

## **University of Alcalá Expedition to Deir el-Bahari** **University of Alcalá (Madrid, Spain)**

### **The project**

The fourth season was conducted in the last days of March and the full month of April 2018, although due to some bureaucratic issues half of the team members could not initiate their work until the third week. This matter refrained us from initiating some of the important work we wanted to develop, but working even on the weekends (with the permission of the inspector and the kind diligence of our workers) was much helpful to catch up with the planned work.

In general, the season ran with normality. In the area of the northern hills of Deir el-Bahari, in the funerary complex of Ipi (TT 315), archaeologists continued working in the mid-section of the courtyard, aiming at cleaning the eastern sector for the next campaigns since there are several subordinated structures needing much study in the area. In addition, the field director in this area, Mohamed Osman, focused on the western section to complete the cleaning of the complex wall, associated with the next tomb wall. In that way, he would count with more data to interpret the relative chronology of our complex in relation to the surrounding structures, including the nearby western tomb. Meantime, in the tomb of Henenu (TT 313), archaeologists continued working in the outer section of the complex, excavating down the hill in the mid-section of the courtyard without new findings. Although we were expecting to find a mummification deposit –a common feature in the upper courtyard sections of these complexes in the early Middle Kingdom–, we will have to wait to see the rest of the courtyard to answer some of our questions. As for the excavations conducted in the eastern section of the necropolis at Deir el-Bahari, the head of these works, Sebastian Falk, has completed the cleaning of debris and sand from the corridor of tomb E1, and we hope to continue excavating the inner sections of this structure in 2019 or 2020. Finally, for their protection, we have conducted some architectural studies and 3D digitalization of the tombs of Dagi (TT 103) and Djari (TT 366) at Asasif; in the case of the tomb of Djari, we have covered and protected the funerary garden found in this complex by Herbert Winlock in the 30s.

### **Objectives of the project**

- a) Study and categorization of each tomb and its owner, based on its location, architecture, and decorative/textual programs as well as on the titles and position of the official. Ipi (TT315) was steward, archive scribe, treasurer, and vizier. Henenu (TT313) was royal seal bearer, steward. Harhotep (CG28023) was also royal seal bearer and supervisor of the treasure.
- b) Examination of the conditions of each tomb and application of conservation techniques for its preservation: analysis of the materials, decoration, inscriptions, pigments, and small findings. We also plan to examine the condition and stability of the mudbrick remaining walls in each tomb and propose a reconstruction for the perdurability of the monument.
- c) Regular publication of season results and final publication for each monument: we shall publish particular studies on the architecture, decoration and inscription of the tombs as well as on the history

of the necropolis and the role of Henenu (TT313), Ipi (TT315), and Harhotep (CG28023 < TT314) in the history of the period. The MKTP team plans to publish the results of each season as a preliminary report in a peer-reviewed journal of the discipline. The final publication of the archaeological, epigraphic, and restoration works conducted in each tomb is intended as a monograph.

d) A better understanding of the history of the Middle Kingdom necropolis at Thebes and the construction of royal and private tombs in the area surrounding the mortuary complex of Mentuhotep Nebhepetre. Furthermore, the MKTP aims at contributing to the clarification of some of the major aspects of the history of the late Eleventh Dynasty, the reign of Mentuhotep Nebhepetre and the early Middle Kingdom, mainly the reigns of Amenemhat I and Sesostris I.

#### **Fourth Season (March-April 2018)**

Sponsors: University of Alcalá, MINECO, Fundación Palarq, AEDE  
Mission members: Rawda Abdelhady, Marwa Abd El-Hamid Dandarawy, Kelly Accetta, Teresa Bardají, Manuel Carrillo, Flavio Celis, Carmen Díaz, Enrique Dorado, Ernesto Echeverría, Sebastian Falk, Carlos Gracia, Salima Ikram, Sofía Illana, Elisabeth Kruck, Miriam Luciañez, Óscar Martínez, Delaminet Meza, Patricia Mora, Antonio Morales, Jónatan Ortíz, Mohamed Osman, Raúl Sánchez, Dina Serova, Hazem Shared, Daniel Spinelli, Ahmed Tarek, Kei Yamamoto  
Mission inspectors: Ala Hussein El-Menshawy and Mr. Muntaser  
Mission rais: Ali Farouk el Qeftaui

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Antonio J. Morales  
Project director  
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