REMAINS OF THE DIVINE VOTARESSSES IN THE LUXOR MAGAZINE

Mansur el-Nubi
Luc Gabolde

1°) A chapel-lintel dedicated by Nitocris, daughter of Psametichus to « Osiris-with-the-two-horns »
and mentionning 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.

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, symetrically 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 mentionning also Osiris (epitheta missing), accompagned by the divine votaress/hand-of-the-god Shepenwepet II, royal daughter of [Pianky (ciselled)] deceased, and her <adoptive> mother, [the royal wife] Amenirdis. The association of the three persons is attested elsewhere as, for exemple, on a block found at North-Karnak.

The text of our lintel can be completed as follows:

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

« [1] The divine votaress Nitocris, 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 Medinef Habu V, Post Ramesside Remains, OIP 66, 1954, p. 27 et pl. 20, E-F.
[3] adoptive> daughter of the divine votaress Shepenwepet, deceased,
[4] [herself adoptive> daughter of the divine votaress] Amenirdis, deceased,

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)-tJwy 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)-tJwy », 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.


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 strength ».
«[3] The divine votaress Shepenwepet, may she live »
«[4] like Re ».
«[5] Amun-Rā, 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 pithymous 8.

---