

New lintel of a False Door

of the overseer of the works of Amun

Hassan Aglan¹
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ABSTRACT:

New archaeological research was carried out between 2009 and 2011 by the Ministry of State for Antiquities (MSA) at central Dra' Abu el-Naga, New lintel of a False Door from Western Thebes, the author has been studying the findings from this area since then. A fragment of gray granite lintel of false door of the overseer of the works of Amun was found. It seems that was carved from one block of gray granite; its façade is decorated in the shape of a false door stela, and The text was carved in sunk relief.

Keywords: False Door - Dra' Abu el-Naga - Western Thebes

¹ Ministry of States for Antiquities- Luxor PhD candidate, Humboldt University Berlin
Institute of Archaeology, Advisor: Frank kammerzell Dept. of Egyptology and Northeast African
Archaeology haglan_77@yahoo.com

New archaeological research was carried out between 2009 and 2011 by the Ministry of State for Antiquities (MSA) at central Dra' Abu el-Naga. Joining the MSA excavation team in the field in 2009, the author has been studying the findings from this area since then.

The excavation site is situated ca. 700 km south of Cairo, opposite the modern city of Luxor in Upper Egypt on the western side of the Nile. Dra' Abu el-Naga is the modern name of the northern area of the extended necropolis. Central Dra' Abu el-Naga lies to the north of the causeway of queen Hatshepsut and just south of the German and Spanish concessions, overlooking the valley where a temple of Amenhotep I was once erected. The tombs are situated just below the hilltop of the middle range of the Dra' Abu el-Naga hills (**Fig. 1**).

A fragment of gray granite lintel of false door was found During the removing of debris from the middle area of the valley to reach the bed rock and the lower most level of the tombs, many blocks were found, which presumably are coming from the modern houses where they have been used as building elements (**Fig. 2**).

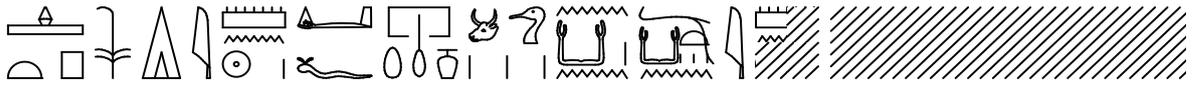
Description:

The fragment false door measures about 95 cm (wide) x 40 cm (high), between 150 and 160 cm the actual high is probable, It seems that was carved from one block of gray granite; its façade is decorated in the shape of a false door stela, and The text was carved in sunk relief, contains of so-called torus molding, there is evidence, in the left part, of rounded corner, so it seems that it was triple set of door jambs framed by the torus molding (**Fig. 3**). Above it is the hollow cavetto cornice decorated with stylized palm leaves being formed by the nodding tops of the branches². Cornice which occasionally used to mark the upper limit of the false door

The Upper door jamb below the cornice is inscribed with remains of offering formulae in two lines, which has been started from the middle area and continues in opposite directions, left and right, it seems the two sides are similar to each other:

The text of the upper line reads:

² - the ribbing of the cornice, with this style, is seen on the earliest examples from 6th dynasty, Petrie, 1999, p. 90.



ḥtp di nsw Imn R' di.f prt ḥrw t ḥnkt K3w 3pdw n k3 n imy-r k3t in Imn // // // //

Offering given by the king to³ “Amun Ra” that he may give invocation offerings of bread and beer, cattle and fowl to the soul of overseer of the works of Amun Ra / // // // //

The second line which most of it is destroyed :



ḥtp di nsw Wsir di.f 'nh nfr w3h tp (t3) n k3 (n) // // // //

Offering given by the king to “Osiris” that he may give beautiful (renewed) life to the soul of // // // //

Historical Context:

- When the offering formula is written by this type $\Delta \downarrow \overline{\text{A}} \downarrow \Delta$, normally Htp was used as a central and shared element⁴, which is several times clearly constructed as feminine Htpt, in addition to the sharp two round bread t \ominus were depicted. Since the antithetical overrides must retire at the matter of reading of the formula, the second t \ominus can be ignored in reading⁵. This formula with that type was depicted in parallel with the false door of Hwy TT56 in his tomb, the sculpture of Amun, in the reign of Amenhotep III⁶, also was depicted on a lintel during Amarna period⁷
- Of particular interest in the text is, the Gods Amun R' and Osiris were mentioned here but without titles, which is not common in offering formulas in false doors in this time⁸. While the false door's owner was mentioned with his titles followed n kA

3 - Opinions differed in the translation of the formula, Gardner has discussed at length and ended up reading the formula for “Htp di nsw” and translated offerings given by the King to ... , Gradiner. A., The tomb of Amenmhat, p. 79-93.

4 - the same case if the formula was started with di Δ or niswt \downarrow , Barta, 1968, p. 108.

5 - Barta, 1968, p. 108.

6 - Polz, 1997, p. 40.

7 - Drioton, 1943, p. 41.

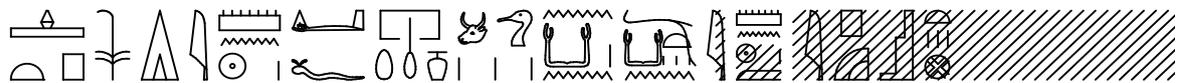
⁸.2012 - أبو الصفا،

n as the overseer of the works⁹. The first one who holds this title, from the 18th dynasty was Ineni¹⁰.

- The reading of the middle part of the first line seems certain, but the other part, in the two sides, presents some problems. The scanty traces are very difficult to read, where a sign somehow odd in its shape is  and maybe , it could be think of require some emendations Imn-Ra, then there is a scanty traces of two signs  and , in the left side, which could be interpreted as the word for “Karnak Temple” , so the reconstruction [Imn-Ra m ipt-sw] “Amun-Ra in Karnak” is probable.
- The reading of the middle part of the second line seems also certain, but behind Htp di nswt, the lower part of Osiris name is missing, what is almost certainly , which is clearly a XVIII dynasty writing of the God Osiris. the reconstruction [di.f anx nfr], is highly certain, the lower part of the next group a clear trace of sign , then followed by semi damaged group is still hypothetical, were as  seems quite certain, so the reconstruction [di.f anx nfr wAH.tp tA n kA n] “may given a beautiful renewed¹¹ life to the soul of”, and followed by “Imy-r kAt n” is highly certain.

It could be read the text of the false door as:

The first line:


h̄tp di nsw Imn R^c di.f prt hrw t h̄nkt K3w 3pdw n k3 n imy-r k3t in Imn R^c m Ipt-sw // //
 /”

⁹ The first depict of the title “overseer of the works” was in the 3rd dynasty, and then used to use during the 4th dynasty. The works were included the building. and supervising of the artistes and agricultural works as well, and This title has been given to the ministers and others, = Strudwig,1985, pp. 249-50

¹⁰ - Helck, 1961, p.524.

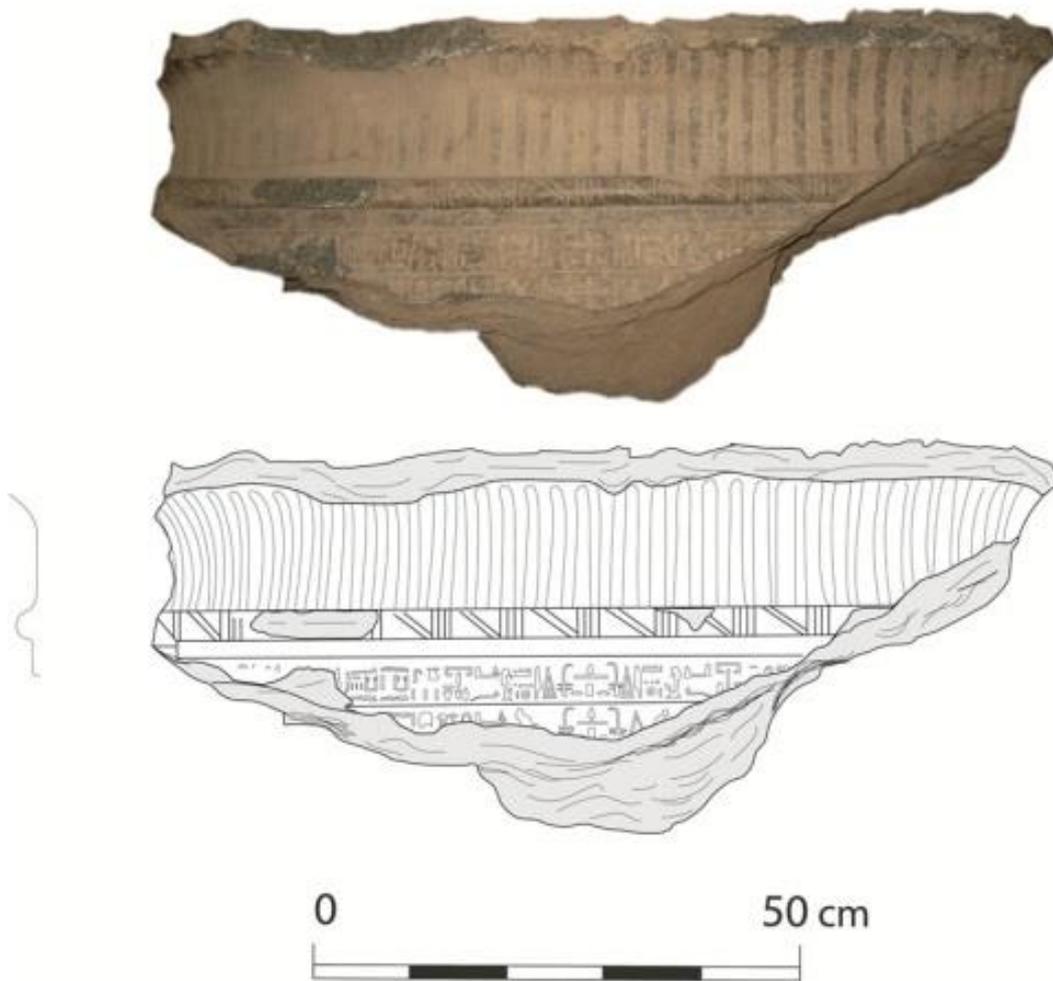
¹¹ - wAH tp tA is used as a title for men, “younger”, WB I, p. 255.

Figure 01:



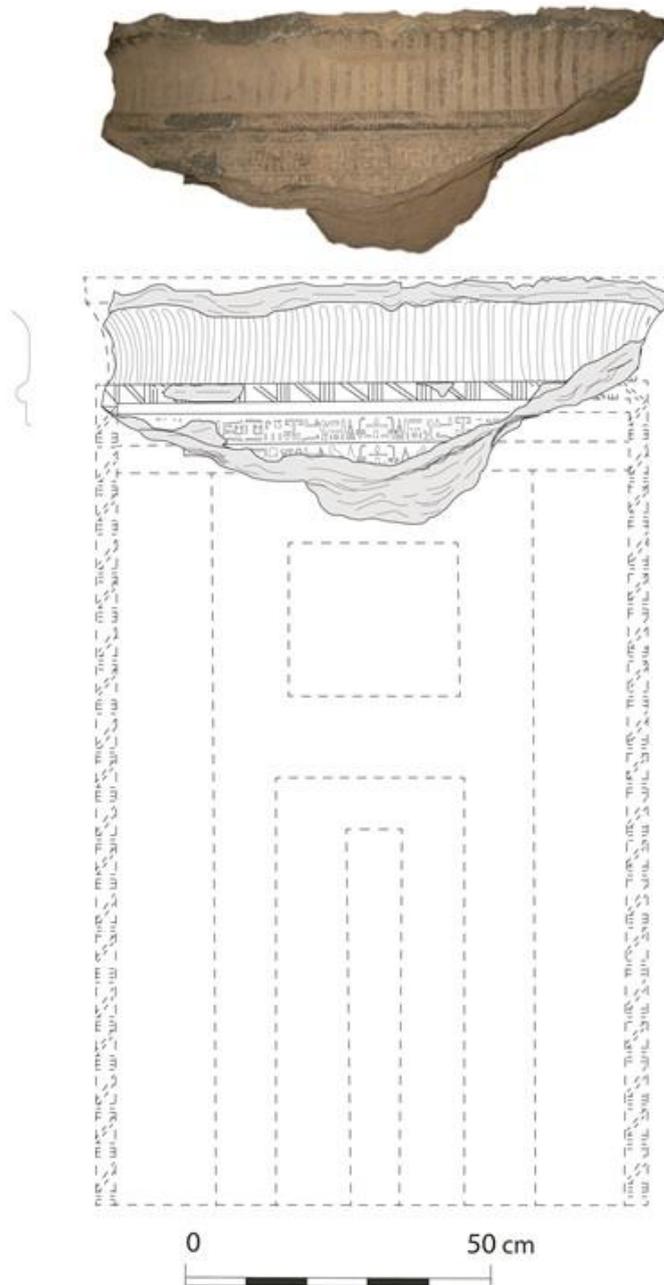
Satellite Image Dra' Abu el-Naga North, shows Central Dra' Abu el-Naga Location and tomb K01.4 After Polz, D., MDAIK 68, p. 116.

Figure 02:



Theoretical reconstruction of the fragment (Drawing and digitizing: H. Aqlan).

Figure 03:



Picture and facsimile of the false door (Drawing and digitizing: H. Aqlan).

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