

**Statement prepared by the supervisor of Giacomo Cavillier relating to their studies and  
dissertation entitled**

***“The ‘Cliff Tombs’ in Theban Necropolis: Study of a Funerary Structure in the XVIII Dynasty”***  
**submitted in 2024 at the Czech Institute of Egyptology**

**I. Overall evaluation of PhD studies**

The student has technically met the requirements for submitting a dissertation. However, his Ph.D. studies were significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, which prevented him from traveling to Prague for consultations and disrupted his planned excavations abroad. Even under these circumstances, the student's participation in academic activities was quite limited.

The pandemic undoubtedly created obstacles for the student, particularly in terms of travel and fieldwork. Nonetheless, his participation in online conferences, while existent, was minimal and lacked the depth and breadth expected of a PhD candidate. Upon the improvement of the situation, his return to excavations in Egypt and attendance at conferences and workshops did little to compensate for the lost time and opportunities.

The student's involvement in conferences and workshops was limited to presenting posters, which provided only basic information about his field activities. These posters often did not relate to his PhD thesis, suggesting a lack of focus and direction in his research dissemination efforts.

Throughout his PhD program, the student published several studies (often in Italian), but these were largely not featured in major academic journals. The exception was one article in the *Journal of Ancient Egyptian Interconnections (JAEI)*. The overall quality and impact of his publications are lacking, indicating a deficiency in producing high-caliber research worthy of wider academic recognition.

The student's teaching activities in Egypt are noted, yet this aspect of his academic experience appears to be one of the few positive elements. While teaching is a valuable activity, it does not sufficiently compensate for the shortcomings in his research and academic contributions.

**II. Overall evaluation of the dissertation**

The Ph.D. thesis is predominantly descriptive and lacks originality. While it meticulously presents existing research on the tombs in Western Thebes, the analytical component is significantly deficient for this level of academic work. There is no clear initial research question or hypothesis that the student aims to address, indicating a fundamental flaw in the research design.

Moreover, numerous plagiarized passages throughout the dissertation raise serious ethical and academic integrity issues. This undermines the credibility of the student's work and calls into question his suitability for the doctoral degree. The presence of plagiarism is a grave concern, as it not only violates academic standards but also compromises the integrity of scholarly research.

**III. Comments relating to the dissertation [if any]**

Based on Turnitin's evaluation, the percentage of identical passages is 22%. While in some cases these are established references or bibliographies where identical citation is unavoidable, in other cases

these are clearly plagiarized passages from the work of other authors. To illustrate, here are a few specific examples that I consider to be evidence of serious violations of the ethics of academic work.

Below are specific examples from the Introduction that illustrate serious these violations:

Cavillier, pp. 1-2

There are several myths associating Hathor with the flood. In the myth of the wandering eye of the sun god Ra, Hathor is the daughter of Ra, the vengeful eye of the god who flees to Nubia and must be summoned to return by Thoth. It is believed that upon her return, she brought with her the inundation. The same is true for the combined deity Hathor-Sothis, the goddess of the star known today as Sirius, whose appearance on the horizon, as that star, heralded the arrival of the inundation and the new year. It makes sense that the cascade created from the rainwater pouring out of the grotto should be likened to such an event, and thus, the cave is considered sacred to Hathor.

M. Demas – N. Agnew (eds.), *Project Report. Valley of the Queens Assessment Report. Vol. 1.*

*Conservation and Management Planning.* Los Angeles: The Getty Conservation Institute 2012, p. 24

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Cavillier, p. 6

The Nile River valley cuts through a desert landscape that to the west is known as the Libyan Desert, or Western Desert, and to the east as the Arabian Desert. The West Bank was established as Thebes' necropolis. It included royal mortuary temples built in the desert on the edge of the floodplain. Further west, a series of minor necropolises were established in desert valleys, known as wadis, incised into the eastern escarpment of the Theban Plateau, representing the eastern extent of the Libyan Desert. The plateau in the area is also known as the Theban Mountain. The necropolis includes the Valley of the Queens, the Valley of the Kings, The Southwestern Valleys, and the sites of Qurna, Deir el-Bahari, Dra Abu el-Naga, Assasif, El-Tarif, Qurret Murray.

M. Demas – N. Agnew (eds.), *Project Report. Valley of the Queens Assessment Report. Vol. 1.*

*Conservation and Management Planning.* Los Angeles: The Getty Conservation Institute 2012, p. 15

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Cavillier, p. 10

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... was linked with regeneration and rebirth, primarily in two forms, one following the rising and setting of the sun cyclically and the other linked to a rebirth in the afterlife through the body of Osiris (Hornung 1999, 27).

Cavillier, p. 10

But the rebirth which physically occurred with the new inundation was likewise linked to Osiris. In her role as “Mistress of the West”, the female counterpart of Osiris, Hathor received the deceased into the afterlife

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Cavillier, p. 10

emerging from the Theban Mountains in her bovine form from the reeds of the marshes and the western mountains with a sun-disc and ostrich feather crown and a meat-necklace around her neck

E. R. Warkentin, *Looking Beyond the Image: An Exploration of the Relationship between Political Power and the Cult Places of Hathor in New Kingdom Egypt*. PhD Thesis, University of Memphis, 2018. p. 55

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Cavillier, p. 10

if the funerary 'space' carved into the hill is conceptualized as the womb of the goddess from which the deceased is reborn from death, acting as Kamutef,

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The space may have been conceptualized as the womb of the goddess from which the deceased was reborn acting as Kamutef

Cavillier, p. 11

unlike the 18th Dynasty tombs in the Valley of the Kings, which have elaborated architectural plans and are extensively decorated with funerary texts and associated images of kings and deities, the cliff tombs are without any decoration, making identification of tomb owners dependent on the finds. Only parts of standard funerary equipment found in situ occasionally included coffins, fragments of inscribed canopic jars, or texts, providing archaeologists with the name and title of the occupant. Many of the tombs were also reused in later periods, and in many cases, later reuse obscured the date and identity of the original burial.

M. Demas – N. Agnew (eds.), *Project Report. Valley of the Queens Assessment Report. Vol. 1. Conservation and Management Planning*. Los Angeles: The Getty Conservation Institute 2012, p. 25  
Unlike the 18th Dynasty tombs in the Valley of the Kings, which have elaborate architectural plans and are extensively decorated with funerary texts and associated images of kings and deities, those in the Valley of the Queens are without any decoration, making identification of tomb owners dependent on the finds. Remnants of standard funerary equipment found in situ occasionally included fragments of inscribed canopic jars or texts, providing archaeologists with the name and title of the occupant (Table 1 summarizes the tombs that can be attributed to a person or reign, followed by profiles of selected tombs). Many of the tombs were also reused in later periods, and in many cases later reuse obscured the date and identity of the original burial.

Cavillier, p. 11

generally characterized by simple vertical shafts dug into the rock leading to a corridor and one or more burial chambers,

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generally characterized by simple vertical shafts excavated into the rock and leading to one or more burial chambers.

Cavillier, p. 12

the Valley of the Kings (Fig. In.8) was developing into a real necropolis, and as any city, this city of the dead needed a certain measure of planning.

S. Willockx, *The last of the experimental royal tombs in the Valley of the Kings: KV42 and KV34*, Ancient Egypt by Sjef Willocks 2011, p. 11

[https://m.moam.info/kv42-and-kv34-ancient-egypt-by-sjef-willockx\\_5a2bce221723dd91631263ab.html](https://m.moam.info/kv42-and-kv34-ancient-egypt-by-sjef-willockx_5a2bce221723dd91631263ab.html)

the Valley was now developing into a real necropolis, and as any city, this city of the dead needed a certain measure of planning

Cavillier, pp. 12-13

- KV39 (western and eastern section): probably built for Tuthmosis I or Ahmose-Meryetamun;
- an unknown tomb for Tuthmosis II;
- KV38 (in the first phase without the cartouche-shaped burial chamber): may have been built on the orders of the queen Hatshepsut, then still the regent for the boy-king Tuthmosis III;
- KV20: tomb of Hatshepsut as ruler.

These were followed by:

- KV33 and KV34 (tomb of Tuthmosis III);
- an extension/refurbishing of KV38, on the orders of Tuthmosis III, for reburial of his grandfather, Tuthmosis I.

S. Willocx, *The last of the experimental royal tombs in the Valley of the Kings: KV42 and KV34*, Ancient Egypt by Sjef Willocks 2011, pp. 11-12

- KV39 (western and eastern section): probably for Tuthmosis I.
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- An extension / refurbishing of KV38, on the orders of Tuthmosis III for a reburial of his grandfather, Tuthmosis I.

Cavillier, p. 13

These tombs were distributed over the available ground. The contours on the plan represent the modern asphalt roads, which follow the floor of the various side wadis of the Valley. As you can see in the previous figure, these earliest kings' tombs were spread out as much as possible – you might consider: “one site, one wadi, one king” – with KV39 even further away, on the outer rim of the Valley. Below is a series of smaller tombs, all believed to be of 18th Dynasty origin. The side wadis ascend from the center out; this means that the royal tombs are located above the smaller tombs in their particular side wadi.

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Fig. 4 below is a blow up of the central part of Fig. 3, but now with a series of smaller tombs included that are all believed to be of 18<sup>th</sup> dynasty origin. The side wadis ascend from the center out; this means that the regal tombs are, in their particular side wadi, located above the smaller tombs.

Cavillier, p. 13

Tuthmosis IV's retainers were given a place at a somewhat more respectful distance from their patron's tomb.

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It was initially oriented towards the nearby mountaintop of Gebel Al-Qurn (with its western passage). Upon hitting the inferior stone, the tomb's orientation was rotated a full 180° (the eastern path) in his second realization phase. Its originator was, in all probability, Tuthmosis I

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It was originally oriented towards the nearby mountain top of El-Qurn (with its western passage). Upon hitting inferior stone, the tomb's orientation was rotated a full 180° (the eastern passage). Its originator was in all probability Tuthmosis I.

<sup>1</sup> These were followed by:

- KV33 and KV34 (tomb of Tuthmosis III);
- an extension/refurbishing of KV38, on the orders of Tuthmosis III, for reburial of his grandfather, Tuthmosis I.

<sup>1</sup> These tombs were distributed over the available ground. The contours on the plan represent the modern asphalt roads, which follow the floor of the various side wadis of the Valley. As you can see in the previous figure, <sup>2</sup> these earliest kings' tombs were spread out as much as possible – you might consider: “one site, one wadi, one king” – with KV39 even further away, on the outer rim of the Valley. Below is a series of smaller tombs, all believed to be of 18<sup>th</sup> Dynasty origin. The side wadis ascend from the center out; this means that the royal tombs are located above the smaller tombs in their particular side wadi. This concept of a clearly defined dependents' cemetery inside the valley (that consists of a cluster of smaller tombs below the king's tomb) was, in any event, not long-lived after the end of Tuthmosis III's reign. The Amenhotep II's and Tuthmosis IV's retainers were given a place at a somewhat more respectful distance from their patron's tomb.

*KV39*

On this tomb, well-exposed in Section II (Fig.In.9a), <sup>3</sup> Weigall describes it as containing “several fragments of pottery and alabaster, as well as some bones and other fragments of the burial” in a room off the burial chamber. <sup>4</sup> It was initially oriented towards the nearby mountaintop of Gebel Al-Qurn (with its western passage). Upon hitting the inferior stone, the tomb's orientation was rotated a full 180° (the eastern path) in his second realization phase. Its originator was, in all probability, Tuthmosis I or, following the hypothesis of Aston (2015, 21), the tomb was realized for the Queen Inhapi. <sup>5</sup> KV39 was also the first tomb – after the Second Intermediate Period – in which a conscious attempt was made to formalize royal funerary architecture once again. <sup>6</sup> The characteristics of this tomb were:

- an emphasis on “far and deep”: long, steeply descending corridors with relatively small chambers;
- an orientation of the burial chamber towards Gebel Al-Qurn;
- essentially linear tombs: not per se following a straight line, but without angular turns or any branching off;
- no side chambers and no pillars.

KV39 stayed empty until the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> Dynasty <sup>7</sup> when it possibly played a role in dismantling the royal necropolis; the reuse of the tomb has probably led to its enlargement and modification.

<sup>1</sup> *The Tomb of Tuthmosis II*

This tomb has not yet been located. We can, however, make a few educated guesses about it:

## KV34

KV34, see Section III, was discovered by Loret on 12<sup>th</sup> February 1898, and Carter carried out further work near the tomb entrance in the spring of 1921. The tomb itself was cleared with care over several days. From his study of the tomb, Romer has established that Tuthmosis III had been interred within KV34 and the sequence of events surrounding the burials. The king's name is all over the place: on the walls, quartzite sarcophagus, and bits and pieces that remain from the thoroughly plundered inventory. There cannot be much doubt that this one was commissioned for him and that he was interred here. The tomb has two construction phases: the first was done at the beginning of his reign has previewed the construction of the entrance, two corridors, the antechamber, the burial chamber, and a storage room annexed (Fig.In.12). This stage precedes the adaption of KV38 for Tuthmosis I and the cutting of KV42. Then, shortly before his death, Tuthmosis III suddenly decided on a substantial enlargement of KV34. This is the second phase that has previewed the extension of KV34 with a pillared antechamber, the burial chamber widened, and four storage rooms added. This was the last royal funerary project from his reign.

## KV38 final stage

To the new elements, already established in KV20 at his second stage, two more were added at the beginning of the Tuthmosis III reign as the cartouche-shaped burial chamber and the well. The former was the logical consequence of the recent evolution of the regal sarcophagi from rectangular to cartouche-shaped. However, it proved difficult to realize that it didn't survive Tuthmosis III's reign; the ritual shaft was an element that had occasionally been used before, notably for Amenhotep I (in tomb AN B) and for his wife Ahmose-Meryetamun (TT358). When Tuthmosis III decided to transfer his grandfather's burial out of his stepmother's tomb, he could not bring him back to his original tomb (KV39) because that would amount to placing him directly above his tomb for political and ideological reasons (Fig.In.13).

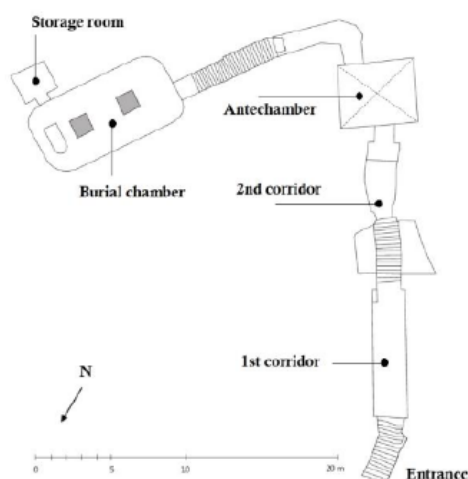


Fig.In.12. KV34 in its first stage (drawing web).

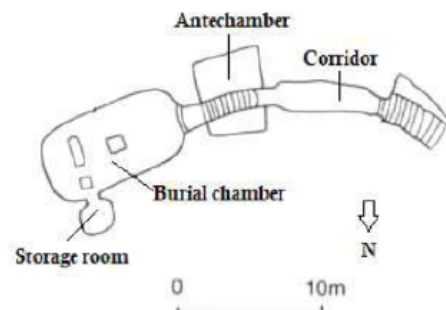


Fig.In.13. KV38 at its final stage (drawing web).

Therefore, he had to find his new quarters and those in KV38. This small tomb stood empty and could, with little effort, be brought up to date. The small rectangular burial chamber was enlarged so that it could hold one pillar. It was given the cartouche shape in vogue.

#### *KV42: Hatshepsut-Meryetre (reign of Tuthmosis III)*

KV42 was first cleared by Carter in late November or early December 1900. The area in front of the tomb Carter excavated in January 1921, locating the tomb's foundation deposits and several pieces thrown out from the burial. The four deposits, all "undisturbed excepting certain decay from torrential waters", were inscribed for Hatshepsut-Meryetre, the first royal wife of Tuthmosis III. Since such deposits were usually positioned at the time work on a tomb commenced, and certainly before any interment had been made (witness, in particular, the deposits of Tuthmosis IV from WV22) it is clear that KV42 had not been excavated before the reign of Tuthmosis III. This dating, confirmed by Romer based on the tomb's design, early renders the still common attribution of KV42 to Tuthmosis II impossible.

That KV42 was not employed for the burial of Hatshepsut-Meryetre is, however, evident from the fact that the sarcophagus chamber had not been decorated with the intended scenes and texts from the Amduat were at this period accomplished only after the funeral. Moreover, apart from the unfinished sarcophagus, which seems not to have been used, "not a vestige of royal antiquities was found" in the tomb. Since Hatshepsut-Meryetre lived on into the reign of her son, Amenhotep II, it may well be that he wished to bury her elsewhere - perhaps in his tomb (KV35), to judge from the remains recovered from there by Loret in 1898. We cannot conclude that the burial was initially made for this queen: the deposits may have been added later. Thomas' suggestion that Hatshepsut-Meryetre may have commissioned this tomb for a (crown) prince is untenable because the position of a (crown) prince in this period had not yet risen to the point where burial in the Valley was possible. The only remaining option is that the queen's foundation deposits indicate that, at some point in time, this tomb was destined to be hers. Only the title "great royal wife" was found on the items of the deposits. If these deposits were added by her son Amenhotep II, one would also have expected to see the title "mother of a king." It is possible also that KV42 was cut in the same period as KV38; the burial chamber took its definitive form during a (brief?) period in which the tomb was to be Tuthmosis III's, but in the end, it was apportioned to his great royal wife. Successfully capitalizing on increased experience, it was laid out much more expertly - although it still lacked in execution. The tomb has an entryway, a 1<sup>st</sup> corridor, a stairwell, a 1<sup>st</sup> chamber, a 2<sup>nd</sup> corridor, and a burial chamber with two pillars and one side chamber. The entrance to tomb KV42 was cut into the Wadi floor, immediately next to a sheer cliff - an almost exact copy of the location of KV38 (Fig.In.14). Since dynastic times, the level of the Wadi floor at this point has risen considerably, resulting in the entrance being several meters below that level. The position of the KV42 immediately below the KV34 makes it possible that the first tomb was dug at the same time when the KV34's first stage was completed. The KV42's burial chamber shape excludes *de facto* that this was the tomb that Hatshepsut, as regent, commissioned for the young Tuthmosis III (before she became ruler in her own right). This implies that the KV42 would



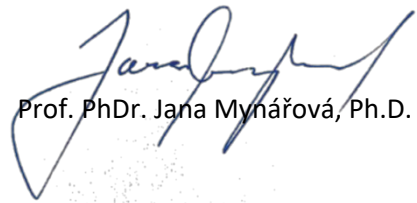
#### IV. Any questions for the defence

N/A

#### V. Conclusion

Due to the serious violation of the ethics of scientific work in the preparation of the submitted dissertation, I have no questions and I provisionally classify the submitted dissertation as *failed*.

July 28, 2024



Prof. PhDr. Jana Mynářová, Ph.D.