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BIFAO 71 (1972), p. 129-137

Gaballa ʿAly Gaballa

Some Nineteenth-Dynasty Monuments in Cairo Museum [with 5 photo-plates].

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SOME NINETEENTH DYNASTY MONUMENTS IN CAIRO MUSEUM

G.A. GABALLA

The galleries and storerooms of the Egyptian Museum in Cairo contain a vast number of inscribed stelæ, statues and other fragments which yet await their turn to contribute their mite of information to the resources of Egyptology. In the present paper three such monuments are published for the first time; it is hoped to present further such material in due course.

1. A NEW MONUMENT OF MAY, CHIEF OF WORKS.

In 1953-54 M. S. Sauneron and Mr. L. Habachi each published an article on the Chief of works, May, a personage who lived and worked during the long reign of Ramesses II[1]. At the end of his article, in a *Post Scriptum,* Sauneron mentions : « une stèle du même Mây, assez semblable, dans sa facture, à la stèle du Louvre C. 94 ». Then he goes on to add : « Il est à souhaiter que ce document important soit prochainement publié ».

In 1955 the Service des Antiquitiés confiscated over thirty monuments that had been kept in the Qubba Palace of ex-king Farouk. Among them was the stela mentioned by Sauneron. All of the confiscated objects were temporarily kept in Room 56 of the Egyptian Museum owing to the fact that some of them were obvious fakes. However, in 1969 the authentic pieces were entered in the *Temporary Register* of the Museum and were moved to their appropriate sections. The stela was registered 14. 10. 69. 1 and was moved to Room 19 on the ground floor.

[1] Sauneron, *BIFAO* 53 (1953), pp. 57-63; Habachi, *CdÉ* 29 (1954), pp. 210-220.

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Description

The stela, whose original provenance is not known, is made of black granite and measures 92 cm. in height, 51 cm. in width and 29 cm. in thickness. Its face is divided into two unequal parts (pl. XXIII and fig. 1). In the upper part Ramesses II is shown standing on the right, wearing what seems to be a form of the Double Crown with a ribbon and a short kilt under a long robe. He offers two jars of wine to Osiris who stands on the left. Behind Osiris is the goddess Isis whose arms are extended behind him in a protective gesture. She is crowned with the solar disc and horns. She is followed by Horus, falcon headed, who is wearing the Double Crown and holds a long sceptre in one hand and the sign of life in the other. The whole scene is topped by a representation of the winged sun-disc which is curved so as to fit the rounded top of the stela.

In the lower part, May is depicted standing on the right raising his hands in adoration. He wears a wig, and a short tunic under a long robe. Before and above him are nine vertical columns of text.

On the right-hand edge of the stela there is one vertical line of inscription (pl. XXIV and fig. 2). On the left-hand edge stands May's wife wearing a transparent dress. Her head is covered with a long wig and crowned with a lotus flower. She raises both hands, in one of which she holds a sistrum (pl. XXV and fig. 3).

Fortunately all figures and inscriptions are perfectly preserved and clearly legible throughout.

Texts

Before King : Names and titles of Ramesses II.
Below King's arm : « Presenting wine to his father ».
Above Osiris : « Osiris, lord of Restau, the beloved [1], Sokar, lord of Shetayet ».
Above Isis : « Isis, the mother of the god ».
Before Isis : « (I) place (my) arms around thee ».
Before and above Horus : « Horus, the protector of his father ».

[1] Or : « beloved of Sokar ? ».

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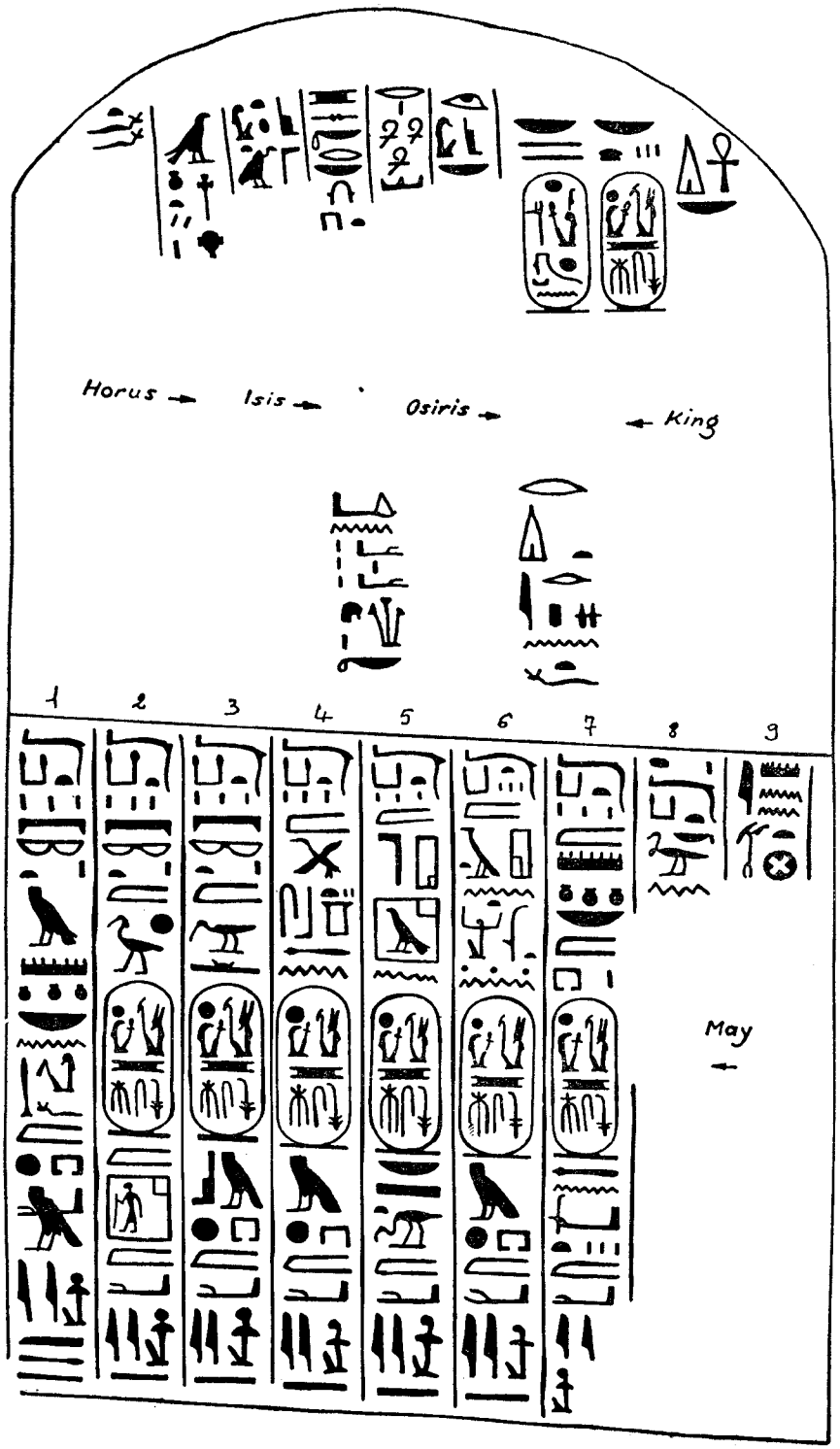


Fig. 1.

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Fig. 2.

Before May : « [1] Chief of works, troop-commander in all the monuments of His Majesty in Pi-rē[c] [(a)], May justified. [2] Chief of works, troop-commander in the building (named) 'Brilliant-is-Ramesses-meiamun', in the Mansion of the Prince [(b)], May. [3] Chief of works, troop-commander in the building (named) 'Ramesses-meiamun-has-found-a-seat' in Pi-rē[c] [(c)], May. [4] Chief of works in the building (named) 'The-great-wall-of-Ramesses-meiamun' in Pi-rē[c] [(d)], May. [5] Chief of works in the temple of Hathor-of-Ramesses-meiamun, Lady of the Red Pool [(e)], May. [6] Chief of works in the Mansion-of-million(s)-of-years of Ramesses-meiamun in Pi-rē[c] [(f)], May. [7] Chief of works in all the monuments of Pi-Ramesses, great of victories [(g)], May, [8-9] son of the chief of works, Bakenamun of Thebes [(h)] ».

Right-hand Edge : « Chief of works in all the monuments of the king in the House of Ptah [(i)], May, son of the chief of works Bakenamun, and born of Ta-amentet-en-waset [(j)] ».

Left-hand Edge : « Lady of the house, chantress of Pre[c], Ta-ḳa-[c]anat [(k)] ».



Fig. 3.

NOTES

(a) Pi-rē[c], « the Estate of Rē[c] », being Rē[c]'s domain, i.e. Heliopolis (cf. Gardiner, *Ancient Egyptian Onomastica,* II, 142*), like Pi-amun, « the Estate of Amun » as Amun's domain of Thebes (*ibid.,* 175*). For the title *ḥry pḏt* in non-military capacities, cf. A.R. Schulman, *Military Rank, Title and Organization in the Egyptian New Kingdom,* Berlin, 1964, p. 56.

(b) *Ḥwt-sr* = *Ḥwt* [c]*3t* is the principal sanctuary of the Sun-god in Heliopolis (e.g., P. Montet, *Géographie de l'Égypte ancienne,* I, 1957, p. 159). The association of the building « Brilliant-is-Ramesses-meiamun » with the *Ḥwt-sr* suggests a major structure of Ramesses II in the main temple of Rē[c] in Heliopolis, probably comparable with the similarly-named Great Hypostyle Hall in the Amun-temple at Karnak, as observed by Helck, *Materialen zur Wirtschaftsgeschichte des Neuen Reiches,* I, 1961, 128, N° 4. This building is mentioned also on the Louvre stela C 94, the larger Giza graffito, and the Cairo statue published by Habachi, *op. cit.*

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(c) *Gm-R^{c}mssw-mry-'Imn st m Pr R^{c}-* a hitherto unrecorded foundation of Ramesses II in the Estate of Rē^{c} at Heliopolis. This remarkable form of name reminds one of Gem-pa-Aton of the Amarna period in Nubia (Kawa; references, Helck, *op. cit.*, II, 150, 3), which survived to the Ethiopian period. From Pap. Wilbour Gardiner cites a foundation called *Gm st m Pr R^{c};* the only similar names known to him are a *gm st m Pr 'Imn* and . . . *m Pr Pṯḥ* under Ramesses III. Cf. Gardiner, *Papyrus Wilbour,* II, p. 161 with notes 3, 4.

(d) Hitherto known principally from May's stela Louvre C 94 (Sauneron, *op. cit.*, p. 60) and cited by Helck, *op. cit.*, I, p. 124.

(e) *Nbt Š dšr* « Lady of the Red Pool », mentioned also on stela Louvre C 94; cf. Gauthier, *Dictionnaire des noms géographiques,* V, 1928, p. 129, and Brugsch, *Dictionnaire géographique,* pp. 447, 970-2, and 1353-5.

(f) The local royal shrine (or funerary temple) of Ramesses II in Heliopolis (mentioned also in stela Louvre C 94, cf. Sauneron, *op. cit.*, fig. 2, and p. 60); cf. Helck, *op. cit.*, p. 128, I, for this temple, and pp. 8-10 on the terminology for these and other temples.

(g) Certainly the famous Delta capital because of the epithet *ꜣ nḫtw,* cf. Gardiner, *Onomastica,* II, 171* ff, also L. Habachi, *ASAE* 52 (1954), pp. 443-559 and recently his *Features of the Deification of Ramesses II,* Glückstadt, 1969, pp. 27 ff.

(h) Common New Kingdom name, Ranke, *Personennamen,* I, p. 91 : 1. For epithets relating people to their cities, cf. Grapow, *ZÄS,* 73 (1937), pp. 44-53, especially p. 50 (*n* plus place-name).

(i) The estate and major temple of Ptah at Memphis, cf. note (a).

(j) A name otherwise unknown to me. It should be noted that on the Cairo statue of May published by Habachi, *op. cit.*, p. 215, figs. 27-28, (and now kept in Room 19), his genealogy runs as follows : « . . . May, justified, son of . . . Bakenamun of Thebes, born of Takartia (f.) of Heliopolis, son of the treasurer Nebiotef ». The new stela gives « . . . May, son of Bakenamun of Thebes, born of Ta-amentet-en-waset ». Hence one may suggest that the latter lady was May's mother, and that Takartia was his grand-mother, giving as the following genealogy :

Nebiotef — ^{f} Takartia
|
Bakenamun — ^{f} Ta-amentet-en-waset
|
May

(k) This name also, I cannot parallel; it contains the name of the popular West-Semitic goddess ʿAnat.

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2. A BLOCK OF QUEEN TWOSRE.

Also in Room 19 is a limestone block (pl. XXVI and fig. 4) that bears the *JdÉ* N° 45568. According to the *JdÉ* this block came from the excavations of C. Fisher at Mitrahinah and entered the Museum on May 15, 1916.

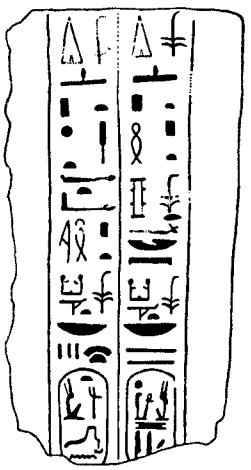


Fig. 4.

It is quite clear that the block belongs to some kind of building, most probably a tomb. But it is not known whether it was a royal or private building. It measures 52 cm. in height, 25 cm. in width and 15, 5 cm. in thickness. There are two vertical lines of inscription on one of its sides. They run as follows :

« $\overset{1}{|}$ A boon which the king gives (to) Ptah South-of-His-Wall, Lord of Heaven, (and to) the royal ka of the Lord of the Two Lands, Sitre-meryamun ».

« $\overset{2}{|}$ A boon which the king gives (to) Sekhmet the great, beloved of Ptah, (and to) the royal ka of the Lord of diadems, Twosre-setepenmut ».

Commentary

The monuments that bear the name of Queen Twosre as pharaoh, who ended the Nineteenth Dynasty, are very rare. Even her tomb in the Valley of the Kings was usurped by her successor Setnakht [1]. Hence it may be of some interest to make known this block particularly as it comes from Memphis whence none of the Queen's few monuments are attested, as far as I know.

It is perhaps worth noting that the royal ka of the Queen as full pharaoh is here invoked with the chief gods of Memphis in a *ḥtp di nisw* formula just as for any other king.

[1] R.O. Faulkner, *Egypt, from the Inception of the Nineteenth Dynasty to the Death of Ramesses III, CAH*², vol. II, Chapter XXIII, p. 25.

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3. A STELA OF TWO STONEMASONS OF RAMESSES II.

In the same room as the block of Twosre there is a broken stela of white limestone. According to the *JdÉ* under N° 21801 it was found in Abydos and entered the

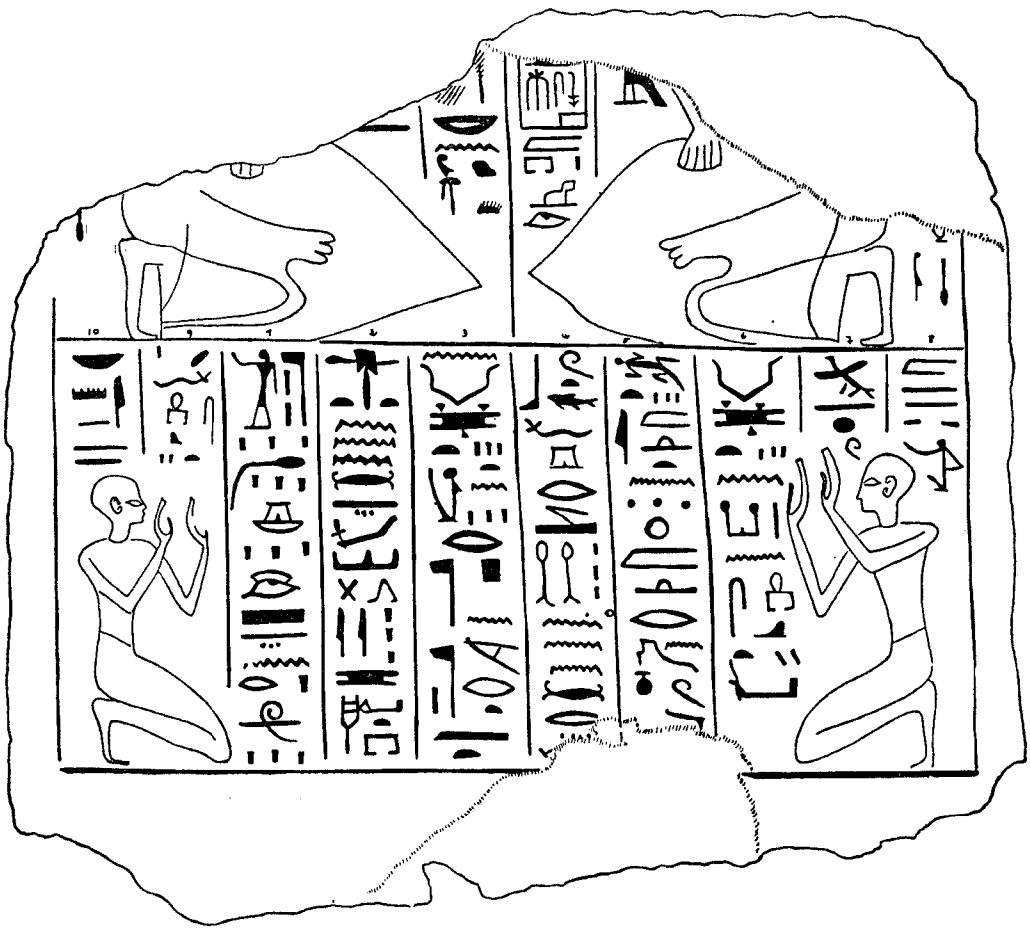


Fig. 5.

Museum in April, 1872. It measures 52 cm. in height, 51 cm. in width and 13 cm. in thickness (see pl. XXVII and fig. 5).

Regrettably the upper part of the stela is almost entirely lost, but the lower halves of two kneeling men are still visible clad in long robes and leopard skins.

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Between them one may see the mutilated remains of four lines of vertical inscription and of one line behind each figure.

Right of centre one can read : « . . . the Mansion of [Ra]messes mei [amun] in the Estate of Osiris ».

Left of centre can be read : « . . . every . . . of Khenty-Amentet . . . ». Of the two marginal lines only « justified » survives.

The institution mentioned, *Ḥwt R^cmssw mry ʾImn m pr Wsir,* is none other than the temple of Ramesses II at Abydos which is relatively rarely mentioned in inscriptions. Cf. Helck, *Materialen,* II, 1961, p. 169, N° 48 (j), and Montet, *Géographie,* II, pp. 103, 106.

The lower half of the stela shows two men kneeling in adoration and facing each other. Between and above them are ten columns of text. They read as follows :

« O prophets, *w^cb*-priests and lectors who behold [a] the secrets of Restau,
who sprinkle water in [b] the necropolis and who pass by the shrine [c]
of Wepwawet, beware ye of this god! What the god loves is truth.
His abomination is falsehood. Seek the water in (or from) the mouth?
. . . numerous . . . [d]. Do not [e] be ignorant of these . . . (of)
Wepwawet — for the ka of the stone-patcher [f] Panekhuemtawi [g].
His son, the stone-patcher, Nebamun, justified ».

Notes

(a) The sign 𓁹 serves as determinative for several words including *dgi* « behold », or « see »; cf. Gardiner, *Egyptian Grammar,* p. 450 : 5-6, and R.O. Faulkner, *A Concise Dictionary of Middle Egyptian,* 1962, p. 316. Here it must serve as a word-sign for *dgi.*

(b) 𓂝 must stand for a preposition, presumably *m.* It is so attested in the temple of Ramesses II in Amarah west which reference I owe to the courtesy of Professor H.W. Fairman.

(c) Commonly « tomb » but here may mean « shrine », *Wb.* II, 49, 7.

(d) The meaning of this passage is obscured by the lacuna.

(e) 𓂧 is a hieratising form of the sign 𓄿 here and in *ḫm.*

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(f) For this extremely rare title, cf. *Wb.* IV, 26, 12, 13 citing only Pap. Harris 29, 11 and the onomasticon for which cf. Gardiner, *Onomastica,* I p. 73*, N° 187, cf. also E.F. Wente, *Late Ramesside Letters,* Chicago, 1967, p. 28, and note *ao.*

(g) Not attested in Ranke, *Personennamen.*

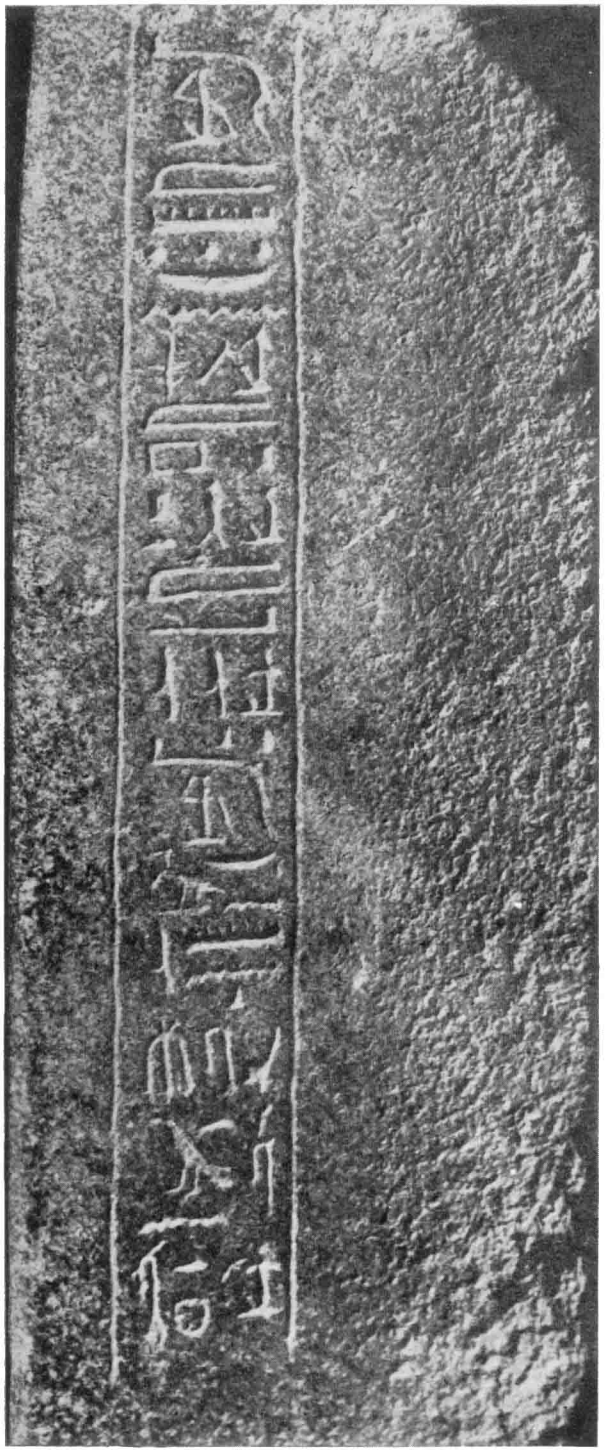
This small stela contains at least four points of interest — an additional mention of the Abydos temple of Ramesses II, a new example of a very rare craft-title, two unusual hieroglyphic usages and the remarkable exhortation to beware of Wepwawet.

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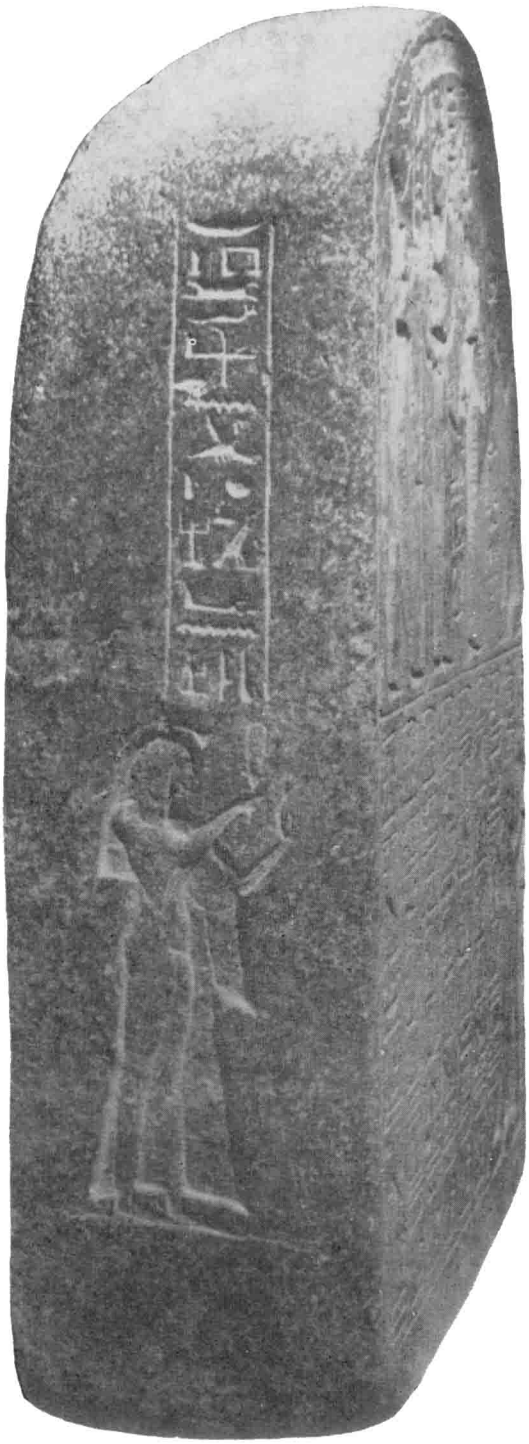
Stela of May, Cairo $\frac{14}{69}\frac{10}{1}$, Face.

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Stela of May, Right-hand Edge.

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Stela of May, Left-hand Edge.

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Block of Twosre, Cairo 45568.

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Stela of Two Stonemasons, Cairo 21801.

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