

TT 33: the Book of the Dead and the Book of Caverns

Padiamenope's funerary complex contains an important collection of Books of the Netherworld.

Silvia Einaudi and **Daniel Werning** describe their current research.

In 2012 Silvia Einaudi started to copy and study the Book of the Dead spells in TT 33 to prepare them for publication and it seems that here also the Lector Priest wanted to edit a referential version. After a general survey and on the basis of preliminary research in previous seasons, about 70 spells have been identified so far. Often accompanied by vignettes, they are carved on the walls, pillars and engaged pillars of the tomb: from the two hypostyle halls (where the largest number of spells is attested) to the burial chamber. The choice of spells made by Padiamenope reflects, to some extent, the 'Saite recension' of the Book of the Dead, whose redaction was probably already under way by the end of the Twenty-Fifth Dynasty. So, for instance, the sequence of spells on the north wall of the first hypostyle hall (Room I, see plan on p.32): 27-28-29-30-64-31?-32-33-[34?]-35?-36-37-38-39-40, or that on the east wall (north section) of the second hypostyle hall (Room II): 116-117-118-119-120-121 shows an evident canonical, codified order. In fact, at least as far as it concerns the two hypostyle halls, it would seem that Padiamenope was trying to reproduce on the walls, pillars and engaged pillars of his tomb a real Book of the Dead 'papyrus' with vignettes, as if it had been unrolled over the rock surfaces. Some details of Padiamenope's Book of the Dead are attested in earlier Assasif tombs;

Detail from the Book of Caverns in corridor XVIII. Photograph: Claude Traunecker

the combination of spells 17-18, carved on the south and west (south section) walls of the first hypostyle hall, for example, also occurs in the tombs of Karakhamun (TT 223) and Harwa (TT 37), and part of the sequence of spells on the north wall of the same hall is also attested in TT 223. It seems that a decorative model was available for the Assasif Late Period funerary complexes, with the Book of the Dead in TT 33 representing the richest and most elaborate example.

During the 2012 season, Daniel Werning started to collate the texts and scenes of the Book of Caverns from rooms and corridors XVII-XIX, to prepare a synoptic edition. He has identified some peculiarities which imply that the author of Padiamenope's version was aware of the Ramesside editions of Caverns from the Osireion at Abydos and from Ramesses VI's tomb in the Valley of the Kings. Like other texts in TT 33, this version of Caverns was personalised for Padiamenope by the inclusion of his name and image into the text and scenes, just as was done at Abydos and in the Valley of the Kings for the Ramesside kings in their versions. Other details also show that this early Late Period version is a careful adaptation, modestly updated in some respects and 'archaising' in other respects, but still a very authentic version of the Book of Caverns.



Vignette of the chapter 100 of the Book of the Dead (Room I, engaged pillar south-west).

Photograph: Lionel Schmitt

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