

REMAINS OF THE DIVINE VOTARESSES IN THE LUXOR MAGAZINE

Mansur el-Nubi
Luc Gabolde

**1°) A chapel-lintel dedicated by Nitocris, daughter of Psameticus to « Osiris-with-the-two-horns »
and mentioning Amenardis I and Shepenwepet II**

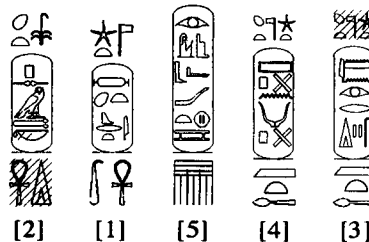
The lintel published here was originally part of a private collection at Luxor and is now stored in the Luxor Supreme Council of Antiquities magazine under the registration number 52 ¹.

It consists in a slab of sandstone 0.94 m long, 0.46 m high and 0.25 m thick, broken at both extremities. The « torus » of a caveto-cornice runs at the top.

The decoration shows, in its present state, five names in cartouches. In the middle stands a central cartouche placed on a schematic palast-façade and topped with two feathers and a solar disk.

To the left and to the right, symmetrically disposed, are two groups of two cartouches. Such a disposition of the titulatures can be found on a small basin published by U. Hölscher and mentioning also Osiris (epitheta missing), accompanied by the divine votaress/hand-of-the-god Shepe[nwepet II], royal daughter of [Piânkhy (*ciselled*)] deceased, and her <adoptive> mother, [the royal wife] Amenardis ². The association of the three persons is attested elsewhere as, for example, on a block found at North-Karnak ³.

The text of our lintel can be completed as follows :



It has to be read beginning by the second cartouche from left :

« [1] The divine votaress Niticris, living,
[2] royal daughter of Psametic[hus ...],

¹ Our thanks to Dr. Muhammad el-Soghayar who kindly allowed us to publish the documents presented here.

² U. Hölscher, *Excavations of Medinet Habu V, Post Ramesside Remains*, OIP 66, 1954, p. 27 et pl. 20, E-F.

³ Cl. Robichon, L.A. Christophe, *Karnak-Nord III, FIFAO XXIII*, 1951, p. 47.

- [3] <adoptive> daughter of the divine votaress Shepenwepet, deceased,
 [4] [<herself adoptive> daughter of the divine votaress] Amenirdis, deceased,
 [5] beloved of Osiris-with-the-two-horns. »

The *mr*-canal sign included in the central cartouche of Osiris has been here understood as the word « beloved », referring to Nitocris. The same arrangement occurs on a block mentioning Nitocris and Psametichus beloved of Amun and found on the quay of the dromos of Montu at North Karnak. There, the canal-sign-*mi* is included in the central cartouche with the name of Amun-*nb-ns(w)t-t3wy* ⁴.

Though a chapel of « Osiris-with-the-two-horns » does not seem to have ever been found or mentioned in the theban area, the epitheta *'bty* « with-the-two-horns » is attested, specially in relation with Osiris ⁵ and this last god is sometimes considered as he « Lord-of-the-(two)-horns » ⁶.



⁴ A. Varille, *Karnak* I, p. 1 et pl. III, bloc K 999. If we suppose that the last block from the quay may refer to a canal which would be a « canal of Amun-*nb-ns(w)t-t3wy* », it would allow us to suggest another possible — but less likely — interpretation of the content of the central cartouche of the block studied here : we could consider that a canal named *'bty* was here mentioned. The text should in that case be interpreted as concerning an « Osiris-of-the-canal-of-the-two-horns ». Such a canal is nevertheless not known, and the only approaching occurrence is that of a town *'bty*, the « town-of-the-two-horns », possibly identical with a « town-of-the-canal-of-the-two-horns » (H. Gauthier, *DG* I, p. 141) which does not show the same writing and, so, can hardly refer to the same entity.

⁵ E. Brunner-Traut, *LÄ* III, 1980, 9-10 et n. 1.

⁶ P. Barguet, *Le Livre des Morts*, 181-16, p. 267 ; K. Mysliwiec, *MDIAK* 35, 1979, p. 197-198.

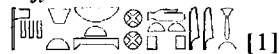
2°) A door jamb of Shepenwepet II

The door-jamb of Shepenwepet II was originally part of a the same private collection at Luxor and now bears the registration number 42 of the Luxor Supreme Council of Antiquities magazine. There is no evidence that the door-jamb belongs to the same door than the fragment of lintel formerly described and, actually, it should predate it, as the divine votaress seems to be alive.

It is a piece of sandstone 0.43 m large, 0.56 m high and 0.30 m thick, broken at its lower end.

The scene is topped by a Wadjyt-vulture (→). Under the deity, the divine votaress Shepenwepet (→), whose feathers of the wig and whose cartouche only remain, was facing a god Amun (←) not better preserved.

Over Wadjyt :



In front of Wadjyt :



Over Shepenwepet :



Over Amun :



« [1] Wadjyt, the one of Dep and Pe, mistress of the sky, lady of the gods,

[2] she gives all life and strenght ».

« [3] The divine votaress Shepenwe[pet, may she live]

[4] like Rê ».

« [5] Amun-Râ, lord of Thebes ».

The exact finding spot of the document is not known but it certainly comes from Thebes. North-Karnak is possible, though only two remains dating of her life time were found there ⁷, her mention on a third one being posthumous ⁸.



⁷ A door-jamb, Cl. Robichon, L.A. Christophe, *Karnak-Nord III*, *FIFAO XXIII*, 1951, p. 116-117 and 128. A chapel, Cl. Robichon, P. Barguet et J. Leclant, *Karnak-Nord IV*, *FIFAO XXV*, 1954 p. 109-128.

⁸ Cl. Robichon, L.A. Christophe, *Karnak-Nord III*, *FIFAO XXIII*, 1951, p. 47.