

ملخص البحث الثالث - بحث فردي

Destruction of Enemies: An Unpublished Plaque of Seth and Apep in the Petrie Museum, London	عنوان البحث
تدمير الأعداء: لوحة غير منشورة للمعبود "ست" و"عب" في متحف بيتري بلندن	
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Abstract

This article publishes a limestone plaque in the collections of the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology, UCL No (LDUCE-UC16661), which might have been acquired through the excavations by Flanders Petrie, purchase, gift or donation from another sources. The Plaque bears images of Seth and Apep bound together as enemies at a stake. Provisionally it has been dated to the Late Period to the Ptolemaic Period, on general iconographic and stylistic grounds. The research attempts to assess its date and ritual significance while offering a detailed description of the plaque and an interpretation of its hieroglyphic inscriptions. Two close parallels to the plaque are cited, one of which -published by Georges Michailides- is an inscribed plaque similar in material, size, motif and technique, with no information on provenance while the other is a pottery stamp-seal (?) in Petrie Museum with a similar representation. Unlike the plaque in question, both parallels are roughly finished.

The researcher argues that the motif and inscriptions on the plaque evoke and re-enact the punishment of Seth and Apep together as evil deities and enemies to the gods (Osiris and Re), recalling the punishment of sinners in the Book of Gates. On a cosmic level, both Seth and Apep may represent the forces of disorder in the universe, as in the examples of defeating chaos by stabbing Seth during the Khoiak festival, or by felling Apep in order to control the river waters. Equally, the motif could symbolize a political view, expressing the defeat of the foreign enemies of Egypt. The iconography thus evokes at the same time the world of the gods and the world of humans, in a combination of religious, political, moral and legal dimensions.

Although the exact function of the Petrie plaque is difficult to identify, the research



compares it to the Old and Middle Kingdom objects with "execration texts" used in protective rituals. Another possible function of the plaque, though less likely, might be its use as a model for producing moulds to cast wax figures for incineration rites.

Keywords: Petrie Museum, Seth, Apep, Enemies, Punishment, Evil.