





Journal of Abydos



Faculty of Archaeology

Issue no.5 (2023), pp.33-51

Unpublished Fragmentary Stela from the Temple of Amenhotep III in Kom el-Hittan at western Thebes

Omar Abou Zaid *

Associate Professor of Egyptology, Faculty of Archaeology, Aswan University.

omarabouzaid76@gmail.com

الملخص:

يقدم هذا البحث دراسة مفصلة لأجزاء لوحة من معبد أمنحوتب الثالث بمنطقة كوم الحتان، غرب طيبة حيث عُشر عليها خلال أعمال حفائر مشروع تخفيض منسوب المياه الجوفية بالبر الغربي بالأقصر. تُركز هذه الدراسة على دراسة خطية وهجائية بالإضافة الى السياق الأثري وموقع الحفائر مع الأخذ في الاعتبار تقديم دراسة تحليلية لألقاب ونعوت صاحب هذه اللوحة. لقد بُني ووُسِعَ معبد الملك أمنحوتب الثالث مرتين طوال فترة حكمه، حيث أضيف ووُسِعَ العديد من الملحقات، خاصة وأن هناك أكثر من وزير خلال فترة حكم أمنحوتب الثالث لمصر القديمة مثل أمنحوتب بن حابو ورع—مس الذين صنعا الكثير للملك، حيث يرجح أن تعود هذه اللوحة لأحدهما أو ربما للموظف الكبير خرو—اف.

الكلمات الدالة: لوحة، أمنحوتب الثالث، خرو – إف، رع – مس، لقب، نعت.

Abstract:

This paper presents a detailed study of a unique fragmentary stela from the temple of Amenhotep III at Kom el-Hittan, west Thebes uncovered during the excavation of the West Bank Dewatering Project in Luxor. This study focuses on the paleographical and orthographical study in addition to the context and location of the excavation taking into consideration the analytical study of the new epithets and titles of the owner of the stela. The temple of Amenhotep III has been built and enlarged two times during the reign of the king himself, where many annexes were added and modified particularly there are more than Vizier during his reign to ancient Egypt such as Amenhotep son of Hapu, Ramose who did much to the king, where this stela could be belongs to one of them or probably to the high official Kheruef.

<u>Keywords:</u> Stela - Amenhotep III – Kheruef – Ramose – Title – Epithet.

*

^{*}All my gratitude to Dr. Zahi Hawass, former Minister of Antiquities, head of the West Bank Dewatering Project, for permitting me to study and present a full publication to this fragmentary stela as one of the team work (M Abdel Aziz, Afifi Rohaim, Abdel Ghaffar Wagdi, El-Tayeb Khodary, Mohammed Abdel Badea, Omar Abou Zaid), who uncovered it. In addition, a deep thank to Jane Marinoni for revising the English draft of this article.

1- Introduction:

The Mortuary temple of the king Amenhotep III in western Thebes was larger than the temple of Amun at Karnak. Only the two colossi to the side of the main entrance survived. The temple was dedicated to Amun and had doors of electrum, statues of, various stones, which reflects the high position to the individuals who promoted to be high priests in that temple, where this study presents a new list of titles and epithets for the first time and new variation of writing to other well-known titles and epithets.

The whole excavation of the Dewatering Project in the temple of Amenhotep III extended from MH19 to MH24 (MH=Manhole)¹. The many scattered artifacts uncovered during the excavation motivated the team to expand the work to the east where many double statues of Amenhotep III with various deities, in addition to a massive fragmentary statue of a baboon and a complete statue both in red granite, had been found. A huge alabaster seat (throne) of a seated colossus of Amenhotep III (ASL 74.11, measurements: 155x76x94) and many alabaster fragments pointing to a seated alabaster colossus of Amenhotep III were uncovered. The stela in question is mentioned with a short description, a photograph, and a drawing of a facsimile of the inscription by the Author in the full documentation.²

2- Description: (figs. 1-2, pls. 1a-b, 2a-c):

A fragmentary stela was found in the temple of Amenhotep III at Kom el-Hittan, west bank (see fig. 2), Luxor during the excavation of the West Bank Dewatering Project next to a huge alabaster throne of a seated statue of King Amenhotep III (pl. 2a-b) in four fragments as follows (pl. 1a):³

- 4A: ASL 73.10 and measuring 32x26x5cm, F#105.
- 4B: ASL 73.10 and measuring 28x20x7cm, F#105.
- 4C: ASL 73.10 and measuring 27x22x74cm, F#105.
- 4D: ASL 73.10 and measuring 15x8x5cm, F#105.

This stela is cut in sandstone and inscribed in sunk relief with plaster traces (see fig. 1). The owner (of which just the feet and the apron kilt are preserved) stands probably adoring the king on the right side of the stela (lost). It is currently preserved in the Qurna magazines under no. 4.

3- Inscriptions:

3.1. Horizontal text:



ا حواس، زاهي؛ وجدي، عبدالغفار؛ خضري، الطيب؛ حفائر مشروع المياه الجوفية غرب معبد أمنحوتب الثالث..حوليات المجلس الأعلى للآثار، العدد ٦ (٢٠٠٩)، ص. ١٥٠.

[·] حواس، زاهي، وجدي، عبد الغفار ؛ خضري، الطيب؛ حفائر مشروع المياه الجوفية. شكل (١٥-١٦).

⁷ حواس، زاهي، وجدي، عبد الغفار ؛ خضري، الطيب؛ حفائر مشروع المياه الجوفية. شكل (١٦-١٥).

- Transliteration:

- (2) //// ///// n s3 nb šms.f //// /////
- (3) |||| |||| |||| mw ntr sm3 ḥsw |||| ||||

- Translation:

- (2) //// of son of the lord, his follower //// ////
- (3) //// ////seed of god, unite ////

3.2. Vertical text:



- Transliteration:

- (1) //// //// hr-h3t.k m [iri]
- (2) //// //// [twt] m- nmt^{-1} /// st-m3^c t^{-2} m^{-3}
- (3) ph.n.k im [iw] wr ir.tw n.k w3t m^1 hpyt 2

¹ Wb II, 264.

² The writing in question dated to the New Kingdom, see; Wb II, 19

³ Wb II, 19

- (4) //// 6 df3w m b3h.s $^{c}h^{c}$ (n) $^{c}nh.k^{3}$
- (5) [wr]- $wr(w)^4 [n] smr(w) tw(w)t im/m [is irk]^5 hm ntr ///// hr h3t.k rmt$
- (6) hr [h3t].k ssp tw(w) ntrw nbw pr-dw3t sm3.k m hsy[.<math>k]
- (7) m iwi.w im iw wr m 'wy nsw ds.f n mry ////
- (8) smr(w) w^cty nw m nb.sn nḥḥw iwi [m] ḥtp m
- (9) hr(t)- $ntr 3hw n.nb t3wy iry(w). n.f m3<math>^{\circ}t$ m33 Hr [r-m33 Hr] ir.n.f n.j iri.f
- (10)//////// 'wy wr sdr n hsy r phwy Imntt $([wdt].n.f)^6$
- (11) //// /// [wr] n.f st m3°ty ddi.f sw r i3bt hb(3)
- (12) //// [iki] 3h n nsw ir hr w3d.f 'h'w.f ⁷ km ⁸ nfr
- (13) ir hsy n ntr nfr sm n nsw nb t3wy wr m33(w) n hm.f
- (14) $Hr m st w^{c}t (w^{c}cw^{9}) hm ntr tpi n (lllll lllll)$

- Translation:

- (1) //// that before you in [the shape of ///]
- (2) ///// [twt] on the Slaughterhouse i// in the place of the Truth 10 [in/as]
- (3) You reached there, the great has been made you in the area/place of the Festival hall [of the temple]
- (4) //// 6 offerings in front of it, [to] your life.
- (5) Greatest of the great companions¹¹, [who] are equal there. The priest goes also before you and the people
- (6) [before you to take over the figures of all gods in the morning house and you put them together as your wish 12
- (7) as their coming there, the great as the arms of the king by himself of the beloved /////
- (8) This sole companion as their lord forever, coming in peace in

¹ In HWB 171 "go away in the area"

² "Festival hall (in the temple)", see Wb III, 60.

³ "Your lifetime", see HWB 145. 'h'w n 'nh

⁴The writing of this title with the plural sign could be a new variant. See, Wb I, 326. HWB 201-202.

⁵ HWB 100.

⁶ Wb I, 395; HWB 229-230.

⁷ GEG 558.

⁸ GEG 597.

⁹ Wb III, 124.

¹⁰ HWB 316.

 $^{^{11}}$ Taylor, J. A., An Index of Male Non-royal Egyptian Titles, Epithets and Phrases of the 18^{th} Dynasty. London, 2001, 100[911].

¹² HWB 558.

- (9) In the Necropolis, beneficial for the lord of the two lands, he made truth to see Horus, he made to me his act [what he does]
- (10) ///// two arms of the Chief to rest in praise at the end of the west, [as] (what he commands)¹
- (11) [great] //// to him, the place of (righteous/the two truths), he gives him to the east, to dig
- (12) //// [iķi] beneficial for the king, made under his flourish, lifetime, and complete beauty
- (13) //// the [praised one of the good god]², "Sem" priest of the king, lord of two lands, greatest of seers of his majesty.
- (14) Horus is in the only [private] place, the high priest of (///// /////)

4- Paleographical and Orthographical Comments:

4.1 Col. (1):

- hr: The preposition "hr" is inscribed with the sign (Wll \square , "nst" seat)³ instead instead of the correct sign (T23 \square , "hr" under)⁴ as in Col. 6 and Col. 12.
- m[iri]: This could be same as "m iri n [in the form of] / m iri m [in the form as] / m iri f [in his form]".⁵

4.2 <u>Col. (2):</u>

- m: This preposition is written using the sign "—" instead of "" in the whole text this being a distinctive feature of this preposition in the late period.
- *m3^ct*: The writing of this word in the whole text dates back to the New Kingdom⁶, which confirms that this stela belongs to the time of the temple itself. Furthermore, the word "*m3^ct*" is followed by "*m*" (the preposition "in") instead of the complete form "*iw m3^ct m*", which means "it is true". ⁷

4.3 Col. (3):

wr⁸: This could alternatively be read either "T3w" or "sr". ⁹ Both words have same determinative (A20 \int_{0}^{∞})¹⁰ and meaning (high official, the noble, the great) and in all cases were used as an epithet of a person. The same phrase is repeated in Col. 7 (Tw wr).

¹ Wb I, 395; HWB 229-230

² Taylor, Index, 176 [1722]

³ GEG 529.

⁴ GEG 529.

⁵ Wb I. 113-114.

⁶ Wb II, 19.

⁷ Wb II, 19.

⁸ LÄGG II, 420.

⁹ Wb I, 29; Faulkner, R. O., A Concise Dictionary of Middle Egyptian. Griffith Institute, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, 1991. p. 8.

¹⁰ Wb I, 29, 326-9; Wb IV, 188;

• <u>w3t m hpyt:</u>

- o This could be translated also "w3t [m hb]1". This writing could be a new sign in addition to the well-known ones describing temples, heaven, earth, persons, country and heart. The sign in question is used to describe a way/route for the first time here.
- The title " $\bigcap hby/zhy$ " [O22 $\bigcap sh$]² means "he of the festival/dining hall (?)"³ and could be equal to the one in question.

4.4 Col. (4):

• $h^{c}(n)$ 'nh: This form means "lifetime" when it is written with the verb " $h^{c}(n)$ " " $h^$

4.5 Col. (5) wr-wrw:

- The title $wr-wrw^4$ is known in the expression "Fraction" wr wrw n smrw "greatest of the great companions/friends" and so the writing in question could be the first time in which the term wr-wrw is written with the determinative A20 ($\frac{1}{2}$) and the plural sign Z3 ($\frac{1}{2}$).
- *twt*: This word dates back to the Middle Kingdom and means "equal".

4.6 Col. (8): *smr w^cty*⁸:

All variants of the word " $w^c t y$ " are transcribed with the sign Z4 (W) $(M)^{1/2} + (M)^{1/2} + (M$

4.7 Col. (9): A hr(t)-ntr":

• This could be the first appearance of the determinative "hr(t)-ntr" (Δ)¹⁰. All its variants of the extended library and J-Sesh glyph-program are different

¹ See Wb III, 58.

² HWB 1179.

³ Johnes, D., An Index of Ancient Egyptian Titles, Epithets and Phrases of the Old Kingdom. Vol. I. Oxford, 2000. 499[1869]

⁴ See Taylor, J. A., Index., 100.

⁵ Taylor, J. A., Index. 100 [911].

⁶ See all variants of wr-wrw, in: Taylor, J. A., Index, p. 100.

⁷ Wb V, 257.

⁸ Taylor, J. A., Index. 202 [1973]. Ward, Index 151 [1299]. Al-Ayedi, 493[1675].

⁹ Taylor, J. A., Index., 202 (1973).

¹⁰ Wb III, 394; HWB, 643.

as follows: (R10 Å, R10AÅ, R10bÅ, R10C Å, R10D Å, R10F² Å, R10G Å, R10HÅ, R50 Å, R51 Å, R53 Å. It follows that this new sign could be numbered R10I Å and added to the extended library³.

- The form $m33 \ Hr / [r-m33 \ Hr]$ depends on the reading of the deteriorated sign, which could be the mouth sign (D21) meaning the preposition "r" (" $r \ m33$ " to look after")⁴ or the eye sign (D4) being in this case the determinative of seeing ("m33" as the verb "to see").⁵ Either way, probably Horus here is the king himself.
- $iry.n.f \ m3^ct$: There is a similar form " $= iri-m3^ct$ "who restores the Maat" based on the past form (sdm.n.f). Therefore, this could be a new variation.

4.8 Col. (11):

This verb is inscribed in this form for the first time as a new shape, which could be added to the various writing as follows:

, \bigcirc s in addition to the common writing in the 18th Dynasty as follows: \bigcirc , \bigcirc and \bigcirc . \bigcirc 9

4.9 Col. (12): " 3h n nsw":

This could be a new writing form¹⁰ given the well-known variants of this title in the 18th Dynasty as follows: ¹

¹ HWB, 1158.

² There is no R10E in the extended library of J-Sesh.

³ HBW 1158

⁴ Wb II, 9.

⁵ Wb II, 8; HWB 314.

⁶ HWB 90.

⁷ Wb I, 31.

⁸ Wb III, 252-253

⁹ Wb III, 252-253

¹⁰ See Taylor, J. A., Index. p. 1.

- $3h \ n \ nswt \ m3^{c} \ n \ ntr$ (one useful to the king and true to his god).
- 3h-ib n nswt (one serviceably minded towards the king). ⁴ Furthermore, Kheruef was the only high official in the time of Amenhotep III to bear this title inscribed in his tomb at Thebes (TT192)⁵ and appears to be the closest variation of the one in question.
- A very common form " $3h \ n \ R$ " belongs to king Ramesses II for his designation as a god⁶ and was inscribed on many molds and scarabs.⁷ So this could be an older construction ($3h \ n + N$) where all the forms of ($3h ib \ m^3$ ° ib, $3h ib \ n \ nsw$, $3h ib \ n \ ns$
- 4.10 Col. (13): sm n nsw nb t3wy "Sem-priest of the king, lord of the two lands':
 - The title sm n nsw: "sm n" is usually followed by a title (sm n ntr nfr) or a place (sm pr Imn) or the name of a god (sm n Pth) 9 and this could be the first time it is followed by the term "nsw". The closest form of the one in question is "sm m pr-nsw" (sm-priest in the house of the king) 10
 - o sm n nsw nb t3wy: Similarly, this form is probably used here for the first time 11 and this could be the first time it is followed by "nsw nb t3wy". 12 Nevertheless, there is a title belonging to the goddess Isis 13

called " $sm \ n \ nbt \ t3wy"$ (sm-priest of the Mistress of the

¹ Taylor, J. A., Index., 1.

² Taylor, J. A., Index. 1[5a].

³ Taylor, J. A., Index. 1[6].

⁴ Taylor, J. A., Index. 1[2].

⁵ See Taylor, J. A., Index. 1[2].

⁶ LÄAG II, 38-39.

⁷ KRI II, 455-456.

⁸ Taylor, J. A., Index. 1[1-6]

⁹ Al-Ayedi, A-R., Index of Egyptian Administrative, Religious and Military Titles of the New Kingdom. Obelisk Publications, Ismailia, Egypt, 2006. 486-492[1649-1671], Taylor, 101-102[916-927], Ward, 86-87 [717-720].

¹⁰ HWB, 700.

¹¹ Al-Ayedi, A-R., Index. 486-492[1649-1671], Taylor, J. A., 101-102[916-927], Ward, 86-87 [717-720].

¹² Taylor, J. A., Index.199-200 [1946-1957], Al-Ayedi, 486-492 [1649-1671]

¹³ HWP, 700.

two lands). ¹ So, the title appears to be the masculine form of Isis' feminine version describing the king himself.

4.11 <u>Col. (14):</u> "Horus in the only [private] place": This form could conclude as follows;

$$\circ$$
 $Hr m st$: this form usually followed by a place.²

o $w^{c}t$ | \square \bowtie means the only/unique eye³ "[considering that the form here

is written with D5 \times used as D6 \times.\times Other variants of this term means "the Only" as follows: \(\frac{1}{2} \times \), \(\frac{1}{2} \times \), \(\frac{1}{2} \times \), \(\frac{1}{2} \times \), \(\frac{1}{2} \times \).

o st $w^{ee}t$: (sometimes with O1 \square) means private location or cabinet. This could be a satisfactory translation but the form has

D5 \bowtie or D6 \bowtie as a determinative instead of O1 \square .

5- Stela's date:

According to the archaeological context, stratigraphic sequence and location inside the temple of Amenhotep III, this stela can be dated to the reign of king Amenhotep III. Furthermore, there are 24 known tombs of high officials of the time of Amenhotep III (TT: C1, 8, 46, 47, 48, 55, 57, 58, 89, 102, 120, 139, 161, 162, 165, 169, 192, 226, 228, 253, 294, 333, 334, 402) 8 (excluding the tomb of Amenhotep son of Hapu, which is still unknown) and and the following can be drawn based on the comments above and the listed titles in questions:

5.1 "wr": There is a case for translating the title as "sr" ("the nobleman" as mentioned in the comments to Col. 3. Amenhotep son of Hapu bears the title "sr" and inscribed on a block of statue fragments (CG 583 and CG835).⁹

¹ Ward, W. A., Index of Egyptian Administrative and Religious Titles of the Middle Kingdom. American University in Beirut, 1982. 169 [1466].

² LÄGG. V., 232, 294. 296

³ LÄGG II, 286-287; HWB, 182

⁴ GEG, 450.

⁵ LÄGG II, 286-287.

⁶ HWB, 181.

⁷ Wb I. 278

⁸ Pm. I.i. passim.

⁹ Simmance, E. B., Amenhotep son of Hapu: Self-presentation through Statues and their Texts in pursuit of Semi-divine intermediary status. A thesis submitted to the University of Birmingham for the degree of Master of Research (Egyptology). Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity College of Arts and Law, University of Bermingham, (April) 2014. 86.

- 5.2 "wr wrw": Both Amenhotep son of Hapu (CG 583 and CG835)¹ and Kheruef bear this title (the latter inscribed in his tomb TT192).²
- 5.3 "smr w^cty": Amenhotep son of Hapu bears this title (CG 42127, JdE 44862=Luxor, J.4, JdE 36498).³
- 5.4 "sm-priest": Ramose bears this title (TT55), while Amenhotep son of Hapu bears the title "sm n hwt nbw" (Sem-priest in the temple of gold) (JdE 36498).⁴ 36498).⁴
- 5.5 "wr m3w": Ramose bears this title (TT55). This was the only example of an official bearing this title attested during the lifetime of Amenhotep III until now.
- 5.6 In addition to these titles, Kheruef bears the title " 3h-ib nnswt" which is very close and familiar to the one inscribed on the stela " $3h \ n \ nsw$ " h = 100 m
- 5.7 The archaeological evidence leads to assume that stela belongs either to Amenhotep son of Hapu or to Ramose as follows:
 - Amenhotep son of Hapu designated and constructed the temple of Amenhotep III at Kom el-Hittan and fashioned the colossi of Memnon. Memnon.⁷
 - Amenhotep III ordered to erect a small temple to Amenhotep son of 5.7.2 Hapu behind his great temple (see fig. 2) an honor which had never before been bestowed in such a manner.8
 - 5.7.3 Inscriptions show that Ramose was a vizier during the time of Amenhotep III and his successor Akhenaten, which means he took the office after the death of Amenhotep son of Hapu. Furthermore, Ramose is the only well-known high official in the time of Amenhotep III to bear the title "wr m3w" and inscribed clearly in his tomb (TT55)⁹ which which was fashioned with a colonnade hall similar to those of the temples reflecting Ramose's authority and position.
 - The temple of Amenhotep III was expanded for the second time to the north, south and west to include annexes, as the shrine of Ptah-Soker-

⁷ Wilkinson, R. H., The Complete Gods and Goddesses of Ancient Egypt. Thames and Hudson. 2003 p. 92.

¹ Simmance, E. B., Amenhotep son of Hapu, 105.

² Taylor, J. A., Index. 100[910].

³ Simmance, E. B., Amenhotep son of Hapu, 86.

⁴ Simmance, E. B., Amenhotep son of Hapu, 86.

⁵ Taylor, J. A., Index. 101[916].

⁶ Taylor, J. A., Index. 1[2].

⁸ Murnane, William J. "Power behind the Throne: Amenhotep son of Hapu." K.M.T., A Modern Journal of Ancient Egypt 22 (Summer, 1991), 8-13, 57-59.

⁹ Taylor, J. A., Index. 101 [916].

Osiris¹ and the processional way of the Beautiful Feast of the Valley.² The stela in question could have been sited during the second enlargement and refashioning of some parts of the temple where Amenhotep son of Hapu approximately passed.

Consequently, the latter considerations support the assumption that this stela is more relevant to Ramose than Amenhotep son of Hapu, in particular as he is the well-known high official who has the title "wr m³w" clearly expressed in his tomb (TT55).

6- Results:

- **6.1** This fragmentary stela presents some new evidence for the temple of Amenhotep III as:
 - 6.1.1 The erosion of the cartouche (Col. 14) strongly points to the religious revolution of Akhenaten.
 - 6.1.2 The condition of this stela and the other statues in same site indicate the reuse of this part of the temple probably during the time of Merenptah who re-employed many of Amenhotep III's blocks and stelae to erect and fashion his temple.
- 6.2 The text of Col. 6 is probable strong evidence of a duty "(Chief of Secrets in the house of the morning". This title appeared in the New Kingdom, particularly 18th Dynasty in the tombs of both Ahmose (TT241) and Senmut (TT 353). This implies that the owner of the stela in question could be the third case in the 18th Dynasty of a person bearing same or similar title. Furthermore, the term "pr-dw3t" probably indicates, for the first time, a real annex of the temple of Amenhotep III, which could be discovered in future excavations. During the celebration of the feasts particularly the beautiful Feast of the Valley, the "pr-dw3t" took a great job, taking into account Amenhotep III temple in Kom el-Hittan [where the stela uncovered] and its role during this feast.
- 6.3 st m3^cty: This term indicates the court and more probably a court inside the temple of Amenhotep III during his lifetime. According to the dedicatory stela, the temple was dedicated to Amun and had doors of electrum, statues of sienite,

¹ Ricke, H., Der Totentempel Amenophis' III. Baureste und Ergaenzung (1). In; Haeny, G., Untersuchungenim totentempel Amenophis' III, beitraege-zur Aegyptischen bauforschung und altertumskunde, Heft 11, Wiesbaden, 1981. 31-37.

² See, Abou Zaid, O., Some New Evidence for the Processional Way of the Beautiful Feast of the Valley at Western Thebes. EJARS 13[2] (Dec. 2023) 301-311.

³ Taylor, J. A., Index. 165 [1618].

⁴ Berlandini-Grenier, J., Senenmout, stoliste royal, sur une statue-cube avec Néferourê. *BIFAO* 76 (1976), pp. 111-132; Shorter, A. W., The tomb of Aḥmose, supervisor of mysteries in the house of the morning. *JEA* 16 (1930), pp. 54-62.

⁵ Abou Zaid, O., Some New Evidence. 301-311.

السيد، رضا مُجَّد عبدالرحيم؛ بيت الصباح (pr-dw3t) في مصر القديمة. رسالة ماجستير غير منشورة، المعهد العالي لحضارات الشرق الأدبى القديم، جامعة الزقازيق، ٢٠١٥، ص ص ١٤٦-١٠٠.

quartzite and other hard stones.¹ Furthermore, since Amenhotep III lived in western Thebes, it would have been logical to establish the court of Maat in his temple as the ideal and holy place for adoration and justice. It is likely that this annex will be uncovered by future excavations.

- 6.4 hsy n ntr nfr: This was a very common title in Theban necropolis during the 18th Dynasty and found in the following tombs: TT42 (18th Dyn.), TT49 (18th Dyn.), TT56 (18th Dyn.), TT78 (18th Dyn.), TT85 (18th Dyn.), TT90 (18th Dyn.), TT241(18th Dyn.), TT343 (18th Dyn.). The writing in question of this title is same as that of TT 49 of Nefrrenpt from the reign of king Aye, the oldest known writing in this form. However, the stela in question was found in the temple of Amenhotep III and dates from same time, so this witness of the form of the writing is older than that of the time of king Aye (TT 49).
- 6.5 wr m33(w): This title dated to the Middle Kingdom³ is always followed by a place (wr m33w Twnw) or the name of a god (wr m33w n R^c)⁴ and this could be the first time this title is used for a king (hm.f) during the 18th Dynasty which probably points to the religious position of Amenhotep III. In particular, the title "wr m33(w)" described the high priest of Heliopolis who see the god Atum.⁵

6.6 The new meters of the control of

- 6.6.1 The cartouche was scraped off probably deliberately to appropriate this stela or because of the religious revolution of Akhenaten.
- 6.6.2 The title "hm ntr nfr tpi" always followed by names of gods, places and kings. 6
- 6.6.3 The title *ntr nfr tpi* could be used for the first time to describe a priest of Amenhotep III.
- 6.6.4 The New Kingdom priests who took this title are:
 - Two priests, Amen-mose (TT19) and Panehsy (TT16), from the time of Amenhotep I⁷
 - Userhat (TT51), from the time of Thutmosis I⁸
 - Khonsu (TT31) from the time of Thutmosis III⁹

¹ Helck, W., Urkunden der 18. Dynastie. IV. Berlin, 1957. 1648-1650; Haeny, G., op cit, 101

² Taylor, J. A., Index. 176 [1722].

³ LÄGG. II, 442.

⁴ Taylor, J. A., Index. 101-102 [916-927], Ward, Index. 86-87 [717-720], Al-Ayedi, A-R., Index 237-241[818-832], Johnes. D., Index. I. 386[1429].

⁵ Jones. D., Index. I. 386[1428].

⁶ Al-Aydi, A-R., Index. 345-361 [1170-1215].

⁷ Al-Aydi, A-R., Index. 350 [1181].

⁸ Al-Aydi, A-R., Index. 337 [1138].

⁹ Al-Aydi, A-R., Index. 356 [1197].

- A priest from the time of Thutmosis III (TT72)²
- A priest from the time of Merytamun ⁴ 7 1 C
- A priest of Amun from the time of Thutmosis III 6
- **6.7** This stela and its location among a number of double statues of Amenhotep III with various deities and two massive granite baboons (one of which is over 5 meters all, all of which are preserved in the Qurna magazine except for one depicting Amenhotep III with Horus son of Isis currently in the Grand Egyptian Museum), in addition to the title "wr m³w" provide good evidence that this area of excavation is the actual solar court or the pr-dw³t of Amenhotep III's temple.
- **6.8** Titles and epithets of the stela's owner are:
 - 6.8.1 *Group A: new titles and epithets:*

6.8.1.1 3h n nb t3wy.

6.8.1.2 $sm \ n \ nsw(t) \ nb \ t \ 3wy$.

6.8.1.3 wr m3w n hm.f.

6.8.1.4 hm ntr tpi n N.

6.8.2 Group B: titles displaying new writing:

6.8.2.1 [wr]-wr(w) [n] smr(w).

6.8.2.2 $smr(w) w^{c}ty$.

6.8.2.3 iry.n.f m3^ct

6.8.2.4 3h n nsw(t).

Therefore, these new titles (Group A) confirm the high position of the owner of the stela and add a new titles and epithets to his biography.

7- Conclusion:

This fragmentary stela presents new evidence for Amenhotep III's temple and that the north-west part of the temple was probably reused as a quarry for building the temple of Merenptah, as all statues of Amenhotep III were found in poor condition and deliberately and

¹ Taylor, A-R., Index. 153 [1494-1495].

² Taylor, A-R., Index. 154 [1503a].

³ Taylor, J. A., Index. 154 [1504].

⁴ Taylor, J. A., Index. 154 [1507].

⁵ Taylor, J. A., Index. 155 [1509].

⁶ Taylor, J. A., Index. 15x[1183].

⁷ Hawass, Z.- Wagdi, A-G., Excavations northwest of Amenhotep III's Temple at Kom El-Hetan Season 2010–2011. *MDAIK* 70/71(2014-2015), 193-225.

randomly broken. Another important aspect of this stela is the recording of several new titles and titles with new writing. Subsequently, this stela enforces the assumption that the entire location is that of the solar court of the temple of Amenhotep III or at least the *pr-dw3t* of the temple due to the presence of the two gigantic baboons and the number of the double statues of Amenhotep III with various deities.

Bibliography:

- حواس، زاهي؛ وجدي، عبد الغفار؛ خضري، الطيب؛ حفائر مشروع المياه الجوفية غرب معبد
 أمنحوتب الثالث. حوليات المجلس الأعلى للآثار، العدد ٦ (٢٠٠٩) ص ص ١٤٩ ١٥٨.
- السيد، رضا محجد عبد الرحيم؛ بيت الصباح (pr-dw3t) في مصر القديمة. رسالة ماجستير غير
 منشورة، المعهد العالى لحضارات الشرق الأدنى القديم، جامعة الزقازيق، ٢٠١٥.
 - Abou Zaid, O., Some New Evidence for the Processional Way of the Beautiful Feast of the Valley at Western Thebes. *EJARS* 13[2] (Dec. 2023) 301-311.
 - Al-Ayedi, A-R., Index of Egyptian Administrative, Religious and Military Titles of the New Kingdom. Obelisk Publications, Ismailia, Egypt, 2006.
 - Berlandini-Grenier, J., Senenmout, stoliste royal, sur une statue-cube avec Néferourê. *BIFAO* 76 (1976), 111-132.
 - Shorter, A. W., The Tomb of Aḥmose, Supervisor of Mysteries in the House of the Morning. *JEA* 16 (1930), 54-62.
 - Erman, A.; Grapow. H., Wörterbuch der Ägyptischen Sprache. Vols. I, II, III,
 IV, V. Berlin: Akademie, Verlag, 1971.
 - Faulkner, R. O., A Concise Dictionary of Middle Egyptian. Griffith Institute,
 Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, 1991.
 - Gardiner, A. H., Egyptian Grammar. 3rd ed., Griffith Institute, Oxford, 1957.
 - Haeny, G., Untersuchungenim Totentempel Amenophis' III, Beitraege zur Aegyptischen Bauforschung und Altertumskunde, Heft 11, Franz Steiner Verlag GMBH, Wiesbaden, 1981.
 - Hannig, Rainer. Großes Handwörterbuch Ägyptisch-Deutsch. Die Sprache der Pharaonne, . Mainz, 1995.
 - Hawass, Z.- Wagdi, A-G., Excavations Northwest of Amenhotep III's Temple at Kom El-Hetan Season 2010–2011. MDAIK 70/71(2014-2015), 193-225.
 - Helck, W., Urkunden der 18. Dynastie. IV. Berlin, 1957.
 - Johnes, D., An Index of Ancient Egyptian Titles, Epithets and Phrases of the Old Kingdom. Vol. I. Oxford, 2000.
 - Kitchen, K., A., Ramesside Inscriptions, Historical and Biogrphical. Vol. II.
 Oxford, 1979.

- Leitz, Ch., Lexikon der ägyptischen Götter und Götterbezeichnungen.
 Orientalia Lovaniensia Analecta. Vols. II, V. Peeters Publishers & Department of Oriental Studies. 2002.
- Murnane, W. J. "Power behind the Throne: Amenhotep son of Hapu." K.M.T.,
 A Modern Journal of Ancient Egypt 22 (summer, 1991), 8-13, 57-59.
- Porter, B., Moss, R., Topographical Bibliography of Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphic Texts, Reliefs, and Paintings, Vol. I, the Theban Necropolis. Part I. Private tombs, 2nd ed., Griffith Institute, Oxford, 1960.
- Ricke, H., Der Totentempel Amenophis' III. Baureste und Ergaenzung (1). In;
 Haeny, G., Untersuchungenim Totentempel Amenophis' III, beitraege-zur
 Aegyptischen Bauforschung und Altertumskunde, Heft 11, Wiesbaden, 1981.
- Simmance, E. B., Amenhotep son of Hapu: Self-presentation through Statues and their Texts in pursuit of Semi-divine intermediary status. A thesis submitted to the University of Birmingham for the degree of Master of Research (Egyptology). Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity College of Arts and Law, University of Bermingham, (April) 2014.
- Taylor, J. A., An Index of Male Non-royal Egyptian Titles, Epithets and Phrases of the 18th Dynasty. London, 2001.
- Ward, W. A., Index of Egyptian Administrative and Religious Titles of the Middle Kingdom. American University in Beirut, 1982.
- Wilkinson, R. H., The Complete Gods and Goddesses of Ancient Egypt. Thames and Hudson. 2003.

Figures and Plates:

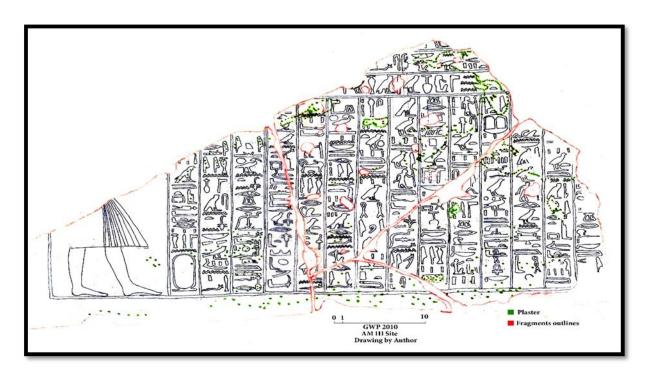
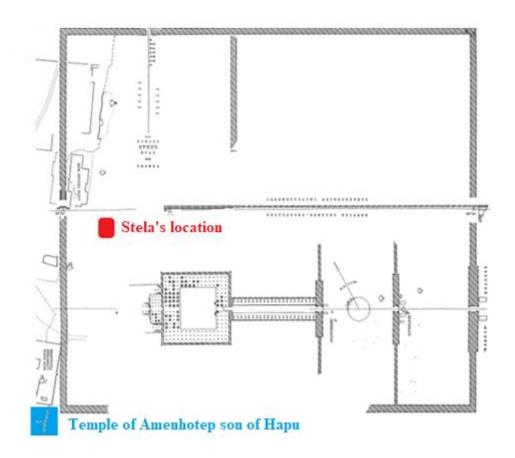


Fig. (1)
The text with plaster traces
(Drawing by Author)



 $Fig~(2)^1$ Plan of the temple of Amenhotep III and the location of the temple of Amenhotep son of Hapu and the location of the Stela fragments.

¹ Modified after; Haeny, G., Untersuchungenim totentempel Amenophis' III,1981, plan 1.



(A)



(B)

Pl. (1)

Stela fragment (After; Z. Hawass Archive 2010)



(A)

(M. Abdel Badea, T. Khodary and O. Abou Zaid during the discovery of the Stela fragments)



(b)

Pl (2)

Baboon statue fragments and alabaster seat (throne) of a seated colossus of Amenhotep III (before and after set up alabaster Seat).

(After; Z. Hawass Archive 2010).