

B 600: The Enthronement Pavilion.

B 600 is the earliest known standing stone structure at Jebel Barkal (**fig. 1**). Its Kushite superstructure stands atop foundations which are securely dated to the reign of Thutmose IV by a foundation deposit containing name plaques of that king. Because B 600 was built up against the Jebel Barkal cliff, it was very vulnerable to rock falls, and it seems to have been seriously damaged at least twice: once, probably in the third century BC, after which it was restored, and again in the second or early third century AD, after which it was left a ruin. After its first (known) destruction, it was rebuilt as a royal enthronement pavilion, but whether it had had that same function in the 18th Dynasty remains unclear. There is still no evidence that it had been dedicated to a particular deity - other than the king. About 630 BC B 600 was joined on its site by a new temple, B 700, which was built immediately beside it to the southwest, also against the cliff in an equally vulnerable position (**figs. 1, 2**).



fig. 1: Aerial view of present state of B 600 (foreground) beside Napatan temple B 700 (background..)



fig. 2: Reconstruction view of B 700 and 600 as they may have appeared in the third or second century BC. (Models by Nadejda Reshetnikova and Geoff Kornfeld © 2015 NCAM Mission and Learning Sites, Inc.)

B 600, which was 3 m higher than B 700, was mounted by a stairway, all traces of which have now disappeared. The stairway rose to an entrance portico (601), much of which has also collapsed. The central chamber (602) had four columns, and its inner chamber (603) features a low stepped podium built against the back wall (**fig. 3**).

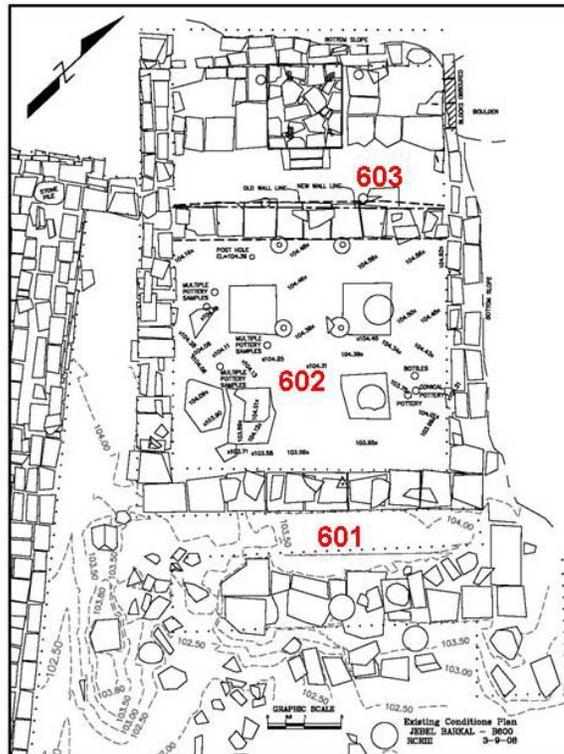


fig. 3. Plan of B 600. (Robert C. Rosa III)

The podium, clearly of Meroitic date, has four pairs of cut holes on its top surface, indicating that it once supported both a wooden(?) throne platform with square legs and a canopy or baldachin with round legs (**fig. 4**). A set of four larger round holes in the floor surrounding the podium indicate that the throne base and baldachin were overarched by a still larger baldachin. Another series of four round holes in 602 revealed that the king's approach to the throne in the inner chamber had also been canopied by a third baldachin (**figs. 5, 6**). The lack of any carved relief or inscriptions on the preserved walls and columns suggest that in Meroitic times B 600 may have been redecorated and re-inscribed in paint whenever a new king was installed in his office.



fig. 4. *Photo showing present state of throne podium in room 603. (Photo: T. Kendall)*



fig. 5. *Reconstructed model of Meroitic B 600, showing throne and baldachins. (Model by N. Reshetnikova and Geoff Kornfeld © 2015 NCAM Mission and Learning Sites, Inc)*



fig. 6. *Detail of fig. 5, showing the throne podium with baldachins. (Model by Geoff Kornfeld © 2015 NCAM Mission and Learning Sites, Inc)*

B 600 in its Kushite state brings to mind the kind of royal pavilion that first appears in art on the Narmer macehead (**Fig. 7**). This is a stepped platform, sometimes of considerable height, on which the king appears, crowned and seated on his throne under a baldachin. In later illustrations, the height of the platform is reduced to give greater emphasis to the king's figure, and occasionally he is shown sitting beneath multiple baldachins. The combination of the stepped platform, throne and baldachin (or baldachins) was called a "tchentchat" in Egyptian, and such pavilions appear repeatedly in scenes of enthronement, especially those picturing the *Heb-Sed* or royal jubilee (See also B 500: The Reliefs of Piankhy, fig. 11)

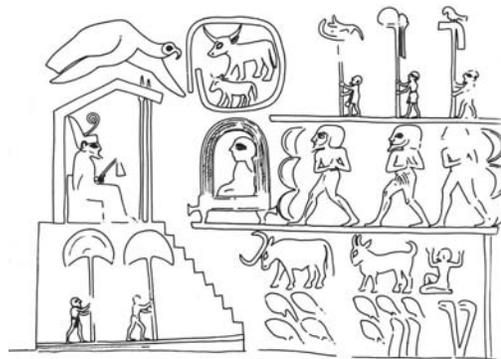


fig. 7. *Heb-Sed scene with Narmer seated in a "tchentchat" from the king's votive mace head, Hierakonpolis, ca. 3100 BC (after G. Robins, The Art of Ancient Egypt, London, 1997, p. 35, fig. 28)*

Ref: Timothy Kendall and Pawel Wolf, "B 600: "A Temple of Thutmose IV at Jebel Barkal," in V. Rondot, F. Alpi and F. Villeneuve, eds. La pioche et la plume: Autour du Soudan, du Liban et de la Jordanie. Hommages archéologiques à Patrice Lenoble. Paris, 2011, pp. 237-259.

