

The Treasure of the Tôd temple

In 1936, the French archaeologist Bisson de la Roque dug a sanctuary where was the cartridge of Sesostris I (c. 1934-1898 BC).. Wishing to verify that the paving slabs were not reused from earlier buildings, he asked his workers to lift the slabs one by one to watch at their back side. Then, he discovered, at a depth of 1.70 m, a sand pit containing four boxes of bronze, two of them marked with the name of pharaoh Amenemhet II (1898-1866 B.C., Twelfth Dynasty) – the son and successor of Sesostris I. These boxes contained numerous objects of silver, gold, and lapis lazuli. This sensational discovery was soon known as the "treasure of Tod.

Once empty, the boxes still weighed 14 kg each for the two small ones and 37.5 kg for the two big ones. These latters contain lapis lazuli in the rough or cut state, pendants, beads, and amulets. From the two small boxes was extracted a staggering amount of precious metal objects, ten bars of yellow gold weighing 6.5 kilograms in total, 25 silver chains, four silver ingots of about 250g and twelve silver ingots of about 130g. But the most spectacular of these treasures was the presence of **145 bowls and cups of silver**, previously folded and tightly put against each other. **Only ten have been kept in form, not far from a golden cup.**

The Louvre Museum of Paris obtained much of this treasure which became one of the jewels of the collection of the Department of Antiquities. The second part went to the Cairo Museum. The cups were treated to recover their initial volume, with the exception of some which were deliberately kept in the state they were found inside the boxes.

However, it appeared that these objects had not been manufactured in Egypt. After some times, consulted experts concluded that they came from Syria, Cyprus, Anatolia and Mesopotamia.

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http://www.louvre.fr/llv/oeuvres/detail_notice.jsp?jsessionid=L2LJRGxvCzzvLpBLCWBV7c74fqBJ5BsD0WMbg198pJBxpvJTh4Qy!58624634?CONTENT%3C%3Ecnt_id=10134198673225513&CURRENT_LL_V_NOTICE%3C%3Ecnt_id=10134198673225513&FOLDER%3C%3Efolder_id=9852723696500776&baseIndex=0&bmLocale=en

