

A Porch and Other Monuments of Tuthmosis IV from North Karnak

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Among the blocks recovered between 1949 and 1951 from the foundations of the Ptolemaic portico in front of the Temple of Montu at North Karnak were a series of four sandstone blocks which were published as parts of a kiosk of unusual configuration, tentatively to be assigned to the outer chamber (or courtyard?) of a reconstructed Edifice of the Divine Adoratrices.¹ There is another possible arrangement of these fragments which may better explain the original form of the monument to which they once belonged.

The blocks in question divide into two group which may be arranged to form parallel walls, in plan rough mirror images of one another (figs. 1-2). Block A 597 (in figs. 1, 3 and 4) forms the left-hand wall (as one faces the reconstructed structure), and it has decoration in raised relief on its front and on its right-hand (interior) side. Its back is cut rough, in a concave curve to adjoin a column, and the surface of its left-hand (exterior) wall has been cut

¹Block A 333 (28 x 40 x 53 cm), A 597 (25 x 64 x 128 cm), A 622 (28 x 45 x 78 cm), and C 448bis (28 x 24 x 44 cm); see P. Barguet and J. Leclant, *Karnak-Nord IV (1949-1951, fouilles conduites par Cl. Robichon*, FIFAO 25, Cairo, 1954, pp.20-1, 25, 55, 64-5, 121-3; figs. 42b, 44-5, 85, 104; pls. 109-10. The dimensions of the blocks are calculated from scales which appear in certain figures and the apparent fact that in the published drawings 7.5 cm = 1 m. The suggested plan for the kiosk appears in fig. 117. Betsy M. Bryan, *The Reign of Thutmose IV* (Baltimore, 1991), no. 13.22, p. 183 with n. 214 on p. 231, notes only the existence of block C 448bis and not the related blocks. Her comment that the lintel fragment from North Karnak, *Karnak-Nord IV*, 61 (15), pl. 58a, attributed to Tuthmosis IV should be assigned to Amenhotep III is correct: it was later usurped by Ramesses II and is apparently the interior lintel of the New kingdom gateway to the Montu Enclosure.

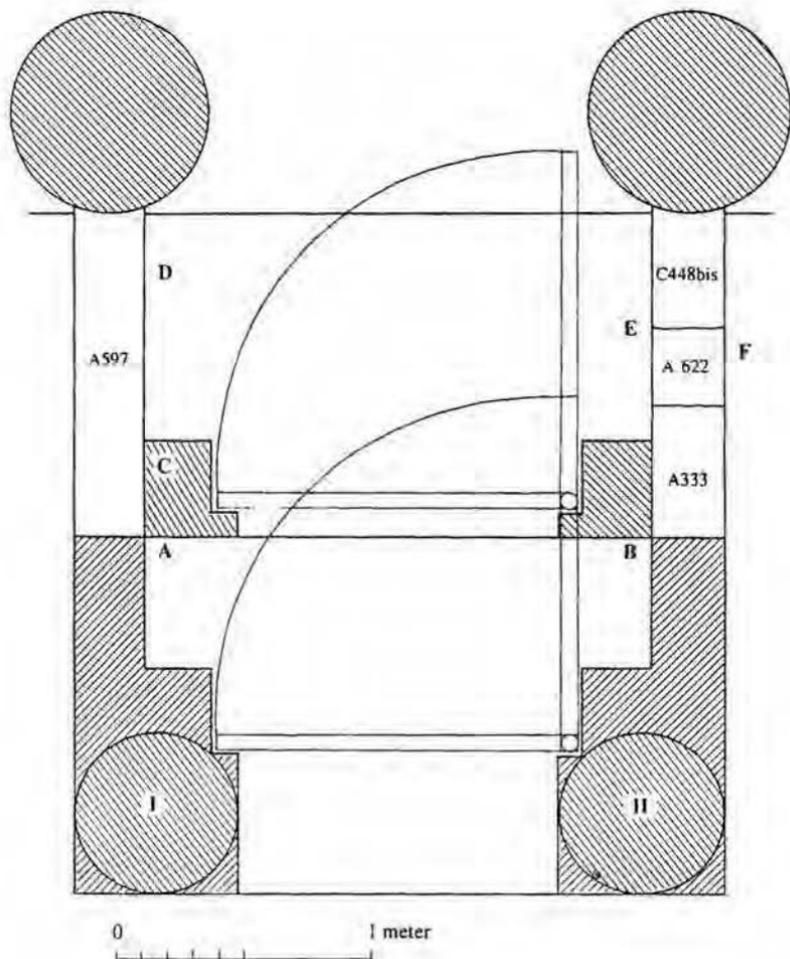


Fig. 1. Restored Plan of the Porch of Tuthmosis IV from North Karnak

- ▨ hypothetical missing parts, stage 1
- ▩ hypothetical missing parts, stage 2

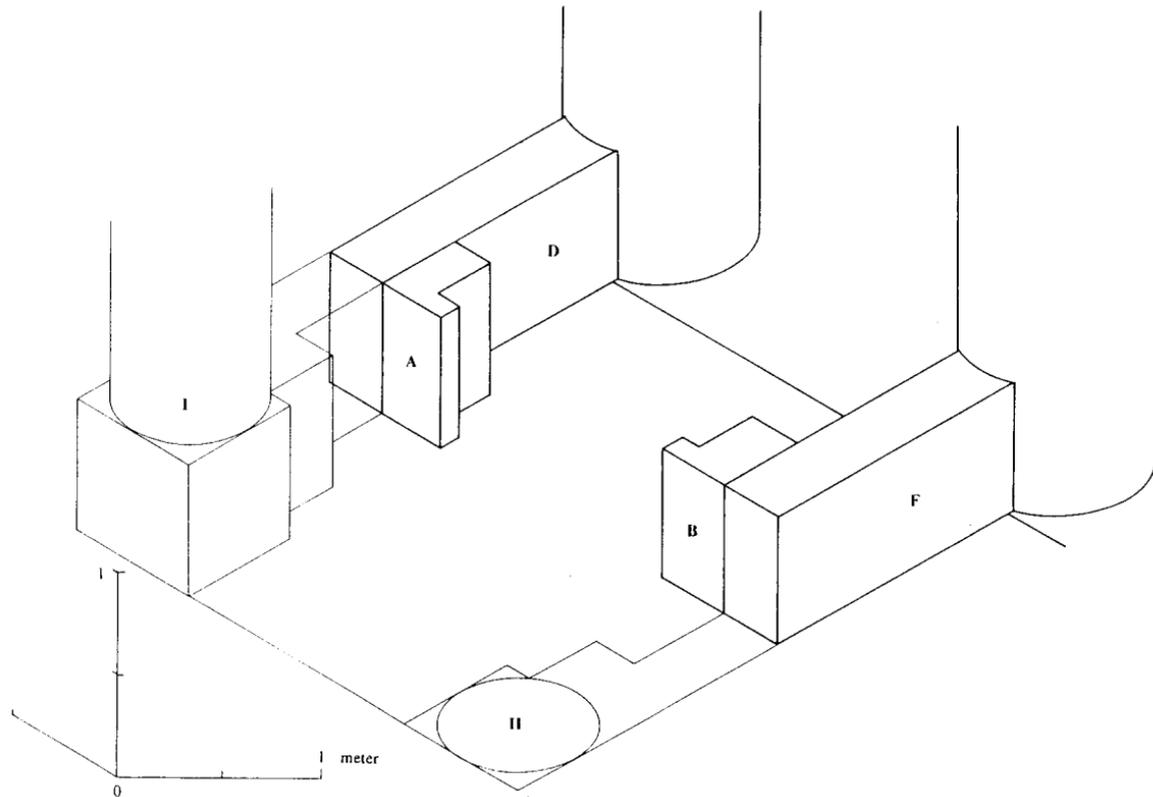


Fig. 2. Isometric Projection of Porch of Tuthmosis IV

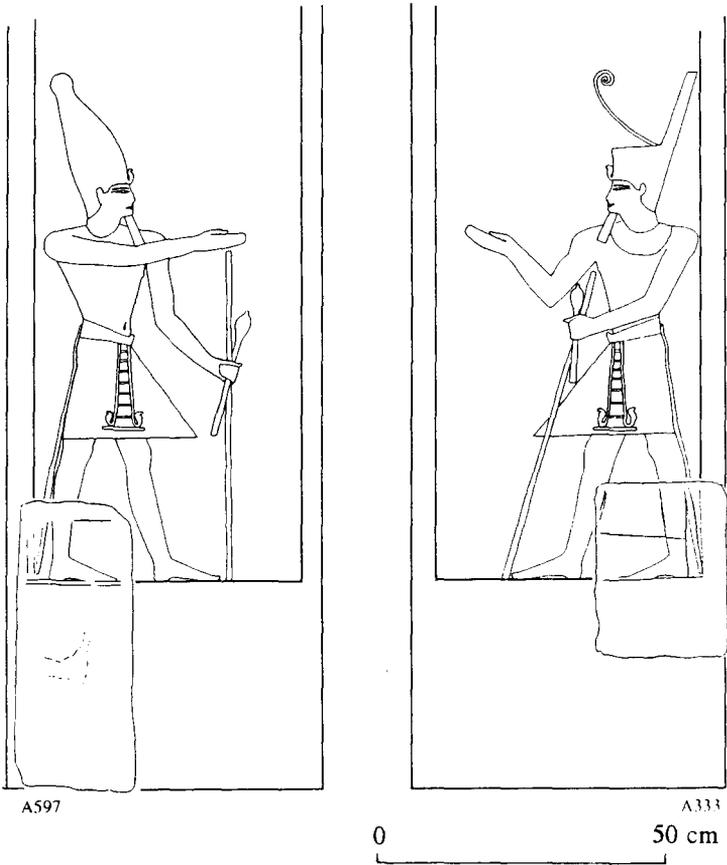


Fig. 3. The Jambs of the Doorway Restored

away in reuse. Blocks A 333, A 622, and C 448bis form the right-hand wall (in figs. 1, 3, 5 and 6). This wall also has decoration in raised relief on its front and on its left-hand (interior) side. Its back is likewise cut rough in a concave curve, but its right-hand (exterior) side is decorated in sunken relief. It seems apparent that the two walls originally would have been set up at right angles to a pair of columns to form an enclosed porch extending out from a main structure.²

The front of the two walls have remains of paired, mirror image door jamb scenes showing a king facing into the structure (A and B, fig. 3).³ Since these entry scenes are in raised relief, it is probable that they in turn were once sheltered by a now missing roof supported on two more columns (fig. 1, I-II, and fig. 2). The greater parts of these jamb scenes probably were destroyed when this original porch was subsequently deepened.

The original left-hand, interior scene (D, fig. 4) showed a king standing before an erased (and restored ?) god. The opposing right-hand, interior scene (E, fig. 5) lay in the original shadow of the door. It depicted a seated image of Tuthmosis IV with offerings placed before him, the royal image being oriented inward towards the main structure.⁴ The identity of the king is certain, based upon the surviving traces on block C448bis of his Golden Horus name *wsr*

²For an architecturally similar porch, compare that of the North Peripteral Chapel at Elkab built by Tuthmosis III. PM V, pp. 172-4; for recent comment and updated bibliography, see Marie-Paule Vanlatham, "Le temple périptère de Thoutmosis III à Elkab," *CdE* 62 (1987): 30-7.

³In figure 3, the disposition of the restored crowns is arbitrary. It is possible (but by no means certain) that the outer edges of the scenes were flanked by vertical torus moldings subsequently removed (and thus it might be necessary to restore a similar molding to the left of scene F in figure 7).

⁴Similar figures of a seated image of Tuthmosis IV with offerings and facing inward flank the door of the desert temple of Amenhotep III at Elkab. PM V, pp. 188-9.

ḥpš d[r pḏt 9]. The right-hand, exterior scene on this wall (F, fig. 6) showed a king presenting (?) a large *w3s*-scepter to the god Montu, of which a more complete version of the scene survives from the reign of Taharka (fig. 7)⁵ The scene in sunken relief on the exterior of the porch preserves a fragment of text behind the figure of the god which mentions [Ramesses-Amon]-her-khepeshef, most probably to be identified as Ramesses V.⁶

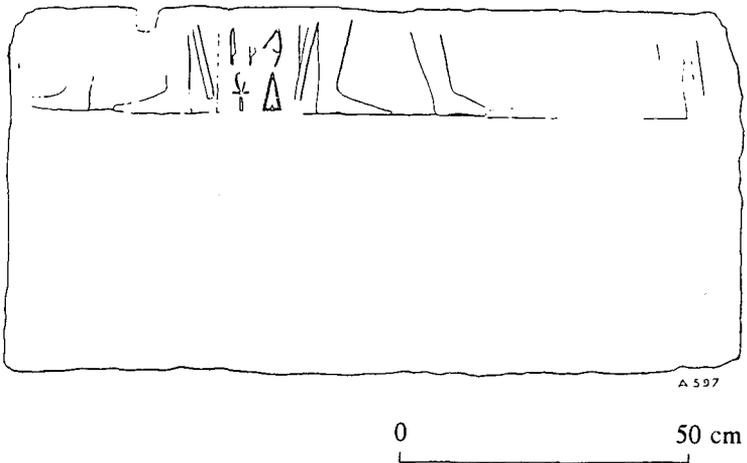


Fig. 4. The Left-hand, Interior Wall.

⁵As noted in *Karnak-Nord V*, pp. 82, 122. Figure 7 is adapted from pl. 69. The offered object calls to mind the gigantic faience *w3s*-scepter of Amenhotep II from Ombos, for further information see my "Amenhotep II at Dendera (lunet)," *VA* 1 (1985): 72, n. 4.

⁶Ramesses VI and Ramesses X are also possible identifications, but the extension Amon-her-khepeshef does not normally appear within their cartouches, see Jürgen von Beckerath, *Handbuch der ägyptischen Königsnamen*, MÄS 20 (Munich, 1984), pp. 95-6, 247-50. Inexplicably, Bryan, *Thutmose IV*, p. 183, restores the name as [Montu]-herkhepeshef.



Fig. 5. The Right. Interior Scene Showing
Tuthmosis IV Seated

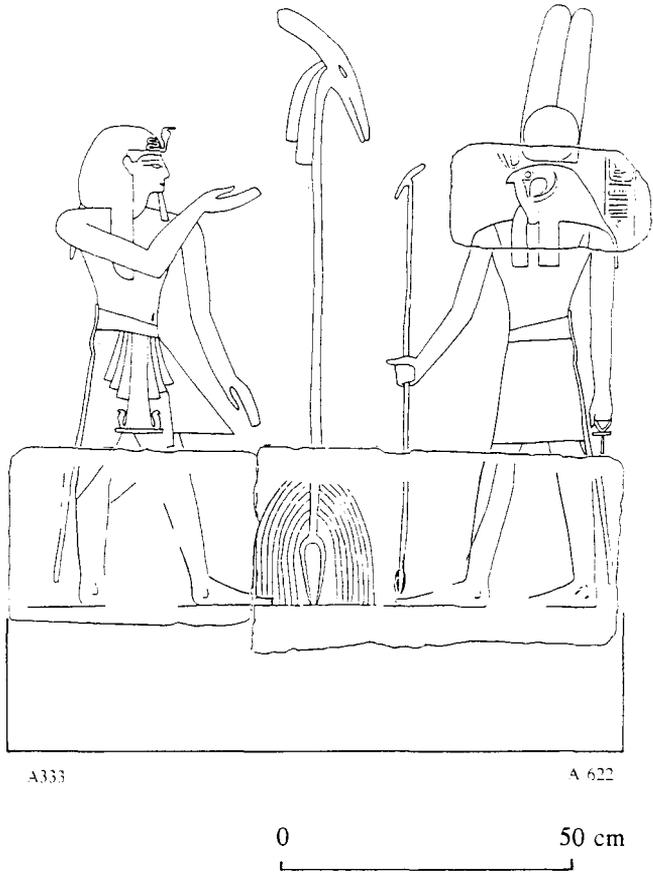


Fig. 6. The Scene on the Right, Exterior Wall

At some point in time, probably after the completion of the Ramesside scene (which is apparently complete unto itself) on the right-hand exterior wall, the porch was deepened. The scenes of the original doorway were destroyed or hidden when the portal was moved forward (figs. 1 and

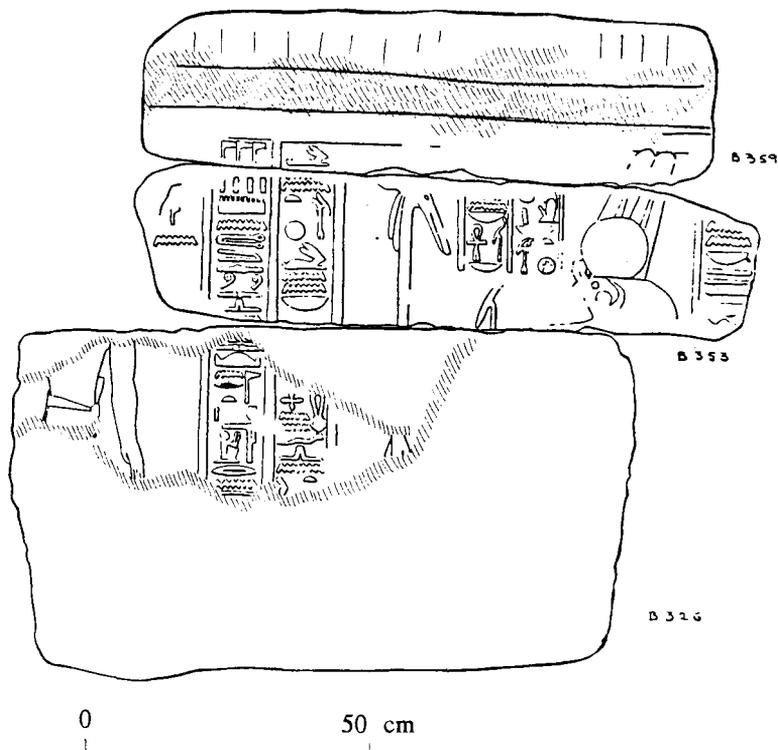


Fig. 7. The Ethiopian Period Copy of the Scene on the Right, Exterior Wall

2). At this time, a new interior scene showing [a king] before a god (C, fig. 4) was added to the left-hand, interior wall where the original left door jamb had been removed. The opposing area to the right--behind the new shadow of the door--was presumably undecorated.⁷

⁷When block A 333 was published, see note 1, the relevant portion of the block was not illustrated, and it is presumably blank.

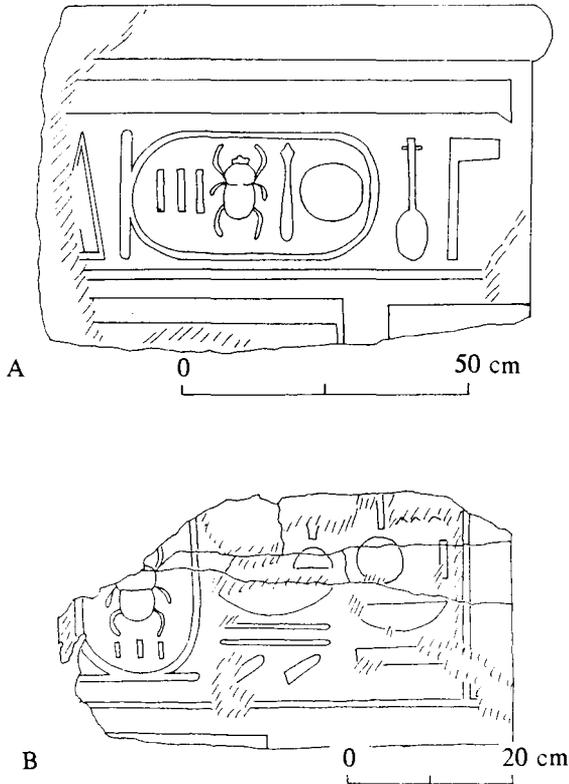


Fig. 9. Two Open Lintels of Amenhotep II from North Karnak (A) and from the Edifice of Amenhotep II at Karnak (B)

The probable architectural history of this little porch can be summarized. It was built as part of (or was added to) a small--possibly peripteral--temple or way station, probably dedicated to Montu and standing in the area of Karnak North. This structural addition would have been built under Tuthmosis IV or perhaps his son Amenhotep III.⁸ The fact that the interior figure of a god was attacked and repaired--almost certainly as a result of Amarna Period depredations--shows that the building was standing at the end of the Eighteenth dynasty. During the Twentieth dynasty (probably under Ramesses V), a scene was added to the right-hand, exterior side wall. Probably at a time after this, the porch was deepened, perhaps in conjunction with the general enclosing of open temple facades during the Twenty-fifth dynasty. If at such a date the porch still stood, its exterior scene may have served as a model for the similar relief of Taharka⁹ also found reused in the foundation of the Ptolemaic porch. Presumably the porch (but not necessarily the structure to which it was attached) was dismantled in the Ptolemaic Period when the stones were reused in the foundations before the Temple of Montu.

Three other monuments of Tuthmosis IV at North Karnak are identified by Betsy Bryan in her excellent study of the reign of that king,¹⁰ but her comments describing them warrant further comment.

A. The "unfinished and damaged" sandstone lintel (fig. 8)¹¹ is actually the right-hand portion of an open lintel, one of the earliest such architectural elements.¹² The "damaged"

⁸The latter, if the dating of the decoration follows that found at Elkab, see note 4 above.

⁹See figure 7 and note 5 above.

¹⁰Bryan, *Thutmose IV*, nos. 13.20, 13.21, and 13.23; pp. 183-4, 241.

¹¹*Ibid.*, no. 13.20 = *Karnak-Nord IV*, p. 55 (3), fig. 84, which is adapted for figure 8 here: its apparent dimensions are 135 x 58 x 74 cm.

¹²To my knowledge, only two earlier open lintels exist (fig. 9); both unpublished, decorated in sunken relief, and dated to the reign of Amenhotep II. One (K 860) comes from North Karnak and is approximately 60 x 90 cm on its face. The other is to be found in the

area of the block is actually that part of the stone which was fitted into an adjacent wall.

B. The sandstone "jamb" (fig. 10) which Bryan hesitantly connected to the lintel just discussed¹³ is actually a block from the upper right-hand portion of another lintel with an engaged decorated wall set back to the right, all the decoration of which is in raised relief.¹⁴ Visible in the recessed scene to the right is the *pet*-sign and the beginning of a column of text starting with *wnn*....

C. The sandstone lintel of Tuthmosis IV discovered in 1971¹⁵ tentatively has been identified as that belonging to a doorway through the mud brick enclosure wall surrounding the Treasury of Tuthmosis I which led to the work area to the south of the treasury, or to the forecourt leading to that area.¹⁶

Finally, as noted by Bryan,¹⁷ the one other clear evidence of work done at North Karnak under Tuthmosis IV is the recarving of a doorway of Amenhotep II (fig. 11) in which the name of Tiaa, the mother of Tuthmosis IV, replaces that of Meryet-Re Hatshepsut, the mother of Amenhotep II.¹⁸ Bryan's dating of this change is clearly correct, but it should be noted that the dimensions of the doorway are somewhat different. The 1.76 height of the jamb refers only to the height of the columns of text on the jamb. The restored width of the lintel is 2 meters, and the door once was fitted into a mud brick wall.

Edifice of Amenhotep II between the Ninth and Tenth Pylons at Karnak.

¹³Bryan. *Thutmose IV*, no. 13.21.

¹⁴Figure 10 is based upon my hand copy.

¹⁵Bryan. *Thutmose IV*, no. 13.23.

¹⁶Jean Jacquet. *Karnak-Nord V, le trésor de Thoutmosis Ier, étude architecturale*. FIFAO 30 (Cairo, 1983), p. 104.

¹⁷Bryan. *Thutmose IV*, p. 98 with n. 29, p. 126.

¹⁸*Karnak-Nord IV*, pp. 53-5, pls. 50-1, from which figure 11 is adapted.

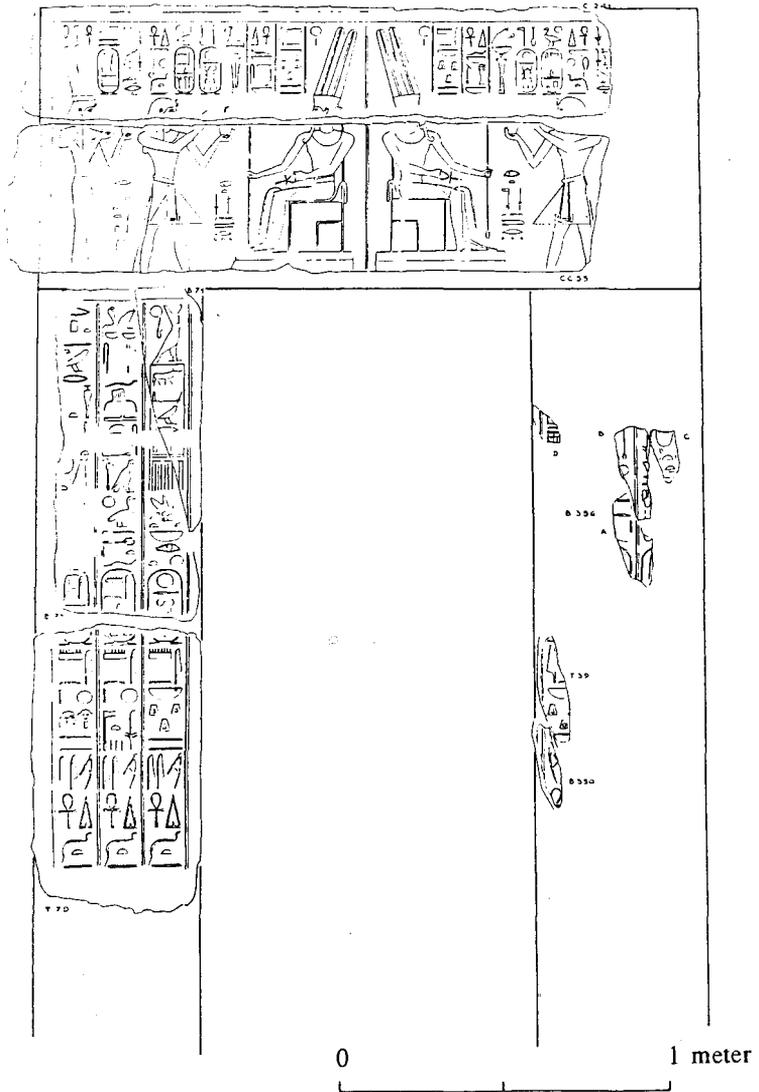


Fig. 11. The Portal of Amenhotep II from North Karnak
Showing the King and Tiaa (Replacing
Meryet-Re Hatshepsut)