



The Colossal Statue of Ramesses II

By Anna Garnett

BRITISH MUSEUM PRESS, United Kingdom, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 210 x 148 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Ramesses II, King of Egypt (1279-1213 BC) ascended the throne as the third king of the Nineteenth Dynasty at the age of twenty-five. In his sixty-seven year reign he probably built more temples and sired more children than any other Egyptian king. Today, he is popularly known as Ramesses the great . One of the largest pieces of Egyptian sculpture in the British Museum, the upper part of the colossal statue of Ramesses II, also known as the Younger Memnon , was perhaps the first piece of Egyptian sculpture to be recognized as a work of art by connoisseurs, who traditionally judged things by the standards of ancient Greek art. Weighing 7.25 tons, this fragment of his statue was cut from a single block of two-coloured granite, and shows Ramesses wearing the nemes headdress surmounted by a cobra diadem. The statue was retrieved from the mortuary temple of Ramesses at Thebes (the Ramesseum) by Giovanni Belzoni in 1816. Belzoni wrote a fascinating account of his struggle to remove it, both literally, given its colossal size, and politically. After its...



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