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BIFAO 86 (1987), p. 177-181

Saïd Gohary

Minor Monuments from Thebes. [I. - A Monument belonging to a High Military Official. II. - A Lintel of the God's Wife of Amun, Shepenwepet] [avec 1 planche].

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MINOR MONUMENTS FROM THEBES

Saïd GOHARY

I. — A MONUMENT BELONGING TO A HIGH MILITARY OFFICIAL.

This monument is made of limestone and is in a very fragmentary state. It consists of several pieces, about ten in number. These fragments were kept in several different storehouses in Karnak [1] and while I was working with the Akhenaten Temple Project matching the talatat, I noticed that they would make one complete scene. What looked very unattractive at the time, proved to be of some interest because it has some titles of military importance.

The scene shows the Overseer of the Controllers of the Army, Amenhotep, sitting on a chair with an offering-table heaped with offerings in front of him. On the other side, facing him, was his wife in a similar position. Most of the part of the scene showing the wife is broken.

The text on the stone is nicely cut and almost complete, which suggests that it dates from mid to late New Kingdom. On the stone there are fifteen columns of hieroglyphs, half of which read from left to right and the other half from right to left. They can be translated as follows :

1-7 : right side : « *A boon which the king gives to Amon-re, the Primeval God of the Two Lands* [2], *Lord of Praise, the giver* [3] *of old age* (i.e. *long life*), *that he may grant the passing away of evil and the receiving of goodness to the* ka *of the confidant* (lit. « *trusted one* ») *of .... in* (?) *the infantry* [4], *the Overseer of the Controllers/Quartermasters of the Army* [5], *Amenhotep* [6], [*justified*]. » (Column 7 is completely lost).

[1] I would like to express my thanks to Mohamed El-Sagheer, Chief Inspector of Luxor, and Sayed Abdel Hamid, Chief Inspector of Karnak, for permitting me to take the photographs.

[2] For this title see F*CD*, p. 87; also Barguet, *Le Temple d'Amon-Rê à Karnak*, p. 205, 215, 275, 288.

[3] Or perhaps better, « the one who gives ... ».

[4] The beginning of this column is no longer clear, but *m mnf3t* could perhaps be read as *imy-[r]/m[r] mnf3t*, cf. Schulman, *MRTO*, p. 40-1; also *Wb.* II, 80, 4.

[5] Cf. Schulman, *o.c.*, p. 37; also *Wb.* I, 288, 9-14.

[6] For this personal name see Ranke, *PN* I, p. 30, 12, and *Papyrus Chester Beatty* V, vs. 2, 6.

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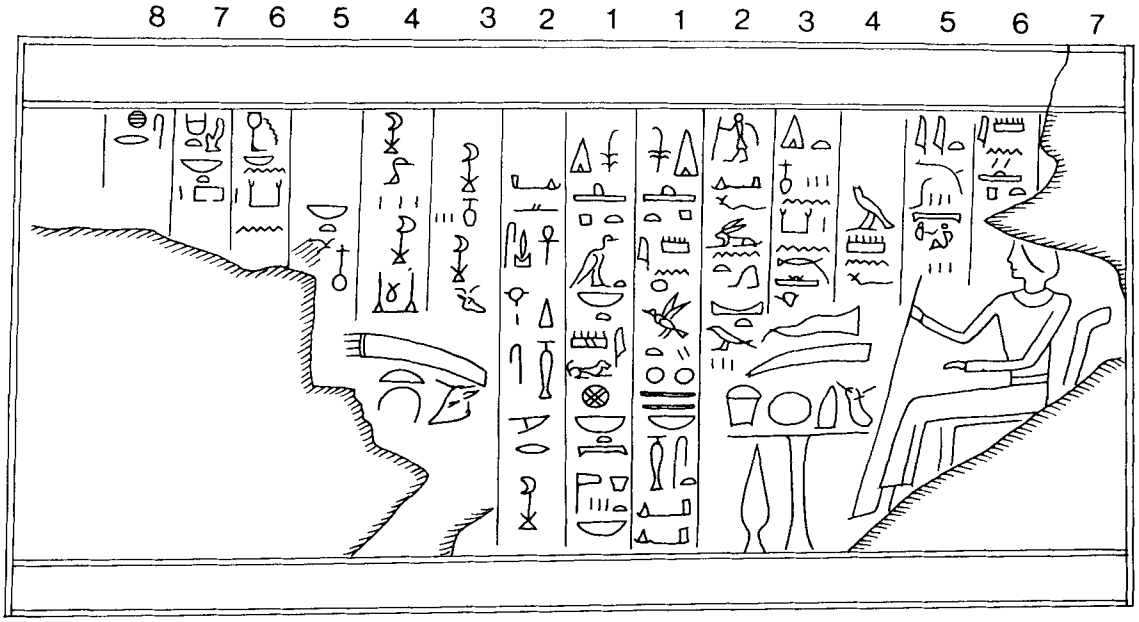


Fig. 1.

1-8 : left side : « *A boon which the king gives to Mut, Lady of Ashru, Lady of Heaven, Mistress of All Gods, that she may grant life, prosperity and health, alertness, praise and love, a thousand of bread, beer, oxen, fowl, alabaster and clothing, all* [*things*] *good and pure, to the* ka *of* [*the wife*], *the lady of the house,* Sḫr ... (name lost), [*justified*]. »

Commentary

The owner of this block had the title of an administrative officer in the army which is only rarely attested. He is called the Overseer (*imy-r*) of the Controllers/Quartermasters of the Army. The title Commander of the Quartermasters (*ḫry w'rtww*) of the Army is discussed by Schulman [1], but he makes no mention of the title *imy-r w'rtww*.

Unfortunately the full title of Amenhotep's possible superior is not clear, but he seems to have been in the infantry division, which places Amenhotep in the same military category. Amenhotep may also have held some offices of a civil nature [2].

The other point of interest is the provenance of the piece. The deities invoked on the stone are Amon-Re and his wife, Mut. The fragments of the block are now stored at Karnak, which suggests that it may have come from a shrine in the precinct.

[1] Cf. Schulman, *o.c.*, p. 38. — [2] This sort of career is known elsewhere; cf. Reisner, *JEA* 6, 46, and Legrain, *ASAE* 14, 30 sq.

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II. — A LINTEL OF THE GOD'S WIFE OF AMUN, SHEPENWEPET.

This stone is broken into three pieces. It is part of a large lintel [1] which probably came from some small chapel built during the late 25th Dynasty by the God's Wife of Amun, Shepenwepet II. The lintel is of limestone, beautifully decorated and clearly inscribed [2]. It is kept in the Karakoan store at Karnak. There are similar pieces in existence in other places [3].

The lintel has a large relief showing Shepenwepet three times; once on the right with the god Montu, another time in the middle with the deities Amun and Amunet and a third time on the left with Amon-re and his wife Mut.

The centre-lines of text (1) both read : « *Words spoken, I give to you* (fem.) *all life and dominion, all health and all joy like Re for ever* ».

At the left, one whole scene and half of the main scene are both lost. Above Mut one may read (lines 2 and 3) : « *Words spoken, I give to you all life and dominion* (*from*) *Mut, Eye of Re, Lady of Heaven* ».

At the right, the texts by the deities (main scene) read, (lines 2-5) : « *Words spoken, I give to you all life and dominion. Words spoken : I give to you all health* (*from*) *Amon-re, Lord of Heaven. Words spoken : I give to you all life and dominion* (*from*) *Amunet, residing* [4] *in Karnak* ».

For the God's Wife we have (lines 6-8) : « *The God's Wife, the God's Hand, Lady of the Two Lands, Shepenwepet, may she live* ». The text regarding her action reads (line 9) : « *Presenting Truth to the Lord of* [*Truth*], *that she may attain* (*the status of*) ' *given life* ' ». Behind the figure of Shepenwepet is the line : « *May you endure, O God's Wife, Shepenwepet, at the head of the spirits* (kas) *of all the living, forever!* ».

In the end scene, far right (lines 11-14) : « *Montu, Lord of Thebes, Lord of Heaven, Ruler of Thebes* » *gives* ' *life* ' *to* « *the God's Wife, Shepenwepet; may she live, may protection, life and dominion all attend her* ».

[1] Courtesy of the Directors of the Franco-Egyptian Centre in Karnak.

[2] Other monuments as well preserved from the same period can be seen in the Egyptian Museum, Cairo, on the ground floor in the passage where Late Period monuments are kept, near Room 20.

[3] Leclant, *Recherches sur les monuments thébains de la XXV^e Dynastie dite éthiopienne*, pl. LXIII, LXVII and LXXI.

[4] Reading *ḥryt* as for *ḥryt-ib;* cf. early examples in FCD, p. 174; *Urk* VII, 61, 18; Barguet, *Le Temple d'Amon-Rê à Karnak*, p. 192.

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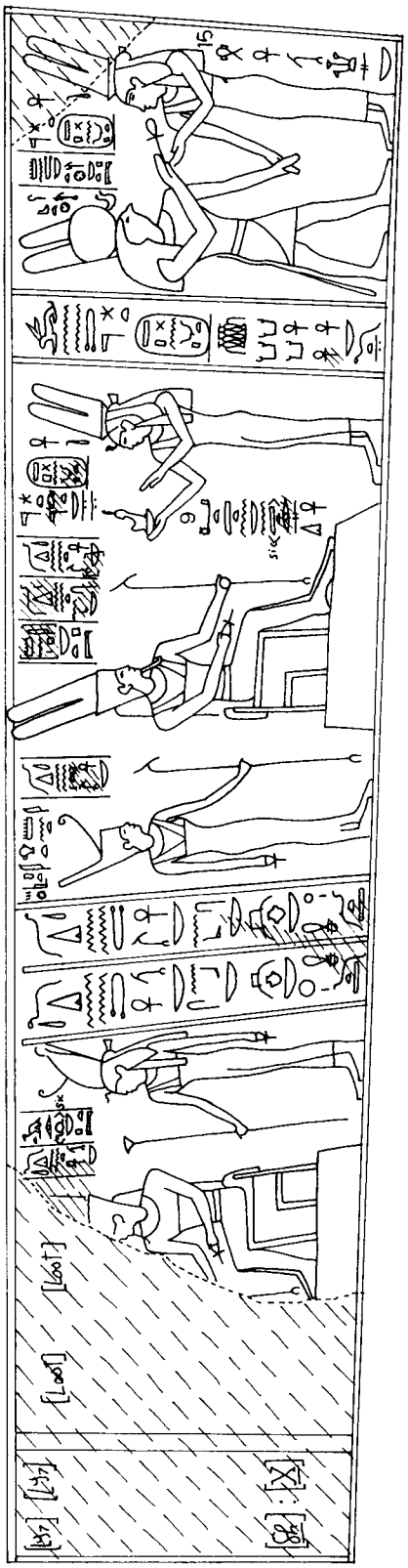


Fig. 2.

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COMMENTARY

In the absence of further context, the only other point which can be raised here is the possible provenance of the stone. It appears that this was part of a lintel from a small chapel of Amun in his precinct at Karnak. Several such chapels are known, not only for Amun but also for forms of Osiris, in the precincts of Amun and Montu [1]. The presence of Montu on this lintel may suggest that it came from a chapel in his precinct on the north side of Karnak [2].

[1] Barguet, *o.c.*, where similar examples are to be found on p. 9 and 16. — [2] *Ibidem*, p. 15 and 16.

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A. — A monument of the overseer of the controllers of the army, Amenhotep.



B. — Lintel of Shepenwepet.

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