

The objective of the project is to reconstruct in a digital form the original state of the decoration of the largest, western wall of the Portico of Obelisks in Hatshepsut's temple in Deir el-Bahari and the interpretation of its meaning. The temple of Hatshepsut is one of the most interesting and large structures in Western Thebes, investigated by the Polish-Egyptian Archaeological and Conservation Mission.

The western wall of the Portico of Obelisks contains unique reliefs showing the transport of two obelisks by boats and their placing in Karnak. Another set of scenes shows the ritual related to the foundation of the very temple of Hatshepsut. To understand why the reliefs showing the obelisks transport and the foundation ritual were put together in this specific part of the temple, a new documentation is needed. The previous book concerning the portico is over a hundred years old and has many inaccuracies, the illustrations being just black and white drawings. That is why the first task in this project will be making colour photos of the whole wall and a new drawing of the decoration. The latter will be done by tracing the reliefs on transparent plastic sheets, which will be later on scanned and rendered to allow the creation of a digital reconstruction. There are spaces in the temple where blocks that could not be readily assigned to a specific location were put aside, and another task of the project will be an overview of these blocks to find fragments matching the western wall of the portico. They will be assigned according to the similarities of various elements, the correct scale and as filling gaps in the scenes composition. They will also be added to the digital reconstruction. The information prepared in such way will be used for the next steps of the research – all elements of the decoration will be analysed, and the hieroglyphic texts present in the portico will be translated. The last step will be an attempt to interpret the meaning of the decoration of this part of the Portico of Obelisks. It seems that the proximity of scenes relating in both cases to the construction of large royal monuments was significant. Probably for the Egyptians they were logically related and perhaps of equal importance. Also, it must be noted that these were not mere accounts of the events and the historical dimension is not enough to explain such complex scenes. We have here two more dimensions, the ideological one, related to Hatshepsut's proving of the rightfulness of her rule, and the ritual dimension, related to celebrations.

The Portico of Obelisks' western wall is thus a very interesting piece of a special communication that Hatshepsut was conveying through the architecture and the whole decoration of her temple. Since the early 20<sup>th</sup> century publication no one studied the wall as a whole, although we do not lack smaller studies regarding various details or historical matters. The subject deserves a thorough research. For sure, some new details will be discovered. The results will be useful not just for the Polish-Egyptian mission, but also for scholars interested in New Kingdom royal ideology, temples, and particularly Karnak and the order of adding there new elements.