

The Draughtsman Hatneferu

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Abstract: The Theban Tomb no. 58 is located in the Sheikh Abd El Qurna cemetery on Luxor's west bank of the Nile. The tomb was originally built for a high official during the reign of King Amenhotep III. Later, it was usurped by both Amenhotep and Amenemonet during the Ramesside period. On September 7, 2021, members of the Helwan University team discovered hieroglyphic graffiti written in black ink just above the inner hall's entrance from inside. The latter mentioned the name of the draughtsman Hatneferu, who was most probably the artist responsible for the tomb decoration during the Ramesside era.

Keywords: Theban tomb 58- draughtsman Hatneferu- Ramesside period- Sheikh Abd El Qurna.

الفنان حات نفرو

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المخلص: تقع المقبرة رقم TT 58 في جبانة شيخ عبد القرنة على الضفة الغربية لنهر النيل بالأقصر، وبنيت هذه المقبرة لأحد كبار الموظفين من عهد الملك "أمنحوتب الثالث" غير معروف اسمه حالياً، وتم إعادة استخدام المقبرة في عصر الرعامسة من قبل المدعو "أمنحوتب" وابنه "أمون إم إينت". في السابع من سبتمبر عام ٢٠٢١، استطاع أعضاء البعثة العلمية لجامعة حلوان الكشف عن جرافيتي مكتوب بالحبر الأسود على عتب مدخل الصالة الطولية للمقبرة، هذا الجرافيتي يذكر اسم الفنان حات نفرو، الذي يُعتقد أنه الفنان المسئول عن تنفيذ المناظر التي تزين المقبرة في عصر الرعامسة.

الكلمات الدالة: المقبرة رقم TT58 - الفنان حات نفر - عصر الرعامسة - الشيخ عبد القرنة.

used to represent  *n*.¹ As a result, the sentence can be translated as “made by the draughtsman Hatneferu justified.” This translation seems more plausible, since the draughtsmen’s signatures² were frequently preceded by *ir n* followed by the title and the artist’s name.³ Another possible interpretation of the sentence is that the  sign could be an abbreviated form of the demonstrative pronoun “*nw*” meaning “this”. In this case, the translation would be “the one who made this⁴, the draughtsmen’s Hatneferu justified,” where “*nw*” probably refers to the scenes and decorations made by Hatneferu.

- b. *Sš kd*: The title *sš kd* means “outline draughtsman”,⁵ or “painter/ draughtmen”,⁶ draughtmen”,⁶ literally “Scribe of contour”,⁷ or “scribe of forms/shapes/drawings”⁸. The title was first attested in the tomb of Queen Mersyankh III at Giza from the fourth Dynasty.⁹ Kanawati mentioned in his book about artists that “the work of artist/painter was presumably regarded as somewhat related to the scribal profession, and in the biography of the artist Seni, it was stated that it was he who decorated the two tombs of Tjeti-iqer and Kheni at Akhmim,¹⁰ using the verb *sš* “to write” with the meaning “to decorate”. The use of the same verb for the production of both scenes and inscriptions is not surprising since hieroglyphs never departed from the pictorial stage”.¹¹

¹ Alan Gardiner, A., *Egyptian Grammar*, 3rd edition. (Oxford: Griffith institute, 1994), 518= U19.

² For Artists’ signatures see: Edith Williams Wares, “Egyptian Artists’ Signatures” *AJSL* 43 no.3, (1927):185-207.

³ For the *irj n* see: Keller, *The Painters of Deir El Medina in the Ramesside Period*, 54; for example, see: *Aegyptische Inschriften aus den Staatlichen Museen zu Berlin*, II (Leipzig: Hinrichs’sche Buchhandlung, 1924), 162; OC. 25041= Georges Daressy, *Ostraca. (CGC)* (Le Cairo: Imprimerie de l’institut Français d’Archéologie Orientale, 1901), pl. ix; Bernard Bruyère, *Rapport sur les fouilles de Deir el- Médineh*, FIFAO 14 (Le Caire: Imprimerie de l’institut Français d’Archéologie Orientale, 1933), 56,67.

⁴ Adolf Erman & Hermann Grapow, *Wörterbuch der Ägyptischen Sprache*, II (Leipzig: Hinrichs’sche Buchhandlung, 1924), 216, 6.

⁵ John Wilson, “The Artist of the Egyptian Old Kingdom” *JNES* 4 (1947): 236.;

⁶ Lesko Leonard & Lesko Barbara, *A Dictionary of Late Egyptian*, II, 2nd edition (USA: Fall River printing co., 2004), 79.

⁷ Alan Gardiner, *Ancient Egyptian Onomastica*, Vol. I, (London: Oxford University Press, 1947), 71; Ricardo Caminos, *Late Egyptian Miscellanies* (London: Oxford University Press 1954), 101.

⁸ Naguib Kanawati, & Alexandra Woods, *Artists in the Old Kingdom* (Cairo: Supreme Council of Antiquities, 2009), 9.

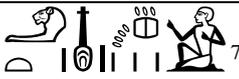
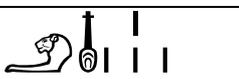
⁹ Dows Dunham & William Kelly Simpson, *The Mastaba of Queen Mersyankh III*, (Boston: Museum of Fine Arts Boston, 1974), Fig.8; William. Stevenson Smith, *A History of Egyptian Sculpture and Painting in the Old Kingdom*, 2nd edition (London: Oxford University Press, 1949), 351 fig. 233.

¹⁰ The biography of the artist Seni was discovered in the tomb of Tjeti-iqer, the governor of the 9th Nome of Upper Egypt dated to the late Sixth Dynasty see: Naguib Kanawati, *The Rock Tombs of El-Hawawish: The Cemetery of Akhmim*, Vol. I (Sydney: Macquarie Ancient History Association, 1980), 19, Fig.8.

¹¹ Kanawati & Woods, *Artists in the Old Kingdom*, 9.

- c. *H3t-nfrw*: The personal name *H3t-nfrw* was first attested in the New Kingdom,¹ however, the name occurred in the singular form *H3t nfr* as a masculine designation during the Old Kingdom². Starting from the Middle Kingdom it was also used to designate women³ and continued to be used during the eighteenth dynasty solely for women.⁴ In the Ramesside era, the name was used to designate both men and women⁵. It seems that the name was not widely used, used, as we were able to collect only 19 instances⁶ where it was borne by men during the aforesaid era.

Table.1 below lists personals with the name *H3t-nfrw* during the New Kingdom and the name writing variations:

No	Name	Date	Title	Source	Reference
1		Sethos I	<i>3 n diyw</i>	BM.10333= Pap. Butler 534	KRI. VII, 13
2		Ramses II	<i>Idnw n mšc</i>	BM stele 166	HTBM. IX, pl.22 KRI. III, 388.
3		Ramses II	<i>hry k3mw</i>	Jar label no. 6292.	Koenig, Y., Catalogue des étiquettes de jarres hiératiques de Deir el-Médineh, II, IFAO 1979, pl.33. KRI, VII, 56
4		Probably 19 th / 20 th Dyn.	<i>sš kdw</i>	TT.58	Unpublished

¹ Hermann Ranke, *Die Ägyptischen Personennamen*, I (Glückstadt: Verlag von J.J Augustin, 1935), 232-18.

² Ranke, *Die Ägyptischen Personennamen*, N II, 304,12; Katrin Scheele-Schweitzer, *Die Personennamen des Alten Reiches* (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag, 2014), 530, [2329].

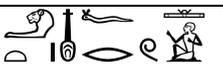
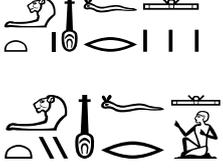
³ Ranke, *Die Ägyptischen Personennamen*, I, 232, 17.

⁴ For example, the mother of Senenmut was called *H3t nfr*: Dorman, Peter. *The Tombs of Senenmwt* (New York: Metropolitan Museum of Arts, 1991), Fig 3, 11, 14 etc.; Bartos Fruzsina, “The Official Titles *Wb3 nswt* Royal *Wb3* and *Wdpw nswt* Royal *Wdpw* and the Function of their Holders in the New Kingdom” in *Ancient Near Eastern and Mediterranean Studies 4*, ed. Zoltán Csabai (Budapest: L’Harmattan Publishing, 2020), 141, 143, 401. It is worth noting that the name *Nfr h3t* as a masculine designation occurred rarely during the 18th Dynasty, I was only able to locate two cases: Stele of *Nfr h3t* Cairo Museum 24022 & BM 148: Wolfgang Helck *Urkunden der 18. Dynastie*, IV heft 19, (Berlin: Akademie Verlag, 1957),1612f; TT 181: Wolfgang Helck *Urkunden der 18. Dynastie*, IV heft 21, (Berlin: Akademie Verlag, 1958), 1854.

⁵ Ranke, *Die Ägyptischen Personennamen*, I, 232-18.

⁶ The graffiti no. 110 mentioned: *iry h3t nfr*. Kitchen translates it by “the pilot Nefer”: Kenneth Kitchen, *Ramesside Inscriptions*, VII, (United Kingdom: Blackwell Oxford, 1989), 276. The text could also be translated as “the keeper Hatnefer”. I think that both translations are acceptable.

⁷ The sign  is a scribal error and it should be 

No	Name	Date	Title	Source	Reference
5		19 th /20 th Dyn.	---	O.UC. 39655	Černy & Gardiner, Hieratic Ostraca, pl. 18A
6		19 th /20 th	---	Stela ¹	PM, III ₂ part 2, 860.
7		Ramses III/ IV	Probably fish delivery	O. Ashm.295	Černy NB, 81,14
8		1 st year of Ramses IV reign	Fish delivery	O. DM.40	Černy, Catalogue des Ostraca hiératiques Deir el Médineh I, DFIFAO III, 1935, pl.22;
9		1 st year of Ramses IV reign	Fish delivery	O. DM.43	Černy, Ostraca s Deir el Médineh, I, pl.28.
10		1 st year of Ramses IV reign	Fish delivery	O. DM.47	Černy, Ostraca Deir el Médineh, I, pl. 39.
11		Probably 1 st year of Ramses IV reign	Fish delivery	O. DM.42	Černy, Ostraca Deir el Medineh I, pl. 27.
12		5 th -7 th year of Ramses IV reign	Fish delivery	O. Gard. 253 Rt 8, Vs, 5.	KRI. VII, 336.
13		7 th year Ramses IV reign	<i>wh^c</i>	O. DM. 630	KRI. VI, 149
14		Ramses IX 6 th -7 th years	<i>wh^c</i>	Pap.Turin 1930/+2050+ 2013	KRI. VI, 600 f.
15		Ramses IX 6 th -7 th years	<i>wh^c</i>	P. Turin 2013, vs,2,2	Černy, NB, 16, 37 ²

¹ The Stela location is unknown now, it was discovered in the palace area of King Merenptah at Mit Rahina bearing the Excavation number 3634. according to Málek it could be preserved at the Cairo Egyptian Museum. See: *PM*. III. part.2, 860.

² For pap. Turin 2013 vs. see: Sofia Häggman, *Directing Deir el-Medina*, (Uppsala: Studies in Egyptology 4, 2002), 90, 99f.

No	Name	Date	Title	Source	Reference
16		Ramses IX 7 th -8 th years	<i>wh^c</i>	Pap. Turin 1881 vs.7: 5: 9	KRI. VI, 618f.
17		Ramses IX 9 th year	<i>wh^c</i>	Pap. Milan RAN E 0.9.40126+ 0.9.40128	Roberson, RI, IX, 175-14
18		20 th Dyn.?	---	O. Qurna 629/5	Deir el Medina online data base.
19		?	<i>wh^c</i>	O. Ash.207	Černý, NB, 31, 15.

Table 1.

The following conclusions can be drawn from the above table:

- It is obvious that the name *H3t nfrw* was not a commonly used designation. During the Ramesside era, we were able to collect only 19 instances from the aforesaid era. All of them were fishermen or were connected to fish delivery, except for nos 1-2 who bear military titles, no.3 who was the Chief of Vineyard Keepers, and no.4 was an artist.
- The name was written with six variants. During the 19th dynasty, it was written with four different orthographies as it is clear from nos.1,2 ,3. 4. No.1 form of writing continued to be used in the 20th dynasty, along with three other new forms, nos. 7, 9, 12, and 13, that appeared during the preceding Dynasty.
- Nos. 8-13 date from the first to seventh years of Ramesses IV's reign and allude to several individuals bearing the personal name *H3t-nfrw*, all of them were concerned with fish deliveries, except for no. 13 who was a fisherman. According to Hornung, Ramesses IV reigned for approximately seven years; so, the *H3t nfrw* described in nos. 8-13 refers most probably to one fisherman named *H3t nfrw* who lived during Ramesses IV reign.
- In nos. 14-17, we encounter three fishermen bearing the same name *H3t nfrw* that were mentioned during 6th to 9th years of Ramesses IX reign, thus, we are most likely dealing with the same individual here.
- The average life expectancy for men in ancient Egypt exceeded 40 years.¹ Therefore, when we consider the time between the reign of Ramesses IV and the 8th year of Ramesses IX, which is roughly 34 years, it's likely that we are either dealing with the same individual or two fishermen, possibly a father and a son who shared the same name.

We are faced with the intriguing question of who this *sš kdw H3t-nfrw* is, and what work he did in TT 58. My first thought was to search for him in either Keller's or Bogoslovsky's *sš kdw* lists;² regrettably, he was not mentioned in either of those lists.

¹ Rosalind Janssen & Jac Janssen, *Growing Up and Getting Old in Ancient Egypt*, (London: Golden House Publications, 2007), 151, 168, 169, 170, 197.

² See page 1 footnote no. 5.

As a result, I attempted to locate someone bearing the personal name *H3t-nfrw* with the title *sš kdw* in the Deir El Medina community. Unfortunately, my efforts were in vain, as I was unable to find anyone with that name or title. Instead, I came across several individuals named *H3t-nfrw* who have different titles.¹ According to Fábíán, “artists from the Theban region were employed by the aristocracy to do some work in their own tombs, though artists of other origins cannot be excluded”.² Thus, it’s likely that *H3t-nfrw* was a draughtsman from a region other than the Theban Nome. In light of this, it appears that we have identified a new *sš kdw* who should be added to the Ancient Egyptian draughtmen lists.

Conclusion:

The name *H3t nfrw* was known during the Ramesside era; therefore, one may presume that the draughtman *H3t nfrw* was the one responsible for the decoration of the tomb during the Ramesside era, as well as for cutting in the rock the side chamber of the inner hall. For Draughtmen *sš kdw* in ancient Egypt seemed to be in charge of both the Architect’s and painter’s work in private tombs.

It is important to note that *H3t nfrw* probably was not from the Theban region, as he was not included in the draughtmen list mentioned before therefore, he added the graffiti under discussion to confirm that he was the one responsible for the decoration of the tomb during the Ramesside era.

¹ See Table 1.

² Zoltán Imre Fábíán, “The Artist of TT 32: *sš kd P3jj?*”, *RRE 1* (1997): 45; see: Inmaculada Vivas Sainz, “Egyptian artists in the New Kingdom: Travelling artists and travelling ideas?” In: *Current Research in Egyptology 2016*, eds. J. M. Chyla, J. Dębowska-Ludwin, K. Rosińska-Balik, C. Walsh (Oxford: Oxbow Books, 2017), 109.

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Figures



Figure 1: location of the tomb TT58.



Figure 2: Graffiti location in the inner hall



Figure 3a: the Graffiti



Figure 3b: The Graffiti facsimile