



13-83 Quartzite Statue of Pa-ra-her-wenem-ef, 19th Dynasty, mid 13th century BCE.

- Sir William Burrell purchased this statue on 2 March 1948 for £200 from Spink & Son who acquired it from the collection of the Vicomte de Hardecourt. Though damaged its identity is provided by hieroglyphic inscriptions (which show traces of yellow ochre): Pa-ra-her-wenem-ef ("Ra is at his right hand"), 2nd son of the great pharaoh of the New Kingdom, Ramesses II (1279 - 1213 BCE) by his principal queen Nefertari (her 1st son was Amen-her-khepeshef, heir during Pa-ra-her-wenem-ef's lifetime). Ramesses II died at the age of 92 after a long reign (buried in KV7), and was eventually succeeded by his 13th son (by Isetnofret, a lesser wife), Merneptah, who was middle-aged by the time he became pharaoh. The inscriptions read:

FRONT

"King's son, chief charioteer of his person, Paraherwenemef'.

RIGHT SIDE (cartouches of his father)

"Lord of the twin lands. Usermaatra-setepenra", (prenomen = throne-name)

"Lord of appearances, Ramesses, beloved of Amun". (nomen = birth-name)

LEFTSIDE

"Chief charioteer of his person, Paraherwenem[ef]",

"Prince, leader of the army of the king, chief of the 'braves', king's son of his body, beloved [of him]"

BACK

"[born of the king's] great [wife], king's scribe, master of the horse, Paraherwenem[ef]".

This is the only surviving representation of the prince outside Egypt. We do not know where it was found, but the statue was probably placed in a temple to be near the home of a god such as Amun-Ra. We know little about the prince's life, but his military titles show he was a soldier. We can speculate that, as the king's chief charioteer, he might have led the Egyptian cavalry in pursuit of the Hebrews and been drowned in the Red Sea, if the Exodus took place during the reign of his father. Other inscriptions (at Abu Simbel, Karnak, Luxor and the Ramesseum) tell us he fought with his father in Syria-Palestine, Jordan, Nubia and at the famous battle of Kadesh in 1274 BCE, which brought lasting peace between the Egyptians and the Hittites, the two superpowers of the day. He was born before Ramesses became king and died young, probably at the age of 26 during his parents' lifetime (c1260 BCE because of form of Ramesses used prior to year 21), only a few years before the death of his mother (who died in year 24 and was buried in QV66). His mummy has never been found, but may have been buried in KV5, the tomb of the sons of Ramesses II being excavated in the Valley of the Kings, Western Thebes by Kent Weeks.

The statue shows Paraherwenemef wearing a pleated shirt, kilt and flared apron typical of his time. You can see the fine details of the linen's hem, the tab of the kilt at his waist, and one tie of the drawstring for his shirt round his neck. He strides forward with his left leg in the standard pose of an Egyptian man and holds a piece of rolled cloth in his right hand, symbolising his authority. --Although his head is missing, it would have been shaven except for a long side-lock of hair, the mark of a royal prince.