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A Door Lintel with Cartouches at the Egyptian Museum(JE.59895)

Dr. Bassem Mohamed Sayed Ahmed *

Abstract:

This paper deals with a New Kingdom limestone door lintel from Medinet Habu, which is currently housed in the Cairo Museum. It bears three royal names of three kings of the New Kingdom; Amenophis I, Thutmose IV and Ramses II, who were worshiped as local deities at Deir El-Medina because of their roles in establishing and developing the Valley of the Kings and the society of artists and workers at Deir El-Medina. There is no owner's name on this door lintel, but from the royal names we can assume that it was made after the reign of Ramses II. By referring to the title of Hathor, which appears on this door lintel and was also found on the statue of Amom-Mes from the 20th Dynasty, the location of the name of King Ramses II from 19th Dynasty between the names of two of 18th Dynasty kings indicates the distinctive status of Ramses II, which was either made during his reign or in the era of his predecessors of the 20th Dynasty. Thus, it is likely that this door lintel dates back to the 20th Dynasty.

Key words:

Lintel - Door - Amenhotep I - Thutmose IV - Ramses II - Medinet Habu – Deir el- Medina – The New Kingdom – The 20th Dynasty

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1- Description:

This limestone door lintel came from Medinet Habu and is currently housed in the Cairo Museum⁽¹⁾. The dimensions of this door lintel are 60cm × 21cm. It was probably reused in later periods, as evidenced by the reliefs that were found in the same area at Medinet Habu.⁽²⁾ It is broken in its upper right side. The upper part is shaped in the form of the Egyptian cornice. A winged sun disk could be seen in the center with two cobras. The word *bḥdt* is written on both sides referring to Horus Behdite.

Under the cornice, written from left to right, is the formula of *<hṯp> di nsw*, followed by the phrase *mry-Imn-R^c nb nswt-t3wy*⁽³⁾ and the names of the kings Amenophis I, Ramses II and Tuthmosis IV, while on the right there is the title *mry-ḥwt-ḥr ḥmt(m)W3st*⁽⁴⁾. The lower part of the lintel is divided into three sections and there is a guideline at the end of each section, which can be clearly seen on both sides of the lower part. Both the hieroglyphs and the inscription are rendered in sunken relief.

This limestone door lintel most likely dates back to 20th Dynasty and it is clear that there were attempts to erase some of its inscriptions, perhaps during the Greco-Roman period, when it had been reused. This is evidenced by the architectural remnants found with it in the same location.⁽⁵⁾

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⁽¹⁾ PM. 12 ,776

⁽²⁾ Ibid, 776-777.

⁽³⁾ Leitz, C.LGG,I,320

⁽⁴⁾ Ibid,V,80

⁽⁵⁾For more details, see: Holscher,U. The Excavation of Medinet Habu, The University of Chicago press,1927-1933

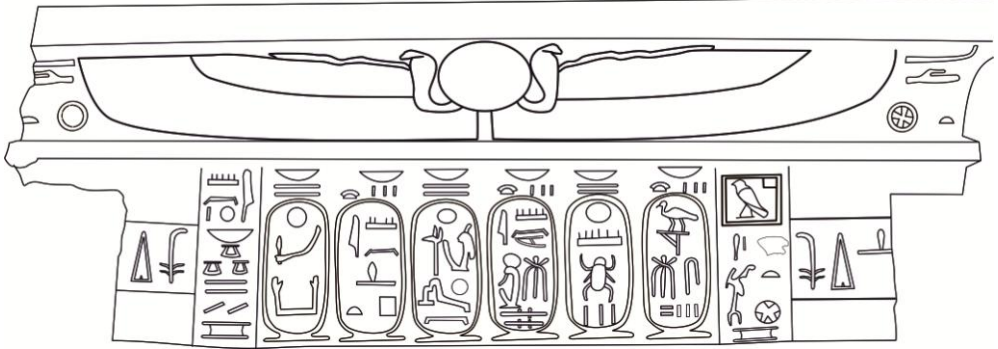
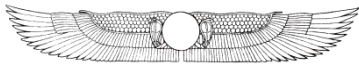
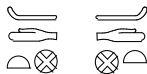


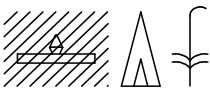
Fig.1 (line drawing for the door lintel by the researcher)

2- Text Study:





1- 
Bhdt⁽⁶⁾ Bhdt⁽⁷⁾

Horus Behdite Horus Behdite

2- 

htp di nsw

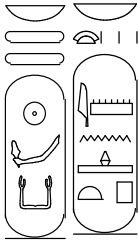
An<offering> given by the king

3- 


Mry Imn-r^c-nb nswt-t3wy

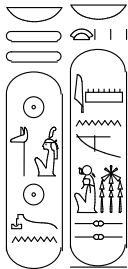
⁽⁶⁾Wb. I, 470.6-8; Otto, E. Behedeti, in: LÄ I.4, 683.
⁽⁷⁾Wb. I, 470.6-8; Otto, E. Behedeti, in: LÄ I.4, 683.

Beloved of Amon-Re, lord of the thrones of the two lands⁽⁸⁾



4-Nb-t3wy dsr k3 -r^cnb-h^cw Imn htp

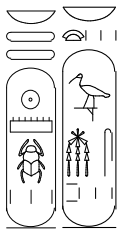
Lord of the two lands, Zeserkare⁽⁹⁾, lord of coronation Amenophis I



5-

Nb-t3wy wsr m3^ct R^c stp n R^c nb h^cw R^c mss mri Imn

Lord of the two lands, Weser Maat-Re Setep en Re, lord of coronation, Ramsses II beloved of Amon.



6-

Nb- t3wy mn hprw- R^c nb-h^cw Dhwti-msw

Lord of the two lands, Men khepro-Re, lord of coronation, Thutmosis IV.

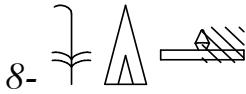
⁽⁸⁾ Wb. II, 322.10; Leitz, C. LGG I, 321.

⁽⁹⁾ Wb. III, 242.1-2 ; Leitz, C. LGG III, 712.



Mry ḥmt ḥwt-ḥr⁽¹⁰⁾ m W3st⁽¹¹⁾

Beloved of the majesty of Hathor at Thebes.



ḥtp di-nsw

Offering given by the king.

3- Comment:

^{a-} The upper part of the winged sun disk, which is at the center of the lintel, is engraved in raised relief, while the word *Bḥdt*, is written symmetrically on both sides of it in sunken relief. Both the name *bḥdt* and the formula *ḥtp di nsw* is written at both sides of the lintel symmetrically.

^{b-} The word *Bḥdt* is written in two opposite directions, which refers to the protection of the god Horus, who was represented as the winged sun disk.⁽¹²⁾

^{c-} The whole text is written in simple, detail-free writing.⁽¹³⁾

^{d-} The formula *ḥtp di nsw* on each side lacks its complement, which was likely written on the door jamb.

⁽¹⁰⁾ Wb,III,92;http://aaew.bbaw.de; Leitz, C. LGG,V,80,146.

⁽¹¹⁾ De Meulenaere, De Strooper, *CdE* 73, no.146(1998) 244-260

⁽¹²⁾ Wb,I,470;http://aaew.bbaw.de; LGG,II,814. Leitz, C. LGG,V,80,146.

⁽¹³⁾ Fischer, H.G. Hieroglyphen, in: LÄ II, 1189-1199, Loprieno,A. Ancient Egyptian, A Linguistic Introduction, Cambridge University Press, 1996, 20-22.

^eThe title of *Imn-R^c nb nswt t3wy* is one of Amon titles that appears at Karnack in the 18th Dynasty and on a block statue from the 20th Dynasty after the formula *h₁tp di nsw*.⁽¹⁴⁾

^fThe word *h₁tp* in the formula *h₁tp di nsw* was not written on the left side before the name of *Imn-R^c*, while on the right side it was written as a thin line⁽¹⁵⁾ lacking part of the glyph before the name of *hwt-hr*.

^gThe title *hmt hwt-hr (m) W3st* was a title of *hwt-hr* that appeared with the *h₁tp di nsw* formula in the 20th Dynasty, *hwt-hr m W3st* with the preposition *m*⁽¹⁶⁾. There was also a title, *hmt ntr hwt-hr*, which was widely used for the priestess of Hathor from the Old Kingdom⁽¹⁷⁾.

This title *hmt hwt-hr (m) W3st* is often used as one of the main titles of the goddess Hathor at Thebes, as it appears in the 20th Dynasty in *h₁tp di nsw* formula with the adjective *hmt*. In this case, it means ‘majesty’, especially when this title is followed by *h₁tp di nsw*.

4- Conclusion:

This limestone door lintel came from Medinet Habuatat Thebes. It bears three royal names of three kings of the New Kingdom; Amenophis I, Thutmosis IV and Ramesses II, who were worshiped as local deities at Deir El-Medina because of their roles in the founding and development of the Valley of the Kings and the society of artists and workers at Deir El-Medina⁽¹⁸⁾. There is no owner’s name on this door lintel, but from the royal names

⁽¹⁴⁾De Meulenaere, De Strooper, *op.cit.* 244-260.

⁽¹⁵⁾Smither, P.C., Writing of *h₁tp-di-nsw* in the Middle and New Kingdom, in JEA25(1939):34-37. Ilin-Tomich, A., Changes in the *h₁tp-di-nsw* Formula in the Late Middle Kingdom and the Second Intermediate Period, in: ZAS138(2011): 20-34.

⁽¹⁶⁾Ibid. 244-260; Leitz, C., LGG, V, 80

⁽¹⁷⁾Ranke, H, Die Personennamen I, Glückstadt 1935, 392.2. <http://aaww.bbaw.de>; Wb 3, 90.10. *hm.t-ntr-hwt-hr.w*,

⁽¹⁸⁾Hornung, E. A mephis I, in: LÄ, I-2, 201-203; Redford, D.B., The Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Egypt, Oxford, 2001, vol. I, 71, 403-405, vol. III, 118, Černý, J.A. Community of the Workmen at Thebes in the Ramesside Period, *IFAO, 1973*, 182ff.

we can assume that it was made after the reign of the Ramses II. By referring to the title of Hathor, which appears on this door lintel and was also found on the statue of *Imn- ms* from the 20th Dynasty⁽¹⁹⁾, the location of the name of King Ramses II from 19th Dynasty between the names of two of 18th Dynasty kings indicates the distinctive status Ramses II, which was either made during his reign or in the era of his predecessors of the 20th dynasty. Thus, it is likely that this door lintel dates back to the 20th Dynasty.

⁽¹⁹⁾Leitz, C. LGG, V, 80; De Meulenaere, DeStrooper, *CdE* 73, no.146(1998) 244-260



An Inscribed Door Lintel from Medinet Habu
(JE.59895) (Photographed by the researcher)



(JE.59895)
The left side



(JE.59895)
The right side

(Photographed by the researcher)

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- Wb,III,92;<http://aew.bbaw.de>;

عتب باب عليه خراطيش بالمتحف المصري

(JE.59895)

د. باسم محمد سيد أحمد •

ملخص:

يتناول هذا البحث نشر علمي ودراسة لعتب باب من الحجر الجيري من الدولة الحديثة من مدينة هابو، و موجود حاليا في المتحف المصري بالقاهرة و يحمل هذا العتب ثلاثة أسماء ملكية لثلاثة من ملوك الدولة الحديثة وهم أمنحتب الأول وتحوتمس الرابع ورمسيس الثاني و الذين كانوا يُعبدون كآلهة محلية في دير المدينة بسبب أدوارهم في تأسيس وتطوير منطقة وادي الملوك و مجتمع دير المدينة الخاص بالفنانين والعمال. ويشير لقب حتحور ولقب آمون رع الموجودان على هذا العتب و بمقارنته بنفس الألقاب لهذين المعبودين الموجودة على تمثال آمون مس من الأسرة العشرين وكذلك بملاحظة موقع كتابة اسم الملك رمسيس الثاني من الأسرة التاسعة عشرة ووجوده متوسطا لاسمين لملكين من الأسرة الثامنة عشرة مما يدل على المكانة المميزة لرمسيس الثاني وهو الأمر الذي كان شائعا في عهد خلفائه من ملوك الأسرة العشرين لذلك فمن المرجح أن يؤرخ هذا العتب بعصر الأسرة العشرين.

الكلمات الدالة:

عتب - باب - أمنحتب الأول - تحوتمس الرابع - رمسيس الثاني - مدينة هابو - دير المدينة - الدولة الحديثة - الأسرة العشرين

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