

Portfolio 1. Object Analysis

HPAR 4006

Dr. Louise Steel

The Reinscribed Statuette Of Harsiese

Christopher Rea



1. The Metropolitan Museum (1968)

68.101

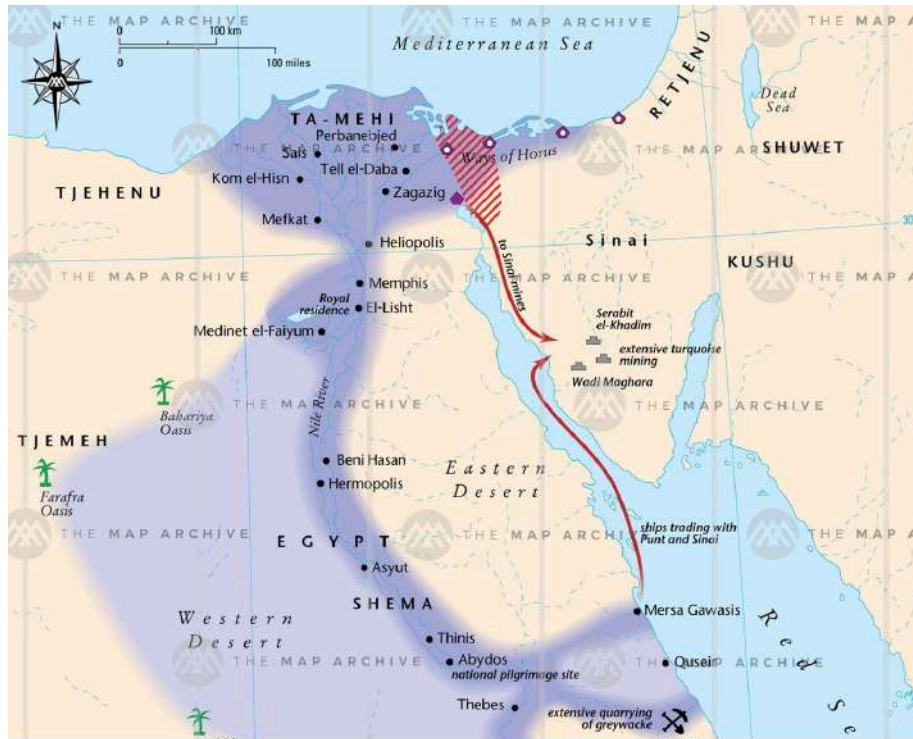


Figure 2 cadastral Nilotic nomes and mines of Dynastic Egypt during the Middle Kingdom period identifying EL Lisht - Memphis - Ta Mehi (Delta), Sinai north (Wadi Baba - Serabit plateau), Sinai South (Maghara turquoise galleries) & the relevant Silurian greywacke mines of the historic Wadi Hamama - Gebel Dara environs

(The Map Archive 2020), Stormeyer 2010 ed.by La Porta, Burke & Field)

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This incomplete statuette fragment commemorates an assumed intermediary, alleged to be the Memphite official Harsiese, bound to the Royal elites and is assigned (1968) to Bronze Age Egypt, Middle Kingdom - Third Intermediate Period (1981 - 1550 BC).



The Met. Find 68.101 - composition:
Aswan schist (Greywacke) - Theban
stone quarry environs

($\text{NaAlSi}_3\text{O}_8$ to $\text{CaAl}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_8$)

Accession: 68.101

Grid. reciprocals:

32 deg. 51'0"E Long.

24 deg. 2'0"N. Lat.

Detail: Plagioclase Feldspar /
greywacke

Ordovician/Silurian Metamorphic rock

Dimensions:

H. 15.7 (6 3/16 in.); W. 4.8 (1
7/8 in.) D. 4.5 cm (1 3/4 in.)

The front aspect hieroglyphs in descending order:

Qual chick - 'w' epithet construct & the motif type assumed: Lotus (the sciences, for example
interplanetary / exo-solar accretion (sunlight/starlight)

Naos motif type - appeal to the primary deity's 'Ka' therein retained

Flat-bread - j(t)j: ideogram for barley or grain

Horned viper - f(jtj): grain father

Geb - wfw: basement deity

Eye - 'jrt': determinative

Seat - 'jsrt': Osiris or 'Zi'

Front: The lunmuteḥ-priest Harsiese, true of voice
Back: The Sem-Priest, greatest of the directors of craftsmen (high
priest of Memphis), the Great official, Harsiese true [of voice]

The contrasting Met. transliteration reads as follows:

jwn-mw.t=f Hr.w-zA-As.t mAa-xr[w]
sm wr-xrp-Hmw.t sr aA

The statuette has been re-inscribed, and as there are four or five known Harsieses identified from the historic resources, interestingly all are assigned in the antiquities finds catalogues to the Egyptian Late Period.

By contrasting the statuettes against other significant philanthropy, such as the Brooklyn Museum Standard Oil bequest (c.1917 indicative of The Balfour Declaration) - the defacing / inclusion of particular hieroglyphs, chiselled onto or removed from this particular statuette is contemporaneous with concurrent events, critically the historic Tanis - Thebes succession that arguably contemporises the continuing Arab-Israeli conflict.

This critical factor for further consideration is assumed to be clearly represented by the conspicuous Bubastis Year 9 Stela (After: Shaw 2000) and can be correlated against the statuette hieroglyphs through looking closer in at the significant Bubastite Portal, as is well known at Karnak and is located in the Precinct of Amun, making sense of the biblical narrative of Shoshenq I (943-922 BC) as propositioned by this particular statuette (2 Chron.12:9, 1 Kings 12:24) Hogarth (1920)

Clearly, the observations of Burckhardt at Jarablus - Aleppo (1812) are generally applied to the post-Akkadian (Hurrian Khabur: Urkesh - Nawar) characteristics reminiscent of the Libyan type crania that raises further questions to ask of the accession register lists, such as the Canaanite and Meshwesh / Libyan character of find 68.101 (After: Dodson 2010), Doughty (1888)

As noted by Porter & Moss (see: Smith (1942) and Bostico (1954) by Porter & Moss:1974 73,100), the historic Harvard - Boston Museum expedition to Giza by Reisner (1910-14, 1928) is conspicuous of the wider dynamics of the cohesive Lascelles bequest to the Met., further illuminating find 68.101.

As this particular Old Kingdom (Fourth Dynasty) scribe type statuette is first observed by Mariette (1860) at Giza and Abu Rawash (North West Giza complex - Pyramid of Menkaure and the destroyed Pyramid of Djedefre), the characterisation appropriates the pioneering commentary by Chassinat (1900-01, 1921-2) whom notes that specific details of style are made further clear by the sonorous Steindorf excavations (Leipzig-Pelizaus (1903-7), discovered at the now urbanised Memphite cemetery (West) located in the vicinity of the former Old Kingdom harbour site adjacent to the Moqattam Hills in the significant Maadi formation.

The New England statuettes therefore connect the late period sequence to the reuse of architectural finds (door jambs and lintels) directly to the shared cultural milieu of Near East religious proclamations (Childe 21(1):1950).

This significant factor is elsewhere contrasted against the historic Eliba'l (Jbeil/Babylos) Egyptian Late Period 'Uruk type' hieroglyphic inscriptions, as shown by the statuette front aspect. Thus, this stylistic detail is usefully contrasted against the well known National Museum of Beirut statuette caché from Baalat Gebel, rediscovered and excavated by the pioneering functionalist Maurice Dunand (1924-1973).

As there are another thirteen hundred known statuette type finds from this particular cultural appropriation, the social complexity it presents is most evident at the monumental Temple of Obelisks (UNESCO 295), Beirut. This raises new due diligence questions of the assumed Babylos caché purchase at Geneva in 1968 as cited by The Met. (2006) relating to the former possession and sale of statuette 68.101 by the Cretan antiquarian dealers Manolis Segredakis (d.1949) and Nicolas Koutoulakis (1910-96) of 'Segredakis', Paris. (see: Gill ed. by Charney 22:2019)

Clearly, The War of Attrition (1967-1970) continues to affect the curatorial discourse in subordinate/dominate resources, opposing the creative space assigned to the Old Kingdom finds (see: Aanavi, Muscarella and Aavani in Aanavi et al 27(3):1968). Statesmanship and repatriation have merged here (Gill 2019) - alluding to the bust of Osorkon I (922-887 BC) rediscovered at Babylos by Dunand for the Brooklyn Museum (After: James, T.G.H. 1982)

By looking closer in at the aggregate fabric surface - the one clear determinate is of course geological succession (see: map1) therefore the capacity to investigate further by disambiguous methods is of value, for example the historic 'black statuette' of Tjaenwaset (1935: 35.91) is also considered to be the son of Harsiese.

Thus, the Egyptian Late Period (Twenty Second Dynasty) re-cut hieroglyphic inscriptions alludes to the historic Shishak biblical narrative and it's contrasting monotheistic Priests of Amun schema, as can be attested by the LP (Late Period) ceremonial situla of Harsiese (The Met. (1936) DP 243473/545872), Childe (21(1):1950)

Egyptian trade with Babylos at this time marks the beginning of a gradual transition to the use of iron. As the hieratic script is also further developed by the Canaanites, most likely at Kom Ombo toward the end of the Late Bronze Age, a new question to ask of the statuette, as frequently identified on ostraca, weapon points and ceramics from Dynasty 22, is exactly how does the famous Brooklyn Museum Osorkon statuette (c.1876: find 57.92) that is preserved within the Rubin Gallery, contrast against the conspicuous Kautoulakis statuette (68.101). Most likely the Fanaollah Sobhani (World Antiquities Ltd.) sales (see: Djoser Precinct block (Lascelles 1967: 67.50) - Saite Sarcophagus (Dynasty 26) find 68.23 are of relevance to the empathy strategies employed. Naunton (in-press)

What does The Met find 68.101 represent as a learning resource?

The second millennium B.C. can be conveniently divided into two periods. During the Middle Bronze Age, Amorite tribes from Syria settle across the region.

- Many large sites are refortified employing massive stone blocks. Akkadian cuneiform inscribed on clay tablets is widely used
- City-states (Ebla - Aleppo) dominate the Syria - Susiana, linking the northern and south east Zagros mountains to Mesopotamia and the Mediterranean coast. As is identified by the statuette appearance, Byblos is of relevance again

During the latter half of the second millennium B.C., the Late Bronze Age sees Egypt at Megiddo and Hazor in contested Palestine-Israel. Further north, the powerful and destructive Mitanni empire dominates Syria. The Hittites expand into the region from Anatolia and the coastal city of Ras Shamra (1929) - known as Ugarit, as identified through other macro region comparisons.

Arguably there is renewed emphasis on the creative space that is caused into effect by curation standards, continuing the legacy of Semitic philanthropy that is supported by the expansive Standard Oil (BP - Exxon-Mobil - Chevron - Apache) prospect's in the central Western Desert, North Alexandria and elsewhere in the Levant. (After: Valletta 1992 in COP 24 2018

Word count: 1,526

Appendices 1. Timeline (After: The Met. 2008)

- **ca. 2000-1800 B.C.**
Nomadic populations, probably Amorites, settle throughout the northern region, where the pottery indicates contacts with Anatolia. Egyptian records tell of military campaigns to Canaan in the south. Caravans of Canaanites go to Egypt for trade.
- **ca. 1800-1600 B.C.**
The urban revolution is most visible, and occurs throughout the Levant. Major kingdoms such as Yamhad in Syria come to dominate the north, whereas important city-states like Hazor are established in the south. Similar stone statues of seated rulers are found at both Hazor and Ebla.
- Burials include bone-inlaid wooden boxes decorated with Egyptian motifs. Faience vessels are made of sand molded over a core. Syrian cylinder seals, found throughout the region, are of outstanding beauty and craftsmanship, often incorporating Egyptian glyph types.

One of the most common representations on these seals is of a royal figure in a fringed garment, standing before a god wearing a horned headdress

- **1600-1200 - 1000 B.C.**
- Dynamic interaction throughout the Near East and the eastern Mediterranean by Egypt causes diffuse transmission of artistic motifs and styles derived from the Levant, Egypt, and the Aegean
- Significant transmission of portable trade items such as ivory and bronze and their signifying trading bonds and commentaries as known through the sites and finds observed by Doughty (1888), Hogarth and Pirie-Gordon (1920)
- Semitic languages, hieratic and Hittite cuneiform script dominate the finds record
- Cities such as Babylus and Tyre (UNESCO 299) are emporia for trade with Cyprus, Crete, and Mycenaean Greece

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