

A Statue Comes into Being!

By Joan "Meresankh" Lansberry

It began with an idea and sketches. The argument for the origin of the classic "Set animal" as the saluki is most convincing, so in addition to examining the ancient examples, I looked at many photos of salukis before making my sketches. I'd hoped to get a balance of the realistic with the stylized.

I imagined views from all angles, sides, top, front and back. I wanted titles of Set to be around the plinth, so there would be no doubt as to who this Netjer was. The scene of Thutmose III and Set at Karnak for his heb-sed race captured by Lepsius (before so much damage occurred) was most helpful to me in finding accurate titles.

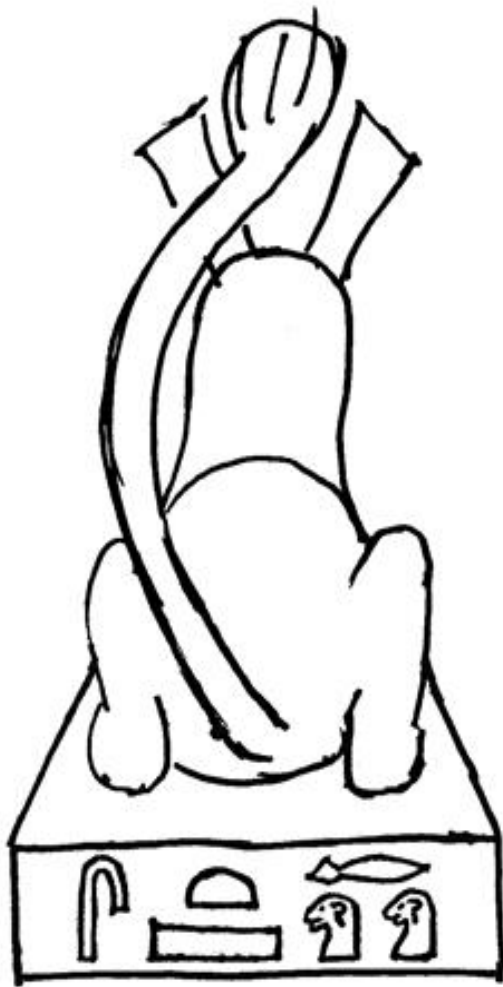
The sketches just sat there, albeit displayed via my online journal for a few months. Then when some money we'd been hoping for came in, I decided to have the sketches made into a statue. I knew just what sculptor to use, for I'd seen Shefy's statues, seen also on Lena Toritch's website. Shefy's beautiful Bast arrived while I was still waiting for my statue. (The URL "custommemorialstatues.com/lena.html" has more info about the sculptor, who was trained at St. Petersburg Academy of Fine Arts in Russia.)

It was so exciting to see photos of the mold, and then at last, photos of the statue itself.



This side reads "Set, Great of Magic". The other side reads "Set, Son of Nut". The

front simply has his name “Set” (*also pronounced “Sutesh”, or “Sutekh”*). The back has “Set, Great of Strength”.



Lena Toritch took my clumsy drawing and imbued my vision with vitality. Set appears relaxed, but with a coiled energy ready to spring into action if needed. I couldn't have chosen a better sculptor, for she often sculpts canine figures. For instance, she's done statues honoring the K9 forces in military and the police service.

I got a little silver scarab at the Two Rivers Renaissance Fair a few months before the statue arrived, intending it for a pendant for this statue.

