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2.812



2. 812

Hieroglyphic Texts from Egyptian Stelae, Part 12,
edited by M.L. Bierbrier, British Museum Press

Date: Ramesside

Provenance: Not recorded¹

Date of acquisition: 1854 (Valentia collection)²

Material: Limestone

Dimensions: 31.2 cm h., 21.4 cm w.

There are two registers on this round-topped stela decorated with scenes in sunk relief and incised texts. In the upper register the ram-headed Amen-Re^c is enthroned on the right on one side of an altar heaped with offerings. The goddess Werethekau in the form of a serpent is entwined around a lotus flower on the left side of the altar. Behind her a small *was*-sceptre carries a large floral bouquet in its arms. In the lower register eight columns of text contain a prayer to Amen-Re^c and Werethekau on behalf of the guardian of the Place of Truth Pennefru.

Černý has conjectured that the name of this stela is a faulty rendering of Penmennefer, who is a well-attested guardian under Ramesses III (Černý, *Community*, 156). Certainly the stela exhibits other peculiarities such as the inverted *iōd* in the first reference to Amun in the first column of the second register.

Preservation and colour: The stela is badly gouged in several places on the surface which has gone brown. There are traces of red paint in the lines between the columns of text and on the serpent, the flowers and the body and feathers of the headdress of Amen-Re^c, while black paint is visible on the horns of the god. There is a black nodule of flint embedded in the area where the throne of Amen-Re^c is delineated.

Bibliography: *Sculpture Guide* (1909), 143 (no. 506); *HT* 7, pl. 26; Bruyère, *Mert Seger*, fig. 93; Porter and Moss, *Top. Bibl.* I², ii, 732.

1. Undoubtedly Deir el-Medina on internal evidence.

2. Presented by A. Lyttleton Annesley.