

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* 8, 1985.

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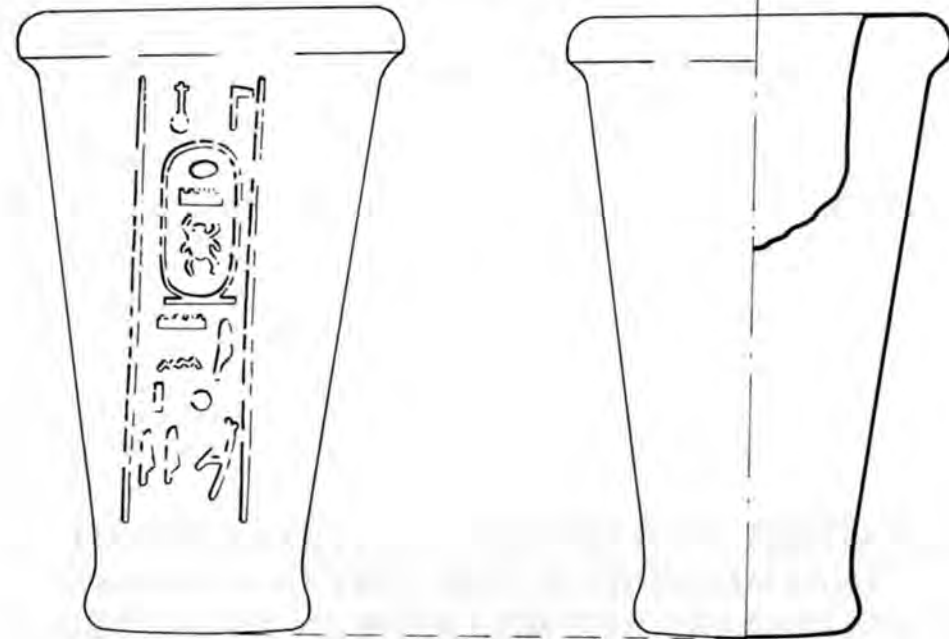
## DISCOVERY OF A NEW FOUNDATION DEPOSIT OF THUTMOSIS III AT THE EAST OF KARNAK. A PRELIMINARY REPORT (WITH AN ANNEX ABOUT A STELA OF PAREEMHEB)

† S. ABD EL-HAMID

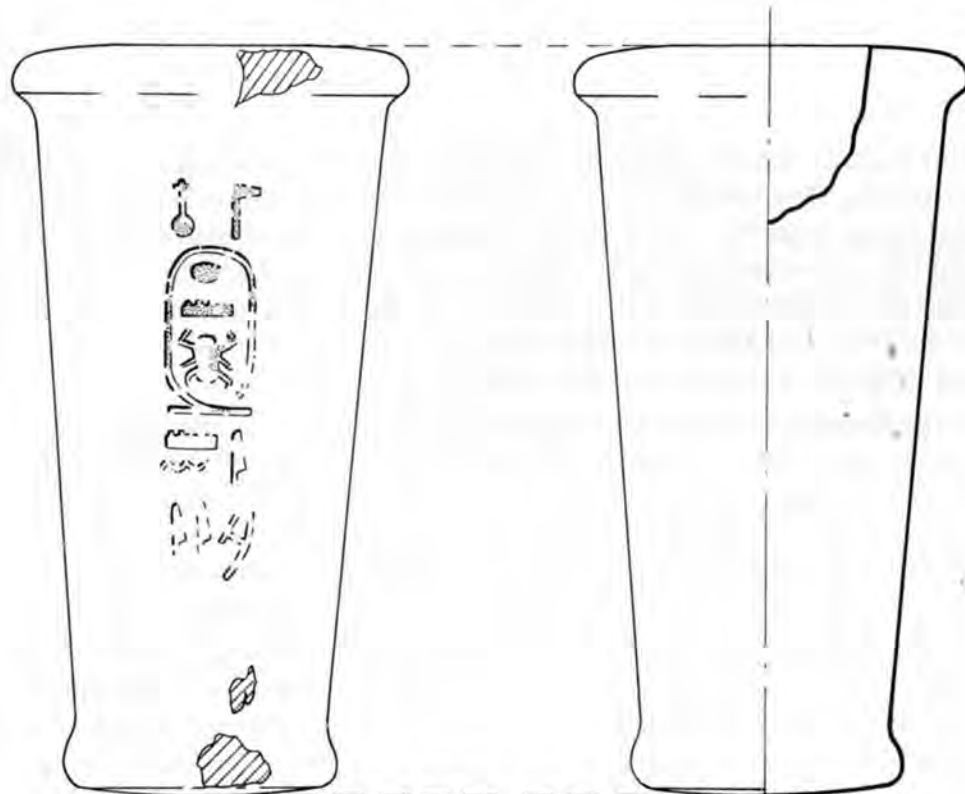
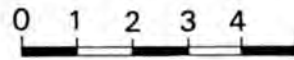
In the winter of 1984, the Egyptian Antiquities Organization began a project to purify the water of the Sacred Lake. To accomplish this, two pipes to recirculate water were to be installed in a trench connecting the lake to the Nile. This trench (Pl. I, A et B) was dug northward from the eastern end of the Sacred Lake, passing between the contra-temples of Tuthmosis III and Ramesses II which are built against the eastern end of the great Temple of Amun. The trench then turned west and ran parallel to the north wall of the Temple of Amun towards the river. In the course of digging this trench, a number of interesting objects were found (at points A - C).

Two foundation deposits dating to the reign of Tuthmosis III were located east of his contra-temple in the trench at points A and B (Pl. I, B). These deposits were located about a meter apart, at a depth of 1.5 meters below the present surface level. The objects lay in a bed of clean, greenish coloured sand (Pl. II A). Since the deposits were discovered by chance, the exact placement of the objects in each deposit was not noted. In addition, much of the pottery was found broken.

Foundation deposit A was located south of the east-west axis of the Temple of Amun. It consisted of two alabaster model vases, each inscribed in sunken relief for Tuthmosis III (Pl. II B). The text of the larger vase (ht. 12.6 cm) reads: *ntr nfr, mn-hpr-r<sup>c</sup>, mry imn-r<sup>c</sup>*; "The good god, Menkheperre, beloved of Amun-Re" (fig. 1,1). A light blue pigment still fills the incision. The text of the smaller vase (ht. 10.6 cm) reads: *ntr nfr, mn-hpr-r<sup>c</sup>, mry imn-r<sup>c</sup>*; "The good god, Menkheperre, beloved of Amun-Re". Some faint traces of the same light blue pigment are still visible in this inscription (fig. 1,2). Associated with deposit A are some fragments of plaster, a small piece of corroded bronze and a piece of carnelian.



1



2

Fig. 1

Foundation deposit B was located north of the east-west axis of the Amun Temple and contained a variety of objects. Included in the deposit were 38 small oval, green glazed faience plaques, each inscribed on one side with the prenomen of Thutmose III: Menkheperre. The plaques are pierced through the long axis and vary in size from 3 x 7 x 16 mm to 5 x 13 x 21 mm (Pl. III). The deposit also contained a small piece of bronze (25 mm long) which possibly formed the blade of a model hoe. A number of fragments of stone and some minerals were also found, including blue painted sandstone and quartzite. Four of the quartzite fragments had inscriptions in blue paint. The largest (20 cm long) of these read: *nṯr nfr, mn-hpr-r', mry imn*; "the good god, Menkheperre, beloved of Amun." Another one of similar size may have had the same inscription although only traces now remain. A small oval piece of quartzite had merely the prenomen Menkheperre, and a fourth fragment had illegible traces.

Foundation deposit B also contained approximately 198 pottery vessels of various forms (fig. 2). The pottery was uniformly of a fine brownish clay fired at light red, and a number of pieces had a red slip around the rim. The pieces all were of a common manufacture, being wheel-made with rough cut bases. Forms in a variety of sizes included: bread moulds, squat ovoid jars with short slightly open necks, small open cups, deep and shallow bowls, beakers (some with pottery attachments in the form of small bosses), ovoid vases with tall necks, and elongated ovoid vases with shorter necks.

In the area to the north of the Fourth Pylon (in the same trench at point C) was discovered a small, round-topped limestone stela. Its maximum dimensions are 15.5 x 21.3 cm, and it is carved in sunken relief (Pl. IV). The surface of the stela is defined by a line around the top and sides. At the base of the scene is carved a rolled mat. To the left of the scene stands a figure of Amun-Re. The god faces right and holds a *was*-scepter in his left hand and an *ankh*-sign in his right. He wears the double plume and flat cap on his head, and the upper part of his back support is visible. The figure of the god has a curved beard and wears a broad collar, corselet, belt and skirt. The figure of Amun lacks its characteristic tail. To the right, the owner of the stela faces left. He raises his right hand in worship and holds a stick (?) in his left. The figure wears a long, plain wig and an elaborate gathered skirt. The feet of both the man and god are bare. Between the pair is an offering table with a *nemset*-jar, above which is a lotus flower. Traces of red paint are still visible on the body of the man and the dress of the god (fig. 3).

The stela is inscribed with four columns of text. They read: 1 *ḏd-mdw n imn-r'* 2 *nb pt, ḥḳ3 w3st*. 3 *īr n mn 4 p3-r'-m-ḥb*. «<sup>1</sup> Recitation<sup>a</sup> by Amun-Re<sup>2</sup> lord of heaven, ruler of Thebes<sup>3</sup> made by the herdsman<sup>b</sup>)<sup>4</sup> Pareemheb.»

The stela seems to be a small votive object presented to the temple by a man of lesser rank-to-judge from his title. The piece itself is not well made, and the details and surface carelessly done. From the name Pareemheb and the style of dress, the stela should probably be dated to the Ramesside Period or perhaps a little later.

## Comments:

- a. has been written for , perhaps indicating that the final *d* of *ḏd* was already silent.  
b. The title is perhaps a short writing of *mnī w*, herdsman.

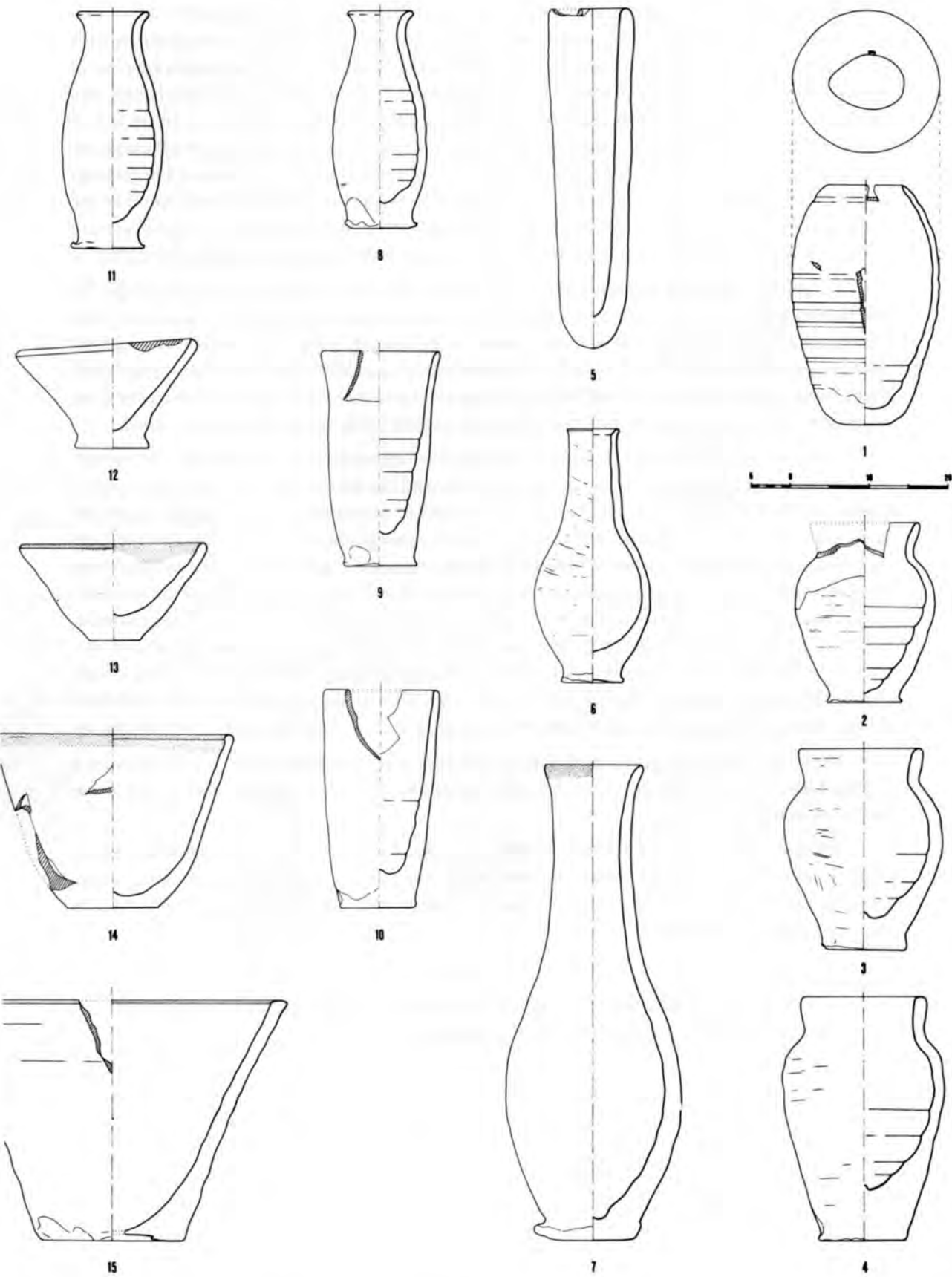


Fig. 2 Exemples-type des poteries du dépôt de fondation B (dessins R. Megalla).

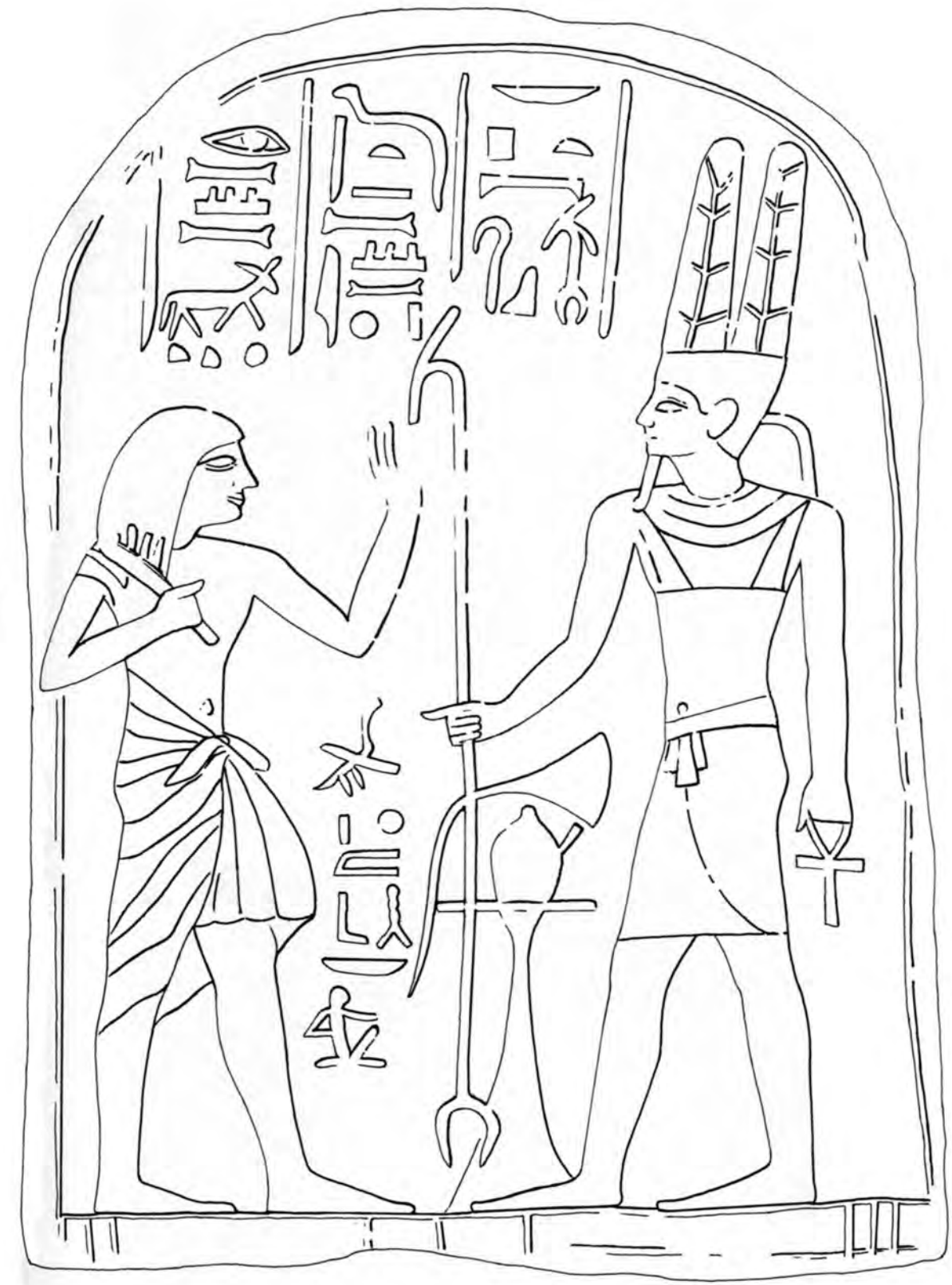


Fig. 3 Stela of Paraemheb.

## RÉSUMÉ

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During the winter of 1984, a trench was opened at the East of the temple of Amun to receive the pipes purposed to recirculate the waters of the Sacred Lake according to the project, now in course, to pump the polluted waters and inject fresh water coming from the Nile. When digging the trench, two holes were found filled with objects, dated to Thutmose III through inscribed faience plaques and alabaster vases. The South Foundation deposit (A) contained the two vases and small pieces of plaster, bronze and carnelian. The North deposit had received 38 faience plaques with the name of *Mn-hpr-r*, a piece of bronze, fragments of stone with painted protocol of the King, together with 198 pottery vessels. When digging the trench to the north of the IV<sup>th</sup> Pylon, a little stela (XIX<sup>th</sup> dynasty or a few later) was unearthed. It is published here with a photograph and drawings.

Planche I. S. Abd El Hamid *Discovery*.

A - Partie sud-est, proche du Lac Sacré.

B - Partie sud-est depuis le Nord.



Planche I. Vues transverses de la tranchée montrant l'emplacement des dépôts de fondation. (Cl. Th. Zimmer).



Planche II. Tranchée du Lac Sacré. A-le dépôt A vidé.  
(Cl. Th. Zimmer).



Planche II (A et B)  
B - Les vases modèles en albâtre de Thoutmosis III.  
(Cl. A. Bellod).



Planche III. Dépôt B : Exemplaires lisibles des plaquettes de fondation au cartouche prénom de Thoutmosis III.  
La dernière pièce à droite en bas : fragment de bronze du dépôt B (Cl. A. Bellod).

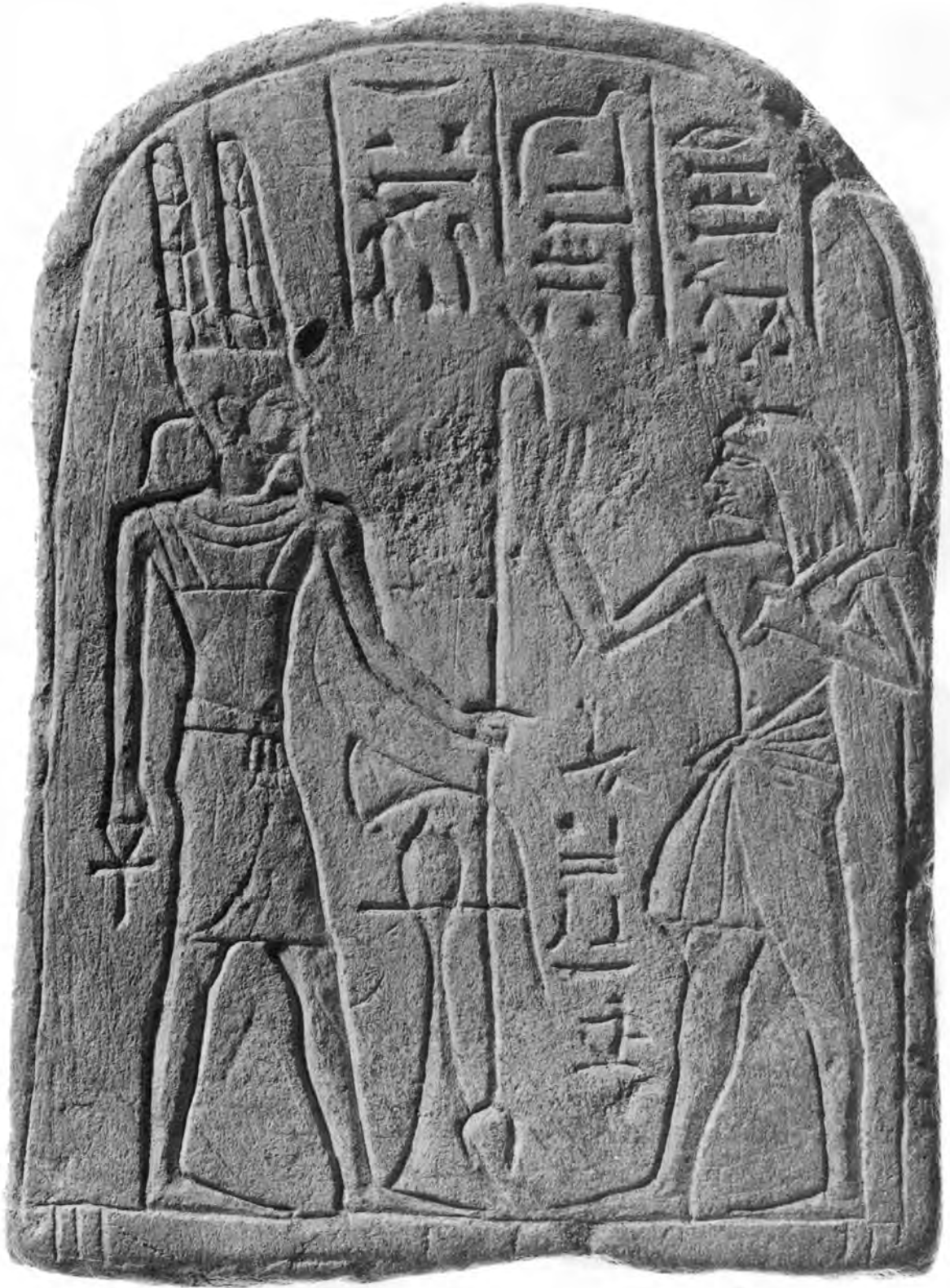


Planche IV. Stèle du point C de la tranchée. Ex voto du bouvier d'Amon Parêemheb.  
(Cl. A. Bellod).