

Three Statues of Seti II as a Standard- Bearer of Amon at Karnak

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Abstract

King's Seti II, statues were found in Upper Egypt especially at Karnak, standing, seating, offering stela or Naous, group-statue and sphinx. Six statues of the King Seti II *wsr- hprw stp n R^c* as a standard bearer of Amon found at Karnak. One of them is in the Cairo Museum CG.1198, the 2nd one is in the Egyptian collection of Turin Museum No.1883 and the 3rd one is in the Louver Museum A.24¹. These statues were studied by the researcher last year in *Jurnal of Arab Archaeologists* No. 7 (2006) except for the three statues of the Karnak temple.

Until today, two of these statues are in the great Hypostyle Hall in the temple of Amon- Re at Karnak and one of them is now in the first- court of the same temple.

So, this paper will focus on the study of such three statues of the King Seti II which are now at Karnak.

Introduction

The reign of King Sethi II (1199- 1187 BC.)

Seti II *wsrkhprwre* was the rightful heir of the King Merenptah because he was his son by Queen Isisnorft II, but the throne passed to a rival claimant called Amon- Ms (perhaps he was the son of Ramesses II and queen Takh^ct I)². His accession and

¹ Mofida El-Weshahy, "Statues of the standard- bearers on Ancient Egypt" *Jurnal of the Arab Archaeologists*, No.7 (2006), p. 35; K. A. Kithechen, *Ramesside Inscriptions : Historical and Biographical 2* (Oxford, 1979), p. 640-651; H. Altenmüller, "Königsplastik" *LÄ* III(1980), 576.

² N. Reeves, Richard; H. Wilkinson, *The Complete Valley of The Kings* (Cairo, 2002), 150; A. Gardiner, *Egypt of The Pharaohs* (Oxford, 1961), 276; H. Gauthier, *Le Livre des Rois d'Egypt* III (1914), 125/ LV-a; 126/ LV-b, c, d.

death were mentioned on a hieratic ostrakon that he reined six years³.

Sethi II's wives were: Takh^ct II, Ta-wsrt (the second wife who was his successor) and Tia-a, his sons were: prince Sethi mry n pth (after his father) and Ramesses- Siptah (the son of Tiaa who ruled with his stepmother Tawsrt after the death of his father)⁴.

The monuments of Sethi II are scanty, the most imposing, is a small temple or shrine in the forecourt of Karnak and his well-decorated Tomb KV15 which was discovered at the Valley of the Kings where he was represented similar to his actual sculptures. His mummy was found and removed in KV35 (The Tomb of Amonhotep II), speaks of him as a young or middle-aged man⁵.

Sethi II, statues are:

- Six statues representing the king as a standard-bearer of Amon.
- A seated statues.
- Two statues representing the king presented an offering stela.
- Naouphor statue of the goddess Isis- Hathor.
- A Group statue perhaps with the god Atom.
- A base statue from Karnak.
- A sphinx statue from Karnak also⁶.

The first statue of Sethi II at the Hypostyle Hall of Karnak:

In the great Hypostyle Hall of Karnak, there are three statues of Sethi II. Two of them represent him as a standard-bearer of

³ N. Reeves, op. cit. (2002), 152; A. Gardiner, op. cit. (1961), 277; H. Gauthier, *Le Liver des Rois d' Egypt III* (1914), 132/ v.(h3t sp 6)

⁴ Peter A. Clayton, *Chronicle of The Pharaohs* (London, 1994), 158, 159; N. Grimal, *A History of Ancient Egypt*, Translated by Ian Shaw (1997), 268, 270; B. E. Shafer, *Temples of Ancient Egypt* (1998), p. 119, 120.

⁵ Peter A. Clayton, *Ibid* (1994), 159; N. Reeves, op. cit. (2002), 152; A. Gardiner, op. cit. (1961), 277; cf. H. Cheverier, *Le Temple Reposair de Seti II* (Cairo, 1940), 26, 31, 48.

⁶ H. Altenmüller, "Königsplastik", *LÄ III* (1980), 576; PM, *Theban Temples II*, part II (1972), 51-52, 337, 190, 110, 292.

Amon. The two standing statues stood face to face in the southern portion of the Hypostyle Hall North of columns Nos. 70 and 71⁷. The location of these statues is apparently modern their original placement as knowing, unidentified. It was preferred to leave them where they had been.

Doc. 1: The first statue

A headless standing statue of Sethi II as a standard-bearer of Amon was made of reddish brown quartzite and found insitu in the temple of Amon-Re at Karnak- Great Hypostyle Hall (south portion). It sets up now north the 70th column facing east (fig.1)⁸.

The king stands in striding pose with his left leg forward. The legs are broad and flat on the base. His arms are fully extended to his body. He holds between the left arm and his body a standard which topped with the insignia of the god Amon (ram), but it is missing now. The hand which holds the standard is flat while the right fist is doubled, it was found in one of the magazines of Karnak and it was affixed to the statue.

Behind there is a dorsal pillar clock-pillar for protecting the statue which almost had the same height of the standing pharaoh (two meters high).

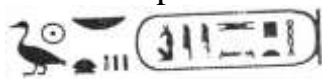
He wears perhaps a short-heaving wig some of which covers his right broken ear now and a wsht necklace can be seen on his chest. The king also wears a pleated kilt which is decorated with a wild-cat face on the central tap whose end is adorned with a row of seven uraues serpents with sun disk on their heads.

⁷ PM, *Theban Temples* II, part 2 (1972), 10, 50, 51; Sh. Adam, F. El-Shaboury, Report on The Work of Karnak during the Seasons 1954-55 and 1955-56, *ASAE* 56 (1959), P. 49.

⁸ PM, II, part 2(1972), 10, 50, 51; Sh. Adam, F. El-Shaboury, *ASAE* 56(1959), p. 50.

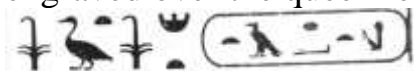
Its left also was decorated with lines of water sign n (fig.2)⁹ and in its middle above the cat's face the throne name of the king wsr-hkpw-R^c mry n Imn (are the powerful manifestations of Re, beloved of Amon)¹⁰ is engraved inside the royal chartouch.

The inscriptions of the kilt read as follows:



S3 R^c nb h^cw (sthj mry n pth)

The son of the sun- god Re, lord of the diadems Sethy beloved of Ptah. The text is engraved in a one vertical column on the central tap. On the left side between the back-pillar and the left leg, the figure of the king's wife Ta khat II (the 1st wife of the king) is depicted in bas-relief as a young woman. The inscriptions which are engraved over the queen read as follows:



S3t nswt hmt nswt (t3- h^cj.t)

The king's daughter and the king's wife Takhaat (the second)¹¹. The king stands on a rectangular base. The statue bears inscriptions consisting of the titles of the king Sethi II on the base, belt, kilt, dorsal pillar and the standard. The head and the right arm are missing now. The inscriptions on the standard which the king holds in his left side are engraved by the king Sethi II titles as follows:



Hr k3 nht mry R^c nbty mk kmt w^cf h3swt hr- nbw °3
nhtw m t3ww

⁹ This kilt is Similar to The King's statue of Cairo Mus.CG.1198.

¹⁰ Peter A. Clayton, op. cit (1994), 156.

¹¹ This royal wife queen Takhaat appeared in the king's statue (Cairo Mus. CG.1198) cf: L. Bourchardt, *Statuen* IV 97-9, BL. 169; PM, II-2, p. 52; M. El-Weshahy, Statues of The Standard-bearers in Ancient Egypt, *Jurnal of Arab Archaeology* 7 (2006), p. 61, 62.

Nbw nswt bity nb t3wy (wsr- hprw- R^c mry Imn) s3 R^c nb h^cw

(sthj mry n pth) di ^cnh dd w3s dt¹².

Hours the strong bull beloved of Re. The two Ladies name protector of Egypt who subdues the foreign lands. The Golden Horus name great of the victories in all lands. King of upper and Lower Egypt lord of the two lands (are the powerful manifestations of Re beloved of Amon), the sun of Re lord of diadems (Sethi beloved of Ptah) may give life, stability and power for ever.

The inscription on the back- pillar:



Hr k3 nht mry R^c nswt bity hk3 mi R^c nb t3wy(wsr- hprw- R^c- mry Imn) s3 R^c nb h^cw (sthj mry n pth) di ^cnh

Horus strong bull beloved of Re the king of upper and lower Egypt lord of the two lands (are the powerful manifestations of Re beloved of Amon) the son of the god Re lord of the diadems (sethi beloved of Ptah) may give life .

The statue's base is inscribed with the titles of the king in the front, left and right sides (fig.4). The texts on the base (in front side) (fig.5) reads follow:-

a- mry imn R^c nsw ntrw nb pt

Beloved of Amon Re king of the gods, lord of the heaven.

b- e-Hr k3 nht mry R^c

Hours the strong bull beloved of Re.

c- Wsr hprw R^c mry imn

(Wsrkhprw- Re beloved of Amon)

¹² J. Von Beckerath, "Königsname", *LÄ III* (1980), 156; K. A. Kitshen, *The Titularies of The Rameside Kings as Expression of Their Ideal Kingship, ASAE* 71 (1982), p. 137, 138.

d- Sthj mrj n pth
Sethi beloved of Ptah.

f- Mry inm-R^c nb nswt t3wj
Beloved of Amon-Re lord of the thrones of the two lands.

The text on the base (right and left sides):



Nswt bitj (wsr-kprw-R^c mrj)n inm s3 R^c (sthj mrj n pth)

The king of upper and lower Egypt (wsrkhprw-Re) beloved of Amon, the son of Re Sethi beloved of Ptah .

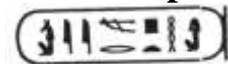
The second statue of Sethi II

Similar statue of Sethi II set up now north of column 71 of the Hypostyle Hall of Karnak, facing west. It represented the king standing in striding pose, wearing a long kilt decorated with the face of a wild cat and seven uraeus serpents and a war collar and a broad necklace covered his nude chest (figs.6-8)¹³.

The king holds a standard placed between his left hand and his body. The left hand, the neck and the right arm of the statue are missing.

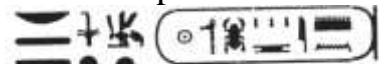
The upper part of the standard is also missing. The statue stands on a rectangular base and bears badly preserved inscriptions consisting mostly of the names and titles of the king on the kilt, the standard, the base and the back- pillar.

The inscription on the belt:



Sthj mry n pth
Sethi beloved of Ptah.

The inscription on the kilt



Nb t3wj nswt bitj (wsr- hprw-R^c) mry inm

¹³ Sh. Adam, F. El- Shaboury, *ASAE* 56 (1959), p.5 0, pls. XVXVII (middle); *PM II*, part 2 (1972), p. 52.

The lord of the two land, the king of upper and lower Egypt (wsrkhprw-Re) beloved of Amon.

The inscription on the standard:



Nbty mkt kmt w^cf h3swt hr nbw^c nhtw m t3ww nbw nswt bity (wsr-hprw-R^c mry imn) s3 R^c (sthj mrj n pth)di^cnh dd w3s dt
The two ladies (name) protector of Egypt who subdues the foreign lands. The Golden Horus name great of the victories in all lands, the king of upper and lower Egypt (Wsrkhprw-Re beloved of Amon) the son Re sethi beloved of Ptah may give life stability and power for ever.

The similar text is on the back pillar:



Hr k3 nht mry R^c nswt bity nb t3wj (wsr- hprw- R^c mry imn) s3 R^c (sthj mrj n pth)

Horus strong bull beloved of Re king of upper and Lower Egypt, lord of the two lands (Wsrkhprw-Re beloved of Amon) the son of Re (Sethi beloved of Ptah).

The inscriptions around the base are badly preserved.

On the front of the base:



- Hr k3 nht mry R^c
- Sthj mrj n pth
- Wsr- hprw- R^c mrj n imn

The Horus name, the son of Re name and the nswt bity name are as seen before the inscriptions.

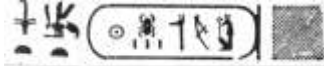
On the left side of the base:



////// mrj n pth mi R^c

////// beloved of Ptah like Re.

The inscriptions on the right side:



Nswt bity (wsr- hprw-R^c mry n imn)

The king of upper and lower Egypt (wsr- khprw- Re beloved of Amon).The king is represented bare feet.

The Third statue of Sethi II as a standard- bearer

In the outer open court of Karnak Temple, there are fragments of two statues of the king Sethi II. One of them represented him as a standard- bearer of the god Amon. It's a lower part of sandstone statue of Sethi II as a standard- bearer, it sets up in front of the gateway of the 2nd pylon¹⁴, near the usurped colossus of Pameses II.

The statue represents the king in striding pose with advanced left leg and he holds the standard in his left side and close to his body. Only the middle part of the standard survived (fig.9-12)¹⁵.

The king wears a long pleated kilt with central tab decorated with the face of wild cat and seven uraeus serpents with sun disks on his head. He also wears sandals in his feet. On the left side between the left leg and the Back- pillar a relief of the king's queen perhaps Takhaat II? Stands and faces left, but the inscriptions were erased. Inscriptions are badly preserved. They mostly consist of the names and the titles of the king appear on the base, back- pillar, the left and the standard as follows:

¹⁴ Sh. Adam, F. El- Shaboury, *ASAE* 66, p. 49; Legrain, Karnak, p. 138, 139; LD III, Text III, 12; PM II, part 2(1972), 37(136).

¹⁵ Hayningu- Huene, S. Stendorfl, *Egypt* (1945), 133, fig on page 129.

Inscriptions on the staff



Nswt bity nb t3wy wsr hprw //

The king of upper and lower Egypt, lord of the land (wsrkhprwre).

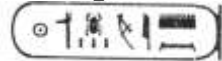
Inscriptions on the back- pillar:



/// hprw /// mrj imn s3 R^c (sthj mrj n pth) di °nh ///
imn-R^c nb ///

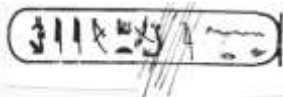
//// Khprw //// beloved of Amon, son of the god Re (Sethi beloved of Ptah) giving life // of Amon Re lord of ///

Inscriptions on the base:



The throne name of the king Sethi II was written inside a big cartouche: (wsrkhprw-Re, beloved of Amon)

On the belt:



The inscriptions on the left give the name of Sethi II beloved of Amon. The researcher suggests that the sign p3 represented traces of the cartouches of the king Mrjintah, so the statue was usurped by the king Sethi II from his father.

Conclusion

Normally one can see that the statues which were made by the king Sethi II representing him as a standard-bearer were dedicated to the god Amon-Re and set up in the temple of Karnak except for the Turin statue 1383¹⁶.

¹⁶ Fabretti, Rossi, Lanzone, *Régio Musco di Torino I*, 107, N: 1388; H. Altenmliüer, *Königsplastik, LÄ III* (Hamburg, 1980), 576; PM, II, part 2, p. 292.

The Turin statue was dedicated to the god Setkh of the Delta and Ramside residence and the chartouch of the king gives the throne name in the belt as

Nswt bity wsr hprw R^c mrj sthj

The king of upper and lower Egypt wrkhprw Re beloved of Sethi.

The titles and names of the king which is engraved on the king statues appeared as full titles on the standard of the 1st statue of the king in this paper and on the statue of Turin as follows:



Hr k3 nht mry R^c nbty mk kmt w^cf h3swt nswt bity nb t3wy

Wsr- hprw R^c mry imn s3 R^c nb h^cw sthj mrj n pth mry sthj^c3 phty¹⁷.

Horus the strong bull beloved of Re the two ladies, protector of Egypt who subdue the foreign lands, the king of upper and lower Egypt wrkhprwre beloved of Amon, the son of god Re lord of the diadems Sethj beloved of Ptah, beloved of Sethj great of powers.

The individuality of Sethi II's sculptures was not only achieved in facial features on his colossus at Cairo Mus and Louver Mus¹⁸, but also achieved through the king's garment and other attributes. The kilt of the king in his scenes and representation is similar to his actual sculptures¹⁹.

The right fist of the 1st statue is doubled and affixed to the king's statue and the chartouche, Signer which is in his right hand seems like a stamp.

Concerning the princess on the left sides of the statues, she was the king's daughter and royal wife Takh^c.t the second. These

¹⁷ H. Gauthier, *Le Livre des Rois d'Egypte* III (1914), p. 136/ XXIX; K. A. Kitshen, *ASAE* 71, p. 137, 138.

¹⁸ K. Mysliwiéc, "Royal sculpture", *OEAE* 3 (2001), 233.

¹⁹ N. Reeves, *The Complete Valley of The Kings* (Cairo, 2002), p.152.

statues prove that she was the chief wife who was practicing one of her traditional duties on festivals with her husband side by side as a high priest of Egypt.



Fig. 1
Statue of Seti II north of 70th column facing East, Karnak
Photo by the researcher, Adam, El Shabory, ASAE 56, pl. XVII-
b.



Fig. 2
The kilt of Seti II statue's



Fig. 3
Left and right side of the First statue



Fig. 4
The first statue's base (front, left, right)



Fig. 6
Statue of Seti II north of column 71
facing west-Karnak.

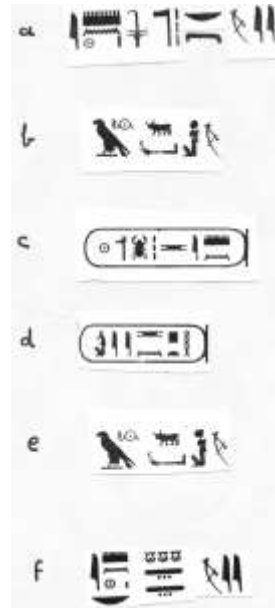


Fig. 5
The text in front of the
base.



Fig. 7
Inscriptions on the back pillar of the 2nd statue.



Fig. 8
Inscriptions on the standard of the 2nd statue.



Fig. 9
The base of the 2nd statue (left, right, front).



Fig. 10
The 3rd statue of Seti II in the 1st court.



Fig. 11
The 3rd statue (back-pillar, front).



Fig. 12
The belt and the kilt of the 3rd statue.



Fig. 13
Inscriptions of the queen on the left side.