



## Shahrokh Razmjou - National Museum of Iran, Tehran

### Traces of Paint on the Statue of Darius

A new inspection of the statue of Darius the Great at the *National Museum of Iran* revealed that the statue was painted. This new observation occurred while photographing the Egyptian statue of Darius.



First, some traces of a colourful paint were seen on the folds of the black statue and, when checking on the opposite side, the same traces were found there as well. The side folds are painted in a brown-redish colour. Some spots are very clear in a good light. On the folds with inscription, however, no traces of colour pigments have been found as yet.



Some samples have been taken from painted spots on the statue to be send to a laboratory for analyzing the pigments and getting an exact result. Moreover, some samples have been taken from the sediments on the shoes to see if there are any pigments or paint traces there.

Now, when the laboratory presents its results, there could be a clear answer to the old question: was the statue of Darius painted as well? A second matter of importance is whether the pigments are either Persian or Egyptian in origin.

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