

CENTRE FRANCO-ÉGYPTIEN
D'ÉTUDE DES TEMPLES DE
KARNAK
LOUQSOR (ÉGYPTE)
USR 3172 du Cnrs



المركز المصري الفرنسي
لدراسة معابد الكرنك
الاقصر (مصر)

Extrait des *Cahiers de Karnak* 10, 1995.

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BRONZE HEAD OF A DIVINE CONSORT OF AMUN

Mohammed NASR

Karnak, registration number : 564.

Height : 9 cm.

Height of the face : 5 cm.

Width of the face : 4 cm.

Length of the nose : 2 cm.

Length of the ears : 2 cm.

Height of the remaining part of the crown : 2 cm.

Diameter of the remaining part of the crown : 6 cm.

Material : bronze.

Date : XXVth- XXVIth dynasty (?)

In the area called «*el-mezawy*», *i.e.* north of the open-air Museum, the Franco-Egyptian Center of Karnak discovered, in april 1988, a small head of feminine statue.

The head is made of bronze with a large hollow in the interior. The state of conservation is rather bad, due to the corrosion of the metal on the whole surface and several cracks appear on the side parts and the hind part. Wig and crown are damaged.

Mr. Daniel Le Fur, chief restorer of the F.E.C., proceeded to remove the corrosion, strenghtened the cracks and filled the hollow with gyps in order to prevent further damages.

The head wears an heavy wig falling in three separate masses. On the front is fixed the royal uraeus, surmonted by a solar disk between two cow-horns. The crown consists in a diadem encircled by erected uraei, which originally supported an additional element — now missing — like horns and sun-disk, to figure the Hathor crown, or two ostrich feathers, as the queen's iconography shows since the New Kingdom.

The face and cheeks are full and round, the lips are small, almost pursed together and outlined by a sharp ridge under the lower lip which remembers the so-called Saïte-smile, typical of the XXVth-XXVIth dynasty statues. The eye-lids and eyebrows were elongated with inlaid cosmetic lines, now almost completely destroyed, together with the pupils. Only the inlaid white stone of the cornea remains in place.

During the Kushite and Saïte periods, the divine votaress or divine wives were almost the only women represented in statuary and, if we accept to date this small head on stylistic criteria to the XXVth-XXVIth dynasty, it could well portray one of them. But, the lack of any definite element impedes us to be more precise on the attribution and to propose a sure identification.

