



HAL
open science

“ The Restoration of King Tut’s Statue of Amun ” and “ King Tut’s Activity at Karnak ”,

Luc Gabolde

► **To cite this version:**

Luc Gabolde. “ The Restoration of King Tut’s Statue of Amun ” and “ King Tut’s Activity at Karnak ”, Theban Archaeology Meeting 2022, Dec 2022, Luxor, Egypt. . <hal-04001123>

HAL Id: hal-04001123

<https://hal.science/hal-04001123v1>

Submitted on 22 Feb 2023

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L’archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire HAL, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d’enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.



Distributed under a Creative Commons CC BY 4.0 - Attribution - International License

The Restoration of King Tut's Statue of Amun

ترميم تمثال آمون من عصر الملك توت عنخ آمون

The Tutankhamun's quartzite statue of Amun (usurped by Haremhab) was discovered broken in its present place in 1897 by G. Legrain. It had been brought there in Antiquity (before Amenmes/Sethy II) from the Akhmenu where it originally stood (together with its partner, the statue of Amunet made by king Aÿ).

In 1912, Legrain managed to put together the sparse fragments of the head and bust, of the loincloth and of the legs, though many parts were still missing. He replaced the bust with a steel-reinforced concrete torso substitute and the missing left leg with a very schematic beam. A fragment of the nose was recovered in 2003 and replaced in 2007.

تم اكتشاف تمثال الكوارتزيت لآمون والذي يرجع لعصر توت عنخ آمون (الذي وضع حور محب اسمه عليه بعد ذلك) مهشماً في مكانه الحالي في عام ١٨٩٧ بواسطة Legrain. وربما تم إحضاره إلى موقعه الحالي في العصور القديمة (بواسطة آمون مس / سيتي الثاني) من الآخ منو حيث كانت موجوداً في الأصل (جنباً إلى جنب مع تمثال شريكته آمونت والذي أمر بنحته الملك آي).

في عام تمكن Legrain من تجميع الأجزاء المتناثرة من الرأس والصدر، والمئزر والساقين، وعلى الرغم من أن العديد من الأجزاء لا تزال مفقودة. فقام بعمل جذع خرساني مقوى بالفولاذ وأستبدل الساق اليسرى المفقودة بوحدة لم تتناسب مع الشكل العام. تم العثور على جزء من الأنف في عام ٢٠٠٣ وتم لصقه في موضعه في عام ٢٠٠٧.

Luc GABOLDE (CFEETK, UAR 3172-CNRS)

In 2019, the SCA-MoTA has charged the CFEETK to schedule and realize the long expected **new restoration of the statue**. With the support of the **Kheops Funds for Archaeology** and the **Gandur Foundation for Art**, the operation was soon implemented and conducted over few years with an **innovative approach**.

First, a close examination of the profile of the statue and of the text had shown that the length of the lacuna had been **overestimated of around 28 cm** when compared to the proportions of similar contemporaneous statues of the god.

Thus, the restoration of the statue consisted in a **replica of the bust and of the left leg**, adjusted on the proportions of the statue Cairo JE 38049, and hewn out an **indurated sandstone very close to the original stone**.



2a. Text of the back pillar showing the too long gap (≈ 28 cm) between the two preserved parts of the text

2b. The state of the statue before restoration with its elongated right leg and schematic left prosthesis

2c. Cairo JE 38049 from the cachette of Karnak used as model for proportions

2d. The statue after restoration

1. Detail of the head and torso of Amun after restoration.

3. Fragment of the nose recovered in 2003.



The background of the statue has also been embellished and highlighted by **replacing the recovered fragments of the Annals of Thutmose III** which had been drawn in situ by Lepsius but had collapsed between 1864 and 1867. The right part of the granite lintel, reused as millstone, was recovered in modern times in the village of Dendara and brought back to its original position. The northern side of this wall, with **scenes of Taharqa** and an **inscription of Osorkon I**, was on this occasion opportunely reassembled.

Finally, the **statue of Goddess Amunet**, consort of Amun, realized by king Aÿ was also restored and strengthened (5).

4. View of the statues and the area from G. Legrain fund (between 1897 and 1912).

7. The statues and the Annals Wall after restoration



5. Statue of Amunet before restoration.

6. Statue of Amunet after restoration.



Project with the support of :



King Tut's activity at Karnak

After the Amarnian theologic "revolution", the king (**Merytaten and then Tutankhamun**), the court and the administration abandoned Tell el-Amarna and **moved back to Thebes and Memphis**. The monotheistic cult of Aton was also discarded and the country **returned the traditional cults**, and, at Karnak specifically, to that of **Amun-Ra**.

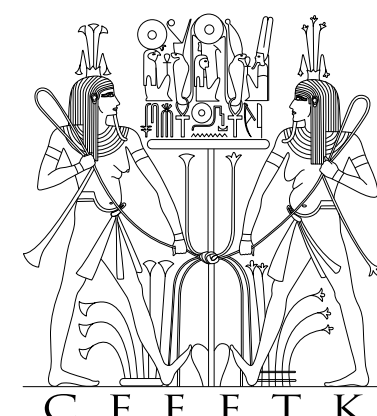
The iconoclasy of Akhenaten had caused tremendous damages in the partly abandoned temple of Amun and a **huge programme of restoration was undertaken by Tutankhamun**. The two statues of Amun and Amunet belonged most probably to this renovation project.

A great dedicatory stele, found in the great hypostyle hall (KIU 3450) and now in the Cairo Museum (CGC CG 34183), usurped by Haremhab, has recorded **the deeds of the king in order to restore what had been damaged**. The king also **enhanced his cultic involvement** in the flood arrival and in the flourishing harvests by dedicating a great representation of the **goddess Renenutet and the god Hâpy** in front of the sacred lake, with scenes involving **Amun, Mut and Khonsu**, and a **niche for a statue apparently dedicated to Amun with Amunet** recently reconstructed by the CFEETK (G. Dembitz) (8).

Other monuments of the king extremely fragmentary : **fragments of cornices** and from gates where the **mentor of the boy-king, the divine father Aÿ**, was almost always accompanying him ; a sphinx of indurated limestone in the first court of the temple. The last monument mentioning the king at Karnak is posthumous : a **memorial temple erected by king Aÿ** in order to honours the memory of his predecessor which study by Marc Gabolde at the CFEETK is almost finished.



Theban
Archaeology
Meeting
2022



Credits :

1-2, 6-8 : © CFEETK/E. Saubestre
3 : © CFEETK/E. Lanoë
4 : © CFEETK/Fond Legrain n°25841
5 : © Luc Gabolde