

Zahi Hawass

EXCAVATIONS in the Valley of the Kings

Excavation Report for the Egyptian Mission in the Western Valley
in the Valley of the Kings (Valley of the Monkeys),
Season 01/09/2018 – 24/04/2019
and Excavation Report for the Egyptian Mission
2020-2021 Season

Volume VI



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Volume VI

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Former Minister of Antiquities

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The Egyptian Mission in the Western Valley: 2018-2019

Introduction: The Western Valley of the Kings (Valley of the Monkeys)

The Valley of the Monkeys is a closed area at al-Qurna, similar to Valley of the Kings topographically and geographically. It is surrounded by mountains from the south, east, and west, and is usually referred to as Valley of the Monkeys of the Western Valley. It is considered a part of the Valley of the Kings, and its area is almost twice as large as the main valley.

There are only four tombs known in the Valley of the Monkeys; the first is the tomb of Amenhotep III at the southern end, the second is the tomb of Ay at the northern end, and tombs 24 and 25 with unknown owners. The valley was named after a scene of twelve baboons in the tomb of Ay, representing the hours of day and night. The public called it the “tomb of monkeys”, and thus the whole area became known as the Valley of the Monkeys.

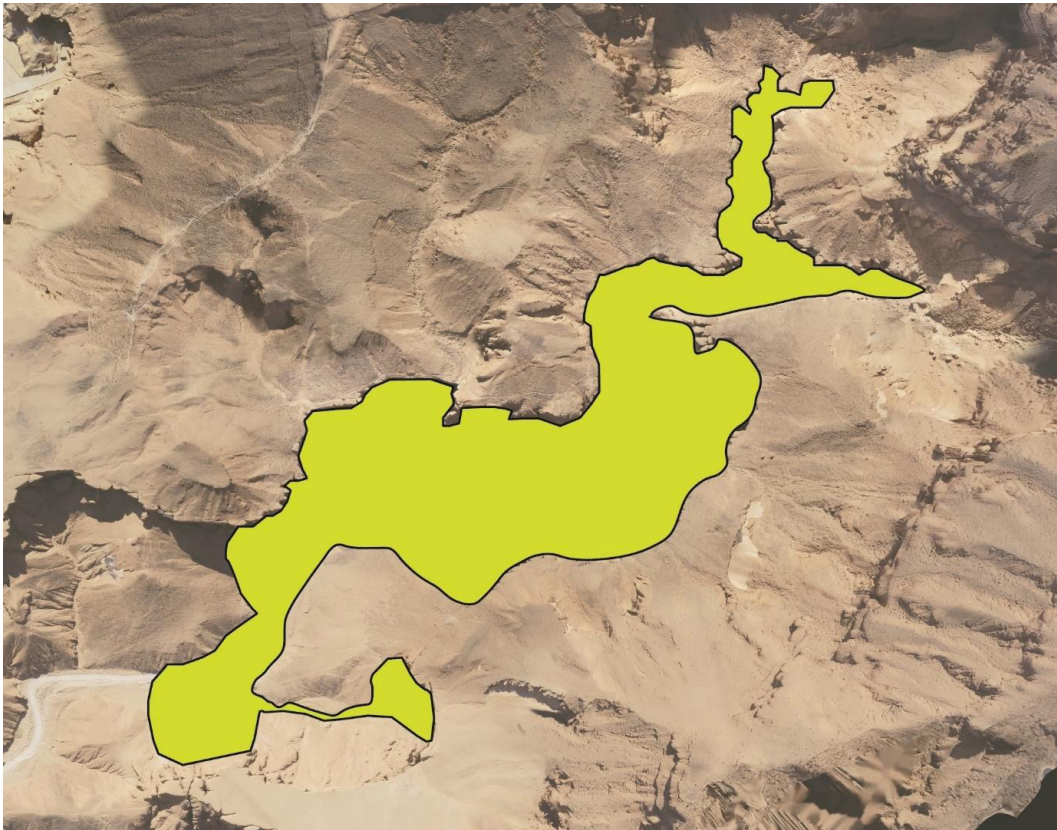


Figure 1 – The Valley of the Monkeys.

History of Excavations

The earliest known excavations in this area were carried out by two architects who accompanied Napoleon Bonaparte in 1799. Édouard de Villiers du Terrage and Prosper Jollois discovered the tomb of Amenhotep III (Valley of the Kings tomb 22 or KV 22), documented it, and drew a map of the area. During the winter of 1816, Belzoni discovered the tomb of Ay (KV 23) while treasure hunting in the area¹. He also discovered tomb KV 25, which some scholars have suggested was originally made for Akhenaten before he moved the capital and his burial place to Tell el-Amarna. In 1829, Champollion identified KV 22 as having belonged to Amenhotep III through graffiti inscribed on the northern wall of the first chamber. In 1845, Lepsius discovered a tomb 60 m. south of KV 22, which he named WV A. It is a small tomb, built as storage for funerary furniture that did not fit inside the main tomb². Between 1905 and 1914, Theodore Davis excavated the tomb of Amenhotep III and the surrounding area, but unfortunately, these excavations were never published, and the details are not known³. In February 1915, Howard Carter excavated near the entrance of the tomb of Amenhotep III (KV 22), and he discovered five foundation deposits which date to the reign of Thutmose IV. In 1972, Otto Schaden excavated the tomb of Ay⁴, where he discovered the lid of a sarcophagus. In 1993, Sakuji Yoshimura excavated inside the tomb of Amenhotep III⁵, and then later did work in the tomb conserving the wall paintings with Jiro Kondo⁶.

First Egyptian Mission at Valley of the Monkeys

Professor Zahi Hawass directed the team which excavated in the Valley of the Monkeys as the first Egyptian Mission to work in this area. The mission worked there from 2007-2010, and then excavations stopped. Work was restarted in 2017, after which excavations have continued in the area to the present day under the direction of Prof. Zahi Hawass.

- 1 Belzoni, Giovanni Battista (1820). *Narrative of the operations and recent discoveries within the pyramids, temples, tombs, and excavations, in Egypt and Nubia; and of a journey to the coast of the Red Sea, in search of the ancient Berenice, and another to the oasis of Jupiter Ammon*. London: Murray, 123-124
- 2 This was determined through work by a Japanese team in the 1990s. See Kondo, J. (1995). The Re-clearance of Tombs WV 22 and WV A in the Western Valley of the Kings. In *Valley of the Sun Kings: New Explorations in the Tombs of the Pharaohs. Papers from The University of Arizona International Conference on the Valley of the Kings (Harvill, 1995)*, 25-33.
- 3 During this period, Davis worked with a few different archaeologists in the Valley of the Kings: Edward R. Ayrton (1905-1908), E. Harold Jones (1908-1911) and Harry Burton (1912–1914). It is not clear who worked on KV 22, and thus it is unclear where the original excavation notes are located.
- 4 Schaden, O. (1984). "Clearance of the tomb of King Ay (WV 23)". *Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt* 21, 39-65
- 5 Yoshimura, Sakuji and Jiro Kondo (1995). "Excavations at the tomb of Amenophis III". *Egyptian Archaeology* 7, 17-18
- 6 Kondo, Jiro and Sakuji Yoshimura (eds.) (2004). *Conservation of the wall paintings in the royal tomb of Amenophis III: first and second phases report*. Tokyo: Waseda University

Important Discoveries in Previous Seasons

The mission has faced several obstacles, including the large surface area of the valley, lack of previous publications, and the tough geographic nature of the area. Huge stone blocks had fallen from the mountains and covered the surface area, which had dissuaded previous missions from excavating. It was a brave decision by Professor Hawass to excavate this area and uncover the secrets of the valley.

Important discoveries of the mission include:

1. Four complete foundation deposits containing colored pots which date back to the end of the 18th dynasty (season 2007/2008)
2. A set of unique artifacts (season 2017) including a huge number of decorative items used to decorate wooden coffins, dating to Dynasty 18

Division of the Site

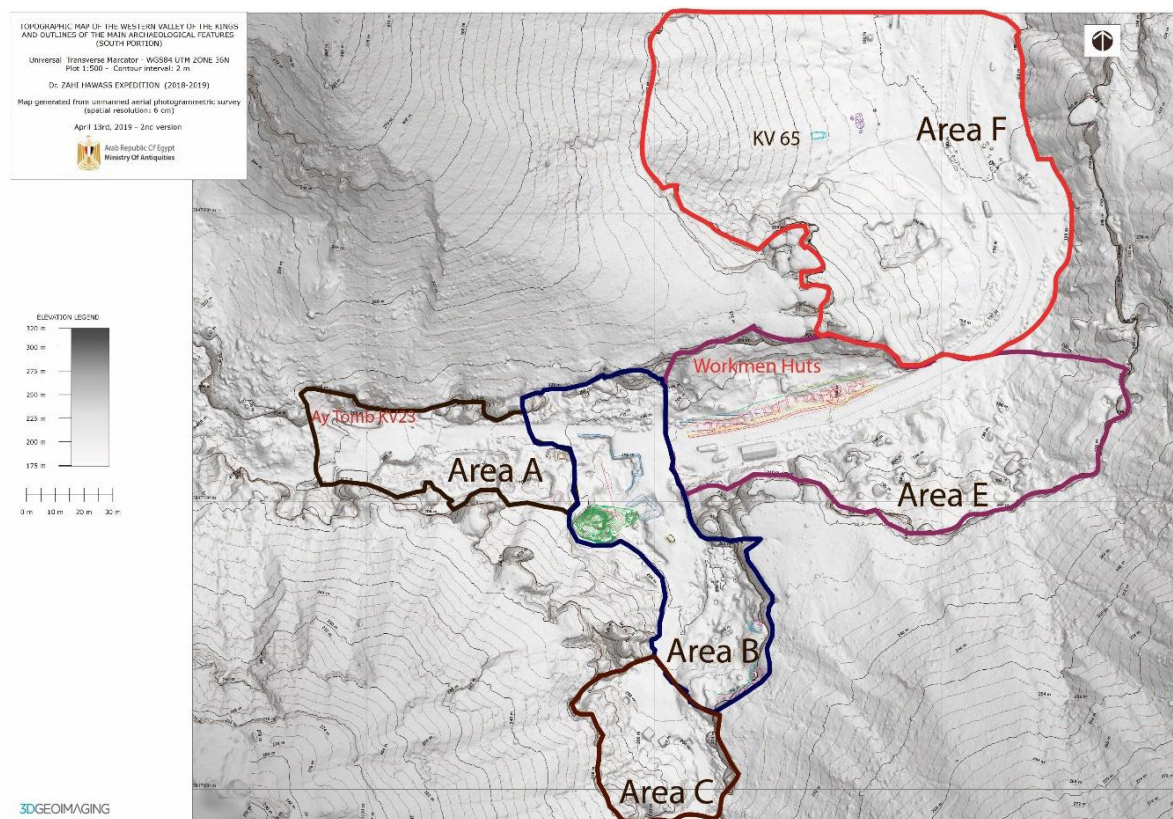


Figure 2 – Division of the site.

Working areas of the valley were divided into (A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J) as follows. During the early seasons, excavations were carried out in areas A, B, C, D, E and F, as follows:

Area A

It is located in the western end of the valley. The tomb of King Ay (KV 23) forms the north-western border of the area, and tomb KV 25 forms the eastern border. The area measures 95 m. east-west by 40 m. north-south. Coordinates:

N 93328.73	E 99343.11
N 93237.42	E 99312.55
N 93165.43	E 99268.83
N 93188.22	E 99253.02

Area B

Area A forms its western border, and it extends to the south of the sub-valley that is located to the north of the main valley near the tomb of Ay (KV 23). Area C forms its southern border.

The area measures 35 m. east-west by 120 m. north south. Coordinates:

N 93328.73	E 99343.11
N 93243.13	E 99299.84
N 93316.15	E 99253.77
N 93362.27	E 99084.83

Area C

It is adjacent to Area B at the southern end in the narrow sub-valley. The area is composed of a mountainous *tell* which inclines from west to east (maximum width 10.5 m. north-south, maximum length 40 m. east-west) until it reaches the valley floor. Excavations in this area are continued from previous seasons. Coordinates:

N 93316.15	E 99253.77
N 93249.63	E 99281.86
N 93297.73	E 99231.06
N 93330.84	E 99202.5

Area D

It forms the southern border of the sub-valley. Coordinates:

N 93297.73	E 99231.06
N 93330.84	E 99144.2
N 93331.54	E 99144.2
N 93342.53	E 99107.47

Area E

It lies adjacent to Area B on the eastern side. Coordinates:

N 93243.13	E 99299.84
N 93296.68	E 99270.43
N 93332.58	E 99273.7
N 93265.92	E 99311.1

Area F

Area E forms the northern border of this area. The area measures 60 m. east-west and 120 m. north south. Coordinates:

N 93296.68	E 99270.43
N 93386.2	E 99343.27
N 93344.87	E 99386.58
N 93207.08	E 99430.8

Excavations in Area A

We continued excavations in this area from last season. In the previous season, we discovered two huts for ancient workers. The area lacked any archaeological finds or pottery sherds and was fully covered by large stone blocks fallen from the mountain, surrounded by lime, limestone, sand, and tafla. This layer was likely formed by floods and precipitation during ancient times.



Figure 3 – General view of Area A.

Our workplan this season involved continuing to remove the stone blocks and the layer surrounding them, while working towards tombs KV 24 and KV 25. A room providing electricity for the tomb of Ay was blocking our site, and so we had to take the time to move it away and rebuild the room in a new area, to the right of KV 23.



Figure 4 – Area A before excavation.

Our excavations began under the previous location of the electricity room and the area east of it. The surface layer was modern and not solid. We discovered newspapers and wooden logs. The surface layer extended 60 cm. deep. The next layer was an extension to the surface layer, although there was no archaeological material suggesting recent excavation. This layer consisted of an ashy residue adhering to the mountain surface, likely created by security guards burning wood for heat or the construction of the electricity room. We found a full mummy in bad condition.

In the next layer, we began to find pottery sherds. The layer below was an extension of the flood and precipitation layer covering the site. We discovered “hematite” pieces, irregularly shaped, similar to those found previously in Area B and in the foundation deposits.

Layer (044) was excavated next. A fine calcified layer, 7 cm. thick, mixed with small limestone chips, this layer was formed by floods and precipitation. Layer (045) was a very solid layer formed by crushed limestone and was 1.5 m. thick. It was formed by floods and precipitation. No archaeological evidence was found here. Underneath Layer (045), we found the bedrock of the valley. At the southern end, Layer (045) has a higher altitude than the bedrock of the valley. It extends from the north to the south, and then we found a bump with lower altitude forming a regularly shaped course, extending from east to west measuring 60 cm to 1 m wide, until the entrance of KV 24. The bedrock of the valley is higher at the northern side to form a high edge, 1.5 m wide. Then the bedrock extends at a lower regular altitude until it reaches the northern end of the high edge.

Layer (046) appears in the area extending to the east. The layer was formed by irregularly shaped limestone chunks, from small to medium sized, which do not form a regular unit. We suggest this is a layer of stones carried out by the flood which accumulated on the surface of the valley, allowing the layers above to rest upon it.

We removed the backfill extending east from the tomb of Ay until KV 24. The surface in this area is irregular, perhaps naturally or perhaps intentionally created to avoid water accumulating in the entrance of the tomb of King Ay.

Excavations in this area took extensive time and effort to remove the backfill. Unfortunately, it did not lead to major archaeological discoveries, but we now understand more about the topographical nature of this area during Dynasty 18 at the time of the construction of the tomb of Ay. The area was covered in layers of huge stone blocks fallen from the mountain before Dynasty 18, and hence the ancient Egyptians avoided this area for tomb construction. Instead, they moved further to the east, which is probably why there is a large gap between KV 23 and KV 24.



Figure 5 – Removing large stones near the tomb of Ay.

We excavated the eastern part of Area A, specifically near the border between Areas A and B on the upper terrace in front of KV 25. After removing the surface layer, we found a dark yellow solid layer, which contained some stone blocks, pottery sherds, and linen rolls. We also found part of a human jaw, probably originating from a mummy that was inside KV 25. We compared these layers with those covering the entrance of KV 25 and noted that they are the same layers as this area but in smaller depths, which means that the ancient Egyptians dug the tomb in these layers but not those beneath. This led us to change strategies in our excavations in the Valley of the Monkeys; we need to only excavate the upper layers to identify if there is a tomb or not.

Our work also included excavating the area in front of KV 25 searching for the foundation deposits or any archaeological evidence that helps identify the owner of KV 25. In 1998, Richard Wilkinson excavated in this area to search for the foundation deposits of KV 25 in the hopes of confirming Akhenaten as the original owner. Unfortunately, the mission did not find any. Thus, we extended our excavations between the workers' huts and in front of the entrance of KV 25. We noted a slope, more than 2 m. deep, that extends to the east and stops at the western borders of Area B. It was filled with loose backfill, possibly from the previous excavations of Belzoni or Wilkinson. We removed the surface layer on the western side, and archaeological evidence was found in the layers below.

Excavations in Area B

This area lies in the southern part of the site at the entrance of the sub-valley north of KV 25.



Figure 6 – Aerial photo of Area B.

■ Reasons behind choosing the area

1. To resume excavations held by the Egyptian mission after work was stopped during the 2011 revolution.
2. The area is very close to where we previously discovered foundation deposits. Excavations should be extensively carried out to find the lost tomb connected to these foundation deposits.
3. The area is very close to the three previously discovered tombs (KV 23 [Tomb of Ay], KV 24, KV 25), which gives us hope that there were more tombs constructed in this area.
4. The area was not excavated by the foreign missions that excavated in the Valley of the Monkeys.



Figure 7 – Section of Area B where foundation deposits were found.



Figure 8 – General View of Area B during excavation.

■ Excavation Work

Excavations dug through two different levels. The first level is the surface level, next to the side of the mountain (east-west), extending to the south towards the surface of the rocky mound. Excavations started in the lower level by cutting a rectangular trench next to the side of the mountain, 40 m long from east to west. The width varies according to the slope of the mountain; on the western side it measures 11 m. wide and narrows towards the east to the sub-valley until it reaches 3 m.

The surface Layer (13) covers most of area B2. This layer measures 19.5 m. long, 17 m. wide, and 3 m. deep. This layer of crushed limestone, likely the backfill of ancient tomb digging from KV 23 and KV 24, was solidified by flood and precipitation. A group of pottery sherds were discovered in this layer. Layer (13) was found within Cut (28), in which an ashy Layer (29) was also discovered.

In the middle of Cut (28) from the northern side, ashy Layer (F#35) was uncovered. It contained burnt pottery sherds and burnt limestone chips. The layer was only 20 cm. deep, measuring 1 m. (north-south) by 60 cm. (east-west). This layer was covering the lower Layer (36), a layer of crushed limestone which included some pottery sherds. It measured 2.40 m. north-south, 1.50 m. east-west, and 30 cm. deep.

Ashy Layer (F#37) was found underneath Layer (36). Pottery sherds were collected from this layer as well as a sample from the ash (Bag 117). The layer measures 1.12 m. by 0.50 m. and is 20 cm. deep.

Cut (28) widens towards the east, with Layer (13) covering the eastern section. In the north-eastern area, a thick ashy Layer (F#38) was found. It measures 1.50 m. long and is 40 cm. thick. A huge amount of pottery sherds was collected, as well as other finds including:

- Small piece of sandstone
- Small piece of quartzite or pink granite
- Small fragments of bones from fish or birds
- Small clay plate
- Clay ostrakon painted in black ink

Previous findings indicate that this area was a dining place for ancient workers. The small plate found this season is very similar to one found by the mission in 2010 as part of the foundation deposits. The findings in this layer along with those in Layers (F#38- 37- 35- 29) and Layer (13) prove that this was a place for human activities.

In the northern section of Area B, which is adjacent to the mountain forming the lower eastern border of Area A right under KV 25, a layer of stones was found and labelled as (F#30). The layer lies above (F#8) in the western part of Area B. It measures 7.40 m. (north-south), 1.70 m. (east-west) and 30 cm. deep. Near the eastern border of Area B2, we found bedrock, above which a fine sandy layer mixed with huge limestone blocks.

In the northwestern part of Area B, we found Layer (39), a silt layer beneath (F#30), while above (F#8), we documented Layer (43). It is a fine sandy layer formed by floods and precipitation. It is 15 cm. deep, measuring 4 m. (north-south) and 2.40 m. (east-west).

In the western part of surface Layer (13), a bronze ring was discovered. Initially it was covered by a layer of rust, but after cleaning it, we identified sunk relief that represents the royal sign “smA-tAwy” between “mAat” feathers. Beneath this is “nbw” and on the sides are two cobras, one with the red crown and one with the white crown, representing the goddesses Wadjet and Nekhbet. Our researchers found no similar rings except for one ring found in QV 54 that belonged to King Ay. This ring probably belongs to one of the later kings of the 18th dynasty, perhaps Amenhotep III or Akhenaten. The ring measures 2.4 cm. in diameter, and the upper part measures 1.3 cm. by 2.1 cm.

We also found another ring made of silver, which probably belonged to a woman, judging by the decorative pattern. The XRF analysis shows:

- 97.6 % silver
- 0.9 % copper
- 0.2 % lead
- 0.8 % gold

This ring was probably owned by a royal figure because silver was very rare in ancient Egypt. It measures 1.8 cm. in diameter, and the upper part measures 0.6 cm. Additionally, a bronze blade measuring 12.5 cm. by 2.8 cm. was discovered. Remains of gold plating were visible, indicating that it was likely a royal object.

Ashy Layer (03) was discovered beneath the previous layer, mixed with tafla, limestone chips and sand. The layer is 25-30 cm. deep. It is considered as one of the most important layers excavated in this area. Archaeological evidence discovered included a huge amount of pottery sherds, small fragments of human bones, a large number of decorative elements made of faience and precious stones, and glass inlays used to decorate royal coffins of the 18th dynasty. There are a few different theories to explain finding the decorative elements:

- They belong to one of the royal coffins from the previously discovered tombs of King Ay or KV 25
- They belong to an undiscovered tomb
- This area might have been specifically used as a manufacturing place for the decorative elements

We also discovered an offering basin (Find #17), roughly made of limestone and missing the lower part. It was found in two pieces and reassembled by our team. It measures 33 cm. by 13 cm. In addition, we discovered a limestone ostracon (Find #16). It is decorated with a sunk relief that represents a sitting baboon, which might be related to the cult of Thoth in the Western Valley. It measures 10 cm. by 8 cm. Small pieces of limestone were also discovered which were probably used to polish tomb walls.



Figure 9 – Area B after excavation.

Rock Cut (WV-T)

We continued our excavation to the east of the cut, ashy layer (F #21) was removed, and pottery sherds were collected. After removing this layer, we found a fireplace made of limestone. It was formed by aligning of one course of small limestones in a semi-circular form. It was left open on the north-eastern side. Its measures 1.15 m. by 0.60 m., and it is about 30 cm. high.

Towards the north of the excavated area, near the mountain by its western face, we discovered a thick ashy layer by the end of Layers (13) and (42). We collected pottery sherds. It measures 2.40 m. by 1.80 m. by 0.50 m.



Figure 10 – Area B, WV T and the Hearth.



Figure 11 – The hearth.

The Big Cut (Water Reservoir) WV-U

Towards the western part of Area B2 in the upper level, we noted the presence of a cut in the mountain aligned north-south and extending to the east. The surface layer of this cut is a very solid tafla layer mixed with crushed limestone. We excavated this layer during the first season. The layers were solidified due to floods and precipitation. We also extended our excavations to the northern parts, where the layers included sand mixed with crushed limestone and silt.

After excavating the surface layers, we identified the cut which was semi-circular. We moved on to excavate the layers filling the cut. The layers were solidified limestone blocks, formed by the water precipitation and the water rush. The cut sloped and narrowed as we went further down, until it was prism-shaped. Salt calcifications were noted from the water storage.

The final measurements of the reservoir were 16.5 m. north-south, 14 m. east-west, and a maximum depth of 4.50 m.

Water was stored here by the ancient workmen during the construction of the royal tombs. It was either collected from rain or transported from the Nile on the backs of donkeys. It gives us an idea about the human activities in this area, in addition to the huts and workshops discovered in the same area. Ancient Egyptians were good at planning a temporary life in a remote place away from the Nile valley.



Figure 12 – The water reservoir after cleaning.



Figure 13 – Different sections of Area B after excavation.

Excavations in Area D

This area represents the southern end of the sub-valley, and it lies to the south of Area C.



Figure 14 – Area D.

■ Excavation Work

Excavations began in this area during the 2009-2010 season from the eastern side, where we removed a huge amount of backfill and stone blocks. Workers' huts were discovered and a stairway that leads to a hut. Beside the upper hut, Coptic graffiti was found. This indicates that the area was used by the Copts to hide during the Roman period.

In 2018, excavations were done in the western side, starting from the southern border with Area C to the end of the valley. We removed the surface layer that covered the whole area. It is composed of a very solid layer of stone blocks, some fallen off the mountain and solidified by water precipitation. The layer beneath was also composed of limestone blocks, solidified by water precipitation. No archaeological evidence was documented from this area.



Figure 15 – Areas D and C.

Excavations in Area E

The area lies on the north side of the narrow valley leading to KV23, opposite a modern mastaba built for tourists.



Figure 16 – Area E.

■ Excavation Work (1)

Excavations were carried out on the upper level adjacent to the mountain, which inclines from north to south. Surface Layer (51) covered the whole area. It was composed of big limestone blocks, crushed limestone, and modern backfill from the renewal project of 1995, which prepared the tomb of Ay for visitors.



Figure 17 – Area with huts before excavation.

We started our work by removing the backfill, until we found stone alignments irregular in shape. According to the Theban Mapping Project by Kent Weeks, the stone alignments were present to the east of the workmen huts. A sandy layer appeared beneath, Layer (52), covering the whole site, and underneath that layer we found the workers' huts, as follows⁷:

Workmen Hut 1 (WH.1)

It lies to the east of WH.4 and measures 2.95 by 2.50 m. The maximum height of the walls is 1.20 m. The entrance is located at the eastern end of the southern wall. The hut was covered by a layer of fine loose sand mixed with pebbles, Layer (123). The layer was probably formed by rainfall and flooding, which caused the destruction of the upper courses of the walls. Only small pottery sherds were collected from this hut.

WH.2

It lies to the north of WH.3 and south of the southern wall of WH.1. It measures 1.80 by 1.20 m. The walls were destroyed except for the first course. The entrance is on the southern wall. The hut was covered by Layer (51), and underneath it was Layer (124), which consists of fine loose sand mixed with pebbles, Layer (123). The layer was probably formed by rainfall and flood, which also caused the destruction of the upper courses of the walls.

Layer (134) was found just above the ground floor; it is a very thin layer. Pottery sherds and stone tools were found beside this layer, which indicates human activities carried out in the area.

WH.3

It lies to the north of WH.1, adjacent to WH.4 and WH.5 from the east. It measures 2.65 by 1.50 m. The maximum height of the walls is 40 cm. The hut is entered through WH.29, and both probably formed a residential block.

The hut was covered by a layer of fine loose sand mixed with pebbles, Layer (121). Layer (129) covered the floor of the hut, where we collected some pottery sherds.

WH.4

It lies adjacent to WH.6 on the western side, and WH.1 on the eastern side, while the northern wall is adjacent to the mountain. It measures 2.15 by 2.75 m. The maximum height of the walls is 60 cm. The hut is entered through WH.1, and both probably formed a residential block. The walls were visible in the Theban Mapping Project.

⁷ (Note: the huts are numbered according to the order of excavations)

The hut was covered by surface Layer (51) that covers Area E, followed by a layer of fine loose sand mixed with pebbles, Layer (52). The layer was probably formed by rainfall and flood. Pottery sherds were collected from this layer. Layer (53) was found underneath the previous layer in the southern part of the hut, formed by pottery sherds mixed with crushed limestone.

The floor of the hut was covered by some big stones, which might have fallen from the northern area behind the huts or been brought in by flood and rain. In the northeastern corner, we discovered a cylindrical pot installed in the floor of the hut, Layer (62). It was likely used for storing food or personal utensils, but definitely not as a water reservoir because it was hollowed from the inside.

The entrance of the hut is on the southern wall in the southeastern corner. The entrance is composed of a limestone jamb (#61), measuring 50 cm. by 50 cm., and two stiles, the western being 60 cm. high (#59), and the eastern being 59 cm. high (#74).

WH.5

It lies to the south of WH.4, and it might actually be the front room of Hut (04). The entrance lies in the southwestern corner. WH.3 and WH.29 lie to its east. It measures 2.35 by 3 m. The maximum height of the walls is 80 cm. We found a stile on the western side of the entrance, 87 cm. high (#70). We also found a small mastaba-like structure outside the southern wall, probably meant for sitting outside the hut, 36 cm. high.

In the northwestern corner, we found another mastaba-like structure, composed of one course of stones forming a semi-circular shape. It is adjacent to the southern wall of WH.4 and the western wall of WH.5. It was probably meant for sitting outside the hut or setting food and personal utensils.

Inside the hut, we discovered a carved limestone block, stream-shaped, which might have been used for pouring out water. We also discovered a limestone slab with a hole in the middle, probably used to stabilize the door. The hut was covered by a layer of fine loose sand mixed with pebbles, Layer (93). The layer was likely formed by rainfall and flood, which resulted in the destruction of the upper courses of the walls.

After removing the previous layer, we found Layer (54), composed of crushed limestone mixed with pottery sherds. The pottery sherds were found sticking to the floor, which meant these were pots installed in the floor but crushed by blocks falling from the mountain.

WH.6

It lies to the west of WH.5 and WH.6. It measures 2.65 m. by 1.95 m., and the maximum height of the walls is 1.10 m. The hut was covered by the surface Layer (51), and beneath it, Layer (94) composed of fine sand mixed with pebbles. This layer covered the floor of the hut and included a large number of pottery sherds. In the northwestern corner, we found a cut in the floor (#243), surrounded by huge stone blocks, and inside the cut we found pottery sherds. We are not yet sure about the function of this cut, but it might represent a period of re-using of the huts in later times. It measures 1.30 m. by 95 cm., and 40 cm. deep. The entrance to this hut is in the middle of the southern wall.

WH.7

It lies to the west of WH.6, and measures 1.85 m. by 2.60 m., and the maximum height of the walls is 1.40 m. This hut was also covered with surface Layer (51), and below that was a sandy layer mixed with crushed limestone, Layer (95), which contained a huge number of pottery sherds. The floor of the hut was covered with Layer (99). Hut (07) and Hut (08) are separated by a wide wall (#161), 1.10 m. thick.

WH.8

It lies to the west of WH.7, and shares wall (#161) with that hut. It measures 2.30 m. by 2.70 m., and the entrance is in the middle of the southern wall. At the northern end of the western wall is the entrance to WH.9, indicating that WH.8 and WH.9 form a residential block. The maximum height of the walls is 1.50 m.

The hut was covered by surface Layer (96), a fine sand layer mixed with pebbles and pottery sherds. The floor of the hut was covered with Layer (100), and an ashy layer was found in the center of the hut (130) measuring 80 cm. by 45 cm., 1 cm. thick. We discovered a clay ostrakon inside the hut with hieratic text that reads "Pa-Rn Nfr", probably the name of the hut owner or one of the workmen, which is the only text discovered inside any of the huts.

WH.9

This hut forms a residential block together with WH.8. It measures 2.60 m. by 2.85 m., and the maximum height of the walls is 1 m. The entrance is on the north end of the eastern wall along with a jamb (#166) and a northern stile (#167). This hut was covered with the surface sandy Layer (97), which contained a huge number of pottery sherds that were collected. Beneath Layer (97), we found ashy Layer (131), measuring 1.40 m. by 1 m., thickness 2 cm. It lies directly above the floor of the hut. This indicates the presence of human activities inside the huts.

We also found the remains of a mastaba inside the hut in the northern corner, which was used as a seat or a shelf for personal belongings. In the northwestern corner, we found a circular limestone block, probably used as a base for a wooden column to protect the workmen from the sun heat during the day. Similar examples were recovered at Deir el Medina.

WH.10

It lies adjacent to WH.9 from the western side. It measures 1.80 m. by 2.80 m., and the maximum height of the walls is about 5.80 m. The entrance is in the eastern section of the southern wall. We suggest that this hut was designed to contain two rooms, built with the remains of the wall extensions. The rooms are then smaller than other huts. The hut was covered by the sandy surface layer that covers all other huts (F#89). We found some pottery sherds, complete pots, and a bronze needle.

WH.11

This hut represents the northern border of the group of huts. It lies to the north of WH.27 and WH.28. Most of the walls are destroyed. It was covered by a sandy surface layer (F#115), and we did not find any archaeological evidence inside it.

WH.12

It lies to the west of WH.15, measures 2.20 m. by 2.20 m., and the maximum height of the walls is 5.95 m. The entrance is in the far east corner of the southern wall. It was also covered by the sandy surface layer (F#85), and the floor of the hut was covered with layer (F#102). In the southwestern corner of the hut, we found a cut in the floor (F#241), and some pottery sherds.

WH.13

It lies adjacent to WH.12 from the western side, measures 2.65 m. by 2.20 m., and the maximum height of the walls is 5.97 m. The hut was covered by the sandy layer (F#77), and pottery sherds completely covered the floor.

In the southeastern corner, we found a big pot, broken in situ, which was probably installed in the floor and used for storage (F#88). This style of amphora was used in ancient Egypt as the main container for transporting and storing grains and oils, and sometimes mummification material. Amphorae were even used as coffins for babies. The style was common in Egypt from the Middle Kingdom until the 19th and 20th dynasties. This type of pot was usually included in foundation pits.

WH.14

It lies adjacent to WH.13 from the western side, measures 2.65 m. by 2.12 m., and the maximum height of the walls is about 0.85 m. The hut was covered by the sandy layer (F#78), and pottery sherds completely covered the floor (F#104). We found a clay pot that was used as a decorative vase, while the undecorated type was used to store flour and dried food. These pots were discovered in the tombs of Maya and Tutankhamun containing different grains and dried grapes.

WH.15

It lies adjacent to WH.14 from the western side, measures 2.75 m. by 2.10 m., and the maximum height of the walls is about 1.55 m. The entrance lies in the western side of the southern wall. The hut was covered by the sandy layer (F#79), and pottery sherds completely covered the floor. We discovered a complete pot installed in the floor in front of the court during the excavations. These pots were discovered in the tombs of Maya and Tutankhamun containing different grains and dried grapes.

WH.16

It lies adjacent to WH.15, measures 2.70 m. by 2.40 m., and the maximum height of the walls is about 1.10 m. The entrance lies in the eastern side of the southern wall. The hut was covered by sandy layer (F#80). The northern wall was originally built adjacent to the mountain, but it was completely destroyed.

Layer (F#80) contained several pots, some complete and others fragmented, several plates, a bronze needle (9.5 cm. long) and a long wooden tool with a hollow square shaped end (40 cm. by 10 cm.) probably used as a key for the door of the hut. In the northwestern corner, we found a big pot installed in the floor (F#109) conserved with remains of a gypsum layer. It was used to store food and water. The pot was full of sand (F#110). After emptying it, we found some pottery sherds, animal dung (probably goat), and stone knives. In the northeastern corner of the hut, we found a complete clay plate embedded in the floor.

WH.17

It lies adjacent to WH.16 from the western side, measures 1.95 m. by 2.25 m., and the maximum height of the walls is about 1.10 m. The entrance lies in the western side of the southern wall. The hut was covered by the sandy layer (F#82), and pottery sherds completely covered the floor.

WH.18

It lies adjacent to WH.17 from the western side, measures 2.35 m. by 2.00 m., and the maximum height of the walls is about 1.10 m. The entrance lies in the western side of the southern wall. The hut was covered by the sandy layer (F#82), and pottery sherds completely covered the floor.

WH.19

It lies adjacent to WH.18 from the western side, measures 2.55 m. by 2.15 m., and the maximum height of the walls is about 1.10 m. The entrance lies in the western side of the southern wall. The hut was covered by the sandy layer (F#83), and pottery sherds completely covered the floor.

To the north of this hut, we found a wooden hammer that is missing the lower part. The remaining upper part was fragmented into two pieces. It probably belongs to the owner of WH.19, which means that he was among the workmen responsible for refining the walls of the tombs and preparing them for decorations. The hammer measures 23 cm. long, and the diameter of the surface is 15 cm.

WH.20

It lies adjacent to WH.19 on the western side, measures 2.65 m. by 1.65 m., and most of the walls are destroyed. It is similar to WH.4, as we found remains of a mastaba used as a seat or a shelf and its entrance was probably located in the eastern side of the southern wall. The hut was covered by a sandy surface layer (F#84), which included a large number of pottery sherds.

In the northeastern corner, we found the remains of a fragmented pot installed in the floor (F#87), used for storing food and water. On the floor of the hut (F#114), we found an ashy layer (F#113), measuring 5.45 by 0.40 m., with a thickness of 0.5 m., showing evidence of human activity. Similar decoration patterns have been found in WH.14.

WH.21

It lies adjacent to WH.20 on the western side, measures 2.65 m. by 2.10 m., and the maximum height of the walls is about 0.60 m. The entrance is on the eastern side of the southern wall. Most of the walls are destroyed, and to the north of this hut, we found a wall or fence that extends to the west behind the huts.

The hut was covered by a sandy surface layer (F#86), and we found a layer of pottery sherds that covered the floor completely (106). A thin ashy layer was documented on the western side under the western wall.

WH.22

It lies adjacent to WH.21 on the western side, measures 2.80 m. by 1.60 m., and the maximum height of the walls is about 0.45 m. The hut was covered by surface layer (F#51), followed by a pottery sherds layer (F#90). Layer (F#107) represents the floor of the hut.

We noted that the huts located on the western side are mostly destroyed and badly preserved, different than the huts located on the eastern side. They were also lacking archaeological evidence compared to the eastern side huts; thus, we suggest that the western side huts were used as a sleeping area, and not for work-related activities. We found a pottery vessel in this hut similar to the one we found at WH.15, used for storing flour and dried foods.

WH.23

It lies adjacent to WH.22, measures 2.95 m. by 1.70 m., and the maximum height of the walls is about 0.60 m. The hut was covered by a sandy surface layer (F#92), which contained a lot of pottery sherds. The walls of this hut are mostly destroyed, and the floor was covered by a sandy layer mixed with pebbles (F#132).

WH.24

This hut represents the western border of the huts discovered, most of its walls are destroyed, it measures 2.80 m. by 1.10 m., and the maximum height of the walls is 0.50 m. It was covered by sandy Layer (F#122), and the floor was covered by Layer (F#133).

WH.25

It lies to the east of WH.4 and to the north of WH.2 and WH.26. It measures 2.70 m. by 1.30 m., and the maximum height of the walls is 0.50 m. Most of the walls are destroyed, having fallen inside of the hut; the eastern part of the hut is covered by a big limestone block. The area inside the hut was covered by the sandy layer (F#125), and we found few pottery sherds.

WH.26

It lies to the east of WH.2 and to the south of WH.25. The entrance is at the northeastern corner of WH.30. The hut measures 2.30 m. by 2.10 m., and the maximum height of the walls is 2.60 m. It was covered by sandy Layer (F#126), and very few pottery sherds were collected.

WH.27

It lies to the north of WH.28 and to the east of WH.25 and WH.26. Huts 27 and 28 probably form one residential block. It measures 1.20 m. by 1.90 m. It was covered by sandy layer (F#127), and very few pottery sherds were collected.

WH.28

It lies to the south of WH.27, measures 1.80 m. by 1.65 m., and the maximum height of the walls is 0.60 m. Most of the walls are destroyed. It was covered by sandy Layer (F#128), and very few pottery sherds were collected.

WH.29

It lies to the east of WH.5, to the south of WH.3, and it might have originally been the front rooms of WH.3. It measures 2.15 m. by 1.90 m. and the maximum height of its walls is 30 cm. It was covered by a sandy surface layer, followed by an ashy layer (F#137) that is only in the northeastern part. Layer (F#138) represents the floor of the hut.

WH.30

It lies to the south of WH.2 and WH.26, and to the east of WH.29. It measures 1.80 m. by 2.40 m.

■ Excavation Work (2)

We continued our work in the workmen's city and in Area E, where we dug three trenches in the east-west valley leading to the tomb of Ay. The point of the excavation was to clarify if there were more huts extending further into the valley or to find any archaeological evidence for the workmen's activities in the huts.

We started excavations on the southern side beside the already discovered huts, with a trench 8.20 m. long (east-west) and 5.40 m. wide (north-south). We removed the surface layer completely, and underneath we found a layer composed of big blocks of limestone, that had solidified from weathering factors. We did not find any evidence for human activities (top elevation: 183.457, bottom elevation 181.637).

We continued to work in the western side of the huts, removing the surface layer, and underneath we found a sandy layer mixed with crushed limestone. Underneath that layer, we discovered another set of huts which extend to the west. A total of twelve small huts were discovered, almost fully destroyed, the walls retaining only one course each. The huts are smaller than the previously discovered ones, and we did not find much archaeological evidence, which might indicate that these huts were used as small storage areas. To the north, we found a narrow path (1.70 m. wide and 5.40 m. long) that separates the small huts from the main huts.

The excavations were also extended west of WH.24, resulting in the discovery of five more large huts that represent the western border of the workers' village (WH.41-WH.45), separated by the path previously mentioned. We also discovered a wall built of big blocks, oriented north-south, likely representing the end of the western extension of the village.

To the east of the small huts, in front of WH.22 on the southern side, we found two huge stone blocks, possibly representing the southeastern entrance to the village. Between the blocks we found a small pottery vessel.

Small Storage Huts

A total of eleven small huts were discovered with similar measurements. There was no archaeological material collected except in WH.31.

Hut No.	Length	Width	Height of the walls	Archaeological material
WH.31	2.70	2.40	0.35	Remains of colored vessels
WH.32	2.00	1.165	0.60	
WH.33	1.70	1.50	0.60	
WH.34	1.60	0.95	0.30	
WH.35	1.50	1.70	0.70	
WH.36	1.70	1.70	0.60	
WH.37	1.50	1.20	0.35	
WH.38	1.70	1.30	0.30	
WH.39	1.80	1.30	0.30	
WH.40	1.80	1.40	0.30	
WH.46	1.70	1.40	0.30	

WH.31

It lies in the southeastern part of the area with the storage huts, adjacent to WH.32 on the west. It measures 2.40 m. by 2.70 m., and the maximum height of the walls is 0.35 m. The hut was covered by surface Layer (315), we found a fragment of a clay vessel installed in the floor, along with other plates and pottery fragments. To the north, we found some blue clay vessels similar to others discovered in Area B during the 2009/2010 season.

■ Western Extension

The excavations were also extended towards the west of WH.24, that resulted in the discovery of five more large huts that represent the western border of the workers' village (WH.41-WH.45). The huts were built in a uniform shape similar to the rest of the huts, and all the entrances were located on the south walls. Few pottery sherds were recovered.

WH.41

It lies adjacent to WH.24 from the western side, measures 1.85 m. by 1.80 m., and the maximum height of the walls is 0.40 m. The hut was covered by surface Layer (1), Layer (315) and Layer (51), which covered most of the workers' village.

WH.42

It lies adjacent to WH.41 from the western side, measures 3.30 m. by 2.30 m., and the maximum height of the walls is 0.60 m. The hut was covered by surface Layer (1), Layer (315), and Layer (51). We did not find any archaeological evidence in this hut.

WH.43

It lies adjacent to WH.42 on the western side, measures 2.66 m. by 1.70 m., and the maximum height of the walls is 0.60 m. The hut was covered by surface Layer (1), Layer (315) and Layer (51). We did not find any archaeological evidence in this hut.

WH.44

It lies adjacent to WH.43 from the western side, measures 2.90 m. by 1.95 m., and the maximum height of the walls is 0.60 m. The hut was covered by surface Layer (1), Layer (315) and Layer (51).

WH.45

It represents the end of the workmen village, measures 3.25 m. by 3.20 m., and the maximum height of the walls is 0.70 m.

The total length of the workmen village is 76.80 m., and the width 14.80 m.

To the south of the workmen village, we dug a longitudinal trench that extends from west to east measuring 20 m. by 5 m. We started to excavate in the western part. The surface was covered with a backfill mound, probably from previous excavations. It included modern refuse and some pottery sherds that were already numbered by the American mission that had worked in the area in front of KV25.

After we removed the surface layer, below was a layer composed of stone blocks, followed by a fine sandy layer mixed with pottery sherds, which was likely formed by rainfall and flood. This layer is similar to Flood Layer (8). A broken colored vessel was discovered in this layer that we reassembled. The vessel dates to the 18th dynasty, and it was probably part of the foundation deposits.

We extended the excavations to the east. The surface layer covering the site was composed of silt mixed with pebbles. No archaeological evidence was documented.

We discovered 46 huts that extend from east to west, 35 of them in one line (east-west) adjacent to the northern face of the main valley, and 11 small huts extending to the south that might have been for storage.



Figure 18 – Workers' Village, aerial view.

■ General Analysis for the Workers' Village

- We noted that all the huts were built during one period. There were no later alterations made, which indicates that all the huts were built for a certain reason in a certain period.
- According to the archaeological finds, the village is dated between the reign of Amenhotep III until the end of the 18th dynasty.
- Some huts form residential blocks such as WH.3 and WH.30, WH.27 and WH.28, WH.26 and WH.25, WH.5 and WH.4, WH.8 and WH.9.
- WH.10 is the largest hut, and it probably had an extension that was destroyed.
- Some vessels were installed inside the huts, such as in WH.4, WH.13, WH.16, WH.20, and WH.21. Some vessels were found broken *in situ* due to the fallen walls.
- Most of the entrances were built precisely; there were jambs and stiles, indicating the use of wooden doors.
- The sizes of the huts were big, which indicates permanent residency. The small huts were likely used as storage or recreational areas for the workers.
- The thickness of the walls indicates that the walls were high and supported ceilings. Some huts retained the original floors. We also found bases of columns.
- The huts that retained the original floors had an ashy layer, such as in WH.9, WH.20, WH.22, WH.30, indicating the presence of human activities.
- There were probably specialized huts, including:
 - We found bronze needles in certain huts along with small pieces of linen.
 - We found pigments and colored pottery fragments in a hut, possibly indicating a pottery workshop.
 - We found gold sheets and a thick ashy layer in a hut, which indicates it was a workshop for preparing the funerary furniture.
 - We found wooden hammers in some huts, which indicate carpentry activities.

We can conclude that the workmen village was not only an area for residences, but also workshops for preparing the royal tombs.

Exploratory Trenches

Due to the vast surface area of the Valley of the Monkeys and the similarity in the topographical features, mainly due to natural causes, the collapse of the mountain, or flooding, it was hard to choose an excavation site by visible archaeological evidence alone. Hence, our work strategy depended on digging trenches to study the geological, natural, and human activities, which helps us understand more about the history of Valley of the Monkeys, particularly during the 18th dynasty.

We dug three exploratory trenches, as follows:

First Trench (TR.T.N.1)

This trench is located south of Area E. This was the first site chosen for a trench due to the visible presence of pottery sherds on the surface, and we could not identify any previous excavations or trenches in the area. The site is a hill sloped from south to north, 15 m. long. At the northern end, a number of huge stone blocks had accumulated from the fallen mountain on the border of the main path to the valley.

We dug the trench from the area with stone blocks southwards. We collected all pottery sherds from the surface layer. Excavations lasted for a month in this area, during which we removed the surface layer, followed by a calcified layer underneath (1 m. deep), followed by a fine sand layer (probably a sedimentary layer formed by flood and precipitation), and finally a layer made of rocks which had fallen from the mountain. Unfortunately, we did not recover any archaeological material except for a fragment of a pottery vessel. Oddly, this fragment was able to be refit with another found in Area B. This raised several questions about the relationship between both sites, keeping in mind that we did not recover both fragments from a surface layer. It might suggest that this site was abandoned while all human activities occurred in Area B.

Unfortunately, after removing 4m deep of backfill, we could not yet reach the bedrock, and so we stopped excavations in this trench, possibly to continue in future seasons.

Second Trench (TR.T.N.2)

This trench lies in the eastern end of Area E. It was chosen because the hills slopes from east to west, 15 m. high from the valley. The surface area is refined, sharply vertical, and away from the flood streams.

We excavated this trench from the top of the slope towards the west. The surface layer that covers this trench is the same as the Valley of the Monkeys. The layers beneath are similar to the ones documented at (TR.T.N.1), but at a 1.5 m. depth.

We also noted the presence of a cut, and after removing the necessary backfill and cleaning the site, we realized that it was a natural cut in the mountain. There was no archaeological evidence documented from this trench.

Third Trench (TR.T.N.3)

In the eastern end of Area E, we begin Area F, which is a straight area extending from south to north. Near the end, the valley extends again to the east. Our excavations concentrated on the western side of Area F, where it's a bit sloped towards the east, an ideal area for the ancient Egyptians to build their tombs away from the flood stream. While the eastern side of Area F is a mountain edge, that could have been used as a recess area for the workers since we already identified graffiti on the mountain surface.

An older trench was dug adjacent to the mountain edge, by Carter or Davis, and hence we concentrated on the western side of Area F. Our trench was dug beginning in the southwestern part of Area F, where there is a high mound sloping to the east.

The common surface layer covered the trench, a sandy layer mixed with crushed limestone and pebbles. It was darkened by continuous sunlight, which also indicated an unexcavated site. We began excavation in the high mound by removing the surface layer from top to bottom, followed by the calcified layer composed of crushed limestone mixed with very solid tafla created by flooding and precipitation. We worked for almost a month, trying to remove the solid tafla layer and identify the date of this layer, but we did not find any archaeological evidence. Thus, we believe that this area was not used during the New Kingdom for any human activities.

Area F



Figure 19 – Area F.

Area F1

It lies south of Area F2 and west of Area F3. Excavations continued after digging two trenches in the lower level. The surface layer was composed of fallen rocks, along with silt mixed with pebbles and sand, formed by the flood and precipitation. We found no archaeological evidence in this area.

Area F3

It lies to the east of the workers' village, opposite Area F1, and north of Area E. The site is composed of a rocky mound. The surface layer was removed, followed by Layer (F#310), the ground level of the mound. It was composed of crushed limestone mixed with sandy silt. This layer is adjacent to the main pathway leading to the tomb of Ay. Survey records the top elevation at 180.662 ASL and the bottom elevation at 78.932 ASL, measuring 15 m. long by 10 m. wide. After we removed this layer, we found huge stone blocks that weighed up to one ton.

■ Archaeological finds

1. Colored pottery sherds (Bag#508)
2. Faience beads and alabaster fragment (Bag#509)



Figure 20 – Area F during excavation.

KV65

To the north of TR.T.N.1, there is another mound, bigger and wider, sloping from north to south. In the northern and southern sides of this mound, there are two floodplains respectively. The mound was covered with the surface layer that covers the valley, which indicates the absence of any previous modern excavations in this area.



Figure 21 – KV 65 before discovery.

During our excavations in the surface area, we found two pottery sherds that complemented each other, dating back to the Prehistoric period. The sherds might have been thrown away by one of the New Kingdom workers. After removing the surface area, we found the calcified layer that had already been shown in the trench to be a natural pre-18th Dynasty layer. Hence, we abandoned digging in this area.

In the southern end, at the lower level of the mound, we found a fine lime layer under the surface layer. It was different than the calcified layer; it was a layer of gypsum powder, with no other inclusions. After removing this layer, we found a rectangular cut that extends from east to west. The borders of this cut are dug in the calcified layer, so we cleaned up the area around the cut. It measures 5.60 m. by 2.10 m. We then moved on to the layer beneath, which was a layer of white limestone chips, not weathered by sunlight. We removed this layer to realize the cut slopes further (east-west), which indicates the possible entrance of a royal tomb.

After removing around 60 cm. of backfill, we noted the tip of a thick wooden stick placed vertically, indicating that the cut was already excavated in ancient periods. We also found pottery sherds, ropes, leather pieces, and other artifacts that will be discussed below. On the floor of the cut, we discovered a branch of acacia tree, along with tree leaves. After cleaning out the cut, we could visibly note that there were no stairs, but there was a slope from east to west, and the edges had chiseling marks. There were also natural cracks, and the floor was uneven.



Figure 22 – KV 65 during excavation.

■ Archaeological Finds

- A thick wooden stick, 2.50 m. long and 10 cm. in diameter, with a small hollow in the middle. On the sides, there are hieroglyphic texts reading *nb-t3wy* and *wbn* which translates to “Lord of the Two Lands” and “rise”. The hole in the middle was probably to pass a rope; this stick was used to assist with the transportation of funerary furniture.
- A wooden hammer, 30 cm. long and 13 cm. diameter, with usage marks visible. The hammer could have been used with chisels, sometimes for refining the surface walls of tombs, or even used to create sunk relief.
- Clay ostrakon, 8 cm. by 8.5 cm., with a drawing in black ink showing a sitting baboon putting his hands on his mouth. It was popular to find three baboons drawn to form “I don’t see, I don’t speak, I don’t hear” as a promise from the workmen about royal tomb building.
- A wooden tool that takes the shape of the hieroglyph *mr*, 25.5 cm. long, tied to a rope at the end. It symbolizes the Egyptian axe used in agriculture, cutting wood, or by the goddess Seshat as a scale. This wooden axe was probably used as symbolical funerary furniture.
- A feather of a bird, 12 cm. long, with a pointed end, probably used as a writing tool inside a tomb.
- Small pieces of rope and leather, with clear signs of stitching, probably part of the floral collar worn by the mourners during the funeral. A similar model was found in KV 54.
- Tree branches and leaves, probably part of the floral collar worn by the mourners during the funeral.
- Fruits of persea or avocado, a sacred tree in the ancient Egyptian cult until the Roman period. Similar examples were found in the tomb of Tutankhamun and in the tombs of Lahun.
- Wooden fragments and pieces of linen of different sizes, probably part of a wooden tool collection. The linen was for wrapping with natron salt. These were likely pieces of equipment for a mummification workshop, similar to the ones found in KV 54.
- Onions and Egyptian figs, both representing eternity. Onions were spread on mummies, and Egyptian figs are associated with goddess Hathor.
- A hair lock, a very common finding in a mummification workshop, used during the rituals.
- Animal bones and animal dung; the bones belonged to goats slaughtered as offerings, and the dung was probably used to set a fire to cook the funerary feast.
- Pieces of goat leather, some of them with visible stitching signs and others cut in circles to cover pottery vessels.
- Pottery bottle, in a circular form, known as the bottles used during the pilgrimage to Abydos, to store ointments and wine.
- Beer jar without a rim, used in the funerary temples for the purification of the deceased during “Opening of the Mouth” ceremony.
- Rope, made of fiber, knotted in a specific way to hang a pottery vessel.

■ Comparison between KV 65 and KV 54

KV 54 lies in the eastern valley of the Valley of the Kings, a few meters away from the tomb of Seti I (KV 17). Edward Russel discovered this workshop in December 1907 during his excavations for Theodore Davis. KV 54 is clearly not a tomb; it is barely a cut in the mountain floor that includes all funeral belongings of Tutankhamun. It was an important discovery before they even discovered the tomb of the boy-king himself. Some scholars believed that KV 54 was an incomplete royal tomb project, and then it was used to store the funerary equipment of KV 62, as it was robbed shortly after the funeral.

KV 54 contains some of the mummification equipment used for Tutankhamun and some items from the funerary feast. Findings included twelve storage boxes containing funerary equipment, natron salt, pottery, linen and floral collars. After the discovery of KV 62 in 1922, Carter suggested that because of the robbing incident that occurred shortly after the death of the king, ancient Egyptians cleared the entrance of the cache of funerary equipment, moved them to KV 54, and blocked the entrance with huge stone blocks to prevent further robbery.

Upon the discovery of KV 65 in the Valley of the Monkeys, we propose a comparison between the findings of both workshops, KV65 and KV54, including:

1. We found similar linen pieces in KV 65 as were found in KV 54 that were probably for wrapping organic material.
2. Floral collars made of leaves of papyrus, olives, green beans, and flowers of corn, blue lotus, bikri, and raspberry were discovered in both. A complete collar was found in KV 54, while separate pieces of different flora were found in KV 65.
3. KV65 was excavated before, but in ancient times according to the visible conditions of the stratigraphical layers. This may suggest that KV 65 dates to an earlier period than the workers' village and workers took some equipment from there. Some pottery vessels discovered in the village were similar to the ones already discovered in KV 54. A big pot was reassembled from three different huts (WH.20, WH.21, WH.22), used for storage, and it inscribed with a name in hieroglyphs, possibly the name of a workman.



Figure 23 – KV 65.

Area G

This area is a mound that lies to the north of KV 65. We cleaned the surface layer, and underneath found a layer of silt mixed with pebbles and flintstones along with collapsed stones from the mountain. The layer underneath that was greyish, and we did not find any archaeological evidence in this area. It was formed by the floods and precipitation.

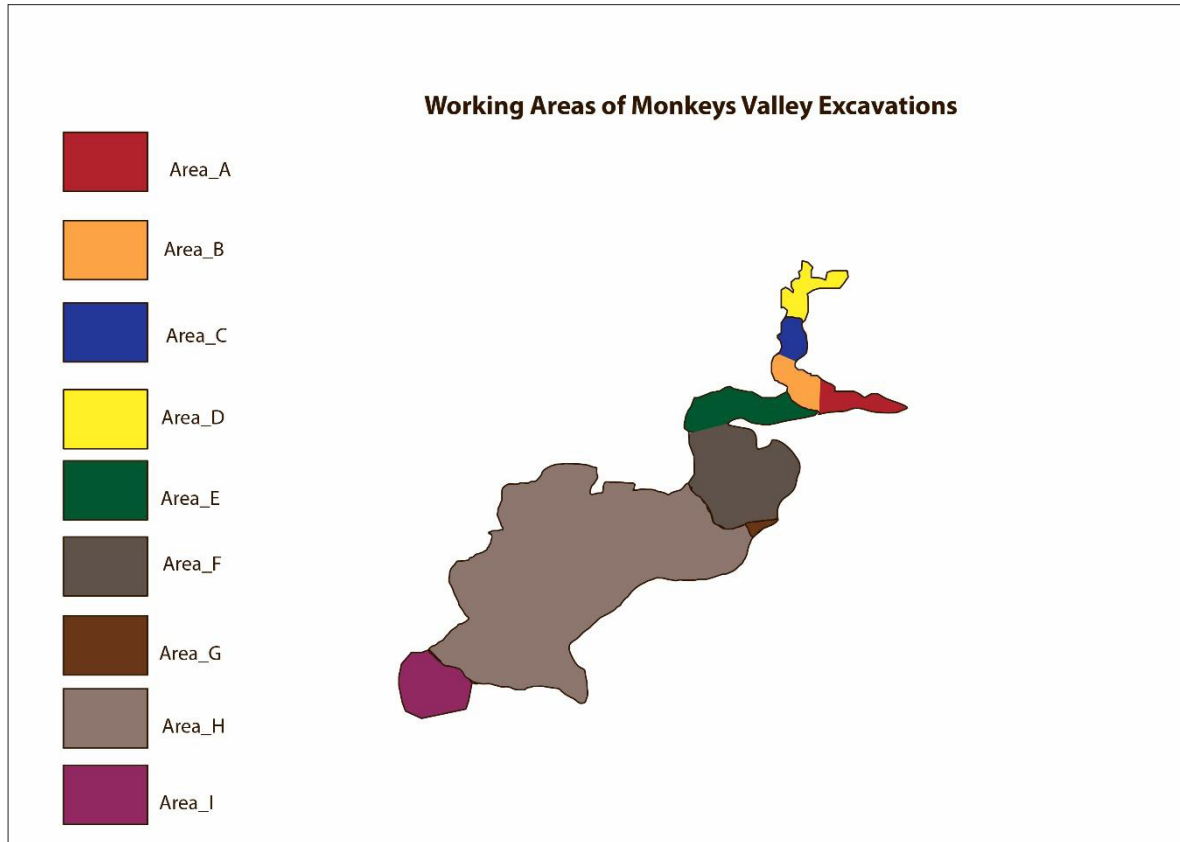


Figure 24 – Areas in the Valley of the Monkeys, including areas G and H.

Area H



Figure 25 – Valley in front of KV 22.

First Trench (H1)

In front of KV 22, there is a high mound, sloping from south to north. There were previous trenches dug in this mound, 2 m. by 1 m., 1 m. deep, probably dug by Carter or Davis in the early 19th century. The backfill of the Japanese mission which excavated in KV 22 was accumulated on this mound too.

Hence, our mission began to excavate the area in search of tombs and archaeological evidence under the backfill. We removed around 1-1.5 m. of backfill, during which we found an ushabti statue from the tomb of Amenhotep III (29 cm. by 10 cm.). The statue is missing its legs, eye inlays, and part of the face, but we can confirm it is royal because of the Osirian pose and the hole which likely once carried an uraeus.

Beneath this layer, we found a flood and precipitation layer, composed of small fragments of limestone mixed with fine sand, silt and lime. This layer covered the mound completely, and after removing it, we found a solidified layer of large fragments of limestone surrounded by solidified lime and sand, similar to the layer in front of KV 23 in Area A. Due to the previous results from Area A, we knew that this was an ancient natural layer lacking any archaeological evidence, so we stopped our excavations in this area.

Second Trench (H2)

It lies to the left of the pathway leading to KV 22. We did photographic documentation before our excavations in the area, and excavations began in Layer (F#305), composed of crushed limestone mixed with sandy silt of greyish color.

We noted that this layer covered Area H2 completely; it starts at the electricity chamber, extends to the left of the pathway leading to KV 22 and up to the entrance of the tomb of Ay. The layer thickens moving northward. It was either formed from the backfill of the French expedition that discovered KV 22, or dates to the Roman Period as we found archaeological evidence dated to that period. Survey documentation was also necessary, we pinned a virtual point by the electricity chamber (TBM100). From there, layers were documented accordingly.

■ Important Finds

- Statue of Amenhotep III: A pink granite statue of king Amenhotep III in very good condition, considered one of the most important discoveries of the mission. It measures 53.5 cm. by 21 cm., an exquisite example of the sculpture in the 18th dynasty. The king is represented in the Osirian pose holding the *ankh* sign, wearing the royal nemes, and there are five lines of hieroglyphic inscription in sunk relief from the Book of the Dead. Remains of reddish pigment were observed on the royal beard. Some scholars suggest that this kind of statue was an overseer to the ushabti statues, and we have a similar example from the tomb of Tutankhamun. Other scholars name it the “mummy statue” which replaces the mummy in the netherworld in case of any damage. It was strange to find this statue 70 cm. deep from the surface layer. It is a very important and beautiful example of sculpture.
- Remains of coffin: Discovered beside the previous statue was probably part of the middle coffin, with remains of turquoise, agate, and faience inlays, and golden plates in shape of hieroglyphs in very bad condition.
- Fragments of alabaster, faience, and pottery sherds found to the north of the electricity chamber.

After cleaning up this layer, we started to excavate the layer underneath (F#306) composed of crushed limestone mixed with pebbles and sandy silt, measuring 17 m. by 7 m. We worked on removing this layer to reach the mountain floor.

The layer was probably formed during the French expedition; we found stones aligned randomly, and the thickness of the layer decreases as we get closer to KV 22, which was discovered by that expedition. Survey records the top elevation 100.54 ASL and the bottom elevation 98.42 ASL.

■ Important Finds

- Pottery sherds dating to different periods including the Roman period (Bag#495)
- Fragments of faience that probably were pieces of amulets
- Small faience ushabti, uninscribed

- Two small plates found above each other next to the mountain, in bad condition. (Bag#496)
- Remains of small wooden and linen pieces (Bag#497)

We moved to Layer (F#307), which lies on the right side of the pathway leading to KV 22, and below to the west of the electricity chamber. It was composed of old backfill mixed with tafla and crushed limestone. Survey records the top elevation 101.78 ASL and the bottom elevation 100.63 ASL. The layer measures 4.5 m. by 9 m., and findings only included a few fragments of faience.

Layer (F#308) lies in front of the electricity chamber from the western side, composed of crushed limestone mixed with sandy silt, measuring 7.5 m. by 7.5 m. Survey recorded the top elevation as 102.13 ASL and the bottom elevation as 100.65 ASL.

Layer (#309) lies underneath Layer (F#308), which is part of the backfill mound, composed of crushed limestone mixed with pebbles and sandy silt. Survey records the top elevation as 100.75 ASL and the bottom elevation as 99.38 ASL. The layer measures 7 m. by 5 m. We only found a few pottery sherds. The layer was probably formed as the backfill of the Japanese mission excavating in KV 22; the layer is positioned between layer (F#308) and (F#305).

Third Trench (H3)

It lies in the southwestern corner of KV 22 and north of (W.V.A). It is a sloped mound formed by the backfill of previous excavations.

Layer (F#302) was photographically documented and excavated. It is composed of crushed limestone mixed with sand, with smaller limestone chips. The layer was formed from the backfill of previous excavations. We found pottery sherds, fragments of pottery vessels, bones of a goose, remains of a cat jaw, remains of charcoal, animal dung, limestone ostraca, and wooden fragments. We also found remains of plant seeds, probably soapberry (*Balanites*). Ancient Egyptians extracted ointments from this plant and used the oil to light lamps or to apply on wigs.

Fourth Trench (H4)

It is a wide mound that is located at the southwestern corner of KV 22. We began excavations by cleaning the surface layer (F#301) which was composed of silt mixed with pebbles and flintstone. We fully excavated the area and found many collapsed stones from the mountain. We dug several trenches in the western side of the site. We also excavated adjacent to the mountain and to the north of the main pathway. We did not find any archaeological evidence.

Fifth Trench (H5)

It lies to the west of KV22, in the middle of the West Valley. It is a wide landscape with several adjacent mounds. The surface area was cleaned, and we noted collapses and floodplains. We removed layer (F#301), which was a silt layer mixed with pebbles and flintstones, and underneath

we found a silty layer, 40 cm. deep, followed by bedrock. Pottery sherds were collected from the surface area (Bag#469). We also found remains of wicker used in funerals (Bag#480), and two sandstone fragments inscribed in sunk relief (Bag#480).

Sixth Trench (H6)

It lies to the north of KV22. We began our excavations with the surface layer (F#270), which is composed of silt mixed with flintstone and pebbles. We worked in an area that measuring 40 m. by 13m. The layer underneath was bedrock. We did not record any archaeological finds in this area.

Eighth Trench (H8)

It lies to the northwest corner of KV 22. It is a wide mound that is surrounded by the mountain from three sides. It extends east-west lengthwise and north-south widthwise and ends on the northern side of the mountain at a flood stream. The trench measures 40 m. by 25 m.

■ Reasons for Choosing the Site

1. Near KV 22 and KV 65
2. Presence of visible archaeological evidence on the surface layer, including pottery sherds
3. Stones aligned randomly

We started excavations by removing the surface layer, where we found a lot of pottery sherds, some complementing each other to form vessels. We moved on to the next layer (F#279), composed of crushed limestone mixed with sand, limestone chips, and ash.

■ Archaeological Finds

1. Set of archeozoological bones
2. Limestone ostrakon (#100), measuring 13 cm. by 9.5 cm., with numbering in black ink
3. Three flintstone knives wrapped in linen (#101), which indicates these knives were used for a holy ritual
4. Small faience amulet (#102), inscribed with a wedjat eye and a hole to be used as a pendant, measuring 1.9 cm. by 1.2 cm. by 0.5 cm.
5. Wooden nails and picks (#104), used to shut coffins or small funerary boxes
6. Small tool made of bronze
7. Two sacks of linen (#113), probably used to preserve natron salt, measuring 23 cm. by 13 cm.
8. Fragments of a faience plate (#107)
9. Two wooden hammers
10. Brush made of palm strips (#103), with remains of red pigment. It was found along with the base of the pottery vessel that contained ointment used during the mummification. The brush measures 17 cm.

11. Limestone lid of a vessel, refined from one side only, 14 cm. diameter and 2 cm. thick. It might be the lid of vessel (107) from WH.4

It was very common in ancient Egypt for workers, after finishing up with the constructions and mummification, to destroy all visible signs of their workshops in order to hide the burial place from robbers. This layer was probably the destruction of a workshop.

We documented layer (F#280) as mummification workshop (1), because we found a stone alignment, penetrated by layer (F#279).

Layer (F#281) is a small fireplace, composed of a stone alignment, documented as an architectural element.

Layer (F#282) is an ashy layer due to the fireplace, measuring 1 m. by 80 cm.

Layer (F#283) is a square cut in the mountain, not very deep, almost 68 cm., made by the ancient workmen during the New Kingdom.

Layer (F#284) a small hole, measuring 65 cm. by 20 cm. and 25 cm. deep. It was filled with backfill of layer (F#279). Inside, we found an incomplete colored vessel.

Layer (F#285) is a cut in the northwestern corner of the valley, a floodplain with a stone alignment previously recorded as (F#280). It measures 65 cm. by 50 cm. by 40 cm., and we found a set of broken clay plates.

Layer (F#286) is a layer of collapsed limestone under layer (F#279).

Layer (F#287) a stone alignment that might have once been a workers' hut or workshop.

Layer (F#288) is a mound of crushed limestone mixed with sandy silt, probably formed from previous excavations. It measures 10 m. by 4.50 m. We found pottery sherds and two wooden hammers.

Layer (F#289) lies under the layer (F#288). It is a silt layer mixed with pebbles, stones, and sand, measuring 20 m. by 13 m.

Layer (F#290) is an ashy layer, measuring 30 cm. by 35 cm. It lies under layer (F#279). It is located in the southern side adjacent to the bottom of the mountain.

Layer (F#291) is an ashy layer; we found a lot of charcoal and archeozoological remains in this layer. It lies beneath layer (F#290) to the east. The layer takes an oval shape, measuring 1.60 m. by 1.20 m., and is 10 cm. thick.

Layer (F#292) extends to the north of layer (F#279) and is probably an extension from (F#279), composed of a silt layer mixed with crushed limestone.

■ Archaeological Finds

- Offering pottery vessel
- Small pottery vessel, probably to store ointments or perfume
- Small bronze scalpel
- Pottery sherds
- Two pieces of black granite
- Limestone ostraca, with a drawing that represents a boat in black ink
- Charcoal, flintstone knives, archeozoological remains, and small wooden fragments

Layer (F#293) is a stone alignment that lies in the northern side of the site, measuring 2.70 m. by 3.10 m. It lies beneath layers (F#279) and (F#288). We did not find any archaeological evidence in this layer.

Layer (F#294) is a stone alignment. Inside, there is a backfill of crushed limestone mixed with silt and pebbles. It lies in the southwestern area adjacent to the mountain.

■ Archaeological Finds

- Clay plate
- Two clay seals
- Copper chisel
- Fragments of wood
- Wooden nails
- Three faience beads
- Archeozoological remains
- Fragment of undecorated sandstone

Layer (F#295) is a group of large stones aligned randomly, lying below (F#279) and beside layer (F#294) to the north.

Layer (F#296) is a silt layer mixed with pebbles and crushed limestone, measuring 3.20 m. by 2.45 m., and it lies at the bottom of the mountain underneath layer (F#294).

Layer (F#297) lies to the south of the huts at the bottom of the mountain. It extends east-west long and north-south wide. It is composed of limestone blocks mixed crushed limestone and pottery sherds, and measures 3.70 m. by 2.50 m., and 90 cm. thick. The stones were mixed with ash, tafla, pottery sherds, and archeozoological remains. The stone alignment was destroyed, and we could not identify the architectural elements.

Layer (F#298) lies within Workshop (6). It is a fine sand layer mixed with pottery sherds, charcoal, seeds, and wooden fragments. It measures 90 cm. by 65 cm., and is 25 cm. deep. We also found a stone block in the middle of the layer, measuring 39 cm. by 30 cm. by 25 cm.

Layer (F#300) is an ashy layer, mixed with remains of charcoal, pottery sherds, and a few limestone fragments. It measures 65 cm. by 40 cm. by 5 cm., located between layers (F#279) and (F#294).

Mummification Workshops



Figure 26 – Workshops area.

Workshop (01)

It lies on the highest area of the mound, on the eastern side, and it is the biggest of all the workshops. We found an ashy layer inside the workshop, which indicates a firing activity. We did not recover any archaeological evidence from inside the hut that would indicate the activities inside the workshop. We did find a small faience amulet in the shape of *wedjat* eye, two sacks of linen used to store natron salt, remains of seeds, and wooden nails.



Figure 27 – Workshop 1.

Workshop (02)

It lies to the southeast of Workshop (06). It is a small workshop, with no ashy layer, but a refined floor with a cylindrical hole padded with palm strips and holding a pot. The missing ashy layer indicates that there was no firing activity in this layer, but was probably the location of another activity related to mummification.



Figure 28 – Workshop 2.

Workshop (03)

It lies to the south of Workshop (02) and opens to the south. The north face of the mountain was refined to form the northern wall of the workshop.



Figure 29 – Workshop 3.



Figure 30 – Workshop 4.

Workshops (02,03,04)

A group of workshops that form one block, located along the mountain base on the northern side, so that the mountain forms the northern wall.

■ Archaeological Finds

- Limestone ostrakon found fragmented into two pieces. It shows the count of workmen in black ink
- A circular limestone seal
- A fiber brush
- In Workshop (04), we found a pot installed in the floor. There are remains of black resin inside the pot, which are still under investigation.
- Three flintstone knives wrapped in linen
- Bronze chisel, bronze scalpel.
- Small fragments of a faience plate
- Small wooden tools
- Small wooden cube, probably from a funerary box
- Hair lock
- A piece of string
- A fiber rope
- Remains of fish and bird bones
- Small wooden knob
- Small square-shaped wooden pieces
- Plant seeds
- Piece of linen with remains of red color
- Remains of animal dung

Workshop (05)

This workshop lies on a lower level than the previous workshops, below Workshop (01). It extends as a rectangle from the southeast to the northwest. In the northwestern corner, there is a niche-like structure, composed of aligned stones without mortar, and inside, we found two clay plates. The niche was likely used to store the pottery vessels.



Figure 31 – Workshop 5.

Workshop (06)

It lies adjacent to Workshop (01) on the southeastern side. It is a small architectural element (65 cm. by 90 cm.). At the end of the northern side, we found a square shaped limestone block (39 cm. by 30 cm. by 25 cm.), probably used as a pillow. To the east of the block, we found a niche possibly used as a shelf, and on the western side, a holder to install a pottery vessel. We noted the remains of oil residue on all surfaces inside this workshop, which means that it was dedicated to ointment production.

Egyptian Mission 2020-2021 Season

Introduction: History of the Valley of the Kings

New Kingdom Burials

Ancient Egyptians believed in the possibility of resurrection and immortality after death. In order to achieve this, it was necessary to preserve the body of the deceased and his funerary belongings. The kings of Dynasty 18 realized that the tombs of previous kings had been robbed, and so they decided to hide their tombs, separating them from their funerary temples. King Thutmosis I ordered his vizier Ineni to build his tomb in a secret location far away from his temple in Thebes. Ineni mentioned this in his autobiography, stating, “I oversaw the excavation of the cliff tomb of his Majesty, in privacy, none saw, none heard.⁸” This is likely an exaggerated statement, but Ineni’s claim still indicates the importance of privacy in building the tomb at that time.

For the new location of the royal tomb, Ineni chose a valley located in the hills of Thebes, far away from the city and rich in good quality stones necessary for building. This valley was used as the main cemetery for kings in the 18th, 19th, and 20th dynasties. In total, 66 rock-cut tombs have been discovered until now, varying in shapes and sizes, including 26 tombs of rulers. The rest of the tombs belong to princes, other royal family members, and high officials.

By the end of the New Kingdom, the royal tombs of the Valley of the Kings were robbed like those of their ancestors. Consequently, the kings of the 21st dynasty collected all the mummies of the New Kingdom kings, placing them in a cachette at Deir el Bahari (later known as Bab El Hosan) for their protection.

After the New Kingdom: Tourism, Treasure, and Excavation

The Valley of the Kings continued to be known by the Greco-Roman travelers during the 1st century CE. Graffiti dated from this period was discovered inside some of the tombs that were already opened and robbed. During the 7th century CE, some of the tombs were reused as

⁸ Translation by author. For a full discussion of this tomb and its own including a translation of the autobiography, see Dziobek, Eberhard *Das Grab des Ineni: Theben Nr. 81*. Archäologische Veröffentlichungen, Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, Abteilung Kairo 68. Mainz: Zabern, 1992.

monasteries by Egyptian Copts. Religious texts written in the Coptic language were discovered in several tombs, like the tomb of King Ramesses IV. Travelers continued to visit the site throughout history; in 1707 Father Claude Sicard described the site as a valley that contains tombs.

By 1877, a French expedition made the first attempt at mapping the valley to locate all previously known tombs. In addition, two chapters from *Description de l'Égypte* were dedicated to describing the tombs of Valley of the Kings. Later, and after the successful decipherment of hieroglyphs by Jean-Francois Champollion, European expeditions were interested in working in Egypt. The first expedition in the Valley of the Kings was led by Giovanni Belzoni on behalf of Henry Salt, who discovered the tomb of King Ay (KV 23), followed by the tomb of King Seti I (KV 17), and by the end of the expedition, he claimed that nothing worth discovery was left in the area.

Excavation work in the area continues today, uncovering important information about the Valley of the Kings and the Egyptian royals buried there. The Valley of the Kings has remained an open-air site, visited by travelers and enthusiasts from the Greco Roman period until the end of the 19th century. Further details about the history of specific excavations will be mentioned accordingly in reference to the areas of excavation described in this volume. Overviews of these excavations can be found in Reeves and Wilkinson's volume on the Valley of the Kings⁹ and on the Theban Mapping Project's website¹⁰. My volume, *The Royal Tombs of Egypt*, also has detailed images of many of the tombs in the Valley of the Kings¹¹.

Current Excavations

In late 2020, the Egyptian Mission started its third season of excavation work under the leadership of Professor Zahi Hawass. Site work continued until June 30th, 2021, and during this season five sites were excavated and documented, including several workers' huts. We also excavated five valley sectors looking for new tombs and were able to rediscover the tomb now named KV 66.

Sites

Sites were chosen according to the history of excavations in Valley of the Kings from the 18th century and until today. Previous surveys of the Valley have been examined to ensure that the excavation sites were far away from already excavated tombs. The excavations are listed in order of site number in this volume rather than by group number in order to make it easier to find information on specific sites and compare it to previous or following seasons.

⁹ Wilkinson, R. H., & Reeves, N. (1996). *The complete Valley of the Kings: tombs and treasures of Egypt's greatest pharaohs*. Thames and Hudson.

¹⁰ For the Theban Mapping Project's interactive online overview of the Valley of the Kings, see <https://thebanmappingproject.com/index.php/valley-kings>

¹¹ Hawass, Zahi (2006). *The royal tombs of Egypt: the art of Thebes revealed*. London: Thames & Hudson

Aims and Methods of the Project

The project aims to continue the work already begun in 2008 to excavate untouched sites and search for undiscovered tombs. It also aims to find the objects scattered in the backfill of previous excavations.

■ Methods

- Excavations were held according to the British Museum Standards “Museum of London Archaeology Service (MOLAS 1994)”. Work was done by manual labor, and the stratigraphy was documented using “single context record”.
- Each layer was excavated and numbered; according to its location, contents, and chronological order from the newest to the natural soil (3016).
- Each layer was recorded and documented by photography and drawing.
- The height of each layer was measured according to the survey of the Valley.
- Artifacts discovered in each layer were recorded and documented by layer.
- Stratigraphy of the site will be recorded using Harris Matrix¹²

Overview of Sites

The following sites were worked on this season:

Site #35

It is located on the road that leads to the tomb of Ramesses III (KV 34). We started work on this site during the 2019 season and continued work during this season.

Site #39

It includes the area located to the northwest and the southwest of the tomb of Ramesses IV (KV 2).

Site #41

It is located between the tomb of Ramesses I (KV 16) and the tomb of Seti I (KV 17) towards the south.

Site #42

It is located to the west of Site #41 above the tomb of Amun-Mes (KV 10).

Site #43

We made a small sondage located in the area between KV 22 and KV 42.

¹² Harris E. C. (1989). *Principles of archaeological stratigraphy* (2nd ed.). Academic Press.

We chose these locations after survey and research on the previous excavations that were done in the Valley of the Kings since the 18th century. We furthermore revived the survey maps of the valley¹³.

Site #35

We began our work in this area by making a small trench, approximately 10 m. long and 2 m. wide, near the entrance of the valley that leads to KV 34 and other nearby tombs. We found levels that had not previously been excavated and which contained archaeological objects. This led us to widen the trench on different sides into the main valley up towards the road that tourists use. The trench was then 37 m. wide and 5 m. wide in two corridors. The first corridor was in the main wadi which leads to KV 61 and the second was in the wadi that leads to KV 34.

Last season, we found remains of walls that could be workmen huts¹⁴. Pottery sherds and stone ostraca had been present in most of the excavated levels. The most important findings were a group of 250 stone ostraca and a group of 11 stone huts in good condition. The ostraca were published in Volume I and Volume II of the *Ostraca from the Valley of the Kings* series¹⁵, and included hieratic and hieroglyphic texts, drawings, and scenes. We found several ostraca inscribed with the name of Ramesses III, and pottery dated from the 18th dynasty to the Late Period. One unique scene on Ostrakon (#3785), made of limestone, shows a lady standing in adoration pose holding a sistrum in front of a cartouche of Queen Ahmose Nefertari.

Workers' Huts

We found 11 huts in this site. Many of the huts were damaged from floods and rain, but some of the huts were still in good condition. The huts were built on three levels (Figure 1).

¹³ Hawass, Z. "Preliminary Report of the Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA), Excavation in the Valley of the Kings (2007-2008)" in Hawass, Z. and Ekram, S. (eds) *Thebes and Beyond, Studies in honor of Kent B. Weeks* (SCA 2010), pp. 57-84.

¹⁴ For more information about these excavations, please see Hawass, Z. *Excavations in the Valley of the Kings, Volume IV: Excavation Report for the Egyptian Mission led by Prof. Zahi Hawass, 2019-2020 Season*. SCA, forthcoming. Previous excavations in this site were done by Victor Loret in 1899, who discovered KV 29 south of our work. Also, Theodore Davis funded excavations in the area in 1902-1914. His excavator, Jones, found KVO in 1909 and KV 61 in 1910. This tomb is a shaft that leads to a chamber, and we worked to the east of this site from 2006 to 2010. Basil University worked also to the east of our site and re-cleaned KV61.

¹⁵ Hawass, Z. *Ostraca from the Valley of the Kings, Vol. I*, SCA 2022. Vol II is forthcoming.



Figure 32 – Trench with workers' huts. From this view, the upper level is on the left.

■ Levels of huts

- The highest level of the mountain (that appears in the middle of the valley) had a group of huts, only two of which remained.
- The middle level had seven huts.
- The lowest level had two huts.

Huts on the Upper Level

Hut #01

Hut #01 (Figure 2) is located in the western part of the site and continues west underneath the debris. The south wall is 1.65 m. by 50 cm. and 1.5 m. high. The east wall is 2.02 m. by 50 cm. and 1.1 m. high. The north wall is destroyed. The hut was built on the floor of the gebel directly on the upper level with dimensions 2.20 m. north, 1.5 m. south, and 1.5 m. northwest. The maximum height of the hut is 1.5 m.



Figure 33 – Hut #01.

Hut #07

Hut #07 (Figure 3) is located in the northwest area of the site and extends west underneath the debris. The south wall of the hut was made of stone but destroyed, with only one course remaining. A part of the hut extended below the area of the excavation. The wall was 1.6 m. long, 30 cm. wide, and 25 cm. high. The west wall (3159) was also destroyed with only one course remaining, measuring 1.34 m. long, 30 cm. wide and 22 cm. high. The hut was in bad condition, with dimensions 2.20 m. north-south and 1.10 m. east-west.



Figure 34 – Hut #07.

Huts on the Middle Level

Hut #02

Hut #02 (Figure 4) is located in the southern part of the site. The south wall (3147) is 2.60 m. long, 40 cm. wide, and 58 cm. high. The east wall (3149) is 1.75 m. long, 40 cm. wide, and 40 cm. high. The north wall (3150) is 2.80 m. long, 55 cm. wide, and 80 cm. high. The west wall (3148) is connected to Hut #01. The upper parts were destroyed with only one course still intact. The hut measures 2.35 m. east-west, 1.49 m. north-south, and is 80 cm. high; this is the best-preserved example of all the excavated huts in this area.

In the northeastern corner inside this hut, we found a pottery vessel on the floor full of debris. On the southern side, we found another pottery vessel (3177). We believe that these two vessels were used for storage. We can see different levels inside the hut and the vessels. We also found other levels of use below the floor. The first contains remains of ash (3144) and below that level are the remains of another floor (3172). This could indicate that the hut was used in at least two different periods.



Figure 35 – Hut #02.

Hut #03

Hut #03 (Figure 5) is located in the middle of the site. The south wall (3150) is connected to Hut #01. The east wall (3152) is one of the main walls on the site. It is built of limestone and is in good condition. It is oriented north-south, separating Hut #03 and Hut #04. It is 1.5 m. long, 40 cm. wide and 1.25 m. high. It is suggested that there were other huts to the east and south, but they were destroyed. The north wall (3153) is made of stone and was found in good condition.

It has the entrance, which is rare to find in one of these huts, and connects Huts #03, #09 and #05. It is 1.85 m. long, 40 cm. wide, and 1.05 m. high. The west wall (3151) is one of the main walls in the site. It also forms the west wall of Huts #05 and #06 and was used on the upper level, as it was cut in the mountain and built of stone. Parts of the wall were destroyed and lost on the north side, but the wall currently measures 6.4 m. long, 30 cm. wide, and 1.2 m. high. This could be one of the main huts because it is formed shares walls with multiple huts. It extends 4.4 m. north-south and 2.42 m. north-west. The height of the wall is 1.25 m. On the south side of the hut, we found remains of Floor (3168), which measures 2.42 m. by 1.55 m.



Figure 36 – Hut #03.

Hut #04

Hut #04 (Figure 6) is located in the middle of the site to the east of Hut #03. In the eastern part of it, remains of walls and floor were recorded. The south wall (3162) is destroyed, but we can see part of the first course which extended below Wall (3152), indicating that this wall is older. The east wall (3095) is built of a large block. It separates Hut #04 from the other destroyed huts. It is 2.9 m. long, 50 cm. wide, and 55 cm. high. The north wall (3096) separates Hut #04 from the huts located on the bottom level and is built of stone. There is an opening, perhaps representing the entrance of the hut. The wall is 90 cm. long, 40 cm. wide, and 1.7 m. high. The west wall (3152) is also connected to Hut #03. The hut is 2.2 m. north-south and 1.4 m. west, with a height of 1.7 m.



Figure 37 – Hut #04.

Hut #05

Hut #05 (Figure 7) is located in the middle of the site, between Huts #03 and #06, and to the west of Huts #09 and #10. The south wall (3153) is connected to Hut #03. The east wall (3154) is a main wall in the site. It forms the east wall of Huts #05 and #06 and the west wall of Huts #09 and #10. It is destroyed with only one course of stone remaining, measuring 3.30 m. long, 40 cm. wide, and 39 cm. high. The north wall (3156) is connected to Hut #06 and separates the two huts. It is also destroyed with only a small part remaining, measuring 34 cm. long, 34 cm. wide, and 22 cm. high. The west wall (3151) is another main wall of the site. We found a small part of it on Level (3169) of the floor. The hut measures 1.55 m. north-south and 1.03 m. east-west, with a height of 1.03 m. In this area of the site, the huts are mostly destroyed.



Figure 38 – Huts #05 and #06.

Hut #06

Hut #06 (Figure 7) is located north of Hut #05 and it is connected on the western side to Hut #10 by Wall (3154), and on the northern side to Hut #08 in the bottom level. The south wall is Wall (3155). The north wall is completely destroyed. The west wall (3151) is also destroyed. It is 1.04 m. north-south and 1.35 m. east-west, with a height of 39 cm.

Hut #09

Hut #09 (Figure 8) is located in the middle of the site to the west of Hut #05 and north of Hut #03. The south wall (3153) is formed by a wall of Hut #03. The east wall is lost. The north wall (3163) is also destroyed except for a small part in the northwest of the hut, measuring 58 cm. long, 27 cm. wide, and 22 cm. high. The west wall (3154) is the main wall that separates Huts #03 and #09. The hut measures 1.25 m. north-south, 1.35 m. east-west, and has a height of 1.05 m.



Figure 39 – Huts #09 and #10.

Hut #10

Hut #10 (Figure 8) is located west of Hut #06 and north of Hut #09. The south wall (3163) is connected to Hut #09. The east wall is lost, but we believe that it was connected to the lost eastern wall of Hut #09. The north wall (3164) is destroyed except for the northwestern part. The remaining section is 60 cm. long, 27 cm. wide, and 24 cm. high. The west wall (3154) is the main wall that separated Huts #05, #06, and #10. We found remains of the floor (3170), with ashy remains.

There is a space between the walls of Huts #09 and #10. We believe that this space contained two huts parallel to Huts #09 and #10 and Wall (3095), one of the main walls. This wall is 3.9 m. long, 36 cm. wide and 75 cm. high, built of stone, and in good condition. Four walls were also found which extend below Huts #09 and #10: Walls (3097), (3098), (3164) and (3162). We could not define their function because some of them extend below the walls of older huts.

Huts on the Bottom Level

Hut #08

Hut #08 (Figure 9) is located in the northwest part of the site. The south wall (3156) is destroyed, and we only see stones on the east-west side. It is 2.5m long, 30 cm. wide, and 1.28 m. high. The east wall is completely destroyed. The north wall (3166) is identified as remains of a stone wall separating Huts #08 and #11. It measures 2.7 m. long, 58 cm. wide, and 40 cm. high. The west wall (3157) is in the upper level and built of stones, while the lower part was cut in the mountain. It is believed that it extended north until Hut #11 but lost its upper part. It currently measures 1.85 m. long, 35 cm. wide, and 1.25 m. high. The hut is built directly on the mountain, measuring 2.1 m. east-west and 1.03 m. north-south.



Figure 40 – Huts # 08 and #11.

Hut #11

It is located in the northwest part of the site, to the north of Hut #08. It extends north below the debris. The south wall (3166) is separated. The east wall (3167) is the remains of a stone wall and formed the east wall of Hut #08. It is 1.1 m. long, 40 cm. wide, and 43 cm. high. The north wall is located below the debris. The west wall was an extension to wall (3157). The hut is in a bad condition. We found a small hole in the floor of the hut with a 15 cm. diameter. The hut measures 2.8 m. east-west and 1.4 m. north-south.

Site #39

The site is located in the west part of Valley of the Kings, on your right when you enter the valley and exactly to the north of KV 2, tomb of Ramesses IV.



Figure 41 – Location of excavation.
Note the sign pointing towards the entrance of KV 2.

Previous Excavations

Excavations in this area began in 1898 and lasted until 1906. Reports from these excavations show that they worked 35 m. north-south and 25 m. east-west in the area in front of KV 2 and north in the area that leads to KV 1. The area south of the tomb was excavated only to lower the water table. The previous excavations in the area were carried out in 1902 by H. Carter, 1913-1914 by Burton, and in 1920 again by H. Carter.

■ Results of previous excavations

- A group of stone ostraca, the most important one of which was showed Ramesses IV
- Discovery of the foundation deposit of KV 2, located in the southeastern corner of the tomb-court
- Discovery of wooden fragments that belonged to Ramesses IV
- Discovery of shabti fragments, made of alabaster and faience
- Discovery of workers' huts that could be dated to the Ptolemaic period

Current Excavations

We began our excavations this season to continue the previous work, concentrating on the areas north and south of KV 2. We dug a 3 m. by 3 m. trench near the modern wall built in the court of KV 2. Our findings concluded that we needed a systematic excavation in this area.



Figure 42 – Excavations in the courtyard of KV 2.

Original Trench

Excavations began by removing the upper surface layer, which was a layer of silt mixed with crushed limestone completely covering the surface with a thickness of 30 cm. The layer beneath was formed by crushed limestone mixed with flintstone. In the southeastern corner of the trench, we found a layer of crushed limestone. These are remains from the digging of KV 2, which means that the tomb was cut in the upper part of the mountain surface. Therefore, we fully excavated the areas north and south of the tomb.

Area North of KV 2

We began to work on the area northwest of KV 2. The site was covered with a mound of debris mixed with crushed stones, which was probably a backfill from previous excavations, although the site itself was not excavated before. We began with the upper parts of the site at a distance of 10 m. northwest of KV 2, and the excavations extended to the modern tourist path.



Figure 43 – Excavation area with remains of workers' huts.

The findings were as follows:

Hut #01

Hut #01 is a small-sized square-shaped hut which includes the remains of shafts (4032-4033). The dimensions are 1.20 m. long by 0.90 m. wide.

Wall #4032

This wall has remains of irregular limestone, with dimensions 1.45 m. by 0.38 m. and 0.10 m. high. It has one course, oriented south-north, and was damaged by previous floods.

Wall #4033

The wall includes remains of irregular limestone, with dimensions 1.15 m. by 0.33 m. and is 0.30 m. high. It has one course, oriented east-west. It is the wall that connects Hut #01 and Hut #02.

Hut #02

Hut #02 is rectangular shaped, with dimensions 3.80 m. by 1 m. with a height of 0.39 m. It has two courses of limestone and flintstone.

Wall #4034

This wall is made of limestone and flintstone and represents the west wall of Hut #02. The wall is irregular in shape, with dimensions 0.37 m. by 0.39 m. and only has one course. It is oriented north-south.

Layer #4031

This layer is a surface layer of silt mixed with crushed limestone, extending from north to south. The layer measures 8.5 m. by 6.8 m. and is 1 m. high. We found several pottery sherds and fragments of a stone wall from the upper huts.

Wall #4035

This wall represents the south wall of Hut #02, oriented east-west, with dimensions 0.70 m. by 0.25 m., 12 cm. high. It has one course of irregular limestone.

Layer #4036

This layer is the floor of Hut #01 consisting of sandy silt, with dimensions 1.20 m. by 0.90 m., and a thickness of 6 cm. We found pottery sherds.

Layer #4037

The layer is the floor of Hut #03, a sandy silt layer that covers the space of Hut #03 measuring 3.80 m. by 1 m., and a thickness of 5 cm. We found pottery sherds, and a complete pottery vessel measuring 12 cm. tall in good condition.



Figure 44 – Vessel in situ.

Layer #4038

This layer consists of remains of limestone forming the west side of Hut #02 with measurements 1.70 m. by 9 cm. and 0.15 m. high.

Layer #4039

It consists of silt mixed with crushed flintstone, with dimensions of 4 m. by 2.20 m. and 1.25 m. high. No artifacts were recorded in this layer.

Layer #4040

This layer was found beneath the previous layer (4039) and consists of silt mixed with fine crushed limestone. It measures 4 m. by 2.5 m. and 1.10 m. high. We found pottery sherds in this layer.

Layers #4039 and #4040 were removed, and excavations continued to a higher layer than the walls that surround KV 2. Layer #4041 was documented as a modern layer.

Layer #4042

This is a layer of limestone fragments that covers the lower part of the site, with dimensions of 5 m. by 2 m. and a thickness of 1.24 m. We found a large number of pottery sherds, alabaster fragments, fragments of faience, granite, and stone and clay ostraca¹⁶.

Layer #4043

It is a layer of limestone fragments that could have been formed during an earlier excavation in or around KV 2. The dimensions are 11 m. by 6 m. and 0.35 m. high. It is located in the southwestern corner of the site. No pottery fragments were documented, but we found many ostraca¹⁷ in good condition.

Level #4044

This is a layer of limestone fragments mixed with silt and pottery sherds. The dimensions are 4.50 m. by 4.10 m. and 1.2 m. thick.

We noticed that the composition of all the layers were similar to each other; all were formed of crushed limestone. In Layers #4042 and #4043, we found several workers' huts:

Hut #03

The hut is located 14 m. northeast of the entrance of KV 2, below Huts #01 and #02. It is a small hut, 2 m. by 1.8 m. and 0.5 m. high. It consists of three courses of flintstone and limestone.

¹⁶ Hawass, Z. *Ostraca from the Valley of the Kings, 2018-2019 field season*, Vol. I, SCA 2022; Hawass, Z. *Ostraca from the Valley of the Kings 2021*, Vol II, SCA 2023

¹⁷ Ibid.

Wall #4045

It represents the west wall of Hut #03, 1.05 m. by 0.30 m., 0.40 m. high. It is an irregularly shaped wall that is currently two courses high, oriented north-south. We documented hieroglyphic signs inscribed on the wall.



Figure 45 – Wall with images on it.

Wall #4046

Remains of an irregular wall, representing the south wall of Hut #03. It measures 0.80 m. by 0.30 m. and 0.25 m. high, with only one course preserved. It is oriented east-west and connects walls #4045 and #4047.

Wall #4047

It is an irregular wall made of flintstone with only one course, and it represents the eastern wall of Hut #03, measuring 0.55 m. by 0.45 m., and 0.25 m. high. It is oriented north-south.

After we recorded Hut #03, we continue to excavate in the surrounding area in Layer (#4043). We found a group of destroyed workers' huts; the floors were documented as follows:

Layer #4049

Floor of a destroyed hut and the collapsed walls on top of the layer. The dimensions of the layer are 2.20 m. by 1.25 m. and 0.05 m. thick. It is located on the eastern side of Hut #03. No artifacts were found.

Layer #4050

Floor of a destroyed hut, with collapsed walls in the layer. The dimensions were 1.50 m. by 1.20 m., and 0.07 m. thickness. It extends north to south. No artifacts were found.

Layer #4051

Floor of a destroyed hut and the collapsed walls in the layer. The dimensions were 1.85 m. by 1 m., and 0.05 m. thick. It extends east to west. No artifacts were found.



Figure 46 – Layer # 4051.

Layer #4052

Floor of a destroyed hut, and the collapsed walls in the layer. The dimensions are 1 m. by 0.60 m., and 0.05 m. thick. It is located in the southeastern part of the site and extends east to west. No artifacts were found.

Layer #4053

Floor of a destroyed hut and the collapsed walls. The dimensions are 4.10 m. by 3.40 m. and 0.07 m. thick. It extends north to south. No artifacts were found.

Layer #4054

Floor of a destroyed hut, and the collapsed walls. The dimensions are 5.90 m. by 2.20 m., and 0.05 m. thick.

Layer #4055

Mud floor of a destroyed hut mixed with sand and collapsed walls. The dimensions are 1.80 m. by 1.20 m., and 0.60 m. thick. A cut (#4056) was documented on this floor, measuring 0.40 m. by 0.35 m. It was possibly a holder for vessel (#4057). We also found another cut, in the south-eastern corner of Hut #03. It is surrounded by flintstone. It is possible that this cut was used as a holder for a vessel or for storage by workers.



Figure 47 – Feature, possibly a holder for a vessel or for storage.



Figure 48 – Storage pit lined with stone.

Layer #4059

It is the filling of cut #4058 consisting of sand mixed with crushed flintstone.

Layer #4060

It is a group of flintstone located in the southwestern part of the site and may have been formed by flood precipitation. It measures 14 m. long, 7.5 m. wide, and 0.07 m. high.

Layer #4061

It is a flintstone alignment in a semi-circular shape. It is a fireplace filled with ashes (Layer #4062). It was either used for warmth or for cooking purposes. It was found 1.20m south of cut #4058.



Figure 49 – Feature 4061.

After excavating the western side, we continued our work towards the east, removing debris and stones, and we found a large number of pottery sherds. Excavations continued until we reached a layer below the level of KV 2. We extended the excavation 20 m. to the east of the entrance of the tomb, facing the mountain.



Figure 50 – Dr. Zahi Hawass overseeing work at the site.

The Southwest Part of Site

We also excavated the area south of the tomb of Ramesses IV. It is located 15 m. south of the entrance of KV 2, measuring 35 m. long north-south and 25 m. wide east-west). It is similar to the northern side. We excavated 20 m. by 15 m. from the total area. H. Carter excavated this site in 1920. We began our work here in 2009 but stopped in 2011 due to the political instability in Egypt at that time. During the current season, we removed debris from Layer #4042. In this layer, we found a limestone ostrakon with a sketch of a standing man holding flowers in his right hand and a vessel in his left hand. We also found an alabaster royal head, 11 cm. high, which is damaged in the face.



Figure 51 – Ostrakon showing a man holding a plant.



Figure 52 – Alabaster head with damage to the face.

Results of the Excavations

Our excavations revealed the floors of the workers' huts which could be dated to the same period as KV 2. Floods probably damaged and destroyed the workers' huts in this area. The lower part was excavated before, probably by Howard Carter. We found several ostraca (#4115) on the upper layer of the site, which belonged to the time of Ramesses IV¹⁸.

Site #41

It is a high mound, located between KV 16 (tomb of Ramesses I) and KV 17 (tomb of Seti I), towards the south. It is the largest of the sites in the current excavations, measuring 15 m. east-west, and 13 m. north-south.



Figure 53 – Location of Site #41.

Previous Excavations

Belzoni found KV 16 and KV 17 in October 1817¹⁹. Davis excavated in 1902-1914, and Ayrton worked for him from 1907 to 1908. He excavated the lower part of KV 16 from the east towards KV 21 and found a group of workers' huts and KV 54. The excavations continued in the last century in front of KV 16 and KV 17, inside KV 10 (tomb of Amun-Mes), the discovery of KV 63, and finally the excavations of Basel University east of KV 17.

Excavations

We began our excavations this season with 15 workmen, and later we increased the workmen dedicated to this site. We found several archaeological layers and remains of workers' huts from the 18th dynasty.



Figure 54 – Excavations in Site #41.

19 KV16 & KV17: Belzoni, Giovanni Battista. *Narrative of the Operations and Recent Discoveries within the Pyramids, Temples, Tombs, and Excavations, in Egypt and Nubia, and of a Journey to the Coast of the Red Sea, in Search of the Ancient Berenice, and Another to the Oasis of Jupiter Ammon*, 2 vols. London: Murray, 1821, pp. 229-230. KV17: Belzoni, Giovanni Battista. *Description of the Egyptian Tomb Discovered by G. Belzoni*. London: Murray, 1821.

Layer #3116

It is a layer of sandy silt mixed with limestone chips. It measures 15 m. long, 13 m. wide, and 1.5 m. thick.

Layer #3117

It is the layer found beneath (#3116) consisting of silt mixed with limestone chips. It was formed during the excavations of KV 17. We found several pottery sherds that contained restoration material used during antiquity. We also found tools, remains of flora, and pottery vessels inscribed in hieratic.

List of Objects:

- Object #3570: Amphora with a hieratic inscription
- Object #3572: Remains of a vessel with a hieratic inscription
- Object #3574: Ostrakon inscribed in hieratic
- Object #3705: Amphora with a hieratic inscription
- Object #3706: A pottery bowl

Layer #3118

Below Layer (#3117), in Layer (#3118), we found a layer of silty sand mixed with limestone chips and tafla. It measures 6.5 m. long, 3.3 m. wide, and 90 cm. thick. We found a faience cobra head that once decorated royal crowns, in addition to few beads and pottery fragments, all dated to the 18th dynasty.

Layer #3119

It was found below Layer (#3117), and to the east of Layer (#3118). It consists of limestone chips mixed with silt and tafla. We found pottery sherds and alabaster fragments.

Layer #3120

It is located below Layers (#3118) and (#3119) and consists of sandy silt mixed with flintstone pebbles. It measures 11 m. long, 10 m. wide, and 50 cm. thick. We found pottery sherds dating to the 18th dynasty.

Workers' Huts

Below the previous layers, we found a group of huts used by the workmen during the construction of the 18th dynasty royal tombs.

Huts on the Upper Level*Hut #01*

It is located on the same layer as Hut #02 to the north-east. It is completely destroyed with the exception of the west wall, which is connected to Hut #03. Only one course is preserved from the left side.

Hut #02

It is also destroyed except for the west wall, and also only has one course preserved.

Huts on the Middle Level

Hut #03

It is located in the middle of the site and consists of the south wall (#3124) which is connected to Hut #01, the east wall (#3125), the southwest wall (#3126) which is almost destroyed, and the northwest wall (#3128) which is connected with Hut #06. We also found the floor of the hut (#3127). This is considered the main hut in this site; it located in the middle of the huts and connected to all of them.

Hut #04

It is located to the northeast of Hut #03, and it is destroyed.

Hut #05

It is located to northeast of Hut #04, and it is destroyed. The floor was documented as Level (#3135).

Huts on the Lower Level

Hut #06

It is located the furthest northwest of all the huts. The northwest part of this hut was totally destroyed. The south wall documented was as (#3128), connected to Hut #03. The east wall (#3129) is a huge wall, measuring 2.55 m. by 45 cm. and 1.05 m. high. Remains of the floor were documented as (#3130). The hut measures 3 m. east-west and 1.04 m. north-south.

Site #42

It is a mound of debris, located east of KV 10. It is a small site west of Site #41, considered to be an extension to site #41. We excavated two layers only:

Layer #3139

It is a modern layer of silt mixed with limestone chips, measuring 17 m. long and 12 m. wide.

Layer #3140

It is located below the previous layer. It was formed by the debris of previous excavations and consists of a sandy silt layer mixed with crushed limestone. It measures 14 m. long, 11 m. wide, and 90 cm. thick.

■ Findings

We found a number of pottery sherds and three shabti, as follows:

- Object #3581: Alabaster shabti
- Object #3600: Shabti for a lady
- Object #3601: Faience shabti

Site #43

It is a small trench 7 m. by 5 m., located between KV 32 and KV 42.

Previous Excavations

In 1898, Victor Loret excavated tombs KV 34, KV 33, and KV 26, all located within this area. In 1901, H. Carter discovered KV 42. Basel University led a mission to excavate inside the previously mentioned tombs. In 2009, our team excavated in this area.

Current Excavations

Layer #3141

It is a sandy silt layer mixed with limestone chips, measuring 4.5 m. by 2.70 m. and 1 m. thick. No archaeological finds were recorded in this layer.

Layer #3142

It is located below the previous layer. It consists of a collapsed flintstone deposit. It measures 4.3 m. long, 1.58 m. wide, and 2.10 cm. thick. No archaeological finds were recorded in this layer.

Valley Sectors

In 2020-2021, my team excavated different areas in the Valley of the Kings in the search for previously unknown tombs. During these excavations, we relocated a tomb which we have re-named KV 66 for reasons discussed below. The valley where tomb KV 66 is located is surrounded by several smaller valleys branching off from its entrance at the main road of the valley. These valleys have been divided into five sectors for our work.

The First Sector

This is the part of the valley that contains a great deal of graffiti and is located to the south of KV 66.



Figure 55 – Sector 1 of the Valley.



Figure 56 – Example of graffiti found in Sector 1.

The Second Sector

This sector is located to the north of KV 66. It is an extension of the main valley and reaches the main road that leads to the Valley of the Kings.



Figure 57 – Sector 2.

The Third Sector

The third sector is located to the east of KV 66 on the road that leads to Deir el-Bahri. It is a wide valley, and no excavation has ever been done in this valley before now. Our survey showed that there are many pottery sherds on the surface, indicating possible ancient use of the area.



Figure 58 – Sector 3.

The Fourth Sector

This sector is a branch of the main valley, located in the area north of the valley. It covers a large area. No one has ever excavated this area before. Our survey showed the presence of a large number of pottery sherds.



Figure 59 – Sector 4.

The Fifth Sector

The fifth sector is located near the end of the main valley. In it were groups of stone blocks. We believe these are the remains of workers huts, which would have been destroyed in antiquity by flooding. To the south of these blocks are remains of trenches that Carter made and a large open space in the valley. It is possible that Carter made the trenches in this area because of the location of the remains of workers houses.



Figure 60 – Sector 5.

We concentrated our work not only in the main valley, particularly in areas that have never been excavated before, but also worked in the side valleys near the main valley on the east side.

Rediscovery of KV66

The Site of KV 66

KV 66 is located in one of the valleys that surround the Valley of the Kings. This valley is about 200 m. east of the main valley. There are three reasons why we wanted to excavate this area. First, this valley contained a previously known shaft about 10 m. deep which had rooms (now renamed KV 66). Second, there are archaeological remains on the surface which indicate ancient use of the area, such as pottery sherds on the ground and graffiti on the rocks in this valley. Finally, we thought that this shaft should be re-excavated and included with the tombs in the Valley of the Kings, hence the new number of KV 66. If one looks at a map of the area, this shaft is located not far from KV 20 and KV 41.

The excavation around the area near the shaft was done at the same time as the work inside the shaft. We made a group of sondages in the area around the shaft, along with survey and mapping. We mapped the north side first. It is 17 m. from north to south and 12.5 m. from east to west. The site contains debris from previous excavations, but also contains many pottery sherds.

Elizabeth Thomas mentioned that this shaft was excavated by H. Carter and was given no. ANA, a number connected with the site Dra Abou El Naga²⁰. Carter thought that this shaft was similar to KV 41 and also mentioned that there are two royal tombs on the edge of the valley in the far north which he believed could be tombs of Ahmose or Kamose²¹. But Elizabeth Thomas thought that if tomb BAN belonged to Ahmose Nefertari, then it was likely that ANA could belong to Teti-sheri or Iah-Hotep. On the other hand, Carter believed that this could be a royal tomb dating to the end of the 17th dynasty or the beginning of the 18th dynasty. He also mentioned that there is graffiti about 250 m. away from that shaft that could have a relation with other tombs in the area which have not been found yet.

There was no previous complete plan of the tomb, as the available versions did not contain the burial chamber²². This tomb is located 450 m. away from the entrance of the valley, and we think that this is a part of the Valley of the Kings. Therefore, after our excavation, we gave this tomb no. KV 66.

²⁰ See Thomas, E. *The Royal Necropolis of Thebes*, Princeton, 1966, pp. 156-157.

²¹ *Ibid.*, p. 157

²² *Ibid.* I believe that Thomas is the only one that wrote about this shaft (see plan I)

Excavations inside KV66

We began our excavations in this area, naming it Site #38. It is a valley that surrounds the Valley of the Kings, 1 km. to the east. The reason that we began our work in this area was to find the previously known 10 m. shaft and re-excavate the chambers inside. We also recorded some archaeological features in this valley, such as graffiti as well as a large amount of pottery on the surface.



Figure 61 – Location of the shaft in Site # 38.

Cleaning and excavating the shaft

The shaft is located in the northwest part of the Valley. It is about 10 m. deep, and we do not have much previous information about it, except for the work done by H. Carter, who numbered it ANA.



Figure 62 – The shaft.

Description

It is a shaft similar to 18th dynasty shafts. The façade is square shaped with dimensions 1.40 m. by 1.40 m. The entrance is 1.60 m. wide and 1.90 m. high. It leads to a tunnel 6 m. by 1.60 m., oriented east-west and full of debris. On the west side of this chamber, we have an entrance, 1.60 m. wide and 1.60 m. high, leading to another square chamber 3 m. by 3.60 m. and 2 m. high.

Excavations

Our excavations concentrated on the inner parts of the shaft. We removed a huge amount of debris from the tunnel and the chambers. The first layer was modern debris that contained papers, cans, etc. that had fallen inside the shaft. Then we began to see a layer of sand mixed with stones, which we removed until we entered the tunnel and chambers. We also noted that the debris was formed by water and flooding.

Inside the tunnel, we found a huge number of pottery sherds, human bones, archeozoological remains, and wood fragments. Our excavations continued into the side chambers located at the end of the tunnel. We removed the backfill, which was sand mixed with silt and crushed limestone. We found pottery sherds and woods fragments.



Figure 63 – Inside one of the side chambers.

The second chamber is located to the left of the first one. It was also filled with debris. We excavated inside this chamber for three days to clear the backfill and found pottery sherds.

Results of the Excavations

We can now date this shaft to the beginning of the 18th dynasty, based on the general plan of the tombs in the Valley of the Kings. The shaft was robbed in antiquity, which was evident from the debris. The shaft is oriented to one side similar to KV 20 and KV 41. We renamed the shaft KV 66.

Excavations around the shaft and trenches

We dug trenches near this shaft and the surrounding area, and we also fully surveyed the surrounding area.

The area north and south of the shaft

We surveyed this area; the north part measured approximately 17 m. (north-south) by 12.5 m. (east-west). This area was used by the Copts and we could see it was excavated before. We found some pottery sherds.

The Sondages (Trenches)

We dug five separate sondages in the southern side of the shaft. The filling was only one layer of sand mixed with stones, and we found pottery sherds on the surface.

First Sondage

It is rectangular, with dimensions 8 m. by 4 m., and 70 cm. deep.

Second Sondage

It is rectangular, with dimensions 2 m. by 6 m., and 1.20 m. deep.

Third Sondage

3 m. east-west by 4.5 m. north-south.

Fourth Sondage

5 m. east-west by 4 m. north-south.

Fifth Sondage

3.50 m. east-west by 2.75 m. north-south.

We continued to work further into the valley, where we found graffiti on the rock. We surveyed this area east-west. Many sondages were dug. We found a faience shabti (10 cm. by 4 cm.) and we found a group of human bones during the work in the western part of the valley. The bones were found in a brown layer of sand.



Figure 64 – Faience shabti found in area.



Figure 65 – Group of bones found in a brown sandy layer.
No pottery was found next to it, so this may have originally been a poorer burial.

Conclusions about KV66

We can confirm that KV 66 dates to the 18th dynasty and was robbed in antiquity. We now have 3D models of the tomb. The excavations around the shaft indicate the importance of this valley, and we decided to start new excavations in September 2022. We are hoping that this valley could contain the tombs of the queens and children of the kings of Dynasty 18.

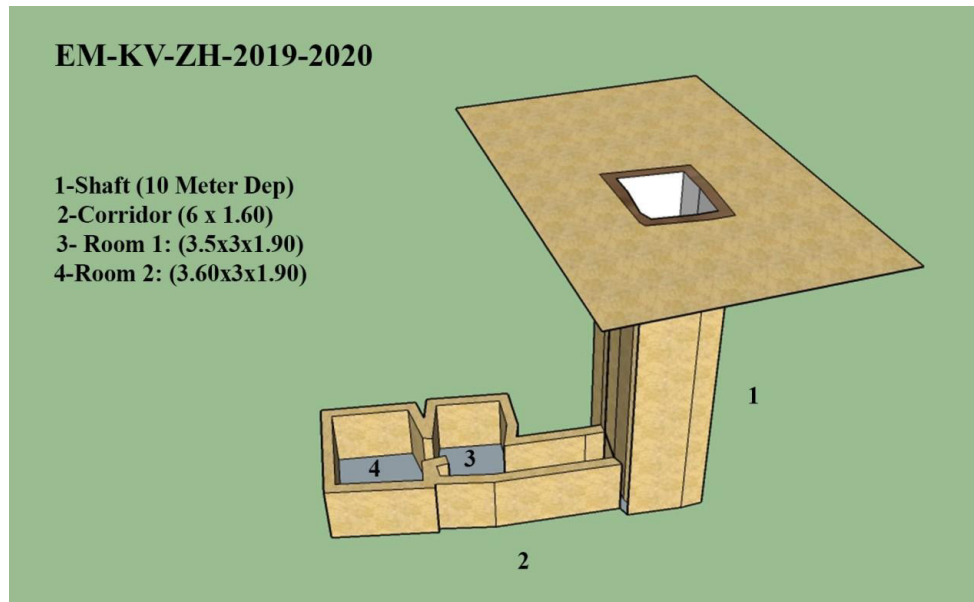


Figure 66 – 3D model of tomb ANA, now KV 66.

