

Study and Publication of Stela of Km at Cairo Museum (CG.20573)**Dr. Basem Mohamed Khattab****Lecturer, Department of Egyptian Archeology, Faculty of Archeology and Tourist
Guidance, Misr University for Science and Technology**basemkhatab2020@gmail.com**Abstract:**

This Research aims to study the Unpublished Stela of Km, as it has not been investigated nor studied in a comprehensive analytical by researchers. This Stela appears to be rectangular and it has a top that takes the shape of the Egyptian cornice, and it is preserved in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo and bears the number (CG 20573). The Stela is divided into three recorded texts and recorded scenes.

Where the first record contained the main text of the Stela, which is a formula for offering sacrifices topped by the shape of the Egyptian cornice that crowns the top of the stela, and this record was divided into three written sections with different directions as shown in the linear study, while only one word was recorded in the second record behind the deceased and it is a continuation of the text recorded in the first record, while the third record contains separate phrases written either vertically or horizontally, some of which were written in front and behind the deceased or above the offering table, or between the offeror's of the owner of the Stela as shown in the written study.

As for the scenes recorded on this Stela where it was noticed the presence of some artistic elements and religious symbols that were represented by the offerings, the offering table, the lotus flower, the geese bird, as well as the presence of some shapes of the vessels presented as an offering to the owner of the Stela. This stela will be dealt with through a linguistic and artistic analytical study according to the Methodology of the Study through descriptive, analytical, and comparative approach, applying the formula and linguistic structures contained in the stela in addition to refuting and analyzing the artistic elements and their symbolic connotations in the ancient Egyptian beliefs. The comparative Historical method also is used to apply the artistic elements and linguistic connotations in order to establish an accurate date for that Stela in question.

Key Words:

Km stela - Egyptian Museum- Egyptian cornice - offerings- offerings table- The Lotus - Geese.

An introduction :

The Stela in ancient Egypt is like a monumental witness that is often made of different materials such as stone, wood or others, and its height is often longer than its width. The stelae were erected and dedicated in ancient Egypt to fulfill political purposes and events such as border boards, and memorial purposes to commemorate an event.

In addition to funerary objects, including the memorial of the deceased, such as the "Km" Stela, subject of the study. Based on the above, stelae in ancient Egypt varied between funerary Stelae, votive Stelae, ceremonial Stelae, calligraphy Stelae, gift Stelae, and magic Stelae, as well as Stelae defining boundaries, and what are known as memorial Stelae

Often these Stelae were formed with different appearances in terms of the quality of the Stela, its shape, and the type of inscriptions recorded on it, which varied between bas-reliefs or bas-reliefs, and the Stelae were often engraved on its face. (Recto), So that the back side of the Stela is not engraved and unpolished.

According to Müller in Ancient Egypt, Stelae were divided into three groups in terms of shape, place of residence, and functional purposes. In ancient Egypt, Stelae were divided into three groups in terms of shape, place of residence, and functional purposes. Linguistically, the names of Stelae in ancient Egypt varied according to their shape and functional purpose, the most important of which is the word **WD**. According to the Berlin dictionary it means Stela which

had different written forms such as; , and that as well as the word **abA** .

According to the Berlin dictionary, it means a tomb Stela or an offering Stela, which went

beyond its written forms, such as:  . There is also some vocabulary that indicates the meaning of a Stela like **aHaw**



The importance of the study is represented by addressing one of the previously unpublished funerary Stela, which is the Stela of the so-called  " **Km** Preserved in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo and bears a number (CG 20573). The study will deal with this Stela through a practical methodology represented in the descriptive, analytical, and historical comparative approach, so that this will be done through the descriptive study of the technical aspects, elements, phonological values and linguistic connotations.

as well as the analytical study in order to reach an accurate history of that stela through artistic manifestations and linguistic and historical features. This is evidenced by dealing with the rectangular shape of the Stela and the shape of its summit, which took the form of the Egyptian cornice, as well as the scenes and the recorded artistic elements and the extent of its technical level, in addition to studying and analyzing the phonological values, linguistic connotations and written features of the written texts, and the study will also deal with the discussion of religious symbols and elements recorded on the Stela, like the offerings that appeared on the offering table and represented in front of the owner of the Stela, which was clearly evident from the geese, the lotus flower, and some consecrated vessels presented as offerings to the owner of the Stela Km.

The research results:

- It is believed that the rectangular-shaped Stelae with a crest that take the form of the Egyptian cornice, which are believed to be derived from the imaginary door, appeared in the Middle Kingdom, and were dated to the twenty-fifth year of the reign of King Senusret III, and this style of Stelae was popular at the end of the Second Dynasty era .
- It is believed that during the end of the Twelfth Dynasty, it became common for the deceased to appear sitting on the ground with one leg below the body and the other leg appearing to stand.

- It has been observed that since the reign of King Amenemhat II and the following period, individuals during that period would appear in the scenes holding lotus flowers to inhale them.
- It was noticed that during the end of the Twelfth Dynasty the shapes of the seats did not deviate from what was commonplace, and the backrest always seemed to be low and simple.
- During the end of the Twelfth Dynasty, it became common to use tables with short legs, which seemed to be somewhat small. Where different types of offerings were described above, and the return of the vertical bread was observed, in addition to various types of supplies and offerings that appeared repeatedly on the plates of the end of the Twelfth Dynasty and the Thirteenth Dynasty.
- It is believed that the main people in the Stela wore a long kilt; The kilt was short before that, but it increased in length since the end of the Twelfth Dynasty.
- As for the utensils, it is noticed that the pots of aromatic oils have reappeared after their disappearance at the end of the reign of King Amenemhat II, and they also took their place at the top of the Stela or at the bottom of the seat, and the deceased could hold them and bring them close to inhale the scent of the goodness and perfumes in them or to be presented to the deceased, in addition, it was represented in a large size sometimes under the offering table.
- It is suggested that the Stela under study be a reference to a family sequence and family lineage of three different generations, where the three generations appeared on the Stela, the formula used was ir.n to refer to the relationship between the three generations and the lineage between them.
- Based on the above narration and analysis of the artistic features and linguistic features that emerged through studying the Stela, it is possible to date a km Stela to the end of the Twelfth Dynasty and the beginning of the Thirteenth Dynasty.



(Fig.1): A scene showing the form of the Stela and its linguistic and artistic content (photographed by the researcher)



(Fig. 2): Facsimile of The stela of Km without inscriptions

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