GM 43 (1981) 7

EGYPTIAN ANTIQUITIES IN THE BIJBELS MUSEUM, AMSTERDAM - II

Jac.van Dijk, Groningen **)

The 12 bronzes published here come from three different acquisitions. A group of 4 (originally 5) Osiris-figures was presented to Schouten's father,who was a ship-owner,by A.W.Ruyssenaers',Dutch consul at Alexandria in 1843 (Inv.Nos.43-46); seven bronzes,all in excellent state of preservation,were purchased from Rollin & Feuardent' at Paris in 1880 (Inv.Nos.35-38 and 40-42). Of these,the Osiris No.36 was once in the possession of Louis Bonaparte,brother of Napoleon and king of Holland from 1806-1810,who had got it as a present when he accompanied his brother on his famous expedition to Egypt in 1798; at his death in 1846 it was sold to Rollin & Feuardent. The bronze Khnum No.39 comes from the collection of Gustave Posno auctioned at Paris in 1883. Nothing is known about the original provenance of any of these bronzes.

Inv. No. 35 Imhotep, seated (P1.I)

Bronze, h.13,7 cm; cast hollow; throne missing.

Skull-cap; no collar; both hands hold papyrus roll; ankle-length kilt, vertically pleated; rectangular base under feet.

Inscriptions: (a) on base:



"May Imhotep give life to Djedhor son of Padiesi";

(b) on papyrus roll, very crudely incised:

"May Imhotep son of Ptah born of Khreducankh give life" to Djedhor".

Old Nos.4: Pleyte 1885: no.48; Schouten 1901: no.53; Cat.1940: no.79.

Inv. No. 36 Osiris, standing (Pl. II)

Bronze,h.35 cm,w.10 cm; probably cast hollow; traces of gold on eyes.

Atef-crown with ram's horns: beard connected with chest; broad usekh-collar; conventional cloak with sharp-angled edge around shoulders; bracelets; right hand holding nh3h3-scepter above left hand holding hk3t-scepter (\uparrow ,not \uparrow); hk3t lengthened downwards vertically and striated with groups of horizontal stripes; rectangular base under feet.

Inscription on front of base:

100年:船份流 400年:高祖代公司

"May Osiris give life to Imhotep son of Esprec". Old Nos.: Pleyte:no.40; Schouten:no.44; Cat.:no.71.

Inv.No.37 Isis seated, suckling Horus (Pl.II)

Bronze, h.24 cm; cast hollow: throne missing; horns of crown distorted; right hand of child damaged; traces of gold on eyes.

Crown consisting of sun-disc between cow's horns resting on a ring of 14 uraei; broad wig of long vertical strands bound with band at jaw level and covering ears and shoulders; vulture-cap with uraeus in front; usekh-collar and conventional long garment; feet on rectangular base:

child nude; skull-cap reminiscent of blue crown; juvenile lock on right temple; uraeus on forehead; left arm stretched out to knee with fist clenched to hold object (damaged); right arm bent with hand holding hk3t-scepter, which is striated with groups of two horizontal stripes; bracelets on both wrists.

Old Nos.: Pleyte:no.46; Schouten:no.51; Cat.:no.77; see also Gelllustreerde Handleiding (1975),p.26,fig.b.

Inv.No.38 Harpokrates (Pl.I)

Bronze, h. 12,5 cm; cast solid; side-lock and crown cast separately and both lost; the whole figure is covered with very small dimples.

Half seated, half lying posture of child on its mother's lap; nude; nms-headcloth with uraeus in front; round base for hmhmcrown; hole in right temple for attachment of side-lock; usekhcollar and heart-shaped amulet on string around neck; forefinger of right hand at mouth; left hand on thigh; flat rectangular base under feet.

Old Nos.: Pleyte:no.41; Schouten:no.52; Cat.:no.78.

Inv.No.39 Ram-headed deity, standing (Pl.I)

Bronze, h.18,7 cm; cast solid including crown; rather heavily corroded; left hand, end of right horn of crown and beard missing.

Ram's head with horns curved around ears; long lappet-wig with vertical strands: rush-atef-crown surmounted by sun-disc: urasi topped by sun-disc at both sides of feathers; urasus with sundisc between cow's horns in front; usekh-collar indiscernible; short kilt, rounded in front, with perpendicular pleats and middle piece striped horizontally; right hand at side pierced to hold $^{\rm C}$ ankh-sign; left hand bent at elbow to hold was-scepter; left foot advanced; feet on thin flat rectangular base, distorted due to applying the clay-mould before the wax-model had hardened sufficiently $^{\rm b}$.

Old.Nos.: Pleyte:no.49; Schouten:no.54; Cat.:no.80.

Inv.No.40 Cat, seated (Pl.III)

Bronze, h. 18 cm; cast hollow; hindlegs, seat and tail broken off; inner side of right foreleg damaged.

Slender, almost angular modelling; head with protruding chin giving it a rather lionlike expression; whiskers and ear-hairs ("feather-motive") indicated; ornaments engraved on chest: necklace of cowrie shells and aegis with feline head attached to cord; paws of forelegs melted together; traces of tail show that it was curved forward to right.

Old Nos.: Pleyte:no.51; Schouten:no.56; Cat.:no.82; see also Geīllustreerde Handleiding (1975),p.26,fig.a.

Inv.No.41 Falcon on coffin (Pl.IV)

Bronze, h.14,5 cm (falcon 7,3,base 1,8,coffin 5,4),1.19 cm, w.5,8 cm; modelled in three parts; coffin hollow; lid on back of coffin missing; rims of eyes decorated with gold.

Double crown without spiral; details of head, wings and legs carefully engraved; coffin for falcon's mummy surmounted by cavetto cornice.

Old Nos.: Pleyte:no.36; Schouten:no.43; Cat.:no.56.

Inv.No.42 Apis (Pl.IV)

Bronze, h. 9, 9 cm, l. of base 9, 2 cm; cast solid; base hollow; sun-disc, uraeus, horns, ears, genitals and hoofs modelled separately; surface covered with small dimples (cf. Inv. No. 38).

Standing with left legs advanced; sun-disc, convex at both sides, with uraeus in front, between horns; triangle on fore-head; folds above eyes; around neck, a band shoulders, winged scarab; on back, patterned saddle-cloth; on hips, winged vulture; base with two prongs (not shown on photograph) and framed inscription on front and right side:

在三台四号:主经司中全会只知许到程

"May Osiris-Apis give life to Irhap⁸, son of ^CAnkhunnufer born of the lady".

Old Nos.: Pleyte:no.50; Schouten:no.55; Cat.:no.81; see also

G.J.F.Kater-Sibbes & M.J.Vermaseren, Apis II.Monuments from outside Egypt (EPRO 48), Leiden 1975.82 + Pls.CCIX-CCX.

Inv.No.43 Osiris, standing (fragment)

Bronze,h.10,6,w.4 cm; estimated original height ca.15 cm; cast hollow; core of red sandy material preserved; very heavily corroded,broken at elbows and knees; lower part lost; impressions of linen in patina,especially on back.

Atef-crown without horns; right hand holding nh3h3-scepter above left hand holding hk3t-scepter; other details indiscernible.

Old Nos.: Pleyte:nos.41-45"; Schouten:nos.45-49; Cat.:nos.72-76

Inv. No.44 Osiris, standing (2 loose fragments)

Bronze,h.5,7 + 5,6 cm,w.4,9 cm; estimated original height ca. 20 cm; cast solid; badly corroded; broken at neck and above knees; lower part missing.

Atef-crown without horns (probably lost); hands crossed, right hand holding $n_1 3 n_2 3$ over left hand holding $n_1 k_2 3 t_3$; other details indiscernible.

Old Nos.: see Inv.No.43.

Inv.No.45 Osiris,standing

Bronze, h.7,1 cm, w.1,8 cm; cast solid; possibly part of a group.

Atef-crown without horns, surmounted by sundisc; face and scepters crudely modelled; back flat¹¹; prong under feet.

Old Nos.: see Inv. No. 43.

Inv. No. 46 Osiris, standing

Bronze,h.7 cm,w.1,2 cm; cast solid; similar to Inv.No.45; prong under feet.

Old Nos.: see Inv.No.43.

--- Most interesting among these bronzes is the Isis with Harpokrates (Inv.No.37); it belongs to the relatively rare type with the goddess wearing a heavy wig covering ears and shoulders 12 instead of the common tripartite lappet-wig. Other examples of this

type may be found in the collections of Cairo (2), Berlin (2),

Baltimore (3) and other museums 13. According to Roeder 14 they do not constitute a uniform group with shared characteristics which can be attributed to one particular workshop or locality and when one compares such totally different examples as the two Berlin figures one is inclined to agree with this conclusion. Nevertheless, it is perhaps not merely by chance that the only 3 examples the provenance of which is known all come from the Memphitic region 15. In recent years some new examples have come to light during Emery's excavations at North Saqqara, where they were found among some large deposits of bronze statuettes surrounding a small temple built by Nectanebo II16. An unconventional limestone statue of a squatting Isis with Harpokrates found in the vestibule entrance to the adjacent baboon galleries also shows the round wig11; moreover, the strands of the wig are here kept together by a band which is also found on the Amsterdam figure. The prototype of this hairdress is the ladies-wig of the NK and TIP, which was particularly popular from the end of Dyn.XVIII onwards it is occasionally worn by goddesses (mainly Hathor) in the period after Amarna and in the Ramesside period 19.

Another feature which distinguishes the Amsterdam Isis from many similar statuettes is the hk3t-scepter held by the child on her lap. Usually Harpokrates has both hands stretched out to his knees; in a few cases one hand grasps the wrist of his mother. Despite a long search I have not been able to find any parallel for the child with scepter among the many published bronzes of Isis with Harpokrates, but since many more are still unpublished it is hard to be sure that it is unique. However, a striking parallel for many details of our figure is found on a relief in the temple of Seti I at Abydos²⁸; here the king is depicted as Harpokrates on his mother's lap; Isis wears the Hathor-crown with sun-disc between cow's horns on a ring of uraei, and the wig discussed above, surmounted by the vulture-cap and kept together by a hairband. The king wears the skull-cap with uraeus; his left hand is stretched out to his knee and

holds the mks-symbol, while his right arm is bent with the hand holding the hk3t-scepter.

If one accepts Roeder's criteria for distinguishing bronze statuettes from workshops in Upper-, Middle- and Lower-Egypt²¹ the striation on the scepter would exclude an Upper-Egyptian provenance; in view of the fact that the documented bronzes of this type all come from the Memphitic region it is quite possible that the Amsterdam Isis comes from the same area. As a date I would tentatively suggest the 4th century BC.

Notes

- *) Sequel to GM 36 (1979),7sqq.; the photographs were again made by Mr.P.Dijkema.
 - 1 Cf. W.D.van. Wijngaarden, Van Heurnius tot Boeser (MVEOL 2), Leiden 1935.16.
 - W.R.Dawson & E.P.Uphill, Who Was Who in Egyptology, London 1972, 252.
 - ¹o.c.,236.
 - ⁴ See GM 36,10 n.1 for bibliographical references.
 - 5 Ranke, APN I 175,7; also Cairo TN 9/1/21/1 (P.Munro, Die spätäg. Totenstelen. Abb. 136).
 - ⁶ <u>G.Roeder</u>,⊼gyptische Bronzewerke,Glückstadt etc.,1937,§ 597e.
 - ¹ o.c.,§ 194f.
 - Not in Ranke, but cf. ir-hp-i3wt ÄPN I 40,4.
 - ¹ o.c.,I 63,9.
 - 10 One of the 5 bronzes mentioned under these nos. now lost.
 - ¹¹ Cf. e.g. Hildesheim 1223 and 1224 (<u>Roeder</u>, o.c., Tf. 11d-e, 12h.
 - 12 G.Roeder, Ägyptische Bronzefiguren, Berlin 1956,§ 313.
 - 18 Cairo CG 39325,39327 (<u>Daressy</u>, Statues de divinités,332-333
 + Pl.LXII); Berlin 2365A,2375 (<u>Roeder</u>,l.c. + Tf.37a-b,e);
 Baltimore 395,396,397 (<u>Steindorff</u>, Cat.of Eg.Sculpture in

the Walters Art Gallery, Baltimore 1946,108 + Pl.LXIX,LXXI); Roeder also mentiones 1 ex.in the Louvre, 3 in Vienna, 1 in Essen, 1 in Gotha and 1 in the Horn Collection (o.c., Tf.80a,c). Occasionally a comparable wig occurs with other goddesses, e.g. on two figures of Mut in Berlin (o.c., § 282) where, however, the ears are uncovered.

¹⁴o.c.,§ 3051.

¹⁵CG 39325 from Abusir,CG 39327 from Saqqara,Baltimore 397 from Mit Rahina.

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\text{W.B.Emery,} \text{Preliminary Report of the Excavations at North Saqaq\(\frac{a}{a}\) a 1966-7, JEA 53 (1967), 143 + Pl.XXIV, 5; \(\frac{id.}{id.}\), id., 1968-9, JEA 56 (1970), 6 + Pl.VI, 2; see also \(\frac{H.S.Smith}{A}\), A Visit To Ancient Egypt, Warminster 1974, 49-57 + Pl.VI, I; \(\frac{J.-Ph.Lauer}{A}\), Saggara, London 1976, Pls. 174-175.
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[&]quot;JEA 56,8 + P1.XIV,2.

¹⁸Cf. <u>H.D.Schneider</u>, Shabtis II, Leiden 1977, 165-166; on shabtis this wig does not appear until after the Amarna period.

Examples: relief of Horemheb in the Ptah temple at Karnak, \underline{PM} II 2 ,200 [18] (Hathor); tomb of Horemheb, $\underline{Hornunq}$, Das Grab des Haremhab im Tal der Könige, Tf. 7, 19 (Hathor); reliefs Florence 2468 and Louvre B.7 from the tomb of Seti I, \underline{PM} I/ii 2 , 539 [23] (Hathor); temple of Seti I at Abydos, $\underline{Calverlev}$, The Temple of Sethos I, vol. IV, Pls. 15, 16, 20 (Isis), Pl. 26 (Hathor); pillar in the Ramesseum, \underline{PM} II 2 , 435 [G(a)I] (Hathor); enclosure-wall of Ramesses II at Karnak, \underline{Helck} , Ritualszenen II, 30 figs. 42-43 (Hathor); Medinet Habu temple of Ramesses III, Med. Habu vol. VI, Pls. 364, 369 (Mut), Pls. 368, 372 (Werthekau), etc.

²⁰A.M.Calverley, The Temple of Sethos I at Abydos IV, London 1959, Pl.20; <u>F.Teichmann</u>, Der Mensch und sein Tempel – Agypten, Stuttqart 1978, 72 Abb. 25.

²¹G.Roeder, Die Arme der Osiris-Mumie, in: O.Firchow (ed.), Kgyp-tologische Studien, Berlin 1955, 248-286; see especially p.252.







