

Rescue in Nubia

3.- Temples on the move

The temples and monuments under threat were dismantled and moved between 1960 and 1965. Upon completion of these works, archaeological excavations were conducted with the aim to retrieve as much information as possible.



Amada Temple

Buildings had to be dismantled or cut, after which their blocks were placed in different storage areas where they remained waiting to be assembled again. A different approach was taken for the

Amada Temple, whose walls were decorated with valuable and fragile paintings that would have been ruined by the cutting operation. Instead the temple was confined in a concrete box, raised and moved on rails to its new location, placed 2.6 kilometres away. Three whole months were needed for this short trip.



Dendur Temple

The rescued monuments were reassembled at three different locations in Lower Nubia: The temples of Kalabsha, Kertassi and Beit el-Wali were taken to New Kalabsha, next to the Aswan Dam; the temples of Dakka, El-Sebua and Maharraqa were rebuilt in New Sebua; finally, the temples of Amada and El-Derr, together with the tomb of Pennut, took their place in New Amada.

As promised by the Egyptian government, four temples were donated to different countries as a sign of gratitude for their help. The temples selected to leave Nubia were those of Dendur, presented to the United States and now kept at the New York Metropolitan Museum; Taffa, given to Holland and exhibited at the Egyptian Museum of Leiden; Ellesiya, donated to Italy and preserved at the Egyptian Museum of Turin; and Debod, which was delivered to Spain.