

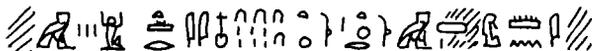
## THE DATE OF THE GRANITE BARK SHRINE OF TUTHMOSIS III

by

Charles C. Van Siclen

One of the major problems in defining the point in time when Hatshepsut was dishonored is our inability to closely define the period when various structures at Karnak were built. In the Winter of 1984 while at Karnak, I chanced to notice a text on some fragments of the red granite shrine of Tuthmosis III which provides a minimal date for at least the decoration of that shrine.

The fragments now stand just to the south of the shrine of Philip Arrhidæus (Porter-Moss II, 2nd ed., pp. 94, 98; loc. 275). Above are the remains of offering scenes, while below is an offering list. Atop this offering list is a horizontal line of text, only partly preserved:



...Amun; offerings(?) from year 1 to year 46 (and) until millions of ...

While damaged, the sense of the text seems clear. Offerings are enumerated for the years of the king's reign (i.e., 1 to 46) and then thereafter. What is significant is the year 46. The use of year 46 implies that it was the current highest date at the time of the decoration of the structure. Thus it seems fairly certain that the granite shrine of Tuthmosis III at Karnak was still under construction at that date.

Given the significance of the central bark shrine at Karnak and, as pointed out by Charles F. Nias (ZAS 93, 1966:97-100), the fact that the partial defacement of the quartzite shrine of Hatshepsut and its replacement by the granite shrine of Tuthmosis III were closely consecutive events, this new data would confirm a late date for the dishonoring of Hatshepsut.

(At the Third ICE in Toronto in 1982, I read an as yet unpublished paper which touched in part on the date of the dishonoring of Hatshepsut. A fully documented discussion will be forthcoming.)