphane Pasquali, “Des fouilles ‘discrètes’ à Ro-Sétaou en 1931,” *GM* 215 (2007), 7–8; idem, “Les fouilles de S. Hassan à Gîza en 1938 et le temple d’Osiris de Ro-Sétaou au Nouvel Empire,” *GM* 216 (2008), 75–78; idem, “Le dépôt extra-sépulcral trouvé par Fl. Petrie à Gîza-sud,” *RdE* 59 (2008), 357–68.

<sup>2</sup> These unpublished archives are kept in the W. Golénischeff Center (EPHE-Vth section, Paris).

<sup>3</sup> Lehner, *The Great Sphinx of Giza*, 69–72.

<sup>4</sup> The brick monument is visible on the aerial photograph published by Herbert Ricke (*Der Harmachistempel in the Chefren Giseh*, BÄBA 10 [Wiesbaden, 1970], Frontispiz) which dates from the end of the E. Baraize excavations or from very beginning of those of S. Hassan.

<sup>5</sup> Selim Hassan, *The Great Sphinx and Its Secrets. Excavations at Giza 7. Season 1936–1937* (Cairo, 1953), 31–33; idem, *The Sphinx. Its History in Light of Recent Excavations* (Cairo, 1949), 61–62; Lehner, *The Great Sphinx of Giza*, 69–72.



*Fig. 1. Arch. Lacau Phot. CI n° 180 (courtesy of the W. Golénischeff Center-EPHE).*



*Fig. 2. Arch. Lacau Phot. CI n° 181 (courtesy of the W. Golénischeff Center-EPHE).*



Fig. 3. Arch. Baraize Phot. (courtesy of the IFAO).

The first two photographs are similar shots to the Lacau photographs but with a narrower frame on the brick structure. The first (fig. 3) dates from the same day as the previous (11/14/1933), the second (fig. 4) gives a date of 12/7/1933, roughly a month later. On the latter, the monument is completely cleaned. All rooms (7) and corridors (2) were cleared and the remains of a limestone staircase were excavated at the entrance. Finally, the small section of wall made of limestone blocks visible to the left of the entry on the photographs of November was also cleared.

The third and fourth photographs highlight excavations hitherto unknown (figs. 5, 6). The third was taken on 6/10/1934. It shows the area of the Sphinx temple where a row of workers is carrying the excavated material. The eastern wall of the brick monument is visible in the background.

The fourth picture is not annotated but is undoubtedly contemporary. It shows the area directly east of the brick monument which is still visible in the background. A trench opened in this area has uncovered the remains of a gate lying on a floor about 4 m lower than the brick monument. These blocks consist of a limestone jamb on which we can see the inscribed face and another limestone



*Fig. 4. Arch. Baraize Phot. (courtesy of the IFAO).*



*Fig. 5. Arch. Baraize Phot. (courtesy of the IFAO).*





*Fig. 6. Arch. Baraize Phot. (courtesy of the IFAO).*



Fig. 7. Door 5 of the chapel of Amenhotep II (from Hassan, *The Great Sphinx*, pl. 25).

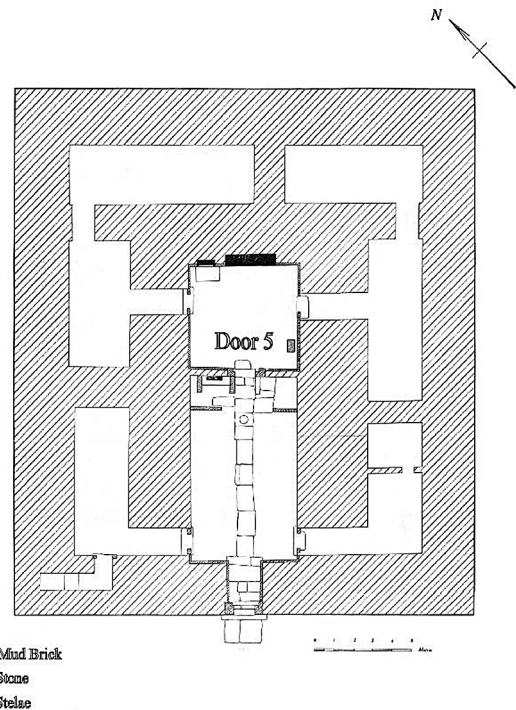


Fig. 8. Plan of the chapel of Amenhotep II (from Hassan, *The Great Sphinx*, pl. 24).

block of same size with an angled section. A crack is in the middle of the first which is engraved with the following text:

[<sup>1</sup>] *ntr nfr nb 3w.t-jb nsw.t bjty 3-hpr.w-R<sup>c</sup> mry Hr-m-3h.t dw 3h /*

[<sup>1</sup>] The perfect god, lord of joy, the king of Upper and Lower Egypt 3-hpr.w-R<sup>c</sup> beloved of Harmachis, given life.

This block bearing the name of Amenhotep II is the right jamb of the axial door of the king's chapel (door 5 of Chr. Zivie), a monument discovered by S. Hassan in 1936, in other words two years after the excavations of E. Baraize.<sup>6</sup> As for the second block, the feature section proves that it is the second jamb of this door.<sup>7</sup> These two pieces of architecture are to be added to other chapel remnants found by E. Baraize.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Zivie, *Giza au deuxième millénaire*, 119–20 [NE 11]. This jamb that has been restored shows very discreet traces of the crack reported previously, cf. Hassan, *The Great Sphinx*, pl. 25 (= *supra* fig. 7).

<sup>7</sup> See the plan of S. Hassan, *The Great Sphinx*, pl. 24 (= *supra* fig. 8).

<sup>8</sup> These include a lintel (Cairo Museum, JE 55301) certainly from door 7 and part of the foundation deposit (1928 and 1931), cf. Zivie, *Giza au deuxième millénaire*, 111, 121–22, pl. 7; Hassan, *The Great Sphinx*, 20–24; Lehner, *The Great Sphinx of Giza*, 63–66.

We can surely recognize these jambs in a succinct evocation of S. Hassan:

*“Near this Sphinx (i.e. one that adorned the first entrance of the chapel [Author’s note]<sup>9</sup>) lay two white limestone door-posts, inscribed with the Cartouche of Amenhotep II (. . .).”<sup>10</sup>*

At the time of the excavation in 1936, the jambs were not far from the chapel (late November–early December). This set of photographs of the monument taken during this campaign show that they have not been put back yet.<sup>11</sup> This was finally carried out in the last days of the year 1936.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Hassan, *The Great Sphinx*, 36 fig. 22, pls. 28–29.

<sup>10</sup> Hassan, *The Great Sphinx*, 36. The other gates of Amenhotep II were all already in place at that time.

<sup>11</sup> Hassan, *The Great Sphinx*, 37 fig. 23 (cleaning of the stela of Sethy I erected next to the door), pl. 28.

<sup>12</sup> Hassan, *The Great Sphinx*, 46–47.