

A HITHERTO UNKNOWN STATUE OF KING TUT'ANKHAMÛN

(with one plate)

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The history of the discovery, in the Cairo Museum, of the fellow statue to that of Tut'ankhamûn, discovered by Legrain in the Karnak cachette in 1904, is not without interest. For many years, and particularly since the discovery of his tomb, this statue⁽¹⁾, which is almost life-sized and of speckled granite, has attracted the attention of visitors, the face being specially remarkable, giving some the impression of extreme youth and others of illness.

For several years past, I have been devoting considerable time to the examination of boxes which have lain for years in the basement of the Museum and entering their contents, when not already entered, in the Museum registers. Among the last boxes to be examined were two which I have reason to believe were brought from the store of the Gîza Museum when the collection was transferred from there to its present site. For all I know to the contrary, the boxes may have been in the Bûlâq Museum (i. e. previous to 1891). One of them contained hundreds of fragments of an XVIIIth dynasty statue in grey granite of a king wearing an elaborate feathered mantle; the other contained 16 fragments of a standing statue of speckled granite whose name on the belt, had been usurped by Haremhab. On the back, the cartouche, had been erased with the exception of the \odot in one and the  in the other. The face was missing and also the stand, and the legs had apparently been partially

⁽¹⁾ LEGRAIN, *Statues et Statuettes de rois et de particuliers* (Cat. Gén. du Musée du Caire, n° 42091).

burnt. In the light of our present knowledge it was easy for me to identify the king as Tut'ankhamûn.

Credit was obtained for the pieces to be put together by the Moulding section of the Museum (Dept. of Beaux Arts) and the work was duly carried out by Ghâzi Eff 'Ali. The statue proved to be almost identical with the Legrain statue, except that in the former there are sufficient details in the elaborate apron to enable it to be reconstructed with certainty, while in the latter that had been impossible.

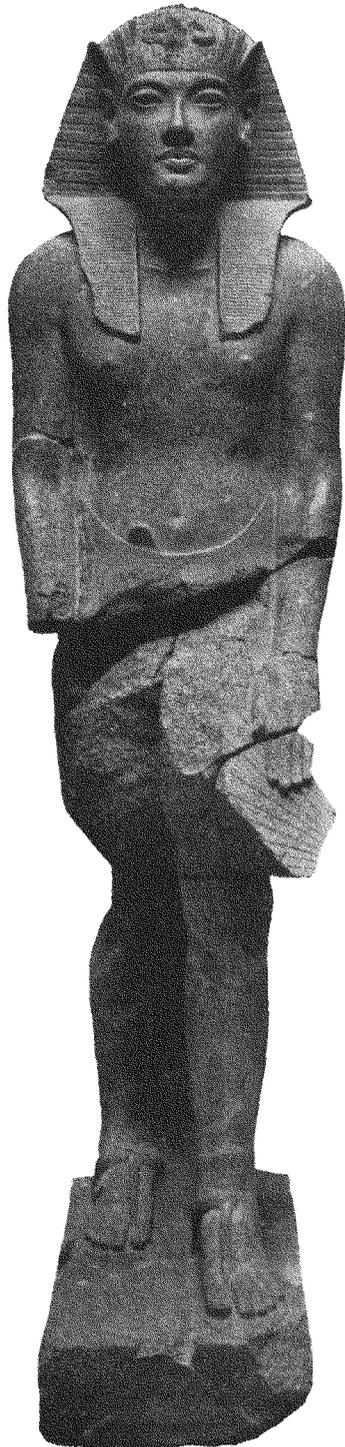
The sequel to the story is another example of a coincidence not rare in the world of archaeology. In February 1937, a dealer had submitted part of the face of a king for export. It had, according to him, been many years in his store and had come originally from Karnak. Its likeness to Tut'ankhamûn had struck me so forcibly that we persuaded the dealer to sell it to the Department, which he consented to do at a reasonable figure. Ghâzi Eff. reconstructed the missing portions of the face (namely the mouth, chin and left cheek) and the headdress from the Karnak statue and the restored head was exhibited on a shelf in the Tut'ankhamûn galleries.

While assembling the statue salvaged from the basement it occurred to Ghâzi Eff. that the face in the galleries might belong to it, and on his removing his plaster restorations this proved to be the case! His reconstruction is shown in the Plate (the restored portions being left a darker colour than the remainder), the work being, in my opinion, a striking testimony to his skill as a craftsman and an artist. The apron of the Legrain statue is now being reconstructed from the details obtained from the new statue, which will much improve its appearance, and the two statues will shortly be exhibited side by side.

Whether the face was stolen from the Gîza or the Bûlâq Museums will, of course, never be known, but the position of the box in which the fragments were found, which lay underneath that in which those of the king in the feathered headdress lay, show that the theft, if any, was not from the present Museum. Legrain (*op. cit.*, p. 55) remarks à propos of the discovery of the statue of Tut'ankhamûn : « On rencontra la tête



1.—Reconstructed statue of Tut'ankhamun. Height 1 m. 57. *Journal d'entrée*, no. 66757. (Photo. by Ismail Eff. Shehâb.)



2.—Statue of Tut'ankhamun from the Karnak Cachette (1904). Height 1 m. 57. (Photo. from LEGRAIN, *Statues de rois et de particuliers*, no. 42091.)

The inscription at the back of the new statue, which has been registered as *J. 66757*, differs from that of the Legrain statue. In the latter, the name of the king has been hardly erased at all, while in the former the erasures were as I have already stated. In both statues the name on the belt has been changed to that of Haremhab.

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