

RICKE (1970) – SECTION ON ‘THE SECOND CONSTRUCTION PERIOD’ (pp. 16-20):

THE SECOND CONSTRUCTION PERIOD.

After the temple of the First Construction Period had had the granite cladding of the interior completed, it was reconstructed. They inserted, on both the northern and southern sides, halls with six square pillars, in harmony with the pillared halls on the east and west sides (Figure 6).¹ It may appear at first as if they considered that the surrounding passage around the courtyard was too narrow on these sides, the passage being only three cubits wide on these sides, and by means of the reconstruction they were trying to create more freedom of movement, as for example, for the entrance of processions into the courtyard. But they may well here have come to the wrong conclusion, because they have not widened the entrance to the surrounding passage as well, the doors of which were also only three cubits wide. The very great lengths to which they went in the reconstruction rather suggests an added thematic demand of the cult, to which I shall return later on when attempting to interpret the temple by means of its form (page 37).

During the carrying out of the reconstruction, they initially took down the ceiling of the surrounding passage next to the narrow sides of the courtyard across the extent of width of the courtyard plus the surrounding passages, and then broken down those exterior walls already clad in granite on the north and south sides, to the same extent of width. They then pushed these walls outwards and then reclad them on the inside again with granite, undoubtedly using the old blocks, which had been set aside. The traces of both stages can be discerned in the bedrock (Figure 7). They filled up the corners of the temple with core masonry made of huge limestone blocks up to 8.5 metres long, quarried on the spot. These infillings can be clearly recognised as such by the continuous seams with which they join up with the older core masonry (Plan 1 and Plate 10, b). The monolithic pillars then erected have been put up in the same fashion as the pillars of the First Construction Period, and according to the same cubit scheme. The fact that the added pillars halls do not exactly correspond with the connecting passages between the courtyard pillars, as is the case with the pillared halls on the east and west sides of the temple, shows clearly enough that we are not dealing with an original plan. In the temple itself, nobody has noticed any sign of such deviations, as they have also not noticed the slanted angle of the exterior walls and the pillared hall on the south side of the temple (Figure 8); they have not been noted on the plan sketches from the years 1925-32, and also Selim Hassan missed them as well.²

The width of the east front of the Harmachis Temple has been widened during the reconstruction from 88 cubits to 100 cubits. That calculation includes the outer granite cladding on the southern side which was never executed. This round number may be an indication that the northern exterior walls were not supposed to be covered with granite; the passage between the temple and the rock cliff [the North Trench] would otherwise have become very narrow. It appears to have been used as a magazine, or at least have been planned to be

used as one, because in the top of the exterior core masonry of the northern wall a trace remains which seems to stem from the insertion of a wooden ceiling (Plate 14, a).

¹ Footnote 18 of book: Concerning the erection of these pillars, see page 22/

² Footnote 19 or book: Selim Hassan's book, Plate 16.