



ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
SUPREME COUNCIL OF ANTIQUITIES

PRESS RELEASE

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From: Office of Dr. Zahi Hawass, Secretary General, SCA

Subject: A new statue of Amenhotep III uncovered in Luxor

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The upper portion of a red granite double statue featuring King Amenhotep III (1390-1352 BC) with the falcon-headed sun god Re-Horakhti was found today on the north western side of Amenhotep III's funerary temple on Luxor's west bank.

Minister of Culture, Farouk Hosny announced that the statue was found during a routine excavation carried out by an Egyptian team from the Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA), directed by Dr. Zahi Hawass, Secretary General of the SCA.

Hawass remarked that the statue is one of the best new finds in the area because of its expert craftsmanship, which reflect the skills of the ancient Egyptian artisans. Dr. Hawass pointed out that King Amenhotep III is well known for his overwhelming amount of statuary, particularly group statuary featuring the king with deities such as: Amun-Re, Re-Horakhti, Bastet, Sobek and Sekhmet, the goddess of healing. Hawass pointed out that the Amenhotep III Temple Conservation Project, directed by Dr. Hourig Sourouzian, has unearthed more than 80 statues of the goddess Sekhmet during their excavations at the temple. It has been suggested that the Sekhmet statues were erected because Amenhotep III was very sick during his final years.

The Egyptian mission has found several statues depicting King Amenhotep III with the solar god, Amun-Re and a granite colossus featuring Thoth, the god of wisdom, in the form of a baboon. "This is the first time that we have found a standing statue of the god Thoth," asserted Hawass.

According to Mansour Boraik, General Supervisor of the Luxor Antiquities Department of the SCA, a number of group statues of Amenhotep III are still partially buried under private farmland that surrounds the temple. Dr. Samir Farag, governor of Luxor, and the SCA are now trying to reach an agreement with the farmer to buy this section of land so that the statues can be fully excavated. In the future, this area will be converted into an open-air museum that will display the objects found in the mortuary temple complex.