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A Fragmentary Faience Statuette in the Oriental Museum

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THIS STUDY is dedicated to the publication of the bottom half a fragmentary kneeling statuette kept in the stores of the Oriental Museum, Durham University (DUROM. 1971.16).¹ This faience statuette, like the majority of the Egyptian collection at the Oriental Museum, Durham University comes from one of two sources: either the Northumberland collection or the Wellcome collection.²

Provenance of the object is not recorded³ but it could be assumed that it comes from Thebes judging from the inscriptions. Despite the modest appearance of this faience fragment, it belongs to an extremely dignified high official from the late Ramesside Period (end of 19th dynasty, beginning of 20th dynasty).⁴ His name is *Jmn-ms*, son of *P3-wj3*, he lived at Thebes and is already known from other monuments (*infra*).

General Description


The statuette is carved in blue faience.⁵ It represents a kneeling male figure with a maximum preserved height of 19 cm, 8 cm wide and 14 cm deep. The lower part of the abdomen is

¹ Thanks are due to the Trustees of the Oriental Museum, Durham University for granting the author permission to publish this fragmentary statuette and providing professional photography, especially Helen Armstrong. I am grateful to Dr. Penny Wilson, Lecturer of Egyptology, Durham University, for her continued help and support.

² Durham University acquired the Egyptian collection of the fourth Duke of Northumberland in 1947. It was one of the premier private collections of the 19th century, including more than 2,500 objects. The Oriental museum also acquired around 4000 Egyptian artifacts from the vast collection compiled by Henry Wellcome, a founding partner of the well-known drug company, after his death in 1936 when his Trustees distributed the collection among museums and libraries across the UK; see <http://www.dur.ac.uk/oriental.museum/collections/egypt/>.

³ Records of the museum suggest the find spot as possibly Thebes, although there are little grounds for this other than the inscriptions.

⁴ According to the records of the Oriental Museum, Durham University, the statuette is dated to the 21st dynasty based on the use of dark blue faience in its manufacture.

⁵ Faience was mainly used by the ancient Egyptians for its hidden symbolism, since it was believed to denote the color of the sky and light itself, this is shown from its ancient Egyptian name  *shn.t* (Wb V, 390, 11-391, 15) which derives from the stem *shn* meaning “to sparkle”, “to be dazzling.” They connected faience with the resurrection of the sun from the Netherworld and the bright light that ensued, which was essential for the well-being of a deceased person in the afterlife. The bright green color usually associated with this substance, although faience was manufactured in many other colors as well, was connected with the rejuvenation of nature and had a clear Osirian association. For more details about faience, its manufacture and religious significance in ancient Egypt, see: A. LUCAS, *Ancient Egyptian Materials and Industries*, London, 1962, p. 155-178; A. KACZMARCZYK, R.E.M. HEDGES, *Ancient Egyptian Faience*, Warminster, 1983; S. AUFRÈRE, *L'univers*

preserved which shows a flat muscular waist with bilateral narrow depressions and a prominent belly-button. As a matter of fact, a more accurate description of what remains of the torso could be tension more than muscularity. The two sides are heavily eroded especially the right side. The figure wears a long pleated kilt in two layers, as could clearly be observed from the left side. The upper layer is wide with a pronounced ridge and a line of inscriptions running along the centre. Underneath, one could see another layer of narrow pleated garment reaching the calf of the leg.⁶ There is no indication of a belt. The feet appear highly arched with splayed toes. They appear bone-less and without any joints. The toe-nails are not clearly marked. A sandal with a thick, high strap is displayed. The statuette is supported by a back pillar – inscribed with a single column of hieroglyphics – and rests on a base, which once carried a line of hieroglyphic inscriptions probably running horizontally on all sides. The statuette could have held an object e.g. stela, naos or a vase.⁷

Hieroglyphic Inscriptions

The lines of hieroglyphic inscriptions that cover the front, sides and back pillar of the statuette are executed in black color. They can be read as follows:

- Column of inscriptions on the kilt [fig. 4-5]:



Wsjr sš-nsw (a) jmy-r(ꜥ) pr-ḥd (b) [...].

The Osiris, The royal Scribe, Overseer of the Treasury [...].

- Inscriptions written on the left side of the base [fig. 1]:

[...]   [...]

[...] *jmy-r(ꜥ) pr-ḥd n(y) Jmn [...].*

[...] Overseer of the Treasury of Amen [...].

- Column of inscriptions on the back pillar [fig. 2-3]:



[...] *nb tꜥ.wy (c) jmy-r(ꜥ) pr-ḥd n(y) Jmn Jmn-ms (d) n(y) Wꜥs.t sꜥ Pꜥ-wjꜥ (e).*

[...] lord of the Two Lands, Overseer of the Treasury of Amen, Amenmes of Thebes, son of Pawia.

minéral dans la pensée égyptienne II, BiEtud 105, Cairo, 1991, p. 521-537; P. NICHOLSON, *Egyptian Faience and Glass*, Buckinghamshire, 1993; Fl. FRIEDMAN, *Gifts of the Nile. Faience from Ancient Egypt*, London, 1998.

⁶ Most probably the seated figure wore a short-sleeved pleated bag-tunic with a sash kilt which was in fashion during the New Kingdom, especially the Ramesside era. Cf. G. VOGELSANG-EASTWOOD, *Pharaonic Egyptian Clothing*, Leiden, 1993, p. 64-68, especially fig. 4 (19).

⁷ This attitude could be compared to other kneeling Ramesside statues e.g. Statue of *Pꜥ-Nḥsy* holding a naos with a figure of Horus, 19th dynasty, cf. HTBM X, p. 22, N° 1377, pl. 50; Statue of *Mry-Pth* holding a plaque on which is incised the prenomen of Ramesses II, 19th dynasty, Cf. HTBM 10, p. 26, no. 2291, pl. 62; statue of Yuny holding a shrine containing a statuette of Osiris, 20th dynasty, kept at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, no. 33.2.1, cf. <http://www.metmuseum.org/Collections/search-the-collections/100001090> (accessed on Dec. 2011).

– Inscriptions written on the left side of the base from the back [fig. 2-3]:

[...] 

[... *Jmn-ms*] *n(y) W3s.t.*

[... Amenmes] of Thebes.

(a) This title is abbreviated from *sš-nsw š'(.wt) n(y.t) nb t3.wy*, “the Royal Scribe of the Dispatches of the lord of Two Lands”, see P. Grandet, “Une stèle d’Amenmosé, fils de Paouia”, in C. Berger el-Naggar, B. Mathieu (eds.), *Études sur l’Ancien Empire et la nécropole de Saqqâra dédiées à Jean-Philippe Lauer I, OrMonsp 9*, Montpellier, 1997, p. 213.

(b) The office of *jmy-r(3) pr-hd* is recorded since the 1st Dynasty and had been in use throughout the Pharaonic era, see D. Jones, *An Index of Ancient Egyptian Titles, Epithets and Phrases of the Old Kingdom I*, BAR 866, Oxford, 2000, p. 123, n° 489. For detailed information about the use of the title till the end of the Middle Kingdom, see S. Desplancques, *L’institution du Trésor en Égypte. Des origines à la fin du Moyen Empire*, Paris, 2006. For a full list of references for its use during the New Kingdom, see A.R. Al-Ayedi, *Index of Egyptian Administrative, Religious and Military Titles of the New Kingdom*, Ismailia, 2006, p. 56-58 (194). For references of its use in the 3rd Intermediate Period, see R.K. Ritner, *The Libyan Anarchy. Inscriptions from Egypt’s 3rd Intermediate Period*, Leiden, 2009, p. 144.

(c) This is what is preserved of the title *sš-nsw š'(.wt) n(y.t) nb t3.wy* (*supra*, n. a).

(d) *PN I*, p. 29 (8). *Jmn-ms* is one of the most common Theban private names in the New Kingdom, see: H. De Meulenaere, “Notes de prosopographie thébaine. Quatrième série”, *CdE* 64/127-128, 1989, p. 55. Amenmes son of Pawia was known from six other monuments gathered by P. Grandet, *op. cit.*, p. 213-219. These monuments are:

– Three statues conserved at the Egyptian Museum:

* Cairo (CG 1221); it is a Grey granite seated statue in scribal attitude. Cf. Marquees of Northampton, W. Spiegelberg, P. Newberry, *Report on Some Excavations in the Theban Necropolis During the Winter of 1898-9*, London, 1908, p. 7-8; L. Borchardt, *Statuen und Statuetten von Königen und Privatleuten IV*, CGC, Berlin, 1934, p. 116-117, pl. CLXXX; H. De Meulenaere, “Notes de prosopographie thébaine. Quatrième série”, *CdE* 64/127-128, 1989, p. 55-58; *PM II*, p. 423; texts in *KRI V*, 416, 13-417, 9.

* JE 87194; grey granite seated statue in scribal attitude. Cf. A. Hamada, “Statue of the Fan-Bearer *Jmn-ms*”, *ASAE* 47, 1947, p. 15-21, pl. III-V; A.H. Gardiner, “The Founding of a New Delta Town in the Twentieth Dynasty”, *JEA* 34, 1948, p. 19-22; H. De Meulenaere, *CdE* 64/127-128, 1989, p. 55-58; texts in *KRI V*, p. 415, 9-416, 11.

* JE 42177; green feldspar block statue holding a ram-headed standard. Cf. G. Legrain, *Statues et statuettes de rois et de particuliers II*, CGC, Cairo, 1909, p. 42-43, pl. XLI; J. Vandier, *Manuel d’archéologie égyptienne III*, Paris, 1958, pl. CLXXIV, 5; H. De Meulenaere, *CdE* 64/127-128, 1989, p. 55-58; R. Schulz, *Die Entwicklung und Bedeutung des kuboiden Statuentypus. Eine Untersuchung zu den sogenannten “Würfelhocken” I*, *HÄB* 33-34, Hildesheim, 1992, p. 271; II, p. 587, p. 616, pl. 65b (no. 149); *PM II* (2nd edition), p. 147; M. Azim, G. Réveillac, *Karnak dans l’objectif de Georges Legrain I*, Paris, 2004, p. 321; II, p. 263 (the statue is referred to as K 305), Karnak Cachette Database CK 272:

<http://www.ifao.egnet.net/bases/cachette/?id=272> (accessed on Dec. 2011).

– A Kneeling stelophorous statue holding a naos of goddess Hathor. Cf. A. Fabretti, R.V. Lanzone, Fr. Rossi, *Regio Museo di Torino I*, Turin, 1882, p. 412-413. It is kept at the Turin Museum (no. 3029).

– An Ushabti kept at the British Museum (BM EA 53892). It is a dark blue faience elaborately- made shabti figurine in two wooden coffins with lids. Cf. British Museum, *A Guide to the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Egyptian Rooms*, London, 1922, p. 143-144 (42); PM I/2, p. 771; F.D. Freidman (ed.), *Gifts of the Nile. Ancient Egyptian Faience*, London, 1998, p. 240; W. Budge, *The Mummy. A Handbook of Egyptian Funerary Archaeology*, Cambridge, 2010 (first published 1893, text used in this book is copied from the revised 2nd edition 1925), p. 256-257, pl. XX (Budge dates the shabti figurine to the 18th Dynasty); On-line Catalogue of the British Museum collection, London, published with two images in color:

http://www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_objects/aes/s/shabti_coffin_and_lid_of_the_r.aspx (accessed on Dec. 2011).

– A stela from the private collection of Pascal De Deuve at Anvers, Belgium. This is the lower part of a terracotta stela covered with a layer of turquoise-blue faience, partially discolored as a result of a fire. Cf. P. Grandet, *op. cit.*, p. 213-219 (including 3 figs.). The afore-mentioned stela – although it possesses a somewhat similar appearance to the studied faience statuette – could not have been a part of the statuette due to the disproportionate dimensions. The dimensions of the stela are: 23 cm in height, 28 cm in width and 5 cm in depth.

(e) *PN I*, p. 103.20.

General Remark

This small statuette provides no additional information about a relatively recognized figure, known as *Jmn-ms* son of *P3-wj3*, apart from being an additional piece added to his collection. We simply remember that he held various offices under the reign of Ramesses III among which the most famous are: *sš-nsw š'(.wt) n(y.t) nb t3.wy*⁸, “Scribe of dispatches of the Lord of the Two Lands”, and *Jmy-r(3) pr-ḥd n(y) Jmn*, “Overseer of the Treasury of Amun”. He also held the title of *Jmy-r(3) nfrw*, “Overseer of recruits”, *Jmy-r(3) pr wr m jtrw jmnty*, “Superintendent of the ‘Great House / national shrine of Upper Egypt’ in the Western River, *Jmy-r(3) k3.t n(y) pr Jmn-R'*, “Overseer of the works of the House of Amun-Ra”, and finally the honorary title of *T3y ḥw ḥr wnmy n(y) nsw*, “Fan-bearer to the Right of the King”.

⁸ This title is abbreviated on the faience statuette to *sš nsw* (*supra*).



Fig. 1. Left Side (Courtesy of the Trustees of the Oriental Museum, Durham University, United Kingdom).



Fig. 2. Back View
(Courtesy of the Trustees of the Oriental Museum,
Durham University, United Kingdom).



Fig. 3. Back View (facsimile Mrs Yosreya
Hamed).



Fig. 4. Front view from the top (Courtesy of the Trustees of the Oriental Museum, Durham University, United Kingdom).

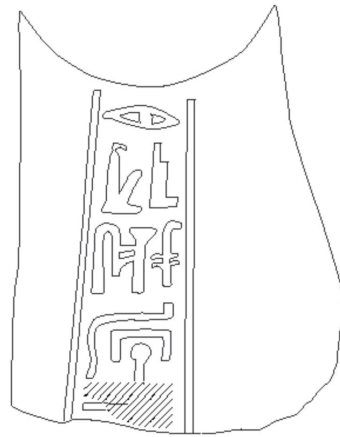


Fig. 5. Front (facsimile Mrs Yosreya Hamed).



Fig. 6. Front View.
Courtesy of the Trustees of the Oriental Museum, Durham University, United Kingdom.

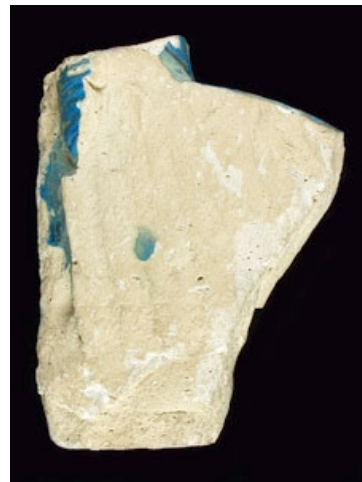


Fig. 7. Right Side.

Résumé :

Publication d'une statuette fragmentaire d'Amenmes, fils de Paouia (fin de la XIX^e dynastie et début de la XX^e), conservée à l'Oriental Museum, Université de Durham. Cet objet complète le dossier de ce personnage déjà bien connu.

Abstract :

Publication of a fragmentary statuette of Amenmes, son of Ouia (end of the XIXth dynasty and beginning of the XXth), kept in the Oriental Museum, University of Durham. Amenmes is already known by the other documents.

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