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The Titles of Trustworthy Seal Bearer in Ancient Egypt until the End of the Middle Kingdom

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Abstract

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There is no doubt that especially during Ancient Egypt the titles of officials are a major source of information about their careers and their duties in the state administration and service to the king and his family. During the last few decades, there has been general agreement in the understanding of many of the most frequently occurring titles. It is no wonder that many officials of the Government were concerned about its function. There were attached to almost every department of the public service, as well as to all the religious institutions of the country; and even wealthy noblemen, usually had one or more of these seal bearer" in their household. Often times, title was held by officials and nobles as an honorary title. In ancient Egypt, many high-ranking members of the royal government bore the title "htm(w) kf3-ib" which means "Trustworthy Seal Bearer". The person who bore of course was a trusted person, this title played an administrative role and its term had variant derivatives and functions associated with it.

The proposed research, therefore, aims to study the titles of the trustworthy seal bearer, in addition to its terms and determinatives, interpret them linguistically, identifying the role of the seal bearer through textual and scenery sources, counting the most important employees who bore the title until the end of Middle Kingdom, shedding light on the titles that accompanying the holder of the seal and deducing the nature of the powers and competence of seal bearer from them.

Introduction

Seals in ancient Egypt were referred to by a number of different terms, 1 most prominently: htm^{Ω} , showing the two ends of the necklace thrust through the perforation of the seal, as early as the time of "<math>Pr-ib.sn" second dynasty. Later, the from show altered to <math>show altered, became the usual determinative symbol of the words show altered show altered to <math>show altered show altered to show altered to <math>show altered show altered to show altered to <math>show altered show altered show altered to <math>show altered show altered show altered to show altered to show altered to <math>show altered show altered show

¹ M. Ameri, *Seals and Sealing in the Ancient World: Case Studies from the Near East, Egypt*, the Aegean and South Asia, Cambridge University Press, Edited by Marta Ameri, Sarah Kielt Costello, Gregg Jamison, Sarah Jarmer Scott, United Kingdom, 2018, pp. 230-1.

² Wb. V, p. 379.17.

³ Wb. III, p. 350.3.

⁴ H.R. Hall, Egyptian Scarabs, Etc: The British Museum, vol. I, London, 1913, p. 9.

of unknown root meaning but also denoting a seal device. The term $db^{c}(wt) \cong \mathbb{I}$ "Seal; Seal imprint", became common during the New Kingdom and, deriving from the word db^{c} "finger", 5 applies to the common form of signet ring that appears during that time period. 6

The seal bearer or the holder of the seal is an important rank from the era of ancient Egypt and had great significance. The person performing that job was of the highest rank in the State. Seal bearers are individuals who bear the seals for their superior. They are one of the most important persons who follow their masters in different occasion. They accompanied his master everywhere as he appeared in different occasions as he appeared in the scenes of the inspection trips to the harvest field and the workshops, the scenes of the funerary procession and in the scenes of making offerings to the owner of the tomb, in the fowling, processions and hunting scenes. 8

<u>Doc. 1.</u> An inscription from tomb of *Dhwty-htp* $\frac{1}{2}$ el-Bersha tomb 2 (Fig. 1)¹⁰

Date: Twelfth Dynasty, (*S-n-wsrt*) III **Provenance:** El-Bersha tomb 2 (17L20/1)

Material: Limestone

Dimensions: H: 37 x L: 169 x Th: 14 cm

Present location: The British Museum, London, EA1147

Description

Limestone fragment of painted relief: this raised relief shows <code>Dhwty-htp</code> travelling with pomp and with protection; the procession is headed by a bowman. Immediately behind this advance guard come four servants carrying sedan chair. Beneath the chair is his low-slung, curly-tailed hound, <code>nhw</code>. The dog is scaled not to the other figures but to his importance to his owner, and therefore he is much larger proportionately than any of the men in this procession. Behind the chair and the dog comes a "trusty seal bearer" carrying seal and a long staff of <code>Dhwty-htp</code>. The seal bearer's servant comes next, carrying a box, probably containing documents or other official impedimenta. Behind him is another soldier carrying a battle-axe and an oversized ox hide-covered shield. Then come three more "trusty seal bearers", the first wearing an unusual, shoulder-covering cape and carrying another kind of battle-axe. The next in line carries a long staff and sandals of <code>Dhwty-htp</code>, and the fragmentary figure of the third of these seal bearers carries a spear and a bow.

Most of relief was executed only in paint, the paint is relatively well preserved, although darkened in places. The heads of the seal bearers and the servants are newly shaven, perhaps in preparation for this journey: their skulls, normally covered with hair, are a lighter colour than their faces and bodies. It is also interesting to see the different ways in which an Egyptian

⁵ Wb.V, pp. 562.11-565.9.

⁶ M. Ameri, Seals and Sealing in the Ancient World: Case Studies from the Near East, Egypt, the Aegean and South Asia, pp. 230-1.

⁷ W. E. Crum, ZÄS, 32, 1894, p. 66 and n. 1.

⁸ M. Ameri, Seals and Sealing in the Ancient World: Case Studies from the Near East, Egypt, the Aegean and South Asia, pp. 230-1.

⁹ Ward and Fischer no.: 1495, 1501. For more documents see: https://pnm.uni-mainz.de/title/266 (17/6/2021) ¹⁰https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/Y_EA1147 (17/6/2021)

painter approached the rendering of the random patterns on animal skins: in this case, very respectfully when depicting the doubtless purebred dog of *Dḥwty-ḥtp*, and noticeably more loosely and randomly when showing the pattern on the cowhide of the shield. Some of the hieroglyphs also retain very well-painted details, particularly the birds, such as the quail chick and the ibis, which is the writing of the name of the god *Dḥwty*.¹¹

Inscription:

Transliteration

- 1- htm(w) kf3-ib, Nfr s3 n Dhwty-htp.
- 2- htm(w) kf3-ib Nht(y)- $fnh\{s3\}$ n Tpy
- 3- htm(w) kf3-ib.
- 4- htm(w) {kf3-ib}.

Translation

- 1- Trustworthy seal bearer, *Nfr* son of *Dhwty-htp*.
- 2- Trustworthy seal bearer *Nht*(*y*)-*'nh* {son} of *'Ipy*.
- 3- Trustworthy seal bearer.
- 4- Trustworthy {seal bearer}.

Date: Twelfth Dynasty

Provenance: Saqqara, Memphis

Material: Glazed steatite

Dimensions: H: 0.85 cm x L: 0.32 cm x W: 1.95 cm

Present location: The British Museum, London, EA30554

Description

Glazed steatite oval plaque inscribed on one side with the name of Shtp-ip (R), his titles and decorated with volutes, longitudinally pierced, the other side inscribed with hieroglyphs and decorated with three double volutes. ¹³

¹¹ PM IV, p. 180; T. G. H. James, 'Egyptian Painting and Drawing in the British Museum, Cambridge, Mass., 1986, p. 67, fig. 77; N. Reeves & J. H. Taylor, 'Howard Carter Before Tutankhamun, New York, 1993, p. 29; A. Middleton, 'Polychromy of Some Fragments of Painted Relief from el-Bersheh' in W. V. Davies (ed.), 'Studies in Egyptian Antiquities: A Tribute to T. G. H. James, British Museum Occasional Paper 123, London, 1999, pl. 6; The British Museum, 'Hieroglyphic texts from Egyptian stelae, etc., in the British Museum ' Part 5, London, 1914, pl. 7; N. Strudwick, Masterpieces of Ancient Egypt, London, 2006, pp. 78-80.

¹²https://pnm.uni-mainz.de/publication/2689 (17/6/2021); G. T. Martin, Egyptian Administrative and Private-Name Seals Principally of the Middle Kingdom and Second Intermediate Period, Oxford: Griffith Institute, 1971, no. 1637, pl. 46 (12).

¹³ G. T. Martin, Egyptian Administrative, no. 1637.

Inscription:

Transliteration

1- *htm(w) kf3-ib*, *Shtp-ip*.

2- Imy-r3 t3 mhw, Shtp-ip.

Translation

1- Trusted Seal bearer, Shtp-ip.

2- Overseer of Lower Egypt, Shtp-ip. 14

Doc. 3 The false door stela of *Snb* (Fig. 3a-b)¹⁵

Date: Twelfth-Thirteenth Dynasty

Provenance: Abydos **Material:** Limestone

Dimensions: H: 79, 5 cm x L: 10 cm x Wt: 60 kg

Present location: The Museum of Art History, Vienna, ÄS 156

Description

A rectangle false door stela crowned at the top by a hollow groove, the lobes of which are individually incised, and over it another arched line; the image area underneath is surrounded on three sides by a round bar with the incised pattern of a wrapping. Left and right, outside the round rod, each have a written column. Fonts deepened. Depictions in recessed relief, with slightly plastic modeled interior drawings. ¹⁶

The two standing men (C 3, C 4) with shoulder-length wigs, a double neck collar and a knee-length apron with a crease. The man in C 5 with shoulder-length wigs and a triple neck collar and inscribed with two vertical columns.¹⁷

Inscription:

In front of the man C5:

¹⁴ RPN I 318.1.

¹⁵ https://www.khm.at/de/objektdb/detail/319828/?lv=detail (15/6/2021)

¹⁶ I. Hein and H. Satzinger, Stelen des Mittleren Reiches I, Einschliesslich der I. und II. Zwischenzeit. Corpus antiquitatum Aegyptiacarum. Kunsthistorisches Museum, Wien 4. Mainz: von Zabern, 1989, p. 84, to know more see: Ibid., pp. 84:92; A. Oppenheim, D. Arnold, and K. Yamamoto, Ancient Egypt Transformed: The Middle Kingdom. New York: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2015, p. 197 (127).

¹⁷ I. Hein and H. Satzinger, Stelen des Mittleren Reiches I, p. 84.

Transliteration

- 11- htp di nsw (n) iry šspt18, Snb m3^c-hrw.
- 12-'Ir.t htp di nsw htm(w) kf3-ib, Snb.

Translation

- 11- An offerings which the King gives to the keeper of the chapel, *Snb*, the justified.
- 12- Carrying out an offerings by the trustworthy seal bearer, Snb^{19} .

Snb also had the titles:

nḥsy: southerner; Nubian.²⁰

w3b nswt: w3b-priest of the king.

: imy-r3 pr: overseer of the house.

wdpw: butler; attendant.²¹

Doc. 4 A Rock inscription of *T-tw* Wadi Maghara, Sinai (Fig. 4)²²

Date: Twelfth Dynasty, (*Imn-m-ḥ3t*) *TII* (year 43)

Provenance: Wadi Maghara, Sinai

Material: Limestone

Dimensions: H: 57x W: 37 cm **Present location:** Now destroyed

Description

A rock inscription traced from the B.M squeeze, discovered in Wadi Maghara Sinai, was made of limestone, inscribed with two horizontal lines, and followed by 6 vertical lines. ²³ **Inscription:**



Transliteration

htm(w) kf3-ib, 'I'-tw, nb-im3h.

Translation

Trust worthy Seal bearer, 'I'-tw²⁴ Lord of vernation.

²¹ Wb I, 388.2-10; D. Jones, An Index of Ancient Egyptian Titles, no. 1494.

¹⁸ "Keeper of the chapel": Ward and Fischer no.: 550 / TLA no.: 863210.

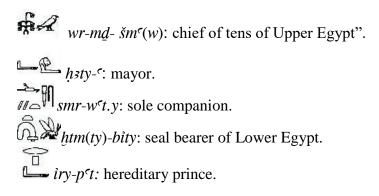
¹⁹ "Healthy / Health": RPN I 312.15.

²⁰ Wb II, 303.3-7.

²²A. H. Gardiner and T. E. Peet, The Inscriptions of Sinai. Second Edition Revised and Augmented by Jaroslav Černý. Vol. I, Introduction and Plates. Egypt Exploration Society Memoir 36. London, 1952, pl. xiii.

²³ A. H. Gardiner and T. E. Peet, The Inscriptions of Sinai. Vol. II, Translations and Commentary. Egypt Exploration Society Memoir 45. London: Egypt Exploration Society, 1955, no. 30; PM VI, 343. ²⁴ "(My heart) is slaked": RPN I 12.7.

T-tw had the titles:



Doc. 5A Rock inscription of Imny Ain el-Sukhna, Sinai (Fig. 5)²⁵

Date: Twelfth Dynasty, (*Imn-m-h3t*) *TII* (year 2)

Provenance: Ain el-Sukhna, Sinai

Material: Limestone

Dimensions: H: 44 cm x W: 3.15 cm

Present location: Still in situ

Description

This inscription was engraved halfway up rock C, a little to the right of the inscription of *Imn-m-ḥ3t* I.²⁶ It is a small rectangular stele, without representations, where 7 lines (average height: 5.5 cm; width, average: 30 cm) have been distinguished. The right end of the document is a little eroded, making it difficult to read the first sign of the 1-3, 5, 7, which can most often be rendered following the meaning of the text. At a later time, a cross was added immediately above the stele, perhaps by the writer of the cope inscription which appears below this document. Below are the signatures of several officials, with indications of their parentage. For reasons of space, line 3 extends into a short column, which overlaps the end of line 4 to indicate the name of the mother of the first waxed character. ²⁷

Inscription:

Line no. 4 is inscribed as follow: \square

Transliteration

htm(w) kf3-ib, Imny.

Translation

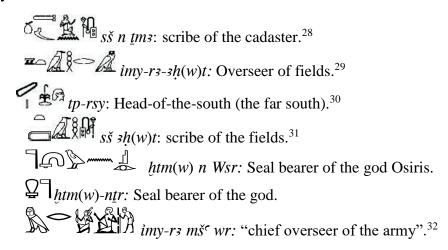
Trusted Seal bearer, Imny.

²⁵P. Tallet, La zone minière pharaonique du Sud-Sinaï. Vol. 1, Catalogue complémentaire des inscriptions du Sinaï. Mémoires publiés par les membres de l'Institut français d'archéologie orientale du Caire 130. Cairo: Institut français d'archéologie orientale, 2012, doc. 221; M. Abd el-Raziq, Les inscriptions d'Ayn Soukhna. Mémoires publiés par les membres de l'Institut français d'archéologie orientale du Caire 122. Cairo, 2002, No. 6.

²⁶ P. Tallet, La zone minière pharaonique du Sud-Sinaï. Vol. 1, doc. 219.

²⁷ To . 221; M. Abd el-Raziq, Les inscriptions d'Ayn Soukhna, No. 6.

Imny also had the titles:



Doc. 6 A false door stela of $\underline{Hty} \bigtriangleup \bigvee (\text{Fig. } 6)^{34}$

Date: Twelfth Dynasty, reign of (Imn-m-h3t) III

Provenance: Thebes **Material:** Limestone

Dimensions: H: 73× W: 43.5 cm **Present location:** Cairo CG 20399

Description

The representations in relief in recessed fields, no traces of paint and the Surface was destroyed many times. The deceased $\underline{H}ty \subseteq \mathbb{N}$ wears a heavy wig, short beard and wide collar, is sitting on a lion-legged chair in front of a sacrificial table with leaves and offerings. He stretches out his row to the food. Jugs and fruit under the table.³⁵

²⁸ Ward, An Index of Ancient Egyptian Titles, vol. II, no. 1450.

²⁹ Jones, An Index of Ancient Egyptian Titles, vol. I, no. 259; Ward, Titles, no. 29.

³⁰ Wb IV. 473.4: FCD 297.

³¹ D. Jones, Titles OK, no. 3043

³² Ward and Fischer no.: 207 / TLA no.: 854242.

³³ Ward and Fischer no.: 1496.

³⁴ H. O. Lange, and H. Schäfer, Grab- und Denksteine des Mittleren Reiches im Museum von Kairo. Vol. IV, Tafeln. Catalogue général des antiquités égyptiennes du Musée du Caire, nos. 20001-20780. Berlin: Reichsdruckerei, 1902, pl. xxviii; A. Ilin-Tomich, From Workshop to Sanctuary: The Production of Late Middle Kingdom Memorial Stelae. Middle Kingdom studies 6. London: Golden House, 2017, pl. 11 left.

³⁵ H. O. Lange, and H. Schäfer, Grab- und Denksteine des Mittleren Reiches im Museum von Kairo. Vol. I, pl. xxviii.

Inscription:

A) Upper lintel and right jamb

B) Inner jamb

Transliteration

(A)

- 1- htp-di-nsw (n) Wp-w3(wt) t3-mhw.
- 2- nb t3 dsr di.f prt-hrw t hnkt k3 3pd n k3 n htm(w) kf3 ib n pr-hd Hty.

(B)

3- htp-di-nsw (n) Wsr hnty imnt(yw) nb 3bdw {di}. f prt-hrw t hnkt k3 3pd n k3 n htm(w) kf3 ib n pr-hd Ht.y ir.n 'Iy m3^c-hrw.

Translation

(A)

1- An offering which the king gives to *Wp-w3.wt* of lower Egypt, lord of the necropolis, so that he may give a voice offering (in) bread, beer, ox, fowl for the *k3* of Trustworthy seal bearer of the treasury *Hty*³⁶.

(B)

2- An offering which the king gives to *Wsr* foremost of the western, lord of Abydos, so that he may give a voice offering (in) bread, beer, ox, fowl for the *k3* of Trustworthy seal bearer of the treasury *Htv* son of *Tv*, true of voice.

Doc. 7 A rock inscription of S-n-wsrt (Fig. 7)37

Date: Thirteenth Dynasty **Provenance:** Kumma

Material: Rock

Dimensions: H: 730 × W: 435 mm **Present location:** Still in situ

³⁶ Hty, Ranke no.: I, 277.25, to know more about his titles see: 152.

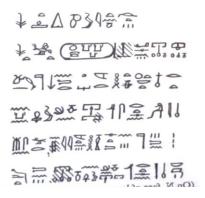
³⁷ E. Yvanez, Rock Inscriptions from Semna and Kumma, p. 30.

Description

A rock inscription containing an offering text for the seal bearer *S-n-wsrt*, mention *S-n-wsrt TII*. On north face a large stone in northern door of fort. ³⁸

Inscriptions

The title "hm.w kf3 ib n pr-hd" appears twice in this inscription:



Transliteration:

ḥtp di nsw ḥtp Ḥnmw (n) 'Itnw-pḍwt nswt bjty (Ḥʿy-kɜw-rʿ) mɜʿ-ḥrw di.sn prt-ḥrw t ḥnḥt iḥw spdw snt̞r mrḥt ḥt nbt nfrt n kɜ n ḥtm(w) kfɜ jb n pr-ḥḍ S-n-wsrt, ʿɜ-idyw ms (n) Wrt mɜʿt-hrw hsw.tn ntrw.tn dd.tn 1000 t hnkt n htm(w) kfɜ ib n pr-hd ʿɜ-idyw.³⁹

Translation:

May the king give an offering to Khnum of Kumma and to the king of Upper and Lower Egypt ($H^cy-k_3w-r^c$), justified, that they may give invocation-offerings consisting of bread and beer, oxen and birds, incense and ointment, and all good things, to the k_3 of the trustworthy seal bearer of the Treasury, $S-n-wsrt^{40}$ (called) s-idyw, born of Wrt, justified. May you praise your gods and may you say: "1000 breads and beers to the trustworthy seal bearer of the Treasury s-idyw." All

³⁸ PM: VII, 155; D. Dunham and J. M. A. Janssen, Semna — Kumma, RIK 120, p. 166.

³⁹ D. Dunham and J. M. A. Janssen, Semna — Kumma, RIK 120, p. 166; F. Hintze and W. F. Reinek, Felsinschriften aus dem sudanesischen Nubien. Publikation der Nubien-Expedition 1961-1963 1. Berlin: Akademie-Verlag, 1989, p. 117; E. Yvanez Rock Inscriptions from Semna and Kumma Epigraphic Study, p. 30. ⁴⁰S-n-wsr.t "man of the Powerful One"

⁴¹ D. Dunham and J. M. A. Janssen, Semna — Kumma, RIK 120, p. 166; F. Hintze and W. F. Reinek, Felsinschriften aus dem sudanesischen Nubien, p. 117; E. Yvanez Rock Inscriptions from Semna and Kumma, p. 30.

<u>Doc. 8</u> A Hieratic papyrus text from Lahun (Fig. 8)⁴³

Date: Twelfth Dynasty

Provenance: Lahun (Fayum (governorate)

Material: Papyrus paper

Dimensions: H: 9.5 x W:4.0 cm

Present location: The Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology, London, UC 32293

Description

Fragments of hieratic papyrus, from one legal document, in red and black, parts of seven horizontal lines preserved, with a name list of king and servants, and red checkmarks to right. From the unmarked card given the conservation identity label 'layer 17' in 1995- conservation project. Lot II.14. Mounted in one frame with UC 32293-98.⁴⁴

Inscription:

The female \check{sft}^{45} had the title had the director of works". 46

 $\mathfrak{S}f(t)$ had also the title: nbt-pr: mistress of the house.

Doc. 9 The testament hieratic papyrus of W_3h $\stackrel{\bigcirc}{\lambda}$ (Fig. 9a-b)⁴⁷

Date: Thirteenth Dynasty, (*Imn-m-ḥ3t*) IV—early, (Year 2 after year 44 of an unmentioned king)

Provenance: Lahun (Fayum (governorate)

Material: Papyrus paper

Dimensions: H: 55.5 x W: 32 cm

Present location: The Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology, London, UC 32058

Description

⁴² Ward and Fischer no.: 1498.

⁴³https://petriecat.museums.ucl.ac.uk/photo.aspx?maxphotos=2 (20/6/2021)

⁴⁴ https://petriecat.museums.ucl.ac.uk/detail.aspx#(20/6/2021); M. Collier and S. Quirke, The UCL Lahun papyri. Vol. II, Religious, Literary, Legal, Mathematical and Medical. British Archaeological Reports. International series 1209. Oxford, 2004, pp. 122-123.

⁴⁵ Ranke no.: I, 327.11 / TLA no.: 707284.

⁴⁶ Ward and Fischer no.: 1498.

⁴⁷F. L. Griffith, Hieratic Papyri from Kahun and Gurob (principally of the Middle Kingdom), London, 1898, pl. XII; https://petriecat.museums.ucl.ac.uk/photo.aspx?maxphotos=5

Mohamed Refaat et al.,

witnesses at top of second page. Verso: Endorsement on right hand edge. Found vertically folded, sealed with impression of scroll.⁴⁸

"Trustworthy god's seal bearer of the director of works".
$$51$$

'nh-rn also had the titles:

Th.y-snb had the titles:

$$hry^{-c}-n-imy-r3-htm(w) : assistant to the overseer of sealers.$$

Wb hry-s3 n špdw nb i3btt: priest in charge of the phyle of Sobdu, lord of the east. 55

Doc. 10 A false door stela of *Snb* (Fig. 10)⁵⁶

Date: Late Twelfth Dynasty-Thirteenth Dynasty

Provenance: Abydos

Material: Painted limestone

Dimensions: H: 42.5 x W: 29 x D: 8 cm

Present location: The Museum of Art History, ⁵⁷ Vienna, ÄS 105, Inv. no. Egyptian

Collection, INV 105

⁴⁸ https://petriecat.museums.ucl.ac.uk/detail.aspx#40144 (20/6/2021); M. Collier and S. Quirke, The UCL Lahun papyri. Vol. II, pp. 104-105.

⁴⁹ *'nh-rn* "whose name lives": Ranke no.: I, 65.20 / TLA no.: 550070, 711124

⁵⁰*Ihy-snb* "*Ihy* is healthy": Ranke no.: I, 45.1 / TLA no.: 710465.

⁵¹ Ward and Fischer no.: 1498.

⁵² D. Johnes, Titles, P.313, n. 1045.

⁵³ Ward and Fischer no.: 977 / TLA no.: 855734 / Hannig no.: 21402.

⁵⁴ Ward and Fischer no, no. 161.

⁵⁵ Ward and Fischer no.: 678.

⁵⁶https://www.khm.at/objektdb/detail/315987/(9/8/2021)

⁵⁷Online catalogue: https://www.khm.at/objektdb/(9/8/2021)

Description

The founder of this rectangular stela with cove and round bar was the "sealer of the head of construction" *Snb* who owned two more steles (AS 136 and 156), which he had set up in Abydos. In the upper section (A) is inscribed with 9 texts. In the lower section (B); he is shown sitting on the right in front of a dining table. Opposite him sits the "chapel supervisor", who also bears the name *Snb*. ⁵⁸ Down in the middle offering table; on its sides two seated men with a lotus flower and the ribbon in their hands, named. ⁵⁹

Inscriptions:

Transliteration

(A)
4- nfrt w^cbt ^cnh ntr tỉ im n k3 n htm(w) kf3-ib n hrp k3t.

(**B**) 11- htm(w) kf3-ib n hrp k3t Snb.

Translation

(A)

4- Good and pure on which a god lives, for *the k3* of Trustworthy god's seal bearer of the director of works.

(B)

11- Trustworthy god's seal bearer of the director of works, Snb^{60} .

Doc. 11 A false door stela of Snb (Fig. 11)⁶¹

Date: Early of Thirteenth Dynasty

Provenance: Theba **Material:** Limestone

⁵⁸ https://www.khm.at/objektdb/detail/315987/(9/8/2021)

⁵⁹ E. Von Bergmann, "Inschriftliche Denkmäler der Sammlung ägyptischer Alterthümer des österr. Kaiserhauses." Recueil de travaux rélatifs à la philologie et à l'archéologie égyptiennes et assyriennes 7: 1886, pp. 182-183(8, 31). To know mpre about the stela see: H. Satzinger, "Eine Familie aus dem Athribis des späten Mittleren Reiches." Studien zur altägyptischen Kultur 13, 1986; H. Satzinger, Das Kunsthistorische Museum in Wien: die Ägyptisch-Orientalische Sammlung. Zaberns Bildbände zur Archäologie 14. Mainz: von Zabern, 1984, fig. 10. Hein, I., and H. Satzinger,nStelen des Mittleren Reiches I, p. 18-22; W. Wreszinski, Aegyptische Inschriften aus dem K. K. Hofmuseum in Wien. Leiden. 28, 1906, (I.31, 58).

Ranke no.: I, 312.15.
 Quirke, "Six hieroglyphic inscriptions in University College Dublin." Revue d'égyptologie 51: 2000, 223–51. pl. XXXI (top)

Dimensions: H: 42 cm

Present location: The Classical Museum, the School of Classics, University College Dublin,

no. 1361 **Description**

From Cockburn collection, Rectangular stela with deep torus along top and sides. Cracked and repaired, with substantial flanking of the upper left surface area. The surface area. The torus and single incised line define the area of decoration and inscription; below this an additional short hieroglyphic "signature" occupies the bottom left, leaving no margin for inserting into ground or brick layer. The figures ad texts are clearly but often summarily incised. Three are three registers:

- (A) Hieroglyphic inscription in two full and a third truncated line, over a scene of two facing men. Seated on lion legged chairs with low cushioned backs, the figure on the left with one hand held over his lap, the other to this chest, and the figure on the right with one hand extended to the offerings, the other to his chest, and the figure on the right with one hand extended to the offerings, the other held clenched on his lap. Both wear short parted kilts. Between are two offerings tables and two hemispherical drinking bowls on a pot stands, either side of a central single beer jug with conical sealing, and also resting on a pot stand. In front of the head of each man is a thin rectangle mat supporting a cylindrical vessel for unguent. 62
- (B) Hieroglyphic inscription in one truncated line above scene similarly arranged to that in the first register, but depicting, on the left, a woman kneeling on the ground with one hand extended along the lower leg, the other held to the dress-strap.
- (c) Hieroglyphic inscription in two lines, reading from right to left. Red pigment survives over the pottery vessels and body areas of the men. Yellow pigment survives in the hieroglyphic signs on the first and second registers. But not in those on the third.⁶³

Filiation: the three maternal filiation formulas used on this stele with the mediocre epigraphy each have a different form: ms(w), ms(w). n, ir(w). n; the complete form ms(w). nappears only in the "artist's signature" added on the plinth of the stele (hrty-ntr 'nh ms(w). n *Intn* (?).⁶⁴

Inscriptions

Register (C)

⁶² Ibid., pp. 30-33.

⁶³ S. Quirke, "Six hieroglyphic inscriptions in University College Dublin." Revue d'égyptologie 51, 2000 pp. 30-

⁶⁴ L. Postel, "Quand réapparaît la forme ms(w).n? Réflexions sur la formule de filiation maternelle à la fin du Moyen Empire." In Verba manent: Recueil d'études dédiées à Dimitri Meeks par ses collègues et amis, edited by I. Régen and F. Servajean, 2:331–54. Cahiers de l'ENiM 2. Montpellier, 2009, p. 338.

Transliteration

- 1- htp di nswt wsr nb 3bdw n k3 n htm(w) kf3-ib n hrp k3t Rn-snb.
- 2- ḥtp di nswt wp-wswt n ks n htm(w) kfs-ib n ḥrp ḥst Snfr ir.n nbt-pr Snb.

Translation

- 1- An offering which the king gives (to) Osiris lord of Abydos for the *k³* of Trustworthy seal bearer of the director of the works named *snb*.
- 2- An offering which the king gives (to) wp-w3wt, for the k3 of Trustworthy seal bearer of the director of the works, Snfr born of the lady of the house Snb⁶⁵.

Doc. 12 A false door stela of Snb (Fig. 12)⁶⁶

Date: Late Twelfth Dynasty-Thirteenth Dynasty

Provenance: Abydos **Material:** Limestone

Dimensions: H: 50.8 x W: 35 x D: 6 cm

Present location: The Museum of Art History, ⁶⁷ Vienna, ÄS 136, Inv. no. Egyptian

Collection, INV 136

Description

In the inscriptions there are indications that the *Snb* family came from Athribis in the Nile Delta. However, she had this memorial stele set up in Abydos, where there was an important place of pilgrimage for the god *Wsr* in the Middle Kingdom. At the top of the rounded gable field are the god of the dead Osiris and the jackal-shaped local god of Abydos *Wp-w3.wt.*⁶⁸

In the upper of stela, section (A), Osiris stands in a mummy-shaped in front of jackal on the scaffold, under the previous scene, an offering horizontal (B). In sections (C) and (D), there are three standing men, but in section (E), there are two men and a woman. Section (F) is inscribed with a man and three women. In section (G), three men and a woman. All inscribed persons in the stela, are represented with their vertical texts.⁶⁹

⁶⁵ Ranke no.: I, 315.18 / TLA no.: 550107.

⁶⁶https://www.khm.at/objektdb/detail/315987/(9/8/2021)

⁶⁷Online catalogue: https://www.khm.at/objektdb/detail/317185/(11/8/2021)

⁶⁸ https://www.khm.at/objektdb/detail/317185/(11/8/2021)

⁶⁹ E. Von Bergmann, "Inschriftliche Denkmäler der Sammlung ägyptischer Alterthümer des österr. Kaiserhauses." Recueil de travaux rélatifs à la philologie et à l'archéologie égyptiennes et assyriennes 7, 1886, 182-183(8, 65). To know more see: I. Hein and H. Satzinger, *Stelen des Mittleren Reiches I*, pp. 48-54; W. Wreszinski, Aegyptische Inschriften aus dem K. K. Hofmuseum in Wien. Leiden, 1906, pp. 34-36 (65).

Inscriptions:

Section (C)

In front of the man on the left side:



In front of the man on the right side:



Transliteration

(C)

- 1- hnkt ks(w) spd(w) mnht ht nb(t) nfrt.
- 2- *w³bt n k³ n htm(w) kf³-ib n*.
- 3- hrp-kst Snb ms(w). n In-tn-sy ms three-hrw.
- 4- htp-di-nsw n ks n htm(w) bity.
- 5- sš hry-^c nsw n Hft-hr.⁷⁰
- 6- Snbty-fy ms(w). $n \ Kmt \ m3^{c}$ -hrw.

Translation

(C)

- 1- Bear, ox, fowl, linen, everything good and (2) pure, for the $k\mathfrak{z}$ of Trustworthy god's seal bearer of, (3) the director of works, 71 son of In-tn-sy, 72 true of voice.
- 4- An offering which the king gives for the k3 of the seal bearer of Lower Egypt, (5) Scribe-assistant of the king of the presence, (6) *Snbty-fy*⁷³ son of *Kmt*, true of voice.

⁷¹ Ward and Fischer no.: 1498.

⁷² $\lim_{N \to \infty} \sqrt{N-t}n$ -sy, "you bring her": Ranke no.: I, 36.12 / TLA no.: 708264.

 $^{73 \}int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}$

IV. This worthy god's seal bearer. Trustworthy god's seal bearer. 14

Doc. 13 A base relief of *Sbk-htp* $\stackrel{\triangle}{=}$ (Fig. 13a-b)⁷⁵

Date: Twelfth Dynasty, (Imn-m-h3t) III, c. 1842 BC - 1794 BC

Provenance: Serabit el-Khadim

Material: Sandstone

Dimensions: H: $630 \times$ W: 440 mm

Present location: Musées Royaux d'Art et d'Histoire: Cinquantenaire Museum, Bruxelles,

E.5266

Description

At the top is a horizontal line giving the titularly of (Imn-m-ḥ3t) III. Below the king is seen seated on the left, wearing the two feathers at the back of his cap and carrying the flail. Hwt-hr holds out to his nose in her right hand the emblems of life and dominion. The goddess holds in her hand a round object whose nature is not obvious, probably a menat necklace. Behind her the god's treasurer Sbk-htp, holding out in his right hand a conical loaf of bread. Behind this figure again is another holding a papyrus roll in his left hand. Below the scene are remains of six horizontal lines of inscription. ⁷⁶

Inscription:

The first line under the scene is inscribed with:



Transliteration

hm n ntr pn htm(w)-ntr htm(w) kf3-ib, Sbk-htp.⁷⁷

Translation

Majesty to this god, Trustworthy god's seal bearer, *Sbk-htp*. ⁷⁸

Sbk-htp also had the titles:

'Imhaw-hr ntr-'a: revered with the great god.

hry-h3bt: lector priest.

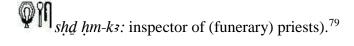
⁷⁴ Ward and Fischer no.: 1485.

⁷⁵https://carmentis.kmkgmrah.be/eMP/eMuseumPlus?service=ExternalInterface&module=collection&objectId= 81273&viewType=detailView(9/8/2021); D. Valbelle and C. Bonnet, Le sanctuaire d'Hathor, maîtresse de la turquoise. Sérabit el-Khadim au Moyen Empire. Paris: Picard Éditeur, 1996, 130 fig. 153.

⁷⁶D. Valbelle and C. Bonnet, Le sanctuaire d'Hathor, maîtresse de la turquoise, p. 130 fig. 153; A. H. Gardiner and T. E. Peet. The Inscriptions of Sinai, Vol. I, pl. XXXVI, LIV; A. H. Gardiner and T. E. Peet, the Inscriptions of Sinai. Vol. II, no. 116, 164.

⁷⁷"Sbk is satisfied", Ranke no.: I, 305.6, I, 304.10 / TLA no.: 400122, 706615.

⁷⁸ Ward and Fischer no.: 1484



 $imy-r_3-\check{s}$ overseer of the pool (?); overseer of the quarry work.⁸⁰

Doc. 14 The Stela fragment of *Sbk-htp* $\stackrel{\triangle}{=}$ (Fig. 14)⁸¹

Date: Twelfth Dynasty, ('Imn-m-h3t) IV, c. 1842 BC - 1794 BC

Provenance: Serabit el-Khadim

Material: Sandstone

Dimensions: H: 63× W: 44 cm **Present location:** Still in situ

Description

The stela of *Sbk-htp* is standing now in the south east wall of the portico to the right of the entrance from the approach to sopdu where it has been employed as building material to from a door jamb. For this purpose the original inscribed surface of the north west face and south west edge have been cut off (except for the beginning of the first line of the latter), and so has the rounded top, the departure of which, however, is still visible. Judging from the state of preservation of the south face the stela must have already suffered considerable damage in its upper part by the time it was reused in the construction. South east face. The rounded top, undoughtly containing the date, has been sawn off. Below it the sky supported by *w3s-scepters* and the continuation of dating. The outline of the god is still visible standing on the left, while the figure of the king opposite to him is lost. Below this is an inscription in five vertical lines, well preserved except for about four groups at the top.

The lower scene represents an Asiatic man riding on a dopey. The skin of all three men is painted with yellow, their black. They wear short white kilts with horizontal red stripes. The man on donkey holds in his left hand an axe, the crooked handle of which is red, the blade (only painted, not carved) yellow, in his right hand, which hangs down, he has a red stick. This stick too is only painted, and its outlines are somewhat indistinct. The donkey is black and so also is its man (only painted). Each of the two men in front of spear is red, the point yellow. The man waking behind drives the donkey with the help of a red stick in his right hand. The rope and the mouth of the animal there is a red circular object, which considering its color is properly meant to be food. That it was a ring drawn in some way though the mouth or nostrils of the donkey, where a ring with double outline is quite clear. 85

⁷⁹ Wb III, 90.16; D. Jones, An Index of Ancient Egyptian Titles, Epithets and Phrases of the Old Kingdom, British archaeological reports; 866, vol. II, Oxford: Archaeopress, 2000.no. 3475.

⁸⁰ Wb IV, 398.15; D. Jones, An Index of Ancient Egyptian Titles, no. 889.

⁸¹A. H. Gardinerand T. E. Peet, The Inscriptions of Sinai. Second Edition Revised and Augmented by Jaroslav Černý. Vol. 1, Introduction and Plates. Egypt Exploration Society Memoir 36. London. 1952, pl. LXXXV; J. Černý, "Semites in Egyptian Mining Expeditions to Sinai." Archív orientální 7: 1935, p. 388 fig. 5.

⁸² J. Černý, "Semites in Egyptian Mining Expeditions to Sinai." Archív orientální 7: 1935, p. 388; Gardiner and Peet 1955, no. 405

⁸³ Gardiner and Peet 1955, no. 405.

⁸⁴ Gardiner and Peet 1955, no. 405.

⁸⁵ J. Černý, "Semites in Egyptian Mining Expeditions to Sinai." Archív orientální 7: 1935, p. 388 fig. 5.

Inscription:

Transliteration

htm(w)-ntr kf3-lb, Sbk-htp.86

Translation

Trustworthy god's seal bearer, Sbk-htp.87



Fig. 1. An inscription from tomb of *Dḥwty-ḥtp* , el-Bersha tomb 2 https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/Y_EA1147 (17/6/2021)



Fig. 2. A sealing plaque of Shtp-ip The British Museum, London, EA30554 https://pnm.uni-mainz.de/publication/2689 (17/6/2021); G. T. Martin 1971, no. 1637, pl. 46 (12)

⁸⁶ , *Sbk-htp*: "Sobek is satisfied", Ranke no.: I, 305.6, I, 304.10 / TLA no.: 400122, 706615. To know about accompanying titles of *Sbk-htp* see previous doc.13.

⁸⁷ Ward and Fischer no.: 1484.

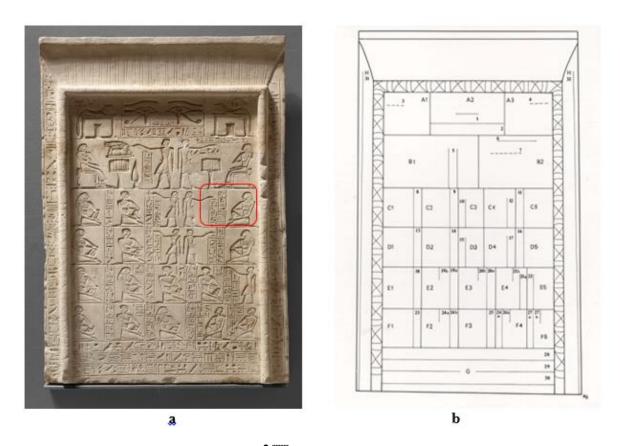


Fig. 3. The false door stela of *Snb* . The Museum of Art History, Vienna, ÄS 156 https://www.khm.at/de/objektdb/detail/319828/?lv=detail (15/6/2021); I. Hein and H. Satzinger, Stelen des Mittleren Reiches I, p. 84

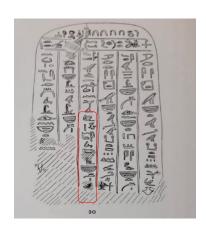




Fig. 5. A Rock inscription of *Imny* \(\), Ain el-Sukhna, Sinai

P. Tallet, La zone minière pharaonique du Sud-Sinaï. Vol. I, doc. 221

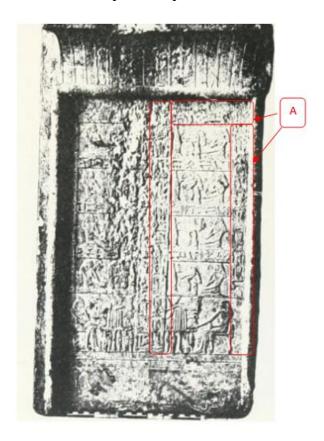


Fig. 6. A false door stela of Hty , Cairo CG 20399

H. O. Lange, and H. Schäfer, Grab- und Denksteine des Mittleren Reiches im Museum von Kairo. Vol. IV, pl.xxviii.







Fig. 7. A rock inscription of S-n-wsrt

E. Yvanez Rock Inscriptions from Semna and Kumma Epigraphic Study, p. 30.



Fig. 8. A Hieratic papyrus text from Lahun, The Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology, London, UC 32293

https://petriecat.museums.ucl.ac.uk/photo.aspx?maxphotos=2(20/6/2021)



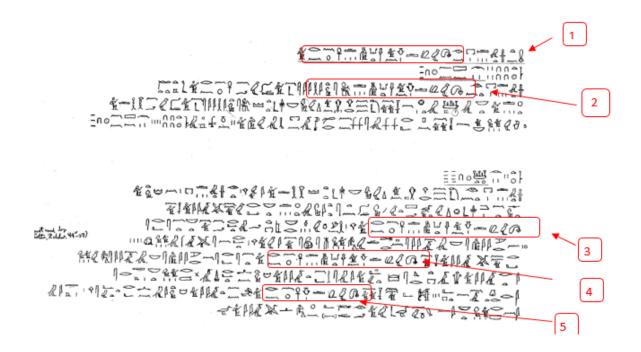


Fig. 9a-b. The testament hieratic papyrus of W3h X, The Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology, London, UC 32058

F. L. Griffith, Hieratic Papyri from Kahun and Gurob, pl. XII; https://petriecat.museums.ucl.ac.uk/photo.aspx?maxphotos=5



Fig. 10. A false door stela of *Snb* , The Museum of Art History, Vienna, ÄS 105, Inv. no. Egyptian Collection

https://www.khm.at/objektdb/detail/315987/(9/8/2021)



Fig. 11. A false door stela of *Snb*, The Classical Museum, the School of Classics, University College Dublin, no. 1361
S. Quirke, "Six hieroglyphic inscriptions in University College Dublin, pl. XXXI (top).



Fig. 12. A false door stela of *Snb* , The Museum of Art History, Vienna, ÄS 136, Inv. no. Egyptian Collection, INV 136

https://www.khm.at/objektdb/detail/315987/(9/8/2021)



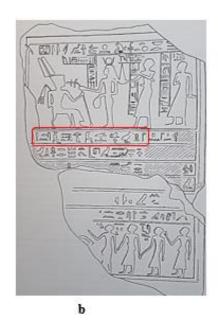


Fig. 13. A Base relief of *Sbk-ḥtp* ⊕, Musées Royaux d'Art et d'Histoire: Cinquantenaire Museum, Bruxelles, E.5266

b:https://carmentis.kmkgmrah.be/eMP/eMuseumPlus?service=ExternalInterface&module=co_llection&objectId=81273&viewType=detailView

a: A. H. Gardiner and T. E. Peet, The Inscriptions of Sinai, Vol. I,, pl. XXXVI, LIV.



Fig. 14. The Stela fragment of *Sbk-ḥtp* , Serabit el-Khadim A. H. Gardinerand T. E. Peet, The Inscriptions of Sinai, Vol. I, pl. LXXXV; J. Černý, "Semites in Egyptian Mining Expeditions to Sinai." Archív orientální 7: 1935, p. 388, fig. 5.

Conclusion and Recommendations

- The two main signs of the seal bearer \mathcal{Q} and \mathcal{Q} were used changeably in writing this title.
- Until now, there is no appearance of this title in the Old kingdom and it began to appear in the middle kingdom.
- The oldest document dates back to the Twelfth Dynasty, is for, *'Imn*(y) at the reign of *S-n-wsrt* III.
- It was held by both gender but by men more.
- It is clear that, the title could be held by more than one person at the same time.
- In its most frequent form, a vizier and a non-vizier bearing this title.

- The person who bore this title played an administrative role as a trustworthy person who can be relied upon in supervising the house, works, documents, seals, treasury, as well as military actions and expeditions and important things belonging to the king.
- The most accompanying titles held by the trustworthy seal bearer are hsty-c: mayor, smr-w't.y: sole companion, htm(ty)-bity: seal bearer of Lower Egypt, iry-p't: hereditary prince, imy-rs pr: overseer of the house and imy-rs pr: overseer of the house and imp-rs pr: revered with the great god.
- This title was held by officials and nobles is an honorary title and through the scenes and inscriptions accompanying the title, indicates that bearers of this title was very noble person of the upper class.

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(ألقاب حامل الختم الجدير بالثقة في مصر القديمة حتى نهاية عصر الدولة الوسطى)

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الملخص

معلومات المقالة

(JAAUTH) المجلد 22، العدد 3، (2022)، ص 149-149

لا شك في أن ألقاب الموظفين في مصر القديمة هي مصدر رئيسي للمعلومات حول حياتهم المهنية وواجباتهم في إدارة الدولة وخدمة الملك وعائلته. خلال العقود القليلة الماضية، كان هناك اتفاق عام علي فهم العديد من الألقاب الأكثر تكرارًا. ولا عجب أن العديد من المسؤولين في الحكومة كانوا منوطين بشأن توظيفها، تم إلحاق حاملي الأختام بمعظم إدارات الخدمة العامة بالدولة، وكذلك بجميع المؤسسات الدينية، وحتى النبلاء الأثرياء، عادة ما يكن لديهم واحد أو أكثر من هؤلاء "حامل الختم" في جعبتهم، في مصر القديمة. في كثير من الأحيان ، كان يحمل اللقب من قبل المسؤولين والنبلاء باعتباره لقبًا فخريًا. حمل العديد من كبار رجال الحكومة الملكية لقب من قبل المسؤولين والنبلاء باعتباره لقبًا فخريًا. حمل العديد بالثقة". كان حامل هذا اللقب بالطبع شخصًا موثوقًا به، ولعب حامل اللقب دورًا وظيفيا هاما وكان لمصطلحاته مشتقات ووظائف مختلفة مرتبطة به.

لذلك يهدف البحث إلى دراسة ألقاب حامل الختم الجدير بالثقة ومصطلحاته ومشتقاتها وربطها بالوثائق وتفسيرها لغوياً، التعرف على دور حامل اللقب، حصر اهم الموظفين الذين حملوا اللقب في مصر القديمة حتى نهاية عصر الدولة الوسطى، بالإضافة الي القاء الضوء على الالقاب المصاحبة لحاملي اللقب وإستنتاج طبيعة صلاحيات واختصاص حاملي الختم من خلالها.