

ESSEX EGYPTOLOGY GROUP – December 2025

Talk by Dr Francisco Martin-Valentin

Fundacion Instituto de Estudios del Antiquo Egipto – Vizier Amen-Hotep Huy Project

At our meeting on 7th December 2025, Dr Francisco Martin-Valentin presented an overview of the excavations carried out since 2009 by the Spanish mission of the Instituto del Antiquo Egipto at tomb AT28 of Vizier Amen-Hotep Huy in the Asasif necropolis.

Amenhotep-Huy was Vizier of the South during the reign of Amenhotep III (around 1360 BCE). His unfinished tomb consists of a courtyard, entrance passage and a T-shaped chapel with three sets of ten columns. The extant decorations on the walls and columns of chapel show evidence of a *damnatio memoriae* at some time after year 35 of Amenhotep III.

Work on the tomb included conservation and restoration of columns with four sets of inscriptions, which can be dated to the first *sed* festival of Amenhotep III by comparison to dated inscriptions in the adjacent tomb TT192 of Kheruef, Steward of the Great Royal Wife Tiye. There are relatively few other monuments of Amenhotep Huy; they do suggest that he was Southern vizier from around year 30 to year 35/37, but then disappears; thus it seems likely that the destruction of the vizier's image occurred during the sole reign of Akhenaten.

Surviving fragments of the columns along the central axis of the chapel bear inscriptions with full titulary of Amenhotep III in the version he adopted at his first *Heb Sed*, and two others with the full titulary of Amenhotep IV from the early part of his reign. These, and the date already known from Kheruef's tomb, show that both kings were on the throne simultaneously by year 30 and the first *Heb Sed* of Amenhotep III, thus providing evidence of a long co-regency between Amenhotep III and Amenhotep IV, and suggesting that Amarna was likely founded during the lifetime of Amenhotep III.

In the talk Dr Martin-Valentin reviewed all extant pieces of evidence, including statues, inscriptions, ostraca and Amarna letter EA27, and suggested that there was perhaps a brief co-regency, and then a "co-existence" of another 8 or 9 years, when Amenhotep III Neb-Maat-Ra was the living god Aten, and Amenhotep IV/Akhenaten was pharaoh.

Dr Martin-Valentin then presented his revised chronology of the late 18th dynasty, and suggested that Tut-ankh-Amun was possibly Amenhotep III's and Sat-Amun's son, born in year 36 (year 9 of Amenhotep IV/Akhenaten), and thus Akhenaten's half-brother.

The tomb was extensively reused from the Ramesside period until the Late Period, both as a mummification workshop and as a necropolis for the high-ranking clergy of Amun-Ra. Evidence for mummification includes bandages and a magnificent silver knife blade. The secondary burials yielded intact human remains and splendid coffins. Many of these objects are now on display at the Luxor museum.

Further reading:

The Amenhotep Huy Project have published preliminary reports both in Spanish and in English, and in more detail in a book by Dr Francisco Martin-Valentin and Teresa Bedman (in Spanish). Images, plans and reports can be found on the website of the Project (both in Spanish and in English): <https://www.visiramenhotep.es/tumba-visir> , and also an extensive bibliography at <https://www.visiramenhotep.es/copia-de-bibliografia>

Dr Valentin-Martin and Teresa Bedman also published a detailed article in Kmt Vol.22, No.2 Summer 2011 (available on Academia: https://www.academia.edu/35858885/Excavations_in_Tomb_28_at_Asasif_Luxor_West_Bank_belonging_to_Vizier_Amenhotep_called_Huy_Kmt_Vol_22_Number_2_Summer_2011_42_53)

and a further article in Kmt in 2014 on the co-regency: <https://fundacionieae.es/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/AMENHOTEP-HUY-TOMB-28-ASASIF-MARTIN-BEDMAN-LA-2014.pdf>

Preliminary Results of the Excavation Seasons 2009-2012: <https://fundacionieae.es/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/THE-TOMB-VIZIER-AMENHOTEP-HUY-AT-28-PRELIMINARY-RESULTS-OF-EXCAVATION-SEASONS-2009-2012.-ARIZONA-UNIV.2013.pdf>