

Unpublished Round topped stela of king "Sobek-hotep VI"

Ahmed M. Osman

**Associated Prof., Ancient Egyptian dept., Faculty of
Archaeology and Tourism Guidance, Miser Univ. for
Science and Technology, 6 th October, Egypt.
Ahmed.osman@must.edu.eg**



Unpublished Round topped stela of king

"Sobek-hotep VI"

Ahmed M. Osman

Associated Prof., Ancient Egyptian dept., Faculty of
Archaeology and Tourism Guidance, Miser Univ. for Science
and Technology, 6 th October, Egypt.

Ahmed.osman@must.edu.eg

Abstract:

In different monumental site in Egypt discovered a lot of stelae, dated back to the Middle Kingdom. They came in different measurements, big or small ones like this stela. The stela is a very small one. It dedicated to the God Webwawat by the king Sobek-hotep VI, Dyn. 13. I was discovered in Abydos. The stela located now in the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM).

It moved from Egyptian Museum at Tahrir Square to be one of the displayed objects. The research aims to publish the stela and analyse its scenes and inscriptions. The Stela is a little bit damaged at its bottom and some inscriptions are uncleared. It has 6 columns of Hieroglyphic texts, 3 for the god Webwawat and 3 for the king Sobek - Hotep VI. The stela is one of the unique artefacts which belong to this king, Even the Monuments of the 13th Dynasty are too less in a comparison of the 11th or 12th Dynasty.

Keywords: Sobk-htep VI, Stelae, Webwawat, Abydos, Middle Kingdom.

Ahmed M. Osman

لوحة مستديرة القمة غير منشورة للملك "سوبك حتب السادس"

ملخص البحث

تم الكشف عن العديد من اللوحات في الكثير من المواقع الأثرية، والتي تعود إلى عصر الدولة الوسطى. وقد جاءت هذه اللوحات في مقاسات مختلفة، كبيرة كانت أو صغيرة. أما عن هذه اللوحة فهي صغيرة في حجمها، وقد كرس من قبل الملك "سوبك حوتب السادس" للإله "وب واوات" (الأسرة الثالثة عشرة). وقد تم الكشف عنها في أبيدوس كما تم اختيارها لتعرض بالمتحف المصري الكبير بعد أن تم نقلها من المتحف المصري بالتحجير. ويهدف هذا البحث إلى توصيف المناظر المصورة على اللوحة وترجمة النصوص المصاحبة وتحليلها والتعليق عليها ونشرها. جاءت اللوحة في حالة متوسطة كما أنها مهشمة عند قاعدتها وكذلك بعض النقوش غير واضحة. يمثل المنظر الموجود على اللوحة الملك "سوبك حوتب السادس" وهو يتعبد أمام الإله "وب واوات"، كما تمثلت النصوص المصاحبة في ثلاثة أعمدة كتابية أعلى الملك وثلاثة أعمدة كذلك أعلى "وب واوات". وتعد هذه اللوحة من اللوحات الفريدة التي تعود إلى عصر الأسرة الثالثة عشرة بالمقارنة باللوحات التي تم اكتشافها سواء في عصر الأسرة الحادية عشر أو الثانية عشر.

الكلمات الدالة: سوبك حوتب - الأسرة الثالثة عشر - الإله وب واوات - أبيدوس - لوحة مستديرة القمة - لوحة ملكية - لوحات المتحف المصري الكبير .

—Unpublished Round topped stela of king" Sobek-hotep VI"

Piece name:

L1: Archetcture

L2: Archetectural Elment

L3: Stelae

Artefact numbers in old GEM:

SR: 3 – 9465

JE: 27578

CG: 20044

Regester book information:

Special regester, section 3,

No. 8, p. 45.

Provenance:

L1: Upper Egypt

L2: Governerate of Sohag

L3: Abydos



Ahmed M. Osman

Unpublished Round topped stela of king" Sobek-hotep VI" _____

Current location: GEM CC

Floor	Room	Direction	Case	Position
91	5	B	6	11

Material: Limestone

Dating:

Period: Middle Kingdom

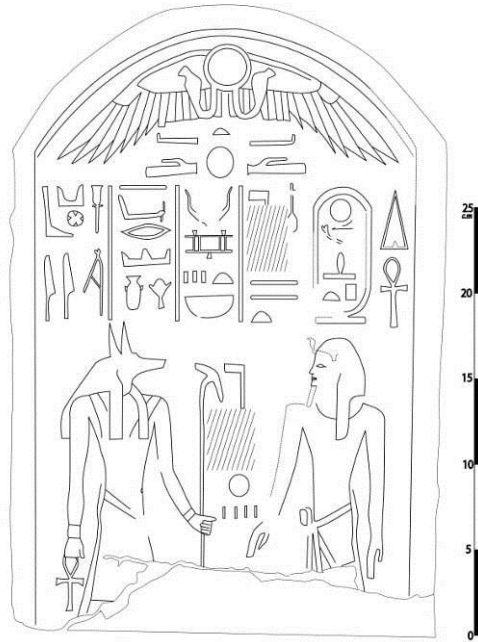
Dynasty: 13th Dyn.

Measurements:

Height: 32.7

Width: 10.6

Length: 29



Ahmed M. Osman _____

Introduction:

The Stelae was discovered in Abydos (Sohag governerate), we do not know by whom or when it was discovered. It is a very small one as it showed for its measurments above. The important information that the Stelae is a funerary one, dedicated by the King Sobek-Hotep VI (13th Dynasty) to the God Wepwawat (the opener of the ways in Ancient Egypt). The Stelae was storage and desplyed in Egyptian Museum (Old GEM) long time ago and then taken to the the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM) to be one of the desplayed objects.

We could say that, the Stelae was made by the king to put it in the temple of the god to be one of royal traces in Abydos as an important relagous place for the dead god Osiris. That happened with a lot of Ancient Egyptian kings to visit Abydos as they alive or after death, and to erect their traces for gods to get the benifet from them when they die.

Discription:

The stelae in a small royal round topped, part of its bottom is damage, specially its right side. the upper part is decorated with the winged sundisk “*Bḥdt*” for the protiction¹, followed by a funerary standard formula in 6

¹ For symbols of protection in the Stele of the Middle Kingdom, see: El-Toukhy M., PROTECTION SYMBOLS ON THE TOP OF THE MIDDLE KINGDOM STELAE (IN CAIRO MUSEUM), in EJARS 3, issue 2, Dec. 2013, pp. 131-137.

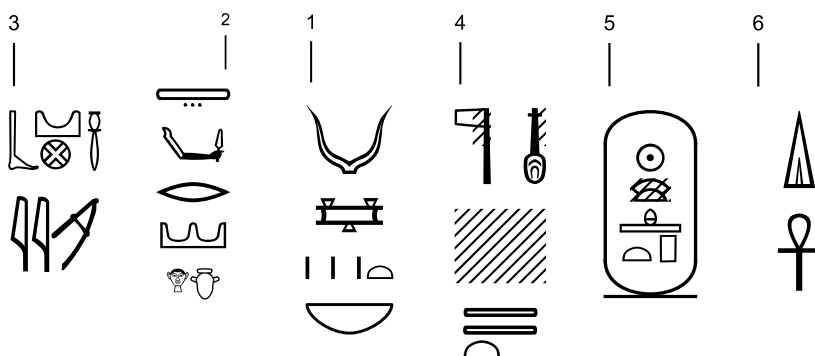
Unpublished Round topped stela of king" Sobek-hotep VI" _____

columns of Hieroglyphs. The king is depicted standing before god "Wepwawat", wearing the royal headdress 'Nemes', with aureus (cobra) on the forehead, traces of long sermoial beard touching the right shoulder of the king, while a half cercle line represented the necklace around the king's neck. His two arms extending down along the body, in a humple devotional attetude, performing a ritual, his kilt that covering the lower part of the body, creppled with a knoted long belt, and bull tail on the back. The god Wepwewt represented with the regular jackal head on human body, wearing a long robe covering the body of the god from the chest down the knees, hanging with two strabs on the shoulders with a long tail behind. The god holding the life sign "anx" in his right hand, while holding the wAs-sceptre. Between the two figures written a small text of Hieroglyphs represnting the title of the ritual "*dw3-ntr sp 4*" (worshiping 4 times). The stelae missed a little part of its bottom. A notched line serrounding the whole stelae.

Above the scene there are 6 columns of Hieroglyphs in little sunk engraving, 3 above the god's head and the other 3 of them above the king's head representing part of king's titulary, that translated as follow:

Ahmed M. Osman _____

—Unpublished Round topped stela of king" Sobek-hotep VI"



- Above the god's head:

1- *Wp-w3wt nb*

2- *t3 dsr hry-ib*

3- *3b-dw mry*

Wepwawat², lord of the sacred land, who resides in Abydos³, the beloved.

- Above king's head:

4- *Ntr nfr [nb] t3wy*

5- *<[h^ci]-htp-R^c>*

6- *di ϵnh*

The good god⁴, lord of the two lands, may he give life.

Khahotep Sobekhotep VI (also known as **Sobekhotep V**) was an Egyptian king of the 13th Dynasty during the Second Intermediate Period. According to Egyptologist Kim Ryholt he was the thirty-

² Wb I, S. 304.

³ Wb I, S. 9.

⁴ Wb II, S. 361.

Unpublished Round topped stela of king" Sobek-hotep VI" _____

first pharaoh of the dynasty, while Darrell Baker believes instead that he was its thirtieth ruler⁵. Alternatively, Jürgen von Beckerath and Detlef Franke see him as the twenty-fifth king of the dynasty⁶.

Until Ryholt's study of the Second Intermediate Period, it was believed that Sobekhotep VI's prenomen was Merhotepre. Reevaluating the archaeological evidence, however, Ryholt attributed Merhotepre to Sobekhotep V and Khahotepre to Sobekhotep VI. Because of this change of prenomen, Merhotepre Sobekhotep and Khahotepre Sobekhotep are respectively called Sobekhotep VI and Sobekhotep V in older studies⁷.

Khahotepre Sobekhotep VI is listed in the Turin canon as the successor of Sobekhotep IV. However, this only occurs because one line is missing within a lacuna in the king list, below the line for Sobekhotep IV. This lacuna would have preserved the reign of Merhotepre Sobekhotep⁸. Khahotepre Sobekhotep VI is credited a

⁵ Ryholt, K. S. B., *The political situation in Egypt during the second intermediate period*, c. 1800–1550 B.C. Museum Tusulanum Press, 1997, pp 37, 233.

⁶ von Beckerath, Jürgen: *Untersuchungen zur politischen Geschichte der Zweiten Zwischenzeit in Ägypten*, Glückstadt, 1964; Jürgen von Beckerath: *Chronologie des pharaonischen Ägyptens*, Münchner Ägyptologische Studien 46, Mainz am Rhein, 1997; Schneider, Thomas : *Ancient Egyptian Chronology* - Edited by Erik Hornung, Rolf Krauss, And David a. Warburton, 2006 p. 176.

⁷ Ryholt, K. S. B., op. cit, pp 37, 233.

⁸ Ibid, pp.22-23.

—Unpublished Round topped stela of king" Sobek-hotep VI"

reign of 4 years, 8 months and 29 days⁹, which Ryholt dates to 1719-1715 BC¹⁰. Despite this relatively long reign for the period, there are only very few objects directly attesting Sobekhotep VI. There exists a scarab seal from Abydos¹¹, and a kneeling statuette of the king, possibly from Kerma. Items of unknown provenance include 6 scarab seals, a cylinder seal¹², and a seal impression. Finally, a scarab bearing Khahotepre was found in a tomb in Jericho, which could be evidence of trade relations between the 13th dynasty state and the Levant¹³.

Family

Khahotepre Sobekhotep VI's father was perhaps Sobekhotep IV, the best attested king of the entire second intermediate period. This hypothesis is based on an inscription found in the Wadi el-Hudi which attests that Sobekhotep IV had a son called 'Sobekhotep'. If this son is indeed Sobekhotep VI, then his mother would be possibly Tjan, wife of Sobekhotep IV. Sobekhotep VI's queen may have been named Khaenoub (also Khaesnebou) or Nubhotepti¹⁴.

⁹ Schneider, Thomas: *Lexikon der Pharaonen*, Wien, 2002, S. 257.

¹⁰ Ryholt, K. S. B., op. cit., pp 37, 233.

¹¹ Scarab of Khahotepre Sobekhotep, Metropolitan Museum of Art.

¹² Cylinder seal of Sobekhotep VI, Petrie Museum.

¹³ Baker, Darrell D.: *The Encyclopedia of the Pharaohs: Volume I - Predynastic to the Twentieth Dynasty 3300–1069 BC*, Stacey International, 2008.

¹⁴ Baker, Darrell D.: *The Encyclopedia of the Pharaohs: Volume I - Predynastic to the Twentieth Dynasty 3300–1069 BC*, Stacey International, 2008.

Conclusion

This stela is a royal one, made of limestone, and discovered in Abydos. It is one of the rounded stela at its top, protected with the winged sun disc, but its lower part is broken at the right side. On the stela depicted the king Sobekhotep VI, worshipping 4 times in the front of the god Wepwawet*. The stela is one of his important monuments specially we have no more antiquities from his time.

Above the head of the god written his name and titles as lord of the sacred land who resides in Abydos, the beloved. And above the king's head written his name and titles also with prayings to him as good god, lord of the two lands, may he give life.

*Wepwawet was an Egyptian jackal god whose name means "Opener of the Ways." As such, he helped the deceased through the frequently dangerous paths to the afterlife, clearing the way to the final judgment of the dead. Although frequently paired with Anubis in connection with protecting the dead, Wepwawet also had his own independent identity, as well as important cult centers at Asyut (known in Greek as Lykopolis, "Wolf-town") and Abydos. Inscriptions from Lykopolis attest to his status as beloved local god. On his own, Wepwawet often appears as a standing jackal or standing jackal-headed god; when he and Anubis are paired in funerary art, the two gods are typically shown as identical seated jackals facing each other.

Ahmed M. Osman _____

Bibliography

- Baker, Darrell D.: The Encyclopedia of the Pharaohs: Volume I - Predynastic to the Twentieth Dynasty 3300–1069 BC, Stacey International, 2008.
- Cylinder seal of SOBekhotep VI, Petrie Museum.
- El-Toukhy M., PROTECTION SYMBOLS ON THE TOP OF THE MIDDLE KINGDOM STELAE (IN CAIRO MUSEUM), in EJARS 3, issue 2, Dec. 2013.
- Erman, A. & Grapow, H., Wörterbuch der ägyptischen Sprache (Wb), Band I, Berlin 1971.
- Ryholt, K. S. B., The political situation in Egypt during the second intermediate Period, c. 1800-1550 B.C, Museum Tusulanum Press, 1997.
- von Beckerath, Jürgen: Untersuchungen zur politischen Geschichte der Zweiten Zwischenzeit in Ägypten, Glückstadt, 1964; Jürgen von Beckerath: Chronologie des pharaonischen Ägyptens, Münchner Ägyptologische Studien 46, Mainz am Rhein, 1997.
- Scarab of Khahotepre Sobekhotep, Metropolitan Museum of Art.
- Schneider, Thomas : Ancient Egyptian Chronology - Edited by Erik Hornung, Rolf Krauss, And David a. Warburton, 2006.
- Schneider, Thomas: Lexikon der Pharaonen, Wien, 2002.
- Wb, 6 Bände.