SAFEGUARDING MY SON WORLD HERITAGE

- Demonstration and Training in the Application of International World Heritage Standards of Conservation at My Son Group G Monuments –

- Global Heritage Fund Contract -

- 2005 –

Enclosing wall

Technical Report
August 2005
1. Introduction

This report represents the contribution of Dr. Federico Barocco, archaeologist, Arch. Khan Ngoc, Arch. Kim Duc and Arch. Pierre Pichard.

1. Investigation of the area between the monument G2 and G3.

During the conservative work on the east and north sides of the mandapa, it has been possible to carry out an archaeological investigation in this area, performed on the following points:

1. Accomplishment of the excavation on E side of G3 building, to evaluate the possibility to recover the original roof collapsed;
2. Photographic documentation of the collapse found. The entire area has been photographically surveyed using a 1 m² grid;
3. Study and levelling of the original exposed surface, in view to understand the drainage system and the discharge of water in G complex during the Cham period;

North side.
A trench 50 cm wide has been opened along this side.
A silt-sandish layer of recent filling deposit (about 3-5 cm.) arrive to cover the two laterite rows already seen during past excavation.
As already noticed, the mandapa was built on a low foundation composed by two row of bricks 8 cm high and two row of laterite, the second laterite row marks the the mandapa basement.

East side.
After the removal of about 3-8 of recent filling has been found a tile layer in primary deposition, relating to the roof collapse of the mandapa after the abandonment of the area.
fig. Roof collapsing in primary deposition found along the E side of mandapa
The tiles were covering almost the entire length of east side (about 7 m.), for 2 m. of widthness and a gradually missing close to the corner.
Fig. The collapsing has been documented by pictures and grid restitution.

The original position of the collapse allowed the identification of the mainly tile’s type. They showed three different shapes, according to the type of covering in use during the Cham period, and are corresponding to the same type found on the northern and southern side, exposed during the past excavation season (see technical report 2004).
fig. Removal and identification of the different types of tiles.

As already said, the tiles are divided in three different types as showed below:

- tile 25/30 cm long, rim 1,5 cm, 1 cm thick and 7/10 cm wide;
- tile of unidentified length, rim 1,5 cm, 2 cm thick and 13-14 cm wide;
- horned tile.
Fig. Some samples of the tiles types recognize in the collapse

N.B. Amongst the different shape of tiles seems to recognize a different quality of clay and manufacture probably due to the different workshops.

The tiles were collapsed on the ancient ground, composed by exposed bedrock. The ground level is corresponding to the base of the 2nd laterite row, confirming it as the base of mandapa platform.

During the past months, has been removed two rectangular blocks in sandstone, probably reused as step. The two steps were placed on a base composed by 4 bricks 30 cm long.
The collapse just described above arrive close to the bricks that are laying on the laterite platform.

After the removal of the first two bricks from south, appear a layer composed by silty-sandish soil mixed to bricks fragment and sandstone flints. According to the type of preparation generally used during Cham period and already seen in the past excavation, those four bricks should be considered as the original preparation for the step of the mandapa entrance in the east side.
Fig. G3, east side, preparation step made by silt-sandish soil, brick fragments and sandstone flints (emphasized).

Fig. Eastwards, the roof collapse arrive under the first step of the east stair of G2.
The correspondence of the topographic levelling is also confirming the authenticity of the collapse, happened after the abandonment of the site and before the shift of the stair.

The step in sandstone are not in original position, infact it’s visible a shift probably due to the missing of the filling material of the stair.
2. **G5 foundation test.**

According with the need of the conservative works, also here, have been opened foundation trenches to test the condition of the lower brick rows. Along the external sides has been opened a trench 50 cm wide, in the meantime inside the monument, two trenches checked the lower bricks in the SE and NW corner. After the removal of a recent deposit 4/10 cm thick composed by silt-sandish soil mixed to small fragments of brick and laterite, appeared the two rows of foundation bricks.

As already seen in G1, also here, the two rows of foundation bricks are inserted in the original bedrock by a foundation pit quite narrow.

3. **Eastern side dumping**

**Tr. B8**

In the eastern side of the G group hill, rubble and collapses have been removed in order to obtain a regular ground surface following the stratigraphy identified during the previous phase of the excavation field.
The removal has been carried out, to avoid the loss of important information, being archaeological material still buried. After removing 20 cm of recent silt-sandish deposit, appear the rubble identified as the material cumulated after the American bombing of 1969 and the clearance carried out during the 80’s, to then proceed to remove the dump resulted from the excavation performed at the beginning of XX century by the H. Parmentier. The dumping is composed by selected material, mainly bricks and laterite blocks.
Before the removal, the collapsing has been documented by pictures and grid restitution and then removed.

The dump material collected during the clearance and the excavations performed on the area, has been carefully selected and divided before the recovering. After the removal, in view of study and of the conservative works, the bricks have been selected in the following order:
- bricks entire;
- bricks with at least one side entire;
- moulded or carved bricks;
- wallettes.
- brick fragments for making powder.

### 4. Conservative Intervention on the Enclosing Wall

Being the enclosing wall an important element characterising the G group, also here it’s started a conservative works addressed to consolidate the internal side of the structure.

The past excavation put in light ¾ of the wall’s length, so that has been possible to detect its typology and its original height. Following the architectural plan of main building of the G group, also the enclosing wall was built by different material as laterite and brick. Two rows of foundation bricks support seven rows of laterite blocks on which it was the elevation in bricks.
The base of the wall is 80 cm, after the 3\textsuperscript{th} row of laterite moulded the width is 60 cm., and an elevation around 2.50 m. As already supposed it’s possible to suppose that the wall was decorated by terracotta finial.

The conservative works of the present season is addressed to the wall side already exposed during the excavation of the past months.

\textbf{Fig. The holy area and the part of the enclosing wall interested in the present conservative work.}

Before the intervention, a trench test has been opened in the east side close to the N corner to check the condition of the foundation rows being here a unusual depression.
Fig. As supposed, the depression in this point happened after the shift of some foundation bricks.

After an accurated archaeological cleaning, the wall has been surveyed by drawing for the AUTOCAD restitution.
Fig. A section of the Enclosing Wall during the archaeological cleaning.
Fig. Sample of plan and section already made.

5. Preliminary works for Closing Mission.

Preliminary works have been carried out to facilitate the water evacuation. In particular, the G1 cella has been refilled by lajer of bricks and sand to preserve the original floor just discovered in the present excavation season.
Fig. Refilling of G1 cella and protection of the exposed section.
Drainage Plan

Arch. Pierre Pichard drawn the project for drainage of G3 monument and for the area inside the enclosing wall.
During this period Arch. Kim Duc from Ministry of Culture Hanoi, spent a month in My Son and study some solution of presentation of the Site. The project is still under consideration, and here we report some drawing.
Les deux passages actuellements peuvent être réutilisé avec quelques modifications.

Couper les arbres et arracher tous ses racines qui se situent sur le vestige. Il reste les arbres autour du vestige, former un espace fermé, concentré et sacré.