



BULLETIN DE L'INSTITUT FRANÇAIS D'ARCHÉOLOGIE ORIENTALE

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BIFAO 81.1 (1981), p. 325-329

William Kelly Simpson

A Shawabti Box Lid of the Chief Steward Nia (Iniuya) Acquired by General Jean-Joseph Tarayre [avec 1 planche].

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A SHAWABTI BOX LID OF THE CHIEF STEWARD NIA (INIUYA) ACQUIRED BY GENERAL JEAN-JOSEPH TARAYRE

William Kelly SIMPSON

The shawabti box lid which is the subject of this communication belonged to the General Jean-Joseph Tarayre (1770-1855), a member of the French Expedition in 1798-1800. An adjutant general in 1799 and commandant of the camp at Bilbeis, he later became Governor of Suez. He is best known for his writings on the practicability of the Canal ⁽¹⁾. The box lid remained in his family until acquired by the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston ⁽²⁾.

It derives from the burial equipment from the tomb of Nia (Iniuya) at Saqqara, several of whose reliefs and monuments have long been known. In recent years the study of the New Kingdom tombs in the Memphite area has been renewed with increasing success, the most notable example being the re-discovery and excavation of the large and magnificent monument constructed for Horemheb. Steffen Wenig, Jocelyne Berlandini, and Christiane Zivie, among others, have devoted articles to the monuments now dispersed in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo and elsewhere ⁽³⁾. Even the owner of the tomb from which the famous Berlin « Trauerrelief » derives has now been identified as the greatest

⁽¹⁾ J. Charles-Roux, *L'Isthme et le Canal de Suez : Historique — Etat actuel*, Tome 1, Paris, 1901, 188-191. *Importance de l'Égypte et l'Isthme de Suez (signé Tarayre 31 août 1844)*, Rodex-Imp. de Carrière aîné, 1855.

⁽²⁾ *Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. The Museum Year 1977-78*, p. 26 (illustrated).

⁽³⁾ Steffen Wenig, « Das Grab des Prinzen Cham-waset Sohn Ramses' II. und Hoherpriester des Ptah von Memphis », *Forschungen und Berichte* 14 (1972), 39-44; « Das Grab des Soldatenschreibers Hwj. Untersuchungen zu den Memphitischen Grabreliefs des neuen Reiches II », in *Festschrift zum 150. Jahrgang Bestehen des Berliner Ägyptischen Museums*, Berlin, 1975, 239-245; Jocelyne Berlan-

dini, « Varia Memphitica I (I) », *BIFAO* 76 (1976), 301-316; « Varia Memphitica II (II-III) », *BIFAO* 77 (1977), 29-44; « Varia Memphitica III. Le général Ramsès-Nakht », *BIFAO* 79 (1979), 249-265; A.P. Zivie, « La tombe d'un officier de la XVIII^e dynastie à Saqqara », *RdE* 31 (1979), 135-151; Christiane M. Zivie, « A propos de quelques reliefs du Nouvel Empire au Musée du Caire. I. La tombe de Ptahmay à Giza », *BIFAO* 75 (1975), 285-310; « II. La tombe de Khaemouas, chef des charpentiers du roi, à Giza », *BIFAO* 76 (1976), 17-36; *Giza au deuxième millénaire*, 1976; « Princes et rois du nouvel empire à Giza », *Studia Aegyptiaca* I (Recueil ... Wessetzky), 421-430; « Memphis », *LÄ* IV (1980), 24-41.

of the directors of craftsmen, Ptahemhet-Ty ⁽¹⁾. We can look forward to additional articles and monographs on several of these important tombs, for which the new edition of the *Topographical Bibliography* under the editorship of Dr. Jaromír Málek and his predecessors remains the primary source. Re-excavation of the tombs of Maya ⁽²⁾ and others in the vicinity of that of Horemheb will add considerably to our knowledge and appreciation of the architecture, arts, and administration of the times, as will the re-edition and study of tombs previously incompletely known and published ⁽³⁾.

In the first edition of the *Topographical Bibliography* only two monuments are assigned to Nia (Iniuya), indexed under the spelling Iniwia : a stela in the Egyptian Museum (JE 10079) and a pair of papyrus columns inscribed on the abaci in Berlin (East) 1627, 1628 ⁽⁴⁾. The second edition adds the granite anthropoid sarcophagus in the Louvre (D 2), a granite pyramidion in the Louvre (D 14), the left part of a lintel in Chicago (Oriental Institute 17300), and several frequently illustrated blocks in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo : Temp. N^{os} 25.6.24.7, 3.7.24.13, 14.6.24.29 ⁽⁵⁾. On the basis of the style and content of these reliefs it should be possible to add still others which lack the name of the owner.

To the references supplied by the editors of the *Topographical Bibliography* one may add the listings and discussions by Helck, *Zur Verwaltung*, 104, 375, 490; *Materialien zur Wirtschaftsgeschichte* 31 (with a date suggested in the reign of Ramses II), and 138. Although the titles of Nia (Iniuya) differ in part on several of these monuments, the presence of his wife's name, Iuy, is sufficient to confirm the identity of the official.

To the monuments of Nia (Iniuya) can now be added the shawabti box lid (Pl. XLI; fig. 1) acquired several years ago by the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. I am indebted to Mr. Lynn H. Holden for the drawing of the texts and to Mr. Edward Brovanski for his extensive notes on Nia (Iniuya) made prior to the second edition of the *Topographical Bibliography*. The lid bears the museum accession number 1977.717, measures 31 cm. in height, 20 cm. wide, and 6.5 cm. deep, is carved in a good quality limestone, and was acquired through the William Francis Warden Fund. Husband and wife are shown

⁽¹⁾ *Topographical Bibliography* III (2nd ed.), Part 2, Fasc. 2, 711-712; Charles Maystre, « Le grand-prêtre memphite du relief Berlin 12411 », *Ägypten und Kusch* (Fs Hintze), 303-307.

⁽²⁾ H.D. Schneider, « Maya, l'amateur des statues. A propos de trois statues fameuses du Musée de Leyde et d'une sépulture oubliée à Saqqarah », *BSFE* 69 (mars 1974), 20-48; Erhart Graefe, « Das Grab des Schatzhausvorstehers und Bauleiters Maya

in Saqqara », *MDAIK* 31 (1975), 187-220; « Ein Wiederaufgetauchtes Relieffragment aus dem Grabe des Maya in Saqqara », *MDAIK* 33 (1977), 31-33.

⁽³⁾ G.A. Gaballa, *The Memphite Tomb-Chapel of Mose*.

⁽⁴⁾ *Topographical Bibliography* III. *Memphis* (1931), 194.

⁽⁵⁾ *Topographical Bibliography* III. *Memphis* (2nd ed.), Part 2, Fasc. 2, 707.

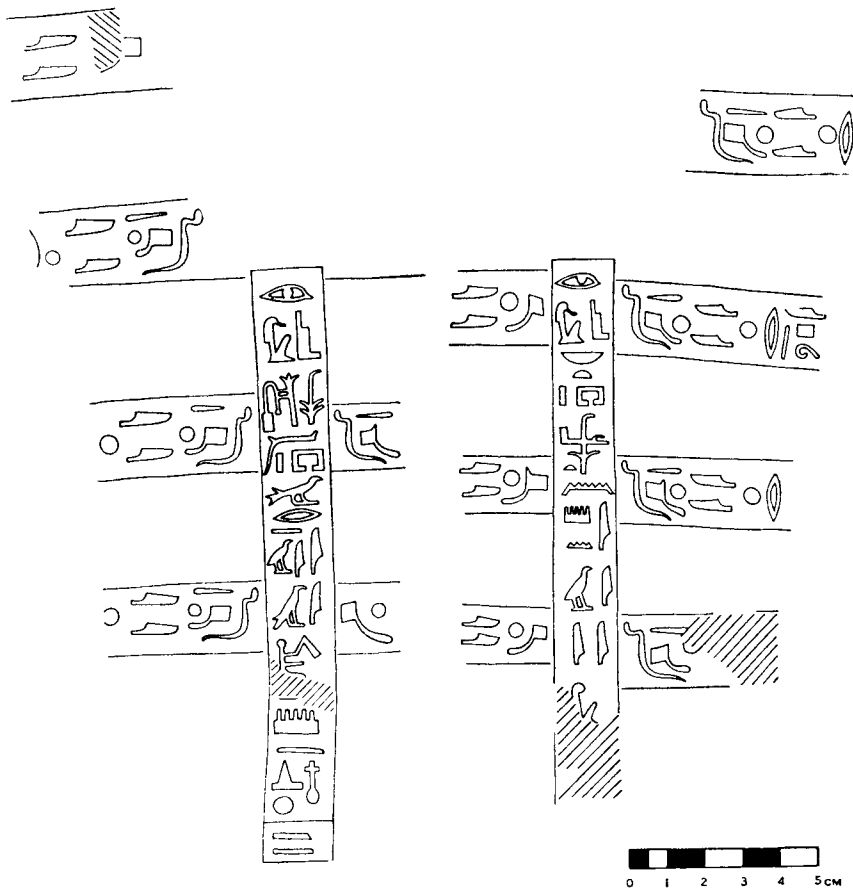


fig. 1

together, with the wife on her husband's left, the standard position for a husband and wife pair ⁽¹⁾. The column of text on the male figure reads : « the Osiris, king's scribe, chief steward of Memphis Nia (Iniuuya) the justified », with the title, « chief steward of Memphis », divided (as often) by the personal name. On the figure of the wife the corresponding text reads : « the Osiris, the house-mistress, the chantress of Amun Iuy, [justified] ». The internal horizontal bands beginning *jm³hy* or in one case *dd mdw, jm³h*, were « invisibly » continued between the figures. The four outer bands for each of the figures with the text *dd mdw jm³hy hr ...* were evidently continued on the missing box itself. Of the deities cited only the name of *Jnpw* is preserved on the lid itself (second

⁽¹⁾ For a recent discussion of the relative position of husband and wife in statuary, see my remarks

in *Mastabas of the Western Cemetery : Part I, Giza Mastabas 4*, Boston (1980), 25.

band from the top on the wife's figure). The quality of the figures is excellent from the point of view of the funerary craftsman, although the sculpture can hardly be compared to the work of a master sculptor. On the basis of the style of the reliefs and other monuments, Nia (Iniuya) is dated to the end of Dynasty 18 or early Dynasty 19. The underside of the box lid has a shallow depression in the center leaving a rim 2 cm. wide around all sides. At the level of the ends of the wig is a drilled hole on each side on the rim, presumably ancient, which would have served for the tenons to keep the lid in place⁽¹⁾. The whereabouts of the box itself, with the ends of the bands of inscription, is unknown, as is that of the double shawabti itself. The close association of husband and wife, evidenced in the box lid, is exhibited on the pyramidion in the Louvre, on the southern side of which both figures kneel with hands raised in adoration. On the lintel in Chicago Iuy kneels behind her husband with arms similarly raised to worship the deities represented. In one of the reliefs Iuy offers her husband a bouquet of flowers in a scene often compared to that of Ankhesenamun before Tutankhamun on an ivory panel from a box in the latter's tomb⁽²⁾.

The titulary of Nia (Iniuya) includes the offices of king's scribe, steward of Memphis, chief steward, chief steward of Memphis, and overseer of the cattle of Amun. The Chicago lintel provides only the title of scribe of the treasury of silver and gold of the lord of the two lands, but the accompanying figure of the house-mistress Iuy indicates the possibility that the same couple is represented. On the Cairo stela he has the rank titles and epithets of hereditary prince and count (*jry p't h3ty-5*), sealer of the king of Lower Egypt, and beloved of the lord of the two lands. A fourth relief in Cairo noted by Legrain and Allen, which I have been unable to identify otherwise, may belong to similarly named members of the same family, perhaps descendants. The latter Nia (Iniuya), « the son of his son », has the title of chief priest of a temple (*hwt*) of Djoser-kheperu-Re-setep-en-Re [Horemheb], with another member of the family listed as « the daughter of his son » I[u]y⁽³⁾.

⁽¹⁾ For similar drilled holes for tenons in a wooden shawabti box, see Hans D. Schneider, *Shabtis*, Part III, pls. 9 (3.1.1.5), 11 (3.1.1.13), 12 (3.1.1.25).

⁽²⁾ Often illustrated. See *Topographical Bibliography III. Memphis* (2nd ed.), Part 2, Fasc. 2, 707; Roeder, *ZÄS* 83 (1958), pl. VI (c).

⁽³⁾ *Répertoire généalogique et onomastique du Musée du Caire. Monuments de la XVII^e et de la*

XVIII^e dynastie, 196, N° 333; T.G. Allen, *The Art Institute of Chicago : Handbook of the Egyptian Collection*, 42, n. 2. The relief probably derives from a different tomb. The name of the owner is broken away. The name of the chapel which his grandson served seems to be Djoser-kheperu-Re s3 *Pth mr(y) Pth bihw*. I lack the museum number.

I have not been able to locate a similar box lid for a double shawabti, although double and even triple shawabtis are of course known ⁽¹⁾. Nia (Iniuuya) served as chief steward of Memphis, an important office described by Hayes ⁽²⁾. His somewhat unusual name is rare ⁽³⁾. It would be useful to discuss and illustrate together his monuments, to which others can be doubtless eventually added. In so doing it may be possible to assign him to a specific reign at the end of Dynasty 18 or in the first part of Dynasty 19.

⁽¹⁾ William C. Hayes, *The Scepter of Egypt*, Part II, *passim*, with a double shawabti illustrated on p. 130, fig. 68. On shawabti boxes, see pp. 261, 393, 425, and 428, with a wooden box illustrated on p. 429, fig. 274. For other double shawabtis, see Schneider, *Shabtis*, Part III, pls. 33-35; Part

II, 212-216.

⁽²⁾ *Cambridge Ancient History* (3rd ed.), Vol. II, Part I (1973), 360.

⁽³⁾ *PN I*, 170.27. The name occurs also in the unpublished Brooklyn Papyrus 35.1453 of the Amarna period.



The shawabti box lid of the chief steward Nia (Iniuya), (courtesy Museum of Fine Arts, Boston).