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Helen Jacquet-Gordon

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FRAGMENTS OF A TOPOGRAPHICAL LIST DATING TO THE REIGN OF TUTHMOSIS I

Helen JACQUET-GORDON

The three great topographical lists naming subjugated countries with which Tuthmosis III adorned the sixth and seventh pylons at Karnak ⁽¹⁾ represent an iconographical theme which appears to have been already well established in his time. In view of this fact, it is all the more surprising that the only evidence until now forthcoming for the existence of similar representations at an earlier period is the fragmentary scene from the south wall of the lower colonnade at Deir el-Bahari depicting the god Dedun presenting a procession of such captive countries to queen Hatshepsut ⁽²⁾. The discovery during recent excavations by the Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale at Karnak North, of fragments of such a topographical list belonging to the decoration of the Treasury of Tuthmosis I ⁽³⁾ is therefore of considerable interest inasmuch as it permits us to trace the existence of representations of this kind back almost to the beginning of the eighteenth dynasty, thus lending support to Simons' contention that their origins probably are to be sought in still earlier times ⁽⁴⁾.

The seven fragments in question formed part of a layer of limestone chips, including approximately 10,000 decorated pieces, which covered the floor of the destroyed building. The chips of this stratum, the result of breakage during the dismantling operations which entailed the disappearance of all the superstructure of the Treasury with the exception of the outer walls, seem in general to have remained where they fell, and were effectively protected by the overlying strata of debris and by later constructions covering the whole area. It is consequently possible on the basis of the find positions of the fragments to formulate certain conjectures as to the original positions of the scenes recognized on them, and to set forth tentative proposals for the attribution of these scenes to adjacent wall areas.

⁽¹⁾ *PM* II, pp. 88, 167, 170. Mariette, *Karnak*, pl. 17-26.

⁽²⁾ E. Naville, *The Temple of Deir el-Bahari* VI, London, 1908, Pl. CLII.

⁽³⁾ J. Jacquet, *BIFAO* LXXIII (1973), p. 214.

⁽⁴⁾ J. Simons, *Handbook for the study of Egyptian topographical lists relating to Western Asia*, London, 1937, p. 7,

The description of the seven relevant fragments is as follows :

Frag. 1 — (Field registration number C 55/1) [Fig. 1 and Pl. X].

A fragmentary topographical name inscribed in a crenellated oval is surmounted by the bust of a prisoner in a short wig and small squared-off beard, with his arms ligotted behind him. In front of him the arms of the preceding figure are visible.

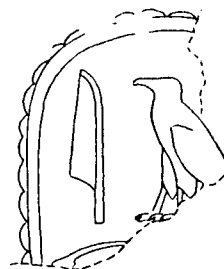


Fig. 1. — Frag. 1.

Frag. 2 — (Field registration numbers C 172/1, C 190/1, C 166/3; three pieces joined together forming the lower right-hand corner of a block) [Fig. 2 and Pl. X].

Two fragmentary topographical names in crenellated ovals and the pendant arms of the two prisoner figures.

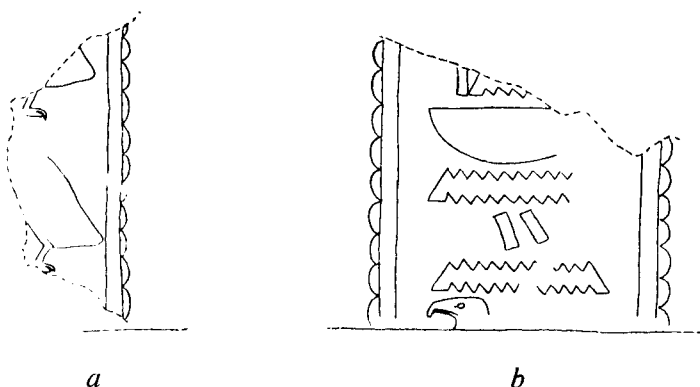


Fig. 2. — Frag. 2.

Frag. 3 — (Field registration number C 169/2) [Fig. 3 and Pl. XI].

One fragmentary topographical name and the arms of the preceding figure.

Frag. 4 — (Field registration number C 209/80 from the right-hand angle of a block) [Pl. XI].

The shoulder of a prisoner and the upper part of a crenellated oval.



Fig. 3. — Frag. 3.

Frag. 5 — (Field registration number C 169/13 from the right-hand angle of a block. This fragment may belong to the same block as fragment 4 but the two pieces do not join).

Arms and hands of a prisoner.

Frag. 6 — (Field registration numbers C 344/1 and C 209/45; two pieces joined together) [Pl. XI].

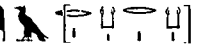
Lower part of a crenellated oval and the upper limit of the horizontal inferior border-line.

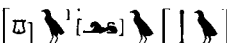
Frag. 7 — (Field registration number C 172/21) [Pl. XI].

Similar to number 6.

All the figures are facing left and the inscriptions read from left to right. Only one prisoner's head has survived (Fragment 1). It is of African rather than of Asiatic type and closely resembles those in Hatshepsut's scene ⁽¹⁾. Wherever colour remains on the figures the body is red; the wig of the figure on fragment 1 is black.

Comparison with the toponyms in the extensive lists of Tuthmosis III proves beyond a doubt that the four places whose names appear on fragments 1 to 3 are situated among the African and not the Asiatic countries. Although preserved in a fragmentary state the names can without difficulty be identified as numbers 5, 15, 16 and 21 respectively, of Tuthmosis III's sixth pylon series as numbered in *Urkunden* IV ⁽²⁾, and can be completed as follows :

Fragment 1 :  *irkrk* ⁽³⁾

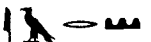
Fragment 2 a :  *grb* ⁽⁴⁾

Fragment 2 b :  *inknn* ⁽⁵⁾

Fragment 3 :  *kdi* ⁽⁶⁾

⁽¹⁾ Naville, *loc. cit.*

⁽²⁾ *Urk.* IV, pp. 796-797.

⁽³⁾ K. Zibelius, *Afrikanische Orts- und Völkernamen in hieroglyphischen und hieratischen Texten*, Wiesbaden, 1972, p. 87. What is visible of the name on fragment 1 could also fit the toponym  (N° 179 of Tuthmosis III's seventh pylon list) but the disposition of the hieroglyphs in the oval suggest that a name composed of a greater number of hieroglyphs was contained in the oval, and *Irkrk* would fit admirably. Moreover the latter belongs to the beginning of the list as do the other three names. However, it is true

that this fragment was found isolated at some distance from the others of the group. If this position is not taken to imply simply a disturbance of the stratum, it would be necessary to envisage a very extensive list of names covering a large section of the wall. In view of the small number of fragments which have survived, this seems unlikely and I have preferred to identify the name with N° 5 of the Tuthmoside list.

⁽⁴⁾ Zibelius, *op. cit.*, p. 170.

⁽⁵⁾ *Ibid.*, p. 83.

⁽⁶⁾ *Ibid.*, p. 160.

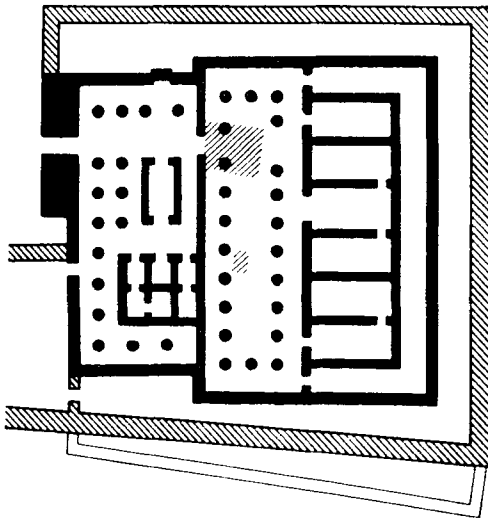


Fig. 4. — Find areas of fragment 1 and fragments 2 to 7 in the central court of the Treasury of Tuthmosis I.

Fragments 2 to 7 were found in an area of approximately 5×5 meters situated in the northern part of the central court between the west wall of the court and the eastern part of the colonnade; fragment 1 was in a similar position but about 10 meters further south in the center of the court (Fig. 4). At a period subsequent to the destruction of the walls, the floor stones in this whole area had been removed and the overlying layer of chips dumped into the resulting depression. These operations caused a certain amount of perturbation in the position of the fragments in relation to their respective walls of origin and probably account for the excentric position of Fragment 1. But the movement does not seem in general to have carried

them very far from their primitive positions and there is a good possibility that the scene to which our seven fragments belong was situated on one of the three walls surrounding the northern part of the court :

- 1 — The inner face of the northern outer wall.
- 2 — The facade of the storerooms on the east.
- 3 — The western wall of the central court.

The first of these possible emplacements — the inner face of the north outer wall — can be eliminated from the outset since it is evident from considerations into which it is not necessary to enter here that this wall remained standing for a considerable period after the layer of chips had been deposited and could not therefore have contributed to the formation of that layer.

Possibility number 2 — the facade of the storerooms — likewise presents difficulties. In the first place the fragments were found at some distance from the facade. Secondly the facade at this point is interrupted by the doors into storerooms 4 and 6 so that the available space is limited. Thirdly other indications seem to suggest that this space, which lay directly in the axis of the entrance gateway, was occupied by an inscription in sunk relief of which a small number of fragments survives. We can therefore eliminate this wall also from consideration.

There remains the west wall of the central court which forms at the same time the east wall of the outer court. If the destruction of this wall took place in such a way that the resulting fragments fell into the central court, elements of the decoration of both faces of the wall might easily be found there. The position of the fragments therefore cannot help in determining on which face of the wall the scene was depicted.

To turn now to the fragments themselves, their exiguity makes it impossible to reconstitute even on paper the possible organization of the scene to which they belong since neither the area of wall space covered by it, nor the number of registers involved, nor yet the number of names included in each register can be determined. Neither can one say with certainty whether the list began with the bottom register as in the Deir el-Bahari scene, or with the top register as on Tuthmosis III's sixth pylon. However, the fact that fragments 6 and 7 belong patently to the lowest register, since the lower ends of the crenellated ovals there to be seen rest on the border line which forms the lower limit of the wall decoration, and since furthermore all four of the names preserved on our fragments belong to the beginning of the list, it is perhaps justifiable to suppose that these fragments formed part of the lowest register of the scene which would have comprised a series of at least 21 names, and that the list was arranged as on Hatshepsut's wall reading from bottom to top and not from top to bottom.

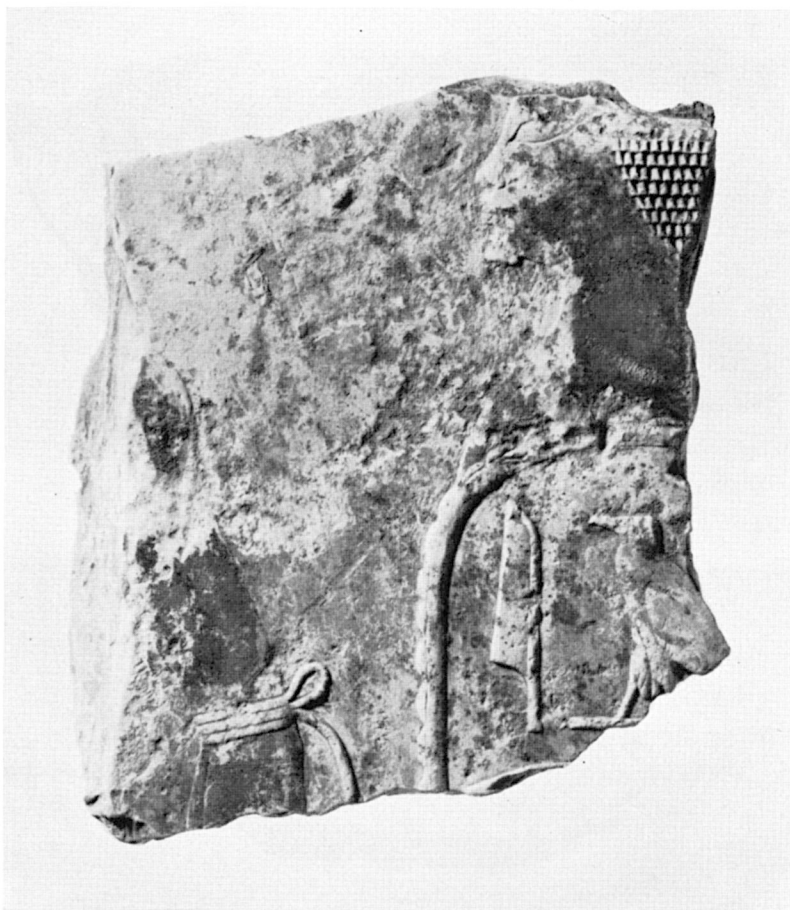
In what context the topographical list was included is as yet impossible to determine. Was it a scene in which the toponyms designated in detail the group of prisoners whom Pharaoh is destroying with a single blow ? Or was it a scene such as that of Hatshepsut's where a god is presenting the subjugated peoples to the king ? In view of Tuthmosis I's far-flung and successful campaigns both in the south and in the north, the former conjecture seems the more probable. This raises a second question, that of the possible existence of a parallel list of Asiatic countries. No trace of such a list has come to light among the fragments but such negative evidence cannot be considered as a decisive argument against the existence of the parallel list. So large a percent of the decoration of the Treasury has entirely disappeared that it is very possible and even very probable that the Asiatic list was present but by chance no recognizable fragments of it have survived.

If we suppose this to be the case, the question arises as to the orientation of the two complementary scenes. Except where architectural considerations made it impossible, as on the east-west oriented seventh pylon, it was usual to place the two scenes in such a way that they converged, the African list approaching from the south, the Asiatic list from the north. Applying this principle to the wall between the central and outer courts on which it has been proposed that our scene was situated, it will be seen that the fragments of the southern list, whose figures face left, would of necessity have been placed on the outer,

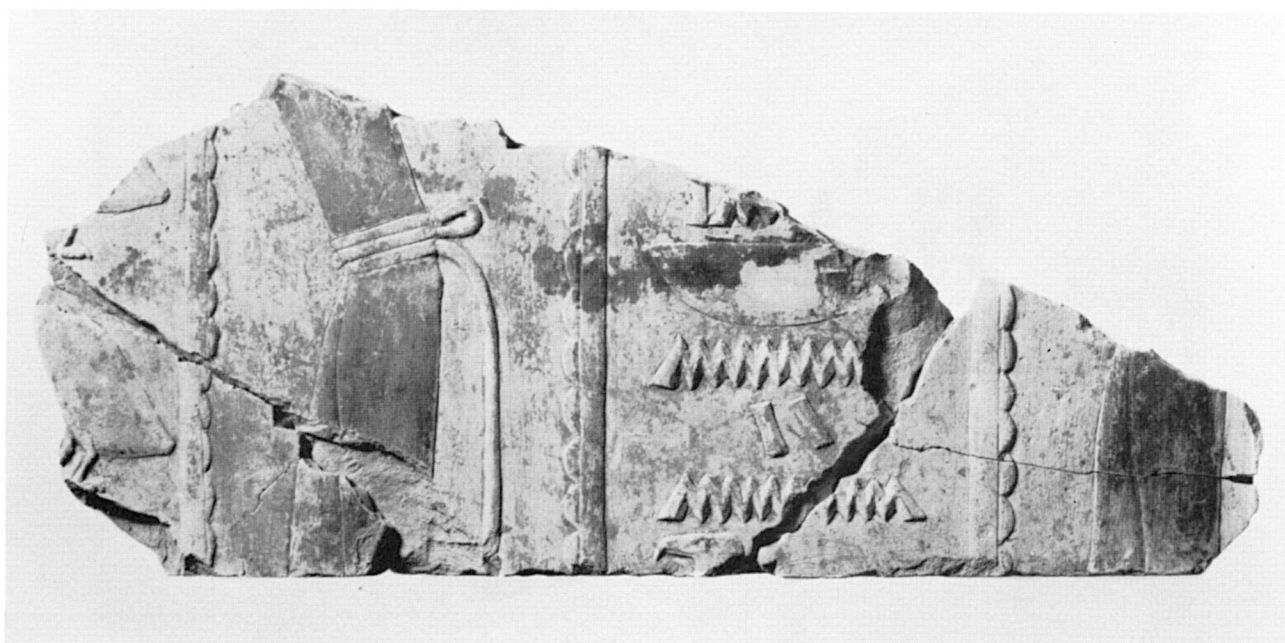
western, face of the wall if they were to be correctly oriented. On the inner face they would have been coming from the north.

In conclusion we therefore propose tentatively to place the scene from which the fragments of Tuthmosis I's southern topographical list derive on the west face of the wall which separates the outer and central courts, and to the south of the doorway between the two. The hypothetical Asiatic list, if it existed, could in that case have been placed on the same wall but to the north of the doorway. Such a position likewise corresponds more closely in spirit to the emplacement habitually chosen for such scenes in later times when they were most frequently depicted on pylon facades or outer temple walls ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Simons, *op. cit.*, p. 7.



Fragment 1 (C 55/1).



Fragment 2 (C 172/1, C 190/1, C 166/3).

Fragments 1 and 2 from Tuthmosis I's topographical list of Southern countries (scale 1 : 2).

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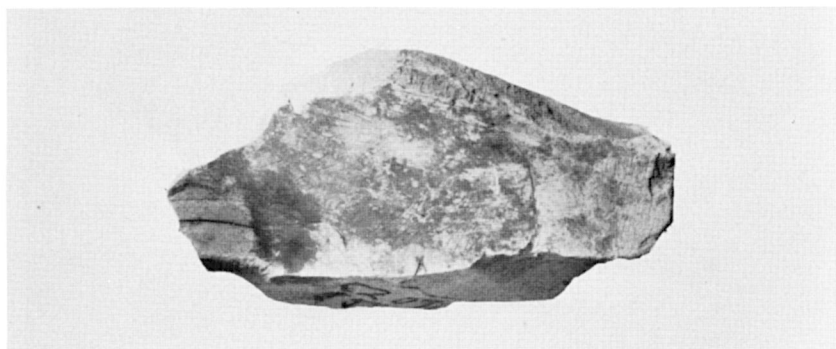
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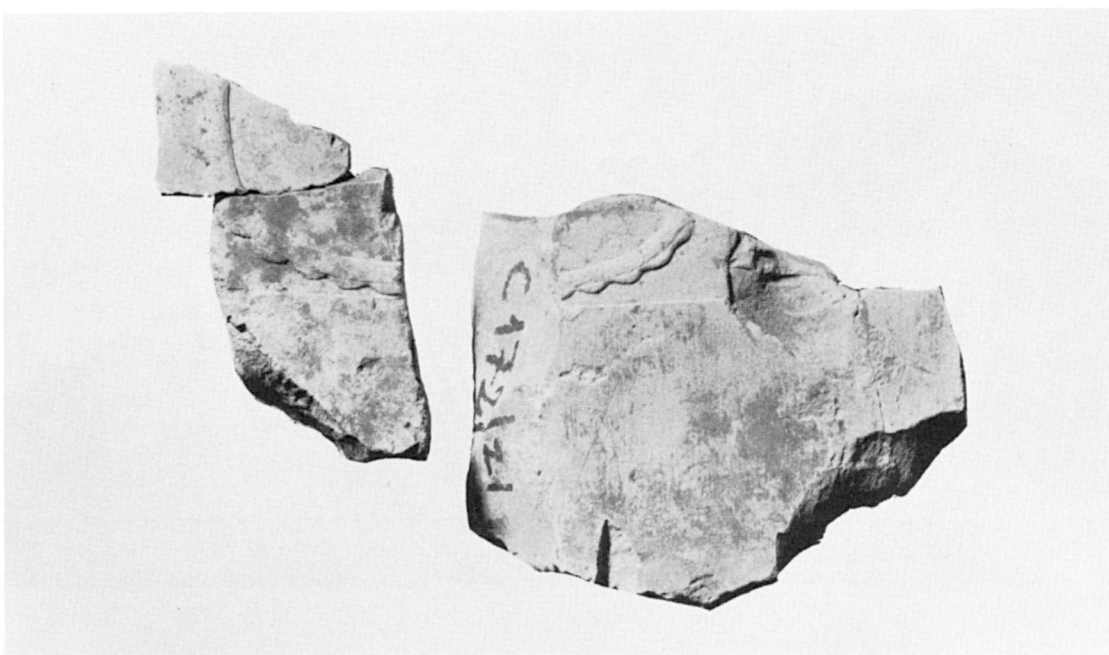
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Fragment 3 (C 169/2).



Fragment 4 (C 209/80).



Fragments 6 (C 344/1, C 209/45) and 7 (C 172/21).

Fragments 3, 4, 6, 7 from Tuthmosis I's topographical list of Southern countries (scale 1 : 2).