



DÁNIEL TAKÁCS

GEBELEIN I
THE SPEOS



DEPARTMENT OF EGYPTOLOGY – FACULTY OF ORIENTAL STUDIES
and
POLISH CENTRE OF MEDITERRANEAN ARCHAEOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW

Dániel Takács

**GEBELEIN I
THE SPEOS**

WARSAW 2020

Editor: K.O. Kuraszkiewicz

Cover photo: D. Takács

Reviewers:

Dr hab. Mirosław Barwik (Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw)

Dr hab. Anna Wodzińska (Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw)

The hieroglyphic texts have been set using JSesh software (Roshmorduc, Serge. (2014). JSesh Documentation. [online] Available at: <http://jseshdoc.qenherkhopeshef.org>) [Accessed 12 Jun. 2014].

The plates in full colour can be downloaded as a PDF file from the following link:

<http://egiptologia.orient.uw.edu.pl/downloads/>

© Zakład Egiptologii, Wydział Orientalistyczny, Uniwersytet Warszawski, Warszawa 2020

ISBN: 978-83-947612-1-9

Warszawa 2020

Nakład 100 egz.

druk: Mazowieckie Centrum Poligrafii, ul. Ciurlionisa 4, 05-270 Marki

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the following people and organizations who helped in making of the present work possible: first and foremost the whole team of the Gebelein Archaeological Project, PCMA, University of Warsaw, who on and off-site were extremely helpful in all manners: Julia Chyla, (for the maps and geographical measurement/technical support especially) and Wojtek Ejsmond, the motors behind the expeditions, for inviting me to the site and letting me work on the material, and providing me with their invaluable help in many stages of the work. The articles written and conference presentations done together were especially important. Dawid F. Wieczorek (for all his ideas as well) and Piotr Witkowski for helping to create the grid of the speos and Piotr for the professional photographic works. Arkadiusz Ostasz and Lawrence Xu-Nan for the cleaning and conservational works of the walls. Vincent Oeters for the great job and many hours spent together while conducting the floor cleaning works helped out by Mina Ilic. Marzena Ozarek-Szilke, Michal Madej and Taichi Kuronuma for their technical and sometimes physical support. Special thanks go to the inspectors present during the works in the speos: Mamduh Saad Mostafa; Ali Mohamed Ahmed; Mohammed-Amir Mohammed Ahmed, Adel Mousa Ahmed Ali and to the directors of the inspectorate in Esna: Abdelhady Mahmoud and Ahmed Hasan Amin who were all very helpful all along. I would like to also thank our local workers and in particular Jusuf for their help!

I would like to express my personal gratitude for the scholarly guidance and help in all matters towards my supervisor, Professor Dr hab. Kamil O. Kuraszkiewicz, for the help regarding many questions concerning the speos to Dr Andrzej Ćwiek, Dr Filip Taterka, and Dr Jadwiga Iwaszczuk, and for the many excellent remarks regarding the religious and different other aspects of the chapel my friend, Gábor W. Nemes.

Any other contribution I received and not mentioned here is not because of its lack of merit but due to my forgetfulness, but I'm very thankful for all the help that I have received!

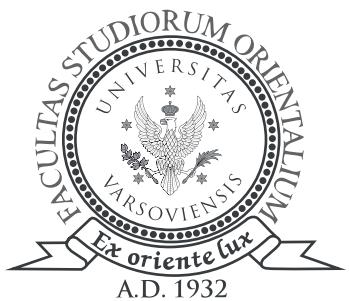
The present work would have not been possible to realize if not for the support of the University of Warsaw and the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology, the Rada Konsultacyjna do Spraw Studenckiego Ruchu Naukowego UW and the University of Warsaw Foundation. Special thanks are to be made to the International Visegrad Fund, who funded my work during the academic year 2016-2017 and ZIP UW granting me a scholarship for the academic years 2018-2021.

Table of Contents

1. GEBELEIN'S LOCALITY AND WORKS IN THE SPEOS	11
2. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE SPEOS	13
2.1 Introduction	13
2.2 Location and access	14
2.3 Entrance area and Room 1	15
2.4 The passage and Room 2	16
2.5 Remarks on architectural details of the speos	19
2.5.1 <i>The measurement system used in the speos</i>	19
2.5.2 <i>Floor level</i>	20
2.5.3 <i>Room 1</i>	20
2.5.4 <i>Door</i>	21
2.5.5 <i>Some details of the wall surface in Room 2</i>	21
2.5.6 <i>Plaster</i>	22
2.5.7 <i>The central and side niches</i>	22
2.6 The decoration	23
2.6.1 <i>General remarks</i>	23
2.6.2 <i>South Wall</i>	24
2.6.3 <i>North Wall</i>	25
2.6.4 <i>West Wall</i>	34
2.6.5 <i>Preliminary conclusions on chronology</i>	35
3. INITIAL CONCLUSIONS	36
3.1 General remarks	36
3.2 Chronological assumptions based on details of the rock-cut decoration	37
3.2.1 <i>Group 1 – Hathor with horizontal and vertical bands of text</i>	37
3.2.2 <i>Group 2 – Cartouches with epithets</i>	39
3.2.3 <i>Group 3 – Text of natrons in front of the offering list</i>	40
3.2.4 <i>Group 4 – Type C list with offerings</i>	41
3.2.5 <i>Group 5 – Standing figure as the performer of the offering rite and column of text as the label</i>	41
3.2.6 <i>Group 6 – Hathoric cult object</i>	42
3.3 Summary	43

4. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SPEOI AND OTHER ROCK-CUT MONUMENTS	44
4.1 Introduction – The phenomenon of speoi	44
4.2 Ground plans	47
4.2.1 <i>Theban tombs of the New Kingdom</i>	52
4.2.2 <i>Conclusions on the types of ground plans</i>	52
4.3 The decoration programs of speoi and related monuments	53
4.3.1 <i>Monuments constructed under Hatshepsut and Thotmes III</i>	54
4.3.2 <i>Other speoi of the 18th Dynasty</i>	59
4.3.3 <i>Ramesside speoi</i>	62
4.3.4 <i>Smaller, shrine-size chapels</i>	66
4.3.5 <i>Conclusion on rock-cut monuments</i>	69
5. DISCUSSION OF THE DECORATION PROGRAM'S DETAILS	70
5.1 Introduction	70
5.2 The Type C list	71
5.3 Analysis of offering scenes with Type C lists	72
5.3.1 <i>General remarks on the position and structure of the scenes</i>	72
5.3.2 <i>Type C lists at Deir el-Bahari</i>	74
5.3.3 <i>Type C lists in Karnak and Medinet Habu</i>	75
5.3.4 <i>Type C lists in New Kingdom tombs</i>	81
5.3.5 <i>The role of the Type C list in the Opening of the Mouth ritual</i>	82
5.4 Discussion of Text No.5 and 6: <i>bd nsw, bd/ntrj šm'j</i> and <i>bd/ntrj mhwj</i>	92
5.5 Other details of the offering scene in the Gebelein speos	102
5.5.1 <i>Name of Amun</i>	102
5.5.2 <i>The royal figure as performer of offering</i>	103
5.5.3 <i>Hathoric cultic object</i>	104
5.5.4 <i>The recipient of the offering ritual and the figure of the deity</i>	108
6. DISCUSSION ABOUT THE ROLE OF THE SPEOS IN HATSHEPSUT'S REIGN	112
6.1 The sacred landscape of the Gebelein area – A brief overview	112
6.2 The chapel of Mentuhotep II and the cult of Hathor	114
6.3.1 <i>General assumptions on the nature of the rock-cut monument</i>	117
6.3.2 <i>The speos of Gebelein as part of a religious program</i>	120
6.3.3 <i>Other examples of divine ancestry</i>	126
6.3.4 <i>Royal ancestors, duties and the royal k3</i>	128
EXCURSUS: Orientation of the axis of the Gebelein speos	132
ABBREVIATIONS	135

BIBLIOGRAPHY	137
TABLE	149
PLATES	155
List of plates	157



POLISH CENTRE
OF MEDITERRANEAN ARCHAEOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW

ISBN 978-83-947612-1-9

9 788394 761219