

## **Highlighting Some Pseudo Groups in the Old Kingdom**

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### **Abstract**

Pseudo group is a group statue where the sculptor has repeated the same figure two times or more (sitting, standing, walking) where in the majority there is no connection between the figures so that it is possible to cut the group into two or more complete sections. These figures can be royal or unroyal, they are almost identical where a slight difference can be noticed in the size, wig, facial features or in costume and sometimes in attitude. These pseudo groups are sometimes accompanied by one or more members of the family. This paper aims at highlighting some examples of royal and non-royal Pseudo-group statues representing the same person two times or more, their common gender, attitude, similarities and differences between royal and non-royal pseudo groups in the Old Kingdom.

### **Introduction**

It was Capart who was the first to propose the name "pseudo groups" to a group statue where the sculptor has repeated the same figure two times or more where no connection is shown between the figures (Capart, 1924). Capart's definition does not take account of the pseudo-groups in which similar figures embrace one another. It is worth mentioning that there is no general acceptance among Egyptologists on the function of the Psuedo-group statues neither on the number of pseudo-groups in sculpture, since some Egyptologists exclude some examples. Junker thinks that the reason for minor disparities in facial features was not an intention from sculptors to create distinctions but sculptors inability to create likeness (Junker, 1943).Rzepka thinks that the pseudo-groups were just another type of family statues, the images represent a man and his father, and in triple figures, a man, his father and his son (Slawomir, 1996).

#### **This paper aims at:**

- Highlighting some examples of Pseudo-groups in the Old Kingdom
- Analyzing the gender, material, provenance, attitudes and possible function of these groups
- Identifying similarities and differences between royal and non-royal pseudo-groups

## Examples of Royal Pseudo Groups from the Old Kingdom

### **The Group Statue of Queen Mertitefes twice and a Boy**

**Material:** Painted limestone.

**Provenance:** Giza.

**Dating:** Beginning of dynasty IV.

**Measurements:** Height: 48 cm.

**Place of Exhibition:** *Leiden D. 125.*



**Fig.1. (Vandier, 1958)**

**Description:** This group represents queen Mertitefes, who was the wife of king Seneferu then King Khufu (Gauthier, 1907. pp. 69-78). Mertitefes is standing twice wearing a long fitted dress with traces of colors, a broad collar and a medium size wig parted from the middle and reaching the shoulders. Her arms are along her body with flat hands (resting not directly on the thighs but on a kind of stone support) her feet are slightly parted. Standing to the left of the middle figure is a small boy standing naked, his arms along his body with closed fists, the left foot is put forward he wears a hair cap. There is a back slab reaching close to the shoulders of the first figure to the left (Boreux , 1935, Budge 2003).

#### **Commentary:**

1. There are differences between the two figures of queen Mertitefes: The figure to the left of the viewer is slightly taller, also in the facial features the one to the right has a more of a full face.
2. There was an opinion wondering if this group wasn't figuring this queen once as wife of Seneferu and once as wife of Khufu (Capart, 1902).

### **A Double Statue of king Niuserre**

**Material :** Alabaster-Calcite.

**Provenance:** Unknown, Wildung, believes they originally came from Niuserre's sun temple in Abu Ghurab (Wildung,1984)

**Dating:** Dynasty V, reign of Niuserre.

**Measurements:** Height:71.8 cm.  
Width: 40.8 cm.

**Place of Exhibition:** Munchen, *SSÄK, AS 6794.*



**Fig.2 ( Siedel, ,1996)**

**Description:** Both figures stand side by side with the same size with attached legs on a rectangular base from which comes out the back pillar. The two arms are along the body with closed fists holding a piece of cloth and the left foot is put forward. The king in both statues wear the kilt. According to Wildung ( Schoske& Wildung , 1972) the figure to the left represents the king in his youth while that to the right on the contrary is of advanced age.

**Inscriptions:** In front of the right foot of each figure, on the upper part of the base are two texts: “*Nswt bity Ny- wsr -R<sup>c</sup>, hr st- ib -t3wy, di nḥ dt, sp-snw*”, King of upper and lower Egypt *Ny-wsr-Re*, (Who belongs to the strength of Re)(He)Horus (who is upon) the throne of the heart of the two lands, May he be given eternal life twice.

**Commentary:**

It is thought that the king was represented here twice symbolizing the double nature of the king-god. Verner (Verner, 1988) thinks that since king Niuserre probably ruled over 30 years, Niuserre's twin statue might represent the king before and after the sed-festival: The old and tired ruler- and a reborn young vigorous Horus.

**The Double Statue of King Pepi I**

**Material:** Copper.

**Provenance:** Hierakonpolis (Kom El Ahmar, ٢٠٠٥ عبد الحليم نور الدين)

**Dating:** Dynasty VI.

**Measurements:** Height: 177 cm.

**Place of Exhibition:** Egyptian Museum, Cairo 33034-5.



**Fig.3(Borchardt, CG)**

**Description:** The group represents two standing statues on wooden bases and a wooden back pillar. The one to the right of the viewer is in a large scale, with the left foot largely advanced, the right arm along the body. The fist holds a folded material while the left hand holds a long stick. The second statue to the left is in a very small size compared to the big one who he is represented naked, arms along the body, the fists holding probably each a roller, the hair is covered with a hair band on which a uraeus is attached (which proves his royalty). The eyes are treated in the same way as in the big statue, the nose has a wide base and the mouth is quiet big (Vandier, 1958- Cyril, 1980- Robins, 1997- Lambelet, 1999).

**Inscriptions:** On the wooden base is an inscription that identifies the larger figure as king Pepi I while the smaller figure, possibly stood on the same base is unidentified ( Robins, 1997).

**Commentary:**

Concerning the identity of the small figure, with the absence of the inscription this figure may represent King Pepi's son and successor Merenre or perhaps the Ka of king Pepi himself (Robins, 1997).

**Examples of non-royal Pseudo Groups from the Old Kingdom**

**Material:** Dark grey granite.

**Provenance:** Saqqara.

**Dating:** Dynasty V.

**Measurements:** Height: 47.5 cm.

**Place of exhibition:** Egyptian Museum, Cairo CG 165.



**Fig. 4. (Borchardt, CG, Blatt 37).**

**Description:** The two men are seated side by side. The attitude of the hands of the two men are the same, the right hand is closed and holds a cylindrical object and is put on the right thigh while the left hand is put flat open on the left knee. The man to the right is a little bigger than the man to the left. The costume is same in both, a short straight kilt with no details. They wear a short- curled wig covering the ears.

**Commentary:**

In spite of the missing inscriptions, it is assumed because of the features and same attitude that it represents the same person twice, that is called a pseudo-group

### The Seated Group of *ndh-m-ib*

**Material:** Painted limestone.

**Provenance:** Abydos.

**Dating:** Dynasty VI.

**Measurements:** Height: 34 cm.

**Place of Exhibition:** Egyptian Museum, Cairo *CG 219*.



Fig.5 (Borchardt, *CG*. pl. 219)

**Description:** Njhemib is seated twice in the same attitude, where both fists are closed and put on the thighs. The legs are parallel, they wear a curly wig reaching the shoulders leaving the ears free, divided into locks, and a short kilt with a belt. (Borchardt, *CG*.)

**Inscriptions:** In sunk hieroglyphs painted black, on the front of the seat and the base: *hm-ntr shd smr- w<sup>c</sup>ty tpy-hr-Nswt Ndh- m- ib, shd hm-ntr smr- w<sup>c</sup>ty tpy-hr-Nswt ndh-m- ib htp di-nsw n Pr- hrw t hnkt n t3y Im3hw*, The purified priest, the only friend, the first one after the king *Ndh-m-ib*. An offering presented by the king of bread and beer to the blessed one.

### The Seated Group of *Ity-sn*

**Material:** Limestone-grey white paint (possible quarry Tura or Minya).

**Provenance:** No doubt Saqqara after identity of the owner-bought in 1827.

**Dating:** Dynasty VI after the style.

**Measurements:** Height: 53.5 cm.

Width: 47.5 cm.

Height of back slab: 41 cm.

**Place of Exhibition:** *Louvre A. 43*.



Fig.6 (Ziegler, 1997).

**Description:** *Ity-sn* inspector of funerary priests is figured twice seated. The two figures are identical by the attitude and the costume, only the faces show notable differences and a slight difference in the size of the persons. The persons are seated side by side on a seat with a high back which the profile of which evoke the hieroglyph "st". *Ity-sn* is dressed in a kilt with rounded edges, which is partly pleated on the right side. The legs are parallel with massive knees and big ankles. The arms along the body, the right hand holds a hand kerchief, while the left is put flat on the left knee. The face is framed by a flared wig covering partly the ears and separated by a middle parting. He is characterized by the relative length of the nose and the uncommon absence of the chin. The eyes are big and particularly not symmetrical. The neck is short, the torso and the stomach are small and very flat. The hands have a summarized form. The back slab has no decoration left. The face of the person to the right gives an impression of more youth with rounded cheeks. That to the left, sullen, with a higher forehead show slightly the bending down of the head (Boreux, 1935, Vandier, 1958, p. 89, 118, pl. XXXIII, 2; Hornemam, 1966., pl. 1115; Kanawaty, 1985, p. 39; Eaton-Krauss, 1995, p. 63-66.; Ziegler, 1997, pp. 90-92. ; *PM VIII, I*, p. 255).

**Text:**

**On the base between the figures:** *Hm-k3 shd* the purified priest. *Ity- sn* ( Ranke, *PN I*, p. 49, 26; *PN II*, p. 344, 26; Vandier, 1958, pl. XXXIV 2).

**Commentary:**

This Itisen is with no doubt the same Itisen owner of another pseudo group (*Copenhagen NM A.A b 27*) that holds the same title.

### A Group of Two Similar Figures Standing The Double Statue of *sd- n- m3ct*

**Material:** Painted limestone.

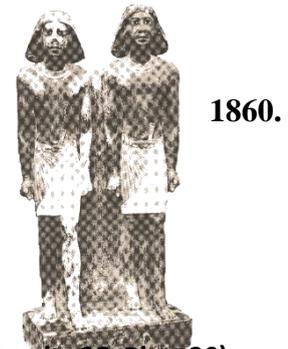
**Provenance:** Saqqara, Mastaba D 56-, excavated by Mariette in

**Dating:** Dynasty V.

**Measurements:** Height: 57 cm.

Width: 29.5 cm.

**Place of Exhibition:** Egyptian Museum, Cairo *CG 133*.



**Fig.7 (Borchardt, *CG*, Blatt 30).**

**Description:** *sd n M3ct* is represented standing twice on a rectangular base with a back slab reaching almost to the shoulders. The figure to the left (of the viewer) is slightly shorter. They are almost identical, but with different facial features the arms dangling with closed fists holding the folded cloth, and the left foot is advanced. They wear a medium size wig divided by a central parting which leaves the ears partly uncovered and falls onto the shoulders, a polychrome necklace, and a partly pleated kilt with a belt and a knot ( Borchardt, *CG*, pp. 99-100; Vandier, 1958, pp. 85-89; Hornemann, 1966, pl. 1094; Saleh, - Sourouzian, *The Egyptian Museum*, n. 48; Hawass,.,. 1999. p. 80; *The Illustrated Guide to the Egyptian Museum in Cairo..* 2001); *sd-n-M3ct* was a priest associated to the cult of Re and Hathor in the solar temple of Neferirkare).

**Inscriptions:**

**Between the feet of the two figures on the base:** “*s3b hry- sst3, sm3c s wd c n wr sd- n -M3ct*

Dignitary, keeper of the secrets, priest, Judge, great *sd n M3ct*.

**Commentary:**

1. The representation of the same figure twice in the statuary of the Old Kingdom was common, usually a slight difference will differentiate the two figures, but in this group there is a great difference in their facial features.
2. The artist in this group paid great attention in the depiction of the accessories like the necklaces and the material knotted below the navel.

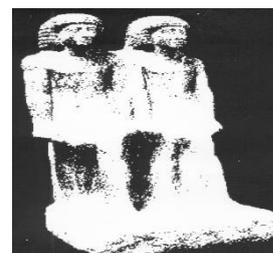
### A Group of Two Standing

**Material:** Pink-granite.

**Provenance:** Saqqara.

**Dating:** Dynasty V.

**Measurements:** Height: 43 cm.



**Fig.8. (Lauer, 1939. pl. LXVIII)**

**Description:** The group represents the same person twice standing side by side. They have the same arm attitude (both arms are along the body with closed fists holding a folded cloth) and the left foot is put forward. The group must have fitted in a base of wood or stone where the name of the owner must have been written, now it is missing (Lauer, 1939. pp. 449-450)

### A Group of Two Standing

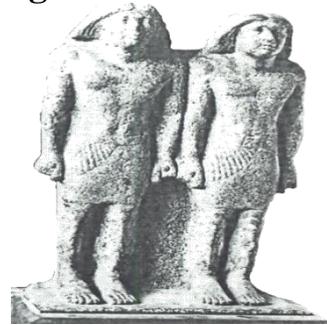
**Material:** Pink granite.

**Provenance:** Saqqara.

**Dating:** Dynasty V.

**Measurements:** Height: 58 cm with base.

**Place of Exhibition:** Egyptian Museum, Cairo *CG 168*.

**Fig.9 (Borchardt CG. Blatt. 37).**

**Description:** The group represents two men standing on a rectangular base with a back pillar reaching above their shoulders, and they have similar features and attitude where they have their arms with closed fists holding a folded cloth, their feet together, a long curly wig reaching the shoulders, and a short kilt which is partly pleated (Borchardt, *CG*. p. 119).

**Commentary:**

Since there are no inscriptions the group is unidentified. The upper part of the group is not well polished, and the arms and the legs are not free. In general the work is rough and not fine.

### The Double Statue of *šps- Pth*

**Material:** Limestone.

**Provenance:** Giza.

**Dating:** Dynasty VI.

**Measurements:** Height: 39 cm.

**Place of exhibition:** *Hildesheim Museum 2144*.

**Fig.10. (Kayser, 1966, Abb. 28.)**

**Description:** The statue represents the supervisor of the funerary priests "Shepses Ptah" standing twice almost in an identical form side by side: the arms are along the body with closed fists holding the folded linen cloth, and the left foot is put forward. They wear a medium size wig parted from the middle, and a short kilt partly pleated with a knot and a belt. They stand on a rectangular base with a back pillar (This group is similar to another pseudo group in Egyptian Museum Cairo no. 43753 in position of arms, feet, kilt and wig; Junker, *Giza VII* 1944. p. 96; Kayser, 1966, p. 48; *PM III, I* P.151)

**Commentary:**

The figure to the right (of the viewer) is slightly shorter.

### The Double Statue of *Pn-ḥs- Mrw* Standing

**Material:** Painted limestone.

**Provenance:** Nag al-Mashaykh (It lies in Miniya governorate (West bank))

**Dating:** Old Kingdom.

**Measurements:** Height: 56 cm.

**Place of Exhibition:** Egyptian Museum, Cairo CG 156.



**Fig.11.** (Hawass, 2002, p.21).

**Description:** The statue represents Pen Hesy Meru standing twice side by side, his arms are along his body with closed fists holding the folded linen cloth, and the left foot is put forward. He wears a long wig divided into locks reaching the shoulders and a short kilt with a knot without any pleats. The figure to the right (of the viewer) is slightly taller (Hawass, 2002 p .21).

### The Double Statue of *Mrsw- ḥnh*

**Material:** Limestone.

**Provenance:** Giza.

**Dating:** Dynasty V.

**Place of Exhibition:** Egyptian Museum, Cairo CG 66620.



**Fig.12.** (Scharff, Plate 1 n. 3)

**Description:** The two figures stand on a rectangular base with a back slab reaching below their shoulders, both wear the same curly wig divided into horizontal lines, an arm dangling while the other arm is crossed on the chest, a starched kilt and the left foot is put forward. They both wear a collar around the neck. The inscription separating the two figures confirms that it is related to one person (Boreux, 1935. p. 813; *PM III 1*, p.270).

**Commentary:**

The Egyptian taste for symmetrical equilibrium has led the artist to reverse the position of the arms (in the statue to the left, the left arm hang along the body while the right, arm is folded back in a way that it touches the left shoulder, the statue to the right makes the same pose oppositely).

### The Group Statue of Raur

**Material:** Quartzite.

**Provenance:** Giza.

**Dating:** Dynasty V.



**Measurements:** Height: 64 cm.

Width: 42 cm.

**Place of Exhibition:** Egyptian Museum, Cairo *JE 66615*.

**Fig . 13**(*Arte sublime ne ll'Antico Eqitto*.1999. p. 103.)

**Description:** Raur is represented three times standing with dangling arms, holding a folded cloth, wearing a half-pleated kilt and with the left foot put forward. The two figures standing at the sides have an identical wig (flared sided revealing part of the ear) while that in the middle has a heavy wig divided into horizontal lines of locks covering the ears. They stand on a rectangular base with a back support reaching above their shoulders. The three figures have the same full face with flat nose at the base high checks and a smiling mouth. ( Shoukry , 1951, p. 152; *PM III.1* ,p. 266; Hornemann , 1966, pl.1361; *Arte sublime Nell'antico Egitto*. 1999. p. 104).

### The Group Statue of *Pn mrw* three Times

**Material:** Limestone.

**Provenance:** Giza.

**Dating:** End of Dynasty V.

**Measurements:** Height: 1.20 cm.

**Place of Exhibition:** *MFA Boston 12.504*.



**Fig. 14**(Vandier, 1958. Pl. XLIV)

**Description:** This group represents the same figure three times standing with the left foot put forward, the three figures show same kilt, arms along their sides (Vandier, 1958, p. 553.)

**Commentary:**

The obvious difference between the three figures in the two groups is the wig.

### The Group Statue of *ity-sn* twice and a Boy

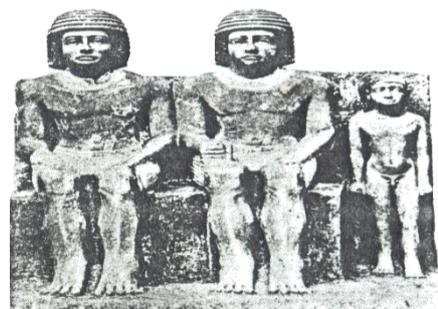
**Material:** Painted limestone.

**Provenance:** Probably from Giza.

**Dating:** Dynasty V.

**Measurements:** Height: 52.5 cm.

**Place of Exhibition:** National Museum, Copenhagen *A. A. b 27*.



**Fig. 15**(Vandier, 1958, pl. XXXIV) 2).

**Description:** Itisen is represented twice seated on a seat with a short back reaching almost to the shoulders, they are almost identical but the one next to the boy is slightly less in height and less in the fullness of the face, the left hand of both is put flat on the thigh while the right fist is

put vertically on the left thigh, he wears a traditional short curly wig divided into horizontal lines of curls, a short kilt with a belt and a knot and a collar. The feet are slightly parted. Standing in front of the back slab is a boy represented naked with a fitted cap and a side lock, his arms are dangling with closed fists holding a folded cloth, and his left foot is put forward (Manniche, 2000, pp. 66-68).

**Inscriptions:** gives name "Itisen" for the adults and "khenu" for the boy.

### The Group Statue of *Mr- sw- ʿnh*

**Material:** Limestone.

**Provenance:** Giza, excavations of Selim Hassan.

**Dating:** Dynasty V.

**Measurements:** Height of middle figure: 57 cm.

Height of right and left figures: 56 cm

**Place of Exhibition:** Egyptian Museum, Cairo *JE 66618*.



**Fig.16 (Rössler – Köhler Tafel 35-a)**

**Description:** Mrs. Wankh is represented three times, two of which are seated in the same attitude with the right fist closed on the right thigh while the left hand is put flat on the left thigh, the same short partly pleated kilt, the collar and the long flared sided wig with a middle parting, and their feet are slightly parted. Placed a little backwards, to the side stand in a much smaller size a third figure of Mrs. Wankh, his arms are dangling with closed fists holding a cylindrical object, he wears the same kilt and the same collar of the other two figures but his wig is different, it is a short heavy wig covering the ears, and his left foot is put forward. All faces are quiet full with big eyes, round cheeks, and big nose with a flat base (Boreux, 1935, p. 811-; *Mrsw ʿnh* was the overseer of the young men in the endowment of companion Rauer, overseer of all his properties in and outside the endowment. *PM III<sup>1</sup>* p.270. Rössler – Köhler, p. 273)

#### Commentary

1. Hassan (Hassan, Excavations at Giza, p.114) thinks that the three figures of this group represent *Mrsw ʿnh* at different periods of his life (due to difference in size and features).
2. The standing statue is definitely the most youth and it is for this reason that the sculptor depicted him standing and not sitting as not to spoil the equilibrium and the harmony of the group, thus representing the three figures almost at the same height.
3. The two seated figures do not sit on the same seat but on two different seats separated by a high arm support decorated on the front by a line of hieroglyphs.

## The Group Statue of *pn-mrw* and his Family

**Material:** Painted limestone.

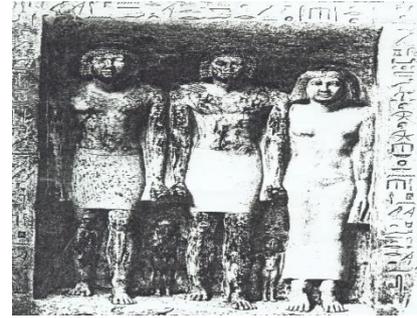
**Provenance:** Giza tomb *G 2197*.

**Dating:** End of Dynasty V.

**Measurements:** Height: 155 cm.

Width: 105 cm.

**Place of exhibition:** *MFA Boston 12.1484*.



**Fig.17 (Rössler Köhler, Tafel 35-b).**

**Description:** Emerging from inside a rectangular frame. Pen Meru is represented twice standing with the left foot put forward, wearing a curled wig with the arms dangling and the closed fists holding a folded cloth, the figure to the left is a little bigger in size than the figure in the middle, also the kilt is different: that in the middle which is plain while that to the left is partly pleated. The musculature of the bodies is well shown. The lady stands to the right in a smaller scale her feet is slightly parted and the left arm along the body with open hand while with the right hand she embraces the figure in the middle from behind and her hand is visible on the right shoulder. Between the figures' legs are two children, a nude girl is embracing a leg of the figure in the middle and a boy with the finger to the mouth embrace the other leg. Both have the children side-lock (Stevenson Smith, 1942. p. 49; *PM III, 1p.* 83; Aldred, 1980. pp. 100-101; Rössler Köhler 1989. pp. 273-4; Freed., Berman., and Doxey, 2003. p. 91).

**Inscriptions: On the rectangular frame:** “*hmt.f rht- Nsw mrt.f s, his wife, the known to the king mrt.f. s*”, *shd im3hw hr ntr- 3 rh- nswt pn mrw*”, The blessed one by the great god, the known to the king: *pn-mrw*.

### **Commentary:**

Notice there is no connection between the male figure to the side and the rest of the family, while the figure in the middle is embraced by the wife and the two children.

## **Analysis**

### **1. Pseudo groups of two men standing:**

Examples are the two statues of *sd-n-M3t CG 133*, also *CG 168*, *CG 66620*, *CG 156* and the two groups (with no numbers) All the previous examples represent two men in the classic attitude with the left foot put forward and arms along their bodies with closed fists holding a folded cloth. Exceptions are *CG 168* with foot put together and *CG 66620* where the exterior arm is bent in a way that the hand is put flat on the interior shoulder. The previous examples show in each group a slight difference in size and facial features but same wigs, costume and attitude. Only the attitude in *CG 66620* is reversed in the position of the arms The only example in this classification with great difference in facial features is *CG 133* representing *sd-n-M3t* two times standing where the statue to the left (of the viewer) represents a young man with full face and lively appearance while that to the right shows a face of a mature man with less fullness and with a moustache. According to Boreux ( Boreux, 1935, pp. 805-809).when the figures of the same person are shown at the same size then it aims to achieve for the statue's owner a duality which is inspired by the royal duality (as a king of upper and lower Egypt) so having a pseudo group permits its owner to enjoy the privileges which were reserved for the pharaoh (Junker, *Giza VII.* pp. 96-100.) .And when the figures are not of the same height or

facial, features, Boreux suggests that the statue depicts the same person at different ages (youth, maturity and old age) thus the statues placed in the tomb would represent the deceased in these three stages of life. Junker and Vandier do not agree with this opinion on the basis of that it is a large step to equate the tomb owner to the double figure of the *nswt-bity* besides there is only one example of establishing a real age difference which is **CG 133** of *sd-n-M3t*, which presumably has some deliberate reason behind it, while in the other groups it show slight differences which can probably be attributed to the difficulty the sculptor faced to reproduce two exactly identical statues. Junker suggests, however that difference in age could have been shown by different costume or with different titles for offices that were given to him at different times because the higher the office, the higher the expectation of advanced age. Junker argues that pseudo-groups depict the statue owner together with his one or two kas referring to pyramid texts that attest the close connection between the deceased and his ka, especially pyramid text no. 18 which points to the physical joining between them where the ka could be united with the statue, could inhabit it, and invigorate it with a soul. According to Junker in order to be rejuvenated in the afterlife this would require that the ka remains youthfully vigorous and not grow old, and so the youthful representation of the second figure in a pseudo group is the ka rather than a double representation of the deceased (Vandier, 1958). It is apparent that the ka has been perceived in various ways, Bolshakov gives a recent general over-all view of ideas about the ka and how they have developed over the years (Bolshakov, 1997, pp. 123-132). between copy of a man (his double) which is quite material and a spiritual double of each individual. The word ka meaning an ancestor is found in some texts from the private tombs of the 5<sup>th</sup> dynasty, and the words "father" and "k3" seem to be synonymous (Slawomir, 1996. pp. 341-343). With the analysis of certain features of private pseudo-groups, it is possible the interpretation of these monuments as effigies of deceased and his father (It is also applicable for the statue of *sd-n-M3t* (Slawomir, 1996, p. 344; ضحى محمد سامي عبد الحميد, ٢٠٠١, ص ١٣)

Researcher supports this opinion, in which pseudo groups represent a deceased and his ka in case of almost identical groups, and in case of facial different features and age difference the deceased and his father (*k3*) as in **CG 133** of *sd-n-M3t*.

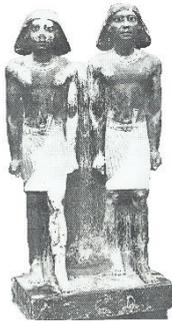
## 2. Pseudo-groups of two men seated:

Examples are **CG 165**, **CG 219**, **Louvre A. 43** also **MFA 14-11-46+14-11-91** and **MFA 14-2-15** could also be pseudo groups. The three first examples have almost identical features, height, wigs and costumes. The only example with a different provenance is **CG 219** which comes from Abydos. **CG 219**, **Louvre A43** are made out of limestone while the other three examples are made out of granite.

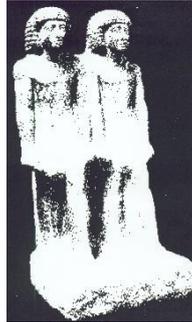
## 3-Pseudo groups of three men:

We have three examples: A group of 3 standing **JE 66615** of Raur, A group of 3 standing **MFA 12.504** and a group of 3 seated **JE 66618** of *mr .sw nh*.

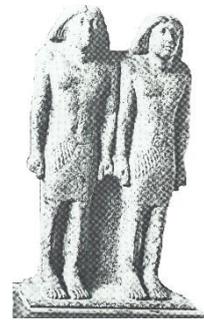
## A Comparative Study between Royal and Private Pseudo Groups in the Old Kingdom



**CG 133**



**Doc.42**



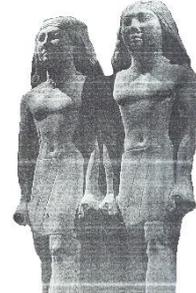
**CG 168**



**Hildesheim group**



**CG 66620**



**CG 156**

	Royal	Private
<b>Group no.</b>	 <b>Munchen SSAK AS 6794</b>	- <b>CG 133</b> - <b>Doc. 42.p. 82</b> - <b>CG 168</b> - <b>Hildesheim group</b> - <b>CG 66620</b> - <b>CG 156</b>

1. The previous examples (Royal – private) share the same attitude where two similar figures (all of men) stand side by side with arms along their bodies with closed fists holding a folded cloth. The only exception is **CG 66620** where each figure has an arm crossed on the chest. They all have the left foot put forward except **CG 168** where the figures have feet put together. All previous groups have no interaction between the two figures.
2. The Royal group is made of Alabaster while the private groups differ between limestone and granite.
3. The Royal group was probably from Abu Ghurab while those of the private were from Saqqara, Giza, and Nag al Mashaykh.
4. The height of the Royal group is 71.8 cm while those of the private range between 39 cm – 57 cm.
5. The dating of all groups (except Hildesheim group) is dynasty V.

## Conclusion

- The majority of pseudo-groups in the Old Kingdom represent non-royal groups.
- Out of the 17 pseudo groups in this study, we have 11 (65% of total) pseudo groups representing two similar men (8 of which stand –3 are seated) while 6 groups (*JE 66615* -*MFA 12.504* -Egyptian Museum, Cairo group) represent the person three times.
- 16 pseudo groups represent male figures repeated twice or thrice and only one represent a repeated female figure (Leiden D 125).
- Out of the 17 pseudo groups, 10 groups are made out of limestone (59% of total while 7 groups (36% of total) is made out of granite, quartzite, copper, alabaster which was used rarely in private statues in the old kingdom. If we compare these groups with groups of pairs in private statuary of the old kingdom, we will find that the majority are made out of limestone.
- 13 groups (76% of total) date back to the 5<sup>th</sup> dynasty while 3 groups (27% of total) date back to the 6<sup>th</sup> dynasty, while 1 group dates back to the 4<sup>th</sup> dynasty.
- 7 groups (64% of total) were found in Giza, 2 groups (18 % of total) were found in Saqqara, while 1 group in Abydos, 1 in Hierakonopolis, 1 in Abu Ghurab.
- The height ranges between 34 cm – 64 cm in 15 groups (a range of 20 cm) which proves that this was the common height for these groups while only 2 groups (Boston *MFA 12.1484*) is 155 cm. and *MFA 12.504* is 1.20 cm high.
- Wigs and costume follow the same traditional ones of the old Kingdom.
- In standing statues, both arms are dangling with closed fists holding a folded cloth, while in seated figures, the right fist is closed (vertically or horizontally) on thigh while the left is flat on thigh. The only two exceptions are *CG 66620* representing two standing figures crossing an arm on chest and *JE 43752* with one figure embarrassing the other.
- Concerning the feet position, we have two positions only (left foot put forward – feet put together).
- In the majority of the previous groups, the figures are represented individually with no interaction between the figures as if they are two separate statues except *JE 43752*

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