

The "million of years" temple of Queen Hatshepsut, a female pharaoh, is located in Deir el-Bahari in western Thebes in Egypt. The building is known for its impressive architecture and well-preserved relief decoration, which are the subject of the Polish Mission works since 1961. In 2014 the elaboration project of the Southern Room of Amun has begun.

The main aim of the project is to prepare new and complete documentation and interpretation of the Southern Room of Amun, located in the Upper Courtyard. The inspiration for undertaking this research was the lack of comprehensive publication dedicated to this room and various, often conflicting interpretations of scholars, based on fragmentary publication of internal decoration from the early twentieth century. Carefully prepared drawings, elaborated graphically in the form of boards for publication will be the basis for the relief analysis and theoretical reconstruction of the whole decoration. The theoretical reconstruction will allow studies rich temple's lapidaria in search of the missing blocks from the walls of the Southern Room of Amun.

The inner walls of this room are decorated with scenes of Hatshepsut and Tuthmosis III performing offerings of oils and linen to various forms of Amon, the main god of ancient Thebes. There is also displayed so-called frieze of objects depicting vases with oils and chest with linen and scene with Amunet, the feminine form of Amun, embracing Hatshepsut. Decoration is characterized by a very well-preserved paintings colors, highlighted and protected thanks to the work of Polish conservators. The external decoration was largely reconstructed by the Polish Mission - entrance lintel is decorated with representations of the Nile deities, and above it there is a coronation scene with king and Amon again. According to the Ancient Egyptian texts, oils and linen were used in different kinds of daily, festival and royal rituals. The research hypothesis implies that specific rituals took place in the Southern Room of Amun, which examination will determine the role of this place.

Due to the many years of functioning of the Temple, the original decoration from the time of Hatshepsut was subjected to sometimes drastic changes, for example during the Amarna period figures of almost all deities were destroyed. One of the aim of the project is to establish the full chronology of these changes in the Southern Room of Amun.

Elaboration of the Southern Room of Amon and preparation for publication of the collected material will be the culmination of the work of Polish Mission in this place and will allow to make it available to tourists. Progress on the project can be followed on the website of the Mission www.templeofhatshepsut.uw.edu.pl in the Egyptology Projects tab.