

# BULLETIN OF THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

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Algerian Girl

Pierre Auguste Renoir (1841-1919)

Juliana Cheney Edwards Collection

PUBLISHED BIMONTHLY

SUBSCRIPTION ONE DOLLAR

gotten or ignored until French critics in the latter part of the nineteenth century became excited over the masterly achievements in portraiture of the then obscure Japanese artist. Thus the way was paved for proper appreciation and acknowledgment of this artistic genius by both Occidental and Oriental connoisseurs. Whether or not his pictures were executed to indulge a whim, drawn in moments of relaxation from his duties as a performer of the *nō*, that austere classic drama, so diverse in nature from the *kabuki*, will never be known. Whatever his motive, he succeeded in creating an extraordinary type of pictorial representation. It would appear that he had neither master nor pupil.

The exhibition of Sharaku's works which opens in the Museum on December 1, 1939, continuing through January 15, 1940, and which will be held later at the Art Institute of Chicago and the Museum of Modern Art in New York, has been organized by the Society for Japanese Studies of New York, the preliminary survey having been subsidized by the American Council of Learned Societies. Efforts have been made by the Committee members of the Society in charge to assemble all known subjects by Sharaku from public and private collections in the United States. Because, however, a few were unavailable, it was found necessary to substitute photographs of these subjects in order to make the exhibition all-inclusive. This is the first time that the complete works of Sharaku have ever been shown. A comprehensive catalogue of the Exhibition, under the title *The Surviving Works of Sharaku*, compiled by Harold G. Henderson and Louis V. Ledoux, has been published by the Society for Japanese Studies. KOJIRO TOMITA.



Tomisaburō II as O-Shizu (1794) Sharaku  
William S. and John T. Spaulding Collection

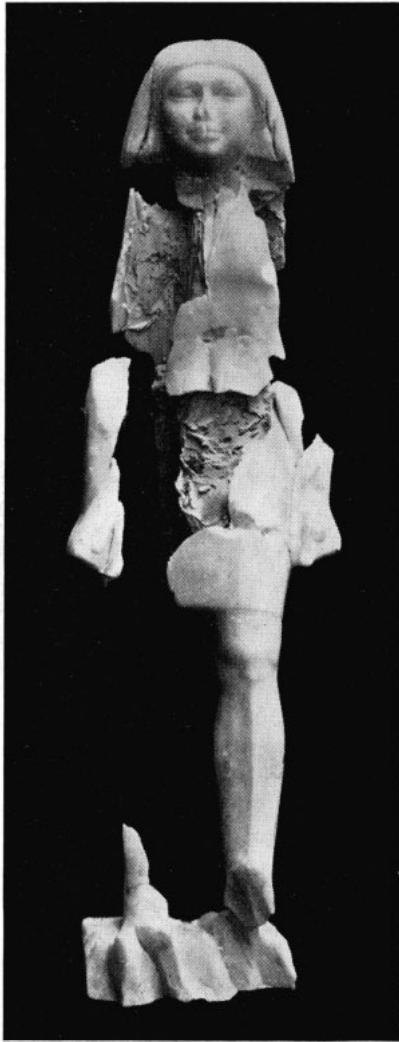
### An Alabaster Statuette of Prince Khnum-baf

THE Egyptian Expedition, working at Giza in 1914, excavated the large tomb of Prince Khnum-baf who lived at the beginning of the Fifth Dynasty. From the *serdabs* of this tomb came a number of large limestone statues, all with their heads missing but of fine quality, six of which are exhibited in the Second Egyptian Gallery. In the course of the winter's excavations many fragments of granite, diorite, and alabaster statuettes were found scattered among the tombs over a wide area to the west of the prince's burial place, and there would have been no reason to associate any of these with him had not some been inscribed with his name. The fine granite statuette of a seated scribe which is now in the Museum was reconstructed practically complete from such fragments, but no other complete figure was recognized at the time, and the many pieces of diverse materials representing statuettes of various types were left for further study while the excavations went forward.

In 1924 the Museum received a fine alabaster head which was placed on exhibition: it was listed as coming from mastaba G 4830. In the same shipment came groups of fragmentary sculpture from mastaba G 4620, and these were placed in storage as they were useless for exhibition purposes. The tomb of Khnum-baf bore the number G 5230, and there was no reason to associate the head with him. Two years ago, in looking over the disjointed fragments received in 1924, we noted the name of



Matsusuke I as Magoroku Nyūdo  
(1794) Sharaku  
Bigelow Collection



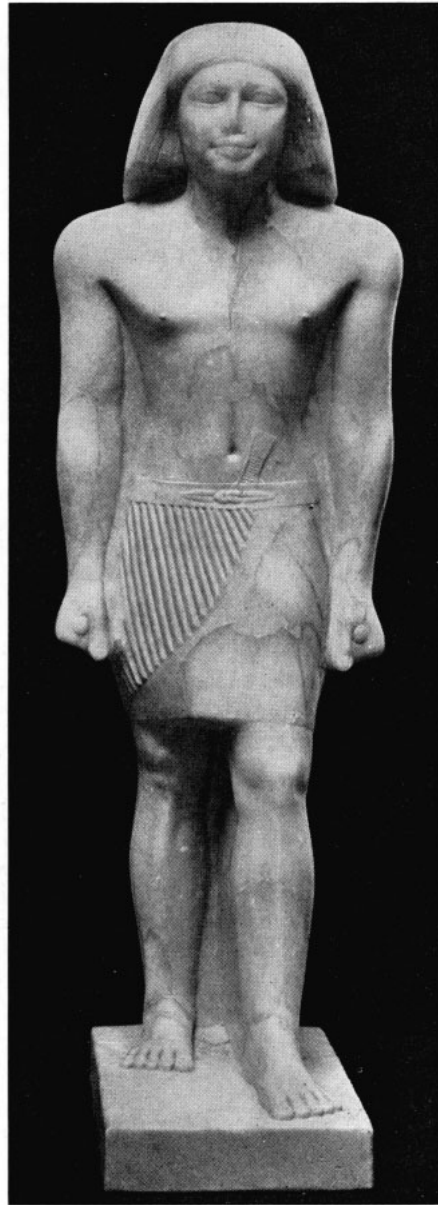
Prince Khnum-baf Early Fifth Dynasty  
Alabaster fragments as assembled

Khnum-baf on an inscribed piece, and at about the same time Mr. W. S. Smith, who had come home from the Expedition on a visit and had been making a detailed study of the records and the site, told us that our head was believed to be from the group of Khnum-baf fragments. His contention was shown to be correct when it was found that the head and some of the fragments, including the inscribed pieces, fitted together.

About one third of a standing statuette has thus been recovered, and we have restored the missing parts in hard wax, using the modelling of the large limestone figures of the same man as a guide. The reconstruction was carried out by David Dennis under the supervision of Mr. William Young and the writer, and has resulted in a figure in which the beautiful modelling of the original parts may be seen to the best advantage in their proper context.<sup>1</sup>

DOWS DUNHAM.

<sup>1</sup>Reg. No. 24.603. Height as restored 67.6 cm. The inscription down the back reads, "Prince, Son of the King's body, Khnum-baf."



Prince Khnum-baf Alabaster  
Figure completed in wax

#### Staff Appointments

**MR. ROBERT GARDNER ROSE-GRANT**, formerly on the staff of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, has been appointed Registrar by the Trustees to fill the position made vacant by the death of Mr. Story. Mr. Rosegrant is exceptionally well equipped to meet the varied and exacting requirements of the work which he has undertaken.

**MISS CAROLINE BULLARD**, Assistant in the Photograph Library since September 1935, has been made Keeper of the Tolman Collection to succeed Miss Frances E. Turner, who retired last summer after thirty-four years of devoted service to the Museum.