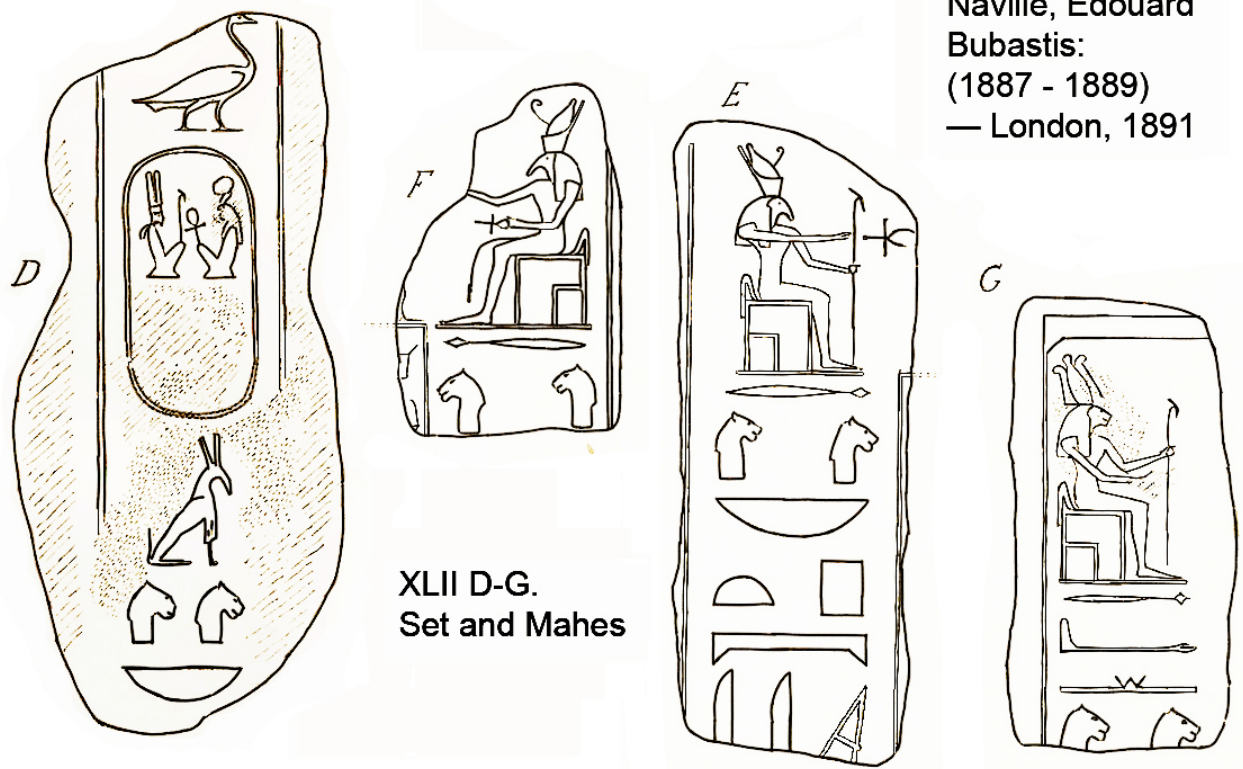


Set at Bubastis



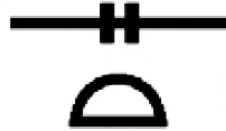
*(All illustrations from Edouard Naville's *Bubastis: (1887 - 1889)* — London, 1891)*

Osorkon II was the fifth king of the 22nd Dynasty. He took as his model Rameses II. He made his name similar, the easier to usurp Rameses' monuments. He usurped at Bubastis. However, his usurpations were not perfect. They are in all temple areas, but mostly in the hypostyle hall. Because of the incomplete recarving, Rameses II is recognizable. In addition to strengthening the presence of Bast, Osorkon II wanted the presence of Set gone. But like as with the cartouches, he did an incomplete job, so Set still shows!

He hoped to turn the depictions of Set into depictions of Maahes, as Set's epithets "the very valorous, the lord of the sky" could work for Maahes as well. In Plate XLII D-G, we can see #G looks to be a more convincing Maahes, but the rest, they are strongly Set!

From Ian Roberts Taylor's thesis [Deconstructing the Iconography of Seth](#), I learned Osorkon I started these changes earlier as he "changed the dedication of the Ramesside temple at Bubastis from Amun, Ptah and Seth to the goddess Bastet." Osorkon II continued this as Maahes is the son of Bast (Bastet or Sekhmet).

In the Festival Hall, which Osorkon II commissioned, however, there are two images of Set in the Festival Hall, depicted with a human head. In one, he can be identified by his title "Nubty, Lord of the South-Land." The other features his name written phonetically:



Phonetic
spelling of
"Set"

Left to right vertical orientation:

Col. 1: st-bAHw / Set [of the] Inundation
(the sign G51, a stork feeding on a fish, suggestive also of the term HAm, "to catch fish," so it could possibly/also mean "Set of the Fishermen")

Col.2: di=f anx wAs nb / He gives all life
[and] dominion

Col. 3: di=f Hw(.w) nb / He gives all
offering-meals

Col. 4: di=f aq.w nb / He gives all
victual-provisions

(This translation is by S.E.B. Logan)

Fig. 9.76: Anthropomorphic Seth represented in a *Per-nu* shrine of Lower Egypt on the south wall. Festival Hall of Osorkon II, Temple of Bastet, Bubastis, 22nd Dynasty. Naville via:

IAN ROBERT TAYLOR
DECONSTRUCTING THE ICONOGRAPHY OF SETH

Compiled by Joan Lansberry for educational purposes only.