



GRANITE HEAD FROM AN EGYPTIAN ROYAL STATUE



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A development of no little importance is the creation by the Persian Government of several National Monuments comprised of the centers of the ruin territory at Ray. This action will assure government supervision of the land and affords a gratifying recognition of the great importance of the site.

The possibilities of the site are so vast that it is impossible to give more than a bare outline of the tasks confronting the expedition. Detachments of the expedition's forces will sound all interesting spots and the immense city territory will be combed. In the citadel will be determined the successive fortifications of the acropolis of Ray. In the 'governmental district,' low elevations partially covered with thousands of stucco fragments mark the sites of important buildings of the Islamic and, possibly, the pre-Islamic epochs. At Cheshmeh Ali, awaiting excavation are an impressive series of superimposed prehistoric strata with beautiful ceramics decorated with conventionalized patterns of animals and human beings—attested by the hundreds of sherds already found in a rather inconspicuous, shallow section of this mound. Seljuk graves may be looked for on the slope of Naghareh Khaneh; on the same slope the remains of an impressive tomb construction may be that of a Seljuk king. Thus, the first season of excavation can hardly do more than show the possibilities of the site, and a realization of these possibilities may confidently be expected to reward the expedition through many seasons to come.

*A Head from  
an Egyptian Royal  
Statue*

**T**HE fine head of an Egyptian ruler shown on Plates X and XI was purchased by the Museum from an antiquity dealer in 1925, but has not heretofore been published in the *Bulletin*. It bears the catalogue number E. 16199. Of its previous history nothing is known, but its authenticity cannot reasonably be doubted. It is of mottled dark

grey and white granite, and measures over-all thirty-three and a half centimeters in height; the face, from just under the chin to the edge of the head-cloth on the forehead, is seventeen centimeters high. It is thus of life size. The side shown in the photographs is slightly better preserved than the other.

The raised and depressed bands representing the pleating of the head-cloth are of equal width. The fore-part of the uraeus (or sacred cobra) on the brow is lost, and was inlaid in a deep slot cut for the purpose; it was probably of bronze gilt. The tail of the uraeus, carved in the stone, passes back, with nine curves, along the whole of the top of the head. The empty eye-sockets originally contained inlaid eyes; from their outer corners run the 'cosmetic stripes' of eye-paint running back toward the ears. The chin is chipped, but never had a beard. There is no trace of color.

A very striking feature of the piece is the remaining front part of the neck, set at an angle which shows that the head must have been stretched far forward from the body. The only known type of royal statue (apart from those of Akhenaten and his family) bearing a head thus placed is that in which a king is kneeling on one leg, the other being thrust far out behind, while between his hands, which rest on the ground as far as possible before him, he holds an offering for a god. The statues of kings in this attitude (a compromise between kneeling and prostration), which are all in the Cairo Museum, are, however, very small, and the head here described seems to be the only evidence of the existence of life-sized examples of the type.

The attribution of the head to a particular royalty is difficult, owing largely to the loss of the nose. The other features suggest either Tuthmosis III (about 1500-1450 B. C.), the great conqueror of the Eighteenth Dynasty, or his relative and consort, Queen Hatshepsut (about 1500-1480 B. C.).

*B. G.*