

COMMUNICATIO

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REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE HUNGARIAN MISSION IN 2002 IN THE AREA OF TT 32

The Hungarian Mission (Eötvös University, Budapest) resumed its work in the area surrounding TT 32 on the 17th February 2002. The excavation was closed on 20th April 2002. The Field Director was Professor László Kákosy, the staff consisted of the following members: Gábor Schreiber egyptologist, Orsolya Illés egyptologist, Zsolt Vasáros surveyor, János Kárpáti technician in archaeology, Ádám Makó physical anthropology, Sarolta Bihari surveyor-designer. The Supreme Council of Antiquities was represented by inspector Ramadan Ahmed Aly.

I

In this year's season our team focused its efforts on three main areas of the field.

A

CORRIDOR TOMB I

Our excavation in the previous year led to the discovery of the Ptolemaic entrance to Corridor Tomb I.¹ (In some reports it is called Structure B. Large parts of this tomb were cleared in the years 1991–92, but the work could not be completed by then). The mud brick walls of the vaulted vestibulum of the tomb excavated in 2001 showed that at least on one occasion they needed a rebuilding. Further architectural structures came to light in front of this room in 2002. One of them may be a pylon gateway leading to the open court of this tomb. There was a quadratic mud brick structure on this open court of which no more than the basis remained preserved. It cannot be proved yet that it may have been a small pyramid. (*Figs 1–3*)

During the cleaning work in front of the entrance to the vaulted corridor which leads to the subterranean chambers some small remains of burials were recovered. In addition to scraps of hieratic papyri a roll of papyrus came to light in a recess of the mudbrick wall to the south of the entrance to the subterranean part of the tomb.

The Mission started a restoration work in the vaulted corridor preceding the inner rock-cut parts of Corridor Tomb I. The vaulted mudbrick roof of the corridor needed consolidation and a section (4 m) of it destroyed perhaps already in the late Antiquity was rebuilt by modern mudbrick. We employed an Egyptian master-mason, a specialist of vaults to repair and rebuild the missing part between the two sections of the arch.

B

A narrow strip of the area to the west of the enclosure wall of the outer court of TT 32 was cleaned with the aim of consolidating the high heaps of rubble there. Here we have discovered the burial of an infant in a rectangular wooden box. (See finds). A dry wall made up of stones of different size was built

¹ L. KÁKOSY: 9th preliminary report on the Hungarian excavation in Thebes, Tomb 32. *ActaArchHung* 46 (1994) 21–31;

L. KÁKOSY: 10th preliminary report on the Hungarian excavation in Thebes, Tomb 32. *ActaArchHung* 47 (1995) 3–10.

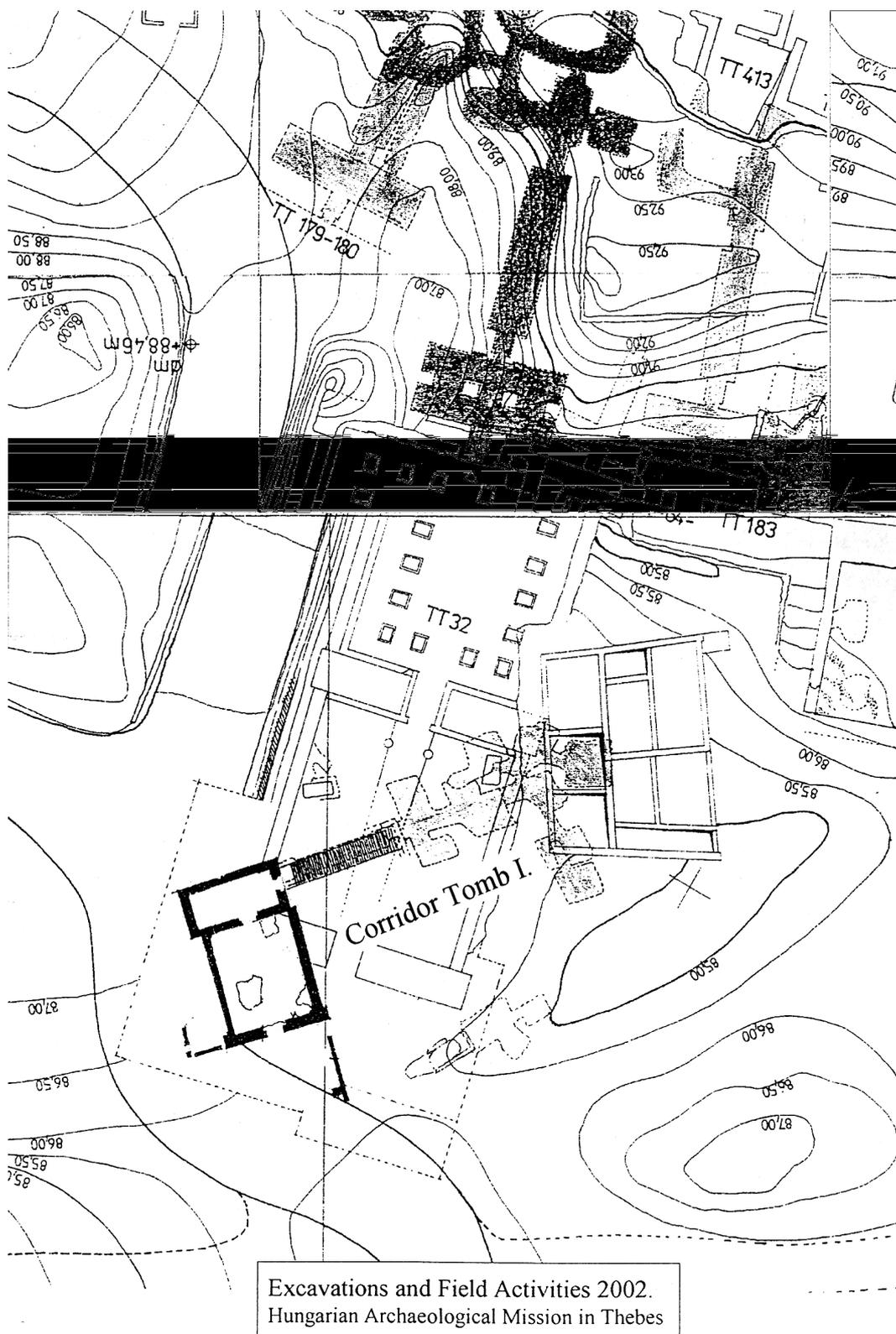


Fig. 1. The excavation area in 2001–2002