

Mersa\Wadi Gawasis as a Waterway on the Red Sea to the Land of PA . wn . wt

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**Abstract**

The Red Sea played a very important role in the life of ancient Egyptians. It was used for maritime expeditions to Sinai, southern Sudan and to the Land of PA . wn . wt to obtain products valuable to the Egyptian kings and nobles. A number of excavations have been made and documented along the Red Sea. Mersa\Wadi Gawasis as a starting point to the Land of PA . wn . wt, and the extensive use of the site was mostly during the Middle kingdom period.

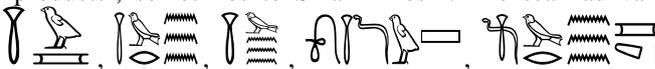
**Key words:** Port, Red Sea, Punt, Expediting, Maritime, Gawasis, Middle-Kingdom and Officials

**Objectives of the Research:**

The present study is an attempt to reach a better understanding of Mersa\Wadi Gawasis as a Red Sea port. Furthermore, to collect principal remains and archaeological evidence discovered at the sea port. It also lists the names of several officials on an expedition through the ancient sea port.

**Introduction:**

The sea played a very important role in the life of ancient Egyptians. The Red Sea was the bridge which connected Egypt with outer world for various economic and military activities.<sup>1</sup> The Red Sea was the way to PA . wn . wt and its products<sup>2</sup>, sometimes to Sinai mines<sup>3</sup>. The sea had various designations in ancient Egypt

including  with its various interpretations as Red Sea .

**The starting Use of the Red Sea as a starting Point to the land of PA . wn . wt:**

Although the Red Sea trade could be date to as early as the Naqada II period<sup>5</sup>. The earliest textual evidence dates the transportation of boats through the Red Sea to the Old Kingdom period; from that period texts mentioned a connection between the Egyptian ruler and the Land of PA . wn . wt<sup>6</sup>. In the Fourth Dynasty, a son of Khufu had possessed a puntite slave<sup>7</sup>. Erman suggested that this puntite supervised by himself a voyage sent to Punt<sup>8</sup>. **Pl. 1**

King Sahure, was the second king of the 5th Dynasty, was the first pharaoh whose records from his burial temple show direct communication with the country of PA . wn . wt. He sent a fleet on a voyage to Punt and his expedition brought back 80,000 measures of myrrh, probably 6,000 weight of electrum, besides 2,600 of costly wood like ebony<sup>9</sup>. **Pl. 2**

During the 5<sup>th</sup> Dynasty in the time of king Djedkare Isesi, the treasurer of the god's sealer () brought a dwarf from the Land of Punt<sup>10</sup>. As we can read from the following text<sup>11</sup>;

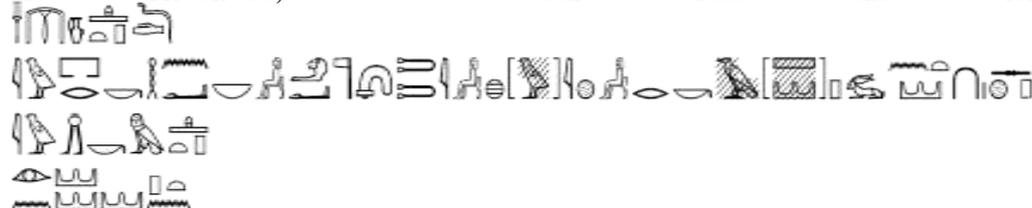


12

Dd.n.k r mDA.t.k tn  
 Wnt in.n.k dng<sup>13</sup> ibAww nTr  
 m tA AXtyw  
 mit (y) dng in (w) Xtmtj-nTr wr-Dd-bA<sup>14</sup>

You have said in your letter, that thou have brought a dancing dwarf of the god from the land of spirits, like the dwarf whom the treasurer of the god wr-Dd-bA brought from Punt in the time of Isesi<sup>15</sup>.

During the 6<sup>th</sup> Dynasty, Director of the Cabin Khnum -Hotep recorded that; he went on a voyage to the land of PA . wn . wt, we can read the following text;



16

Xrp sH- nTr xnm -Htp Dd  
 iw pr.k Hna nb Sps HAty-aA sDAty nTr TTy- xwy r KAS PA . wn . wt ll sp  
 iw jn.k m Htp  
 ir.n (sn) xAswt pn tn

Moreover, the Director of the cabin Khnum -Hotep says; I went out with my hereditary-prince, the god's sealer Titi and Khoy to Jbeil and PA . wn . wt eleven times, preparing in peace for what these countries did<sup>17</sup>. Furtheromer in the 6<sup>th</sup> Dynasty the king Pepi II sent the nobleman of Elephantine Pepynakhat<sup>18</sup>, on a remarkable

expedition to the north Red Sea to rescue the body of a nobleman who was killed by Asiatic sand dwellers while building a ship for a voyage to PA.wn.wt<sup>19</sup>.

**Wadi Gasus/ Mersa Gawasis Port as a waterway to the Land of PA.wn.wt:**

**Date:** Middle Kingdom, 12th Dynasty

**Location:** about 23 km south of the modern port of Safaga and about 60 km north of Quseir and about 80 km south of Hurgada. It was located near the shortest overland route from the Nile Valley in Upper Egypt to the Red Sea<sup>20</sup>. **Pl. 3**

**Discovery:** The area of Wadi Gasus was first surveyed by Wilkinson J. Gardner and Burton J in the 1820s. They discovered structures of uncertain purpose<sup>21</sup>. Schweinfurth was the first to describe these structures as a Greco-Roman station (Hydreuma), which lies at about 7km from the Red Sea shore<sup>22</sup>. A number of various monuments of Greco-Roman type, but no pharaonic monuments or inscription was found, therefore Tregenza mistook it for the Ptolemaic port Philoteris<sup>23</sup>. Then the site was discovered by an archaeological expedition started by Abdel Monem Sayed –Faculty of Arts, History Department-University of Alexandria. The work began in March 1976 and lasted for two seasons of excavation (March 1976-Jan-Feb 1977)<sup>24</sup>.

Sayed began his work in the vicinity of Wadi Gasus, then moved his research to the mouth of Wadi Gasus called Mersa Gasus and he also started excavating another site, located about 2km to the south of the called Mersa Gawasis<sup>25</sup>. **Pl. 4**

The research in Mersa Gasus did not reveal any remains, unlike at Mersa Gawasis where he discovered a group of stelae and other monuments inscribed in hieroglyphs<sup>26</sup>. These monuments will be discussed later. Based on these results Sayed identified Mersa Gawasis as a site of a pharaonic port in the 12th Dynasty<sup>27</sup>. Since 2001 the archaeological expedition at Mersa Gawasis has continued by the University of Naples, L`Orientale (UNO) led by Radolfo Fattovich in collaboration with Busto University (BU) led by Kathryn Bard<sup>28</sup>.

**Function:** Mersa Gawasis was the port where expeditions to PA.wn.wt and BiA-n-PA.wn.wt were sent<sup>29</sup>.

**Name of the Port:** The Arabic word 'Mersa' means a small harbour, and 'Gawasis' is a plural of the word gasus which means a spy that is a medieval designation for small boats which were once used for the observation of enemy ships usually in the night and without lights<sup>30</sup>.

**Archaeological Evidence:** A number of stelae and shrines have been found at the site dated to the Middle Kingdom, among them: - **Pl. 5**

**Doc. No. 1: - Shrine-Stela of Ankhu<sup>31</sup> Pl. 6**

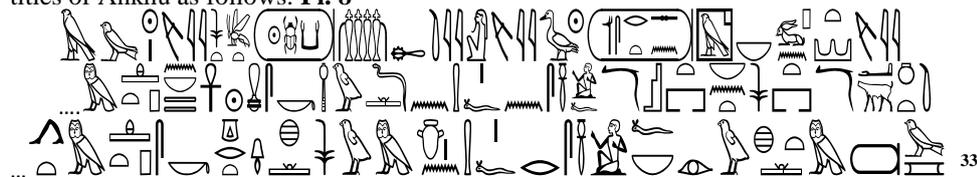
**Date:** Middle Kingdom, Time of Senusert I.

**Location:** This shrine was located about 250 m west of Mersa Gawasis.

**Material:** It was constructed from three blocks of limestone, the eastern jamb is higher than the western one (55 cm).

It is belonged to a high official called anxw (The living one) Ankhu who was the imy-r (A) a-xnwty n pr-aA (Overseer of the audience-chamber) Chamberlain in the court of Senusert I<sup>32</sup>. **Pl. 7**

Text: From the text of this shrine it is clear that Senusert I ordered Ankhu to lead or to send forth an expedition to PA.wn.wt and BiA-n-PA.wn.wt. The text begins on the eastern jamb with the usual invocation in the name of the king to the gods among whom Hathor is mentioned as goddess of Punt, then comes the command of the king with titles of Ankhu as follows: **Pl. 8**



mry Hr-wr-Ra nsw bity xpr-Ka-Ra mry xnty-xty Sa Ra s-ny-wsrt mry Hwt-Hr nbt PA.wn.wt<sup>34</sup>

[...]m Htp n nb TAwy s-ny-wsrt anx mi Ra sk wD.n Hm.f smr.f imy-rA st nbt nt pr-nsw imy-rA a-xnwty<sup>35</sup>

[...]t m Htp sk grt mnx sw m ib n Hm.f r smr.f nb irw xt m Sn-wr<sup>36</sup>

Beloved of Haroeris, King of Upper and Lower Egypt Kheperkare, beloved of Khentykhet, the son of Re, Senusert, beloved of Hathor, lady of PA.wn.wt. [...] in peace for the lord of the Double lands, Senusert, given life like Re. Therefore, his majesty commanded his companion, the director of all the places in the Royal palace, the director of the inner chamber. [...co]me in peace. Therefore, then, it was excellent in the heart of His Majesty more than any other companion who accomplished activities in the sea<sup>37</sup>.

And there is a remarkable passage referring to the port of sww which reads:



dpwt....dmj n sww spwt Gbtjw  
 boats...the port Sww of the nome of Coptos<sup>38</sup>.

While the western jamb is inscribed with text recording a tribute brought from the Land of BiA-n-PA.wn.wt and from the God's Land with the titles of Ankhu, as we can read: **Pl. 9**

..... jmy-r Haw xrp aprw jmy-r nfrw.w<sup>39</sup>  
 [...] the director of the fleet, controller of the crews, general of the recruits.

.....  
[.....] sent to the Mines of Punt  
[.....] jj.n j.n m mAa  
[....]it is having really brought... that I came back  
.....  
Xpr-kA-Ra nb anx wAs Dt [...] n jj [...] xr [...] n Hm n nb tA.wy njswt bity  
[....] For the majesty of the lord of the Two Land, king of Upper and Lower Egypt Kheperkare, master of life and power, eternally.  
.....  
[...]tA.w xAs.wt Sn [...]w tA.sn jnw tA-nTr m  
[...] the lands and the foreign countries[...] their lands, the produce of the land of the God<sup>41</sup>  
[.....] nb jm jn[imj-r axnwtj] n Pr-aA anxw  
[.....] master there [Overseer of the cabinet] of the palace, Ankh<sup>42</sup>.

Moreover, the central block of the shrine-stela is inscribed with the date of the departure of the expedition, although most of the left half of the inscriptions are defaced, we can read the titles of various officials who organized or prepared this expedition. As we can read from the following text: **Pl. 10**

..... [rnp.t-sp] 24 Abd 1 pr [.t]  
[Year]24, the first month of the growing season [...].  
sAb aD-mr nww (j)m (y)-r(A)...<sup>43</sup>  
Administrator of the Nun of the service of the vizier, Overseer [...]  
sAb sS.w Snw.t Ss.w[...] Scribes of granaries of the scribe of the vizier,  
Scribes[...]  
imy-r(A) aA.w imy-r(A) nbwj.w[...]  
General of the auxiliaries, Overseer of the gold miths

Those shrine-stelae were placed on a raised platform constructed of four anchors arranged in two rows<sup>44</sup>. Each one has a rounded upper hole and a square lower hole, these upper holes were trimmed off, and their surfaces smoothed and carved with the hieroglyphic signs. Sayed, Abdel Monem A. suggested that the anchors seem to be the anchors of the ships which navigated to the land of BiA-n-PA.wn.wt.. **Pl. 11.**

**Doc. No. 2: - Stela of Khentekhtay-wer Pl. 12**

**Date:** Middle Kingdom, Reign of Amenemhat II.

**Location:** This stela was not found directly on the sea shore but about 7 km from it in Wadi Gasus where John Wilinson and James Burton searched for Greco-Roman monuments<sup>45</sup>.

**Description:** It is a round-topped stela measuring about 52 x 30 cm. It is divided into two registers. In the upper register the king is shown standing, offering to the god Min of Coptos. Moreover, The lower register Khentekhtay-wer is shown standing, raising his hand and giving laudation to Min of Coptos after his return safe from Punt. It provides an evidence about an expedition to Punt in the year 28 of Amenmhat II, and a place where the Egyptian sea-going ships landed called Sawu<sup>46</sup>. as we read in the Following text: -

**Text:**

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
nswt bjty nb tAwj nbw-kAw-Ra dj anx mj Ra Awt-ib.f Hr st Hr [mnw] gbtiw  
mrj dj anx  
dwA-nTr [rdit ] iAjw n Hr-wr-Ra n mnw gbtiw  
in irj-pat Hatj-a xtmw bitj imj-r rwtj  
xnt-xt-wr m-xt iwt.f m-  
Htp m PA.wn.wt mSa.f  
Hna.f xrw snb Haw.f Htp  
n sAww rnpt 28

The king of Upper and Lower Egypt, Lord of the Two Lands, Nubkaure, given life like Re, rejoicing at the throne of Horus, beloved of Min of Coptos<sup>47</sup>, given life. Praising and giving laudation to Haroris-Re and to Min of Coptos by the hereditary prince, count, seal-bearer of the King of Lower Egypt, superintendent of the judgment-hall

Khentekhtay-wer, after his return safe from Punt, his expedition being with him is sound and healthy, and his fleet is resting at Sawu in the Year 28.

**Conclusion:**

The text shows that Sww and Sawu designate a port which was situated in the coastal area and served the maritime expeditions of the 12<sup>th</sup> Dynasty to the land of PA.wn.wt.

In the time of king Senusert I	In the time of Amenemhat II
As: 	As: 

Both stelae of Ankhu and Khentekhtay-wer approved that the port of Sawu was in use under Senusert I, and continued to be used under the direct of Amenemhat II.

Through the previous titles of Ankhu, we note the multiplicity of Competencies of those who work in the maritime field and that their role was not limited to being a sailor but only to include work in the religious, administrative and military aspects; as shown in the next table: -

Official Name	Title	Transliteration	Translate
Ankhuf 		<i>imy-r h<sup>c</sup>w hrn. <sup>c</sup>pr.w imy-r nfrw.w</i>	the director of the fleet, controller of the crews, general of the recruits
		<i>d-mr</i>	Administrator of the Ocean (Red Sea)
		<i>imy-r <sup>c</sup>hmwt n pr-<sup>c</sup>3</i>	Overseer of the Myrrh in the Great House
		<i>imy-r st nbt nt pr-nsw</i>	the director of all thrones in the Royal palace
		<i>ss snw.t</i>	Scribe of granaries
		<i>imy-r <sup>c</sup>3.w imy-r nbw i.w</i>	General of the auxiliaries, Overseer of the gold miths

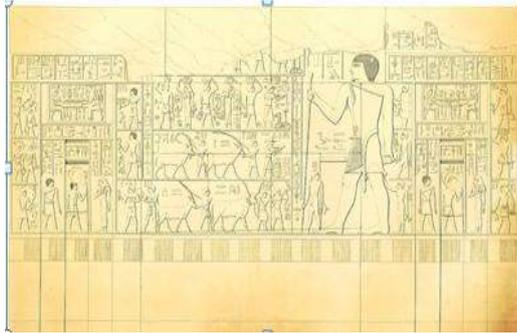
**الملخص العربي**

استخدم المصريون القدماء البحر الأحمر كوسيلة للحصول على السلع التي لا تتوفر في الوادي كالمعادن والبخور وغيرها من المواد التي كان على المصري استيرادها من البلاد الأجنبية. كان البخور عنصراً أساسياً في طقوس الديانة المصرية سواء التي كانت تجري في المعابد أو التي تقام في المقابر. ولما كانت الديانة هي المحور الرئيسي في الحياة المصرية القديمة، كان من الطبيعي أن يعطى المصريون للبخور ولمصادره ومناطق الحصول عليه أهمية قصوى.

اعتبر المصريون بلاد بونت المصدر الرئيسي للبخور، وخاصة النوع الفاخر المعروف عندهم باسم "عنني" أو "عننيوواج". ولاستيراد البخور كان على المصريين القيام برحلات إلى بلاد بونت وكان ميناء مرسى جوايس علي ساحل البحر الأحمر، وهو الميناء المسمي "ساو" عند المصريين القدماء، هو نقطة انطلاقهم بالرحلات من وإلى بلاد بونت ويتضح ذلك من

خلال نص اللوحتين التذكريتين اللتين عثرا عليهما بالميناء ، ( لوحة عنخو من عهد الملك سنوسرت الأول، لوحة رئيس بيت المال خنتختاي-ور من عهد الملك أمنمحات الثاني).

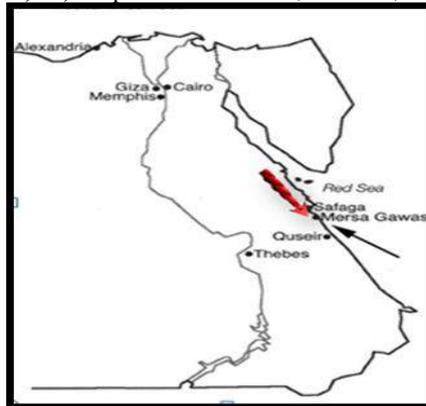
**List of Plates:**



**Pl. 1:** Puntite supervised by himself on a voyage sent to PA . wn . wt .  
**After:** LD II, 23.

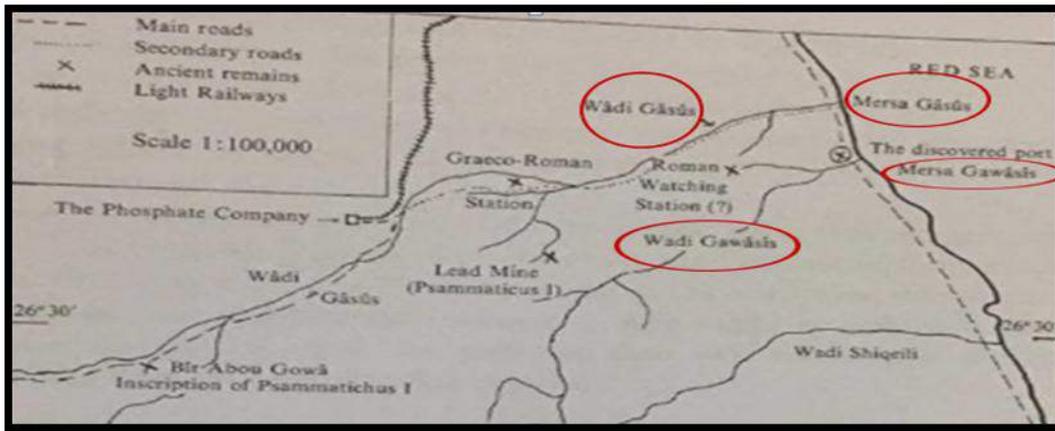


**Pl. 2:** King Sahure, records from his burial temple showing direct communication with the country of PA . wn . wt .  
**After:** Landstorm, B., Ships of the Pharaohs, London, 1970, p. 63, fig. 187.

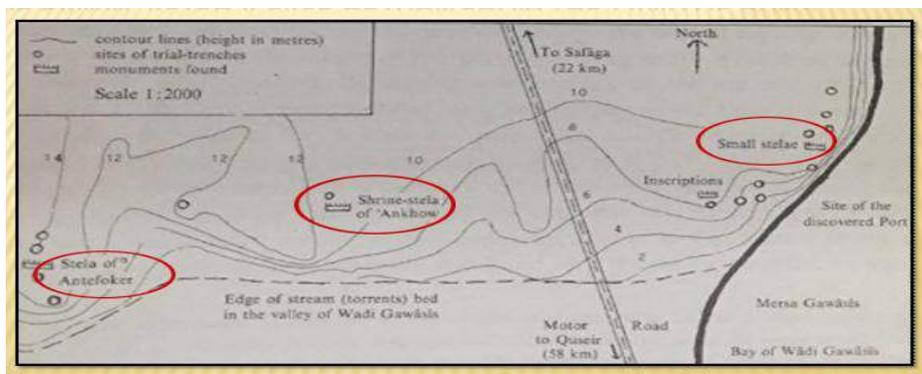


**Pl. 3:** Location of port Mersa Gawasis.

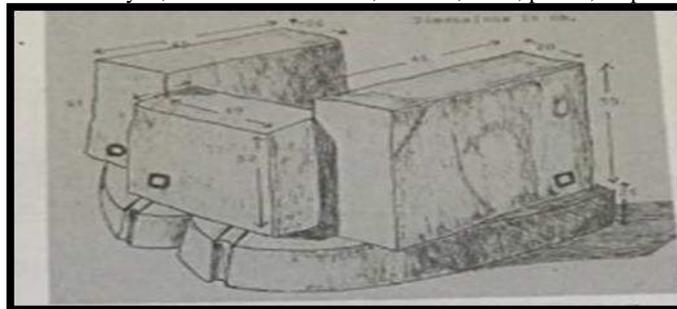
**After:** Bard, K., The Wonderful Things of Punt: Excavations at Pharaonic Harbor on the Red Sea, Boston University, 2011, p. 3.



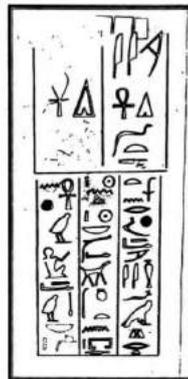
Pl. 4: To identify of the location of Wadi Gasus and Wadi Gawasis.  
 After: After: Sayed, Abdel Monem A. H., Discovery of the site of the 12th dynasty port at Wadi Gawasis on the Red Sea shore, in: RdE 29, 1977, p. 149, map. 2.



Pl. 5: A number of monuments found at Mersa/Wadi Gawasis.  
 After: Sayed, Abdel Monem A. H., RdE 29, 1977, p. 149, map. 3.



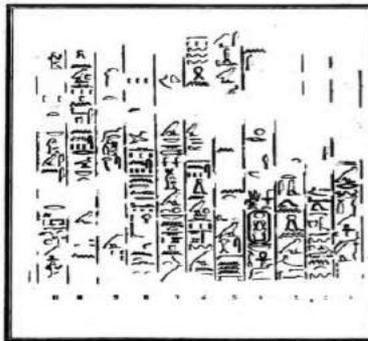
Pl. 6: Shrine of Ankhu  
 After: Sayed, Abdel Monem A. H., RdE 29, 1977, p. 157, Fig. 2.



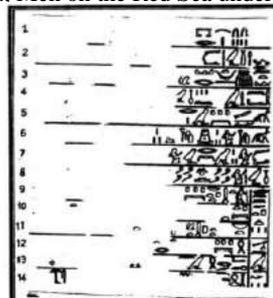
Pl. 7: Inscription on the Façade of the western jamb of the Shrine -Stela, containing his names and titles  
 After: Sayed, RdE 29, 1977, fig.3.



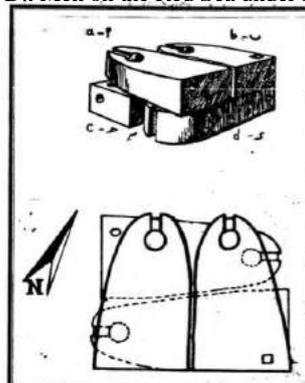
**Pl. 8:** Inscription of the inner face of the eastern jamb of the Shrine –Stela of Ankhu  
**After:** Farout, D., Men on the Red Sea under Senusert I, in Festschrift volume 'A collection of studies presented to professor Abdel Monem Addele Haleem Saved. 2nd edition. Alexandria, 2007, p. 236, fig. 6.



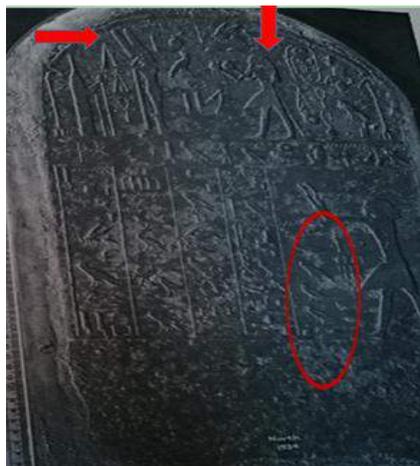
**Pl. 9:** Inscription on the inner face of the rear block of the shrine –stela of Ankhu  
**After:** Farout, D., Men on the Red Sea under Senusert I, fig. 7.



**Pl. 10:** Inscription on the inner face of the western jamb of the shrine –stela of Ankhu  
**After:** Farout, D., Men on the Red Sea under Senusert I, fig. 5.



**Pl. 11:** The pedestal of the shrine of Ankhu showing four anchors arranged in two rows.  
**After:** Sayed, A. M., 'Observations on Recent Discoveries at Wadi Gawasis', JEA 66, pp.154-157, Fig. 1



Pl. 12: Stela of Khentykht-wer

After: Nibbi, A., 'Remarks on the Two Stelae from the Wadi Gasus', in: JEA 62,1976, pl. IX.

## References

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- <sup>2</sup> رمضان عبده السيد، بونت و تا-نثر وأثر منتجاتهما في الحياة اليومية في مصر القديمة منذ أقدم العصور حتى العصر البطلمي-الروماني دراسة ثقافية، مجلة التاريخ والمستقبل، كلية الآداب، جامعة المنيا، يوليو 1999، ص. 13.
- <sup>3</sup>Warren, P., Egypt, *The Aegean and the Levant: Interconnections in the Second Millennium Bc*, London, 1995, p. 11.
- <sup>4</sup>Wb, I, p. 269, 12-16.
- <sup>5</sup>Zarins suggests that foreign obsidian could have found its way into Egypt through the Red Sea based at Koptes, at the end of Wadi Hammamat as early as Naqada II period; Zarins, J., "Ancient Egypt and the Red Sea Trade, the case for obsidian in the Predynastic and Archaic period," Chicago: Oriental Institute, 1989, pp.339-368.
- <sup>6</sup>منى عبدالغنى حجاج، الميناء في مصر القديمة قبل الفتح العربي، رسالة ماجستير، غير منشورة، كلية الآداب، جامعة الاسكندرية، 1984، ص. 63-65.
- <sup>7</sup>Breasted, J. H., *A History of Egypt from the Earliest Times to the Persian Conquest*, London, 1935, p. 127; LD II, 23.
- <sup>8</sup>أولف ارمان وهرمان رانكه، مصر والحياة المصرية القديمة، ترجمة: عبدالمنعم أبو بكر ومحرم كمال، مكتبة النهضة المصرية، 1950، ص. 581.
- <sup>9</sup>Urk I, 246; Landstorm, B., *Ships of the Pharaos*, London, 1970, p. 63, fig. 187;
- عبدالعزیز صالح، الشرق الأدنى القديم، الجزء الأول، مصر والعراق، مكتبة الأنجلو المصرية، ص. 193.
- <sup>10</sup>Breasted, J.H., *Ancient Records of Egypt*, vol. I, Chicago, 1906, 351.
- <sup>11</sup>This text was brought to us from the text of Pepi II's letter inscribed on a wall of Harkhuf's tomb at Qubbet El-Hawwa at Aswan. Harkhuf (fl. 23rd century B. C. E.) Trade Official the Sixth Dynasty. He served Pepi I, Merenre, and Pepi II. He was a leader of expeditions below the first Cataract of the Nile. Eventually he was named overseer of the foreign soldiers in the service of the throne and the governor of the region south of Aswan. On one first such journey he captured a dancing dwarf and sent word to the ruler, Pepi II, who was a child at that time. Harkhuf informed Pepi II that he was bringing home the little one as a gift. Pepi II responded with a letter detailing the care and comfort to be extended to the dwarf. He stated that the official would be rewarded if the dwarf arrived alive, prosperous and healthy; After: Bunson, M. R., *Encyclopedia of Ancient Egypt*, Rev.ed, America, 2002, p. 158.
- <sup>12</sup>Urk I, 128f.
- <sup>13</sup>From the earliest times, the pharaohs of Egypt and their nobles delighted to have in their households' dwarfs and other misshapen human beings. According to Breasted J.H the Egyptian word  dng means Pygmy, while the term  nmi used as dwarf. The ancient Egyptian themselves distinguished between pygmies; the normally small races of men from the interior of African and dwarf w; which were pathological cases drawn from their own population after: Warren R. D., Pymies and Dwarfs in Ancient Egypt, JEA 24, London, 1938, p.158.

<sup>14</sup>The title  xtmtj nTr –the god's sealer was given to an official participated in king's journeys and expeditions. There are at least four texts known that describe various activities of officials bearing the title xtmtj nTr between them: The letter of king Pepi II to Harkhuf recalls the god's sealer Werdjedba who brought a dwarf from Punt for the king Isesi; After: Bàrta, M., *The Old Kingdom Art and Archaeology*, Prague, 2004, p. 200.

<sup>15</sup>شحاته آدم، الرحلات والبعثات برا وبحرا في مصر الفرعونية منذ أقدم العصور حتى نهاية عهد الدولة الوسطى، رسالة دكتوراه غير منشورة، كلية الآداب، جامعة القاهرة، 1966، ص. 149.

<sup>16</sup>Urk I, 140-141.

<sup>17</sup>عبدالعزيز صالح، الشرق الأدنى القديم، الجزء الأول مصر القديمة، 1976، ص. 153؛ هشام همت عبدالمطلب، نشاط ووظائف البحارة في مصر القديمة حتى نهاية الدولة الحديثة، مجلة البحث العلمي في الآداب، العدد التاسع، 2018، الجزء الثاني، ص. 3.

<sup>18</sup>Pepynakhat was an official on a high rank, and was entrusted with important commissions by king Pepi II. He led two campaigns to Nubia and another one to the Red Sea. He had many titles among them: Custodian of the domain, Scribe, wearer of the royal seal, governor of the Pyramid city, ritual priest, he also was caravan-conductor who brings the products of the countries to his lord, and the governor of foreign countries. His tomb is in Aswan; Breasted, J. H., *Ancient Records of Egypt*, 355,356.

<sup>19</sup>*Ibid.*, 360; *Urk I*, 131-135.

<sup>20</sup>Bard, K., *The Wonderful Things of Punt: Excavations at Pharaonic Harbor on the Red Sea*, Boston University, 2011, p. 3.

<sup>21</sup>Wilkinson, J. G., *Topography of Thebes and general view of Egypt*, London, 1835, p. 364.

<sup>22</sup>Schweinfurt, G. A., 'Alte Baureste und hieroglyphische Inschriften im Uadi Gasus' in: *Abhandlungen der Preussischen Akademie der Wissenschaften*, Berlin, 1885, p.8.

<sup>23</sup>Tregenza, Leo Arthur, *Egyptian Years*, London; New York: Oxford University Press, 1958, p. 182.

<sup>24</sup>Sayed, Abdel Monem A. H., The Recently Discovered Port on the Red Sea Shore, *JEA*, 64, London, 1978, p. 69.

<sup>25</sup>Sayed, Abdel Monem A. H., Discovery of the site of the 12th dynasty port at Wadi Gawasis on the Red Sea shore, in: *RdE* 29, 1977, p. 149, map. 2.

<sup>26</sup>Sayed, Abdel Monem A. H., *RdE* 29, 1977, p. 145f.

<sup>27</sup>It is strange views on the detection of the port of Wadi Gawasis of Alexandra Nibbi who visited the site after Sayed's excavations rejected his theory concerning a port from the 12<sup>th</sup> Dynasty and even refused to accept that this place had been used by the Egyptians. She suggested that the ancient-Egyptians regularly used a port along the Red Sea coast and that it was probably Qoseir, as she found it so difficult for ancient-Egyptians to carry their boats through one-hundred sixty kilometers of hills terrain along Wadi Hammamat to the Red Sea, but the research did not agree with this opinion as She did not reveal any satisfactory explanation; Nibbi, A., 'Remarks on the two stelae from the Wadi Gasus', *JEA* 62, 1976, pp. 45-47.

<sup>28</sup>Kathryn, A. B., & Fattovich, R., The Middle Kingdom Red Sea Harbor at Mersa/wadi Gawasis, *JARCE*, vol. 47, 2011, p. 105

<sup>29</sup>Fattovich, R., & Kathryn, A. B., *Harbor of the Pharaohs to the Land of Punt*, Neapoli, 2007, p. 247.

<sup>30</sup>منى عبدالغنى، الميناء في مصر القديمة قبل الفتح العربي، ص. 105.

<sup>31</sup>Ankhu was one of the most famous officials of the Middle-Kingdom. He appears several times, in a papyrus found at Thebes called 'Papyrus Boulaq 18', bearing the titles 'Overseer of the city, vizier, and sometimes 'Overseer of the six-great house'. His mother was the lady of the house Henutpu, his wife was Mereryt. Several generations of the Ankhu family conducted official business for the crown, Ankhu and his clan served at el-Lisht and at Thebes, After: Grajetzki, W., *Court officials of the Egyptian Middle Kingdom*, 2009, pp. 38-39.

<sup>32</sup>Sayed, Abdel Monem A. H., *RdE* 29, 1977, p. 157, Fig. 2, pl. 13d.

<sup>33</sup>Sayed, Abdel Monem A. H., *RdE* 29, p.159.

<sup>34</sup>Farout, D., *Men on the Red Sea under Senusert I*, in *Festschrift volume 'A collection of studies presented to professor Abdel Monem Adhel Haleem Sayed*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Alexandria, 2007, p. 236.

<sup>35</sup>To know more about the title  imy-r a-xnwtj see Al Ayedi, A., *Index of Egyptian administrative, religious and military titles of the New Kingdom*, 2006, p. 43(79).

<sup>36</sup> Sn-wr 'The great circle of water' or 'the great ocean included the Red Sea together with the eastern branches of the Nile. A good example for that is mentioned here in the text of Ankhu as Sn-wr implying the Red Sea; After: *Wb*, IV, 493.15 - 494, 9; Nagy, N., *The Sea in Ancient Egypt till the End of the New Kingdom*, p. 77.

<sup>37</sup>Sayed, Abdel Monem A. H., *Discovery of the site of the 12th dynasty port at Wadi Gawasis on the Red Sea shore*, p. 160, Fig. 2.

<sup>38</sup>Daniel, š., *Harbours in Ancient Egypt*, Ph.D. Thesis, 2011, p. 82.

<sup>39</sup> imy-r nfrw.w, according to Murry if nfrw in the Old Kingdom described a class of soldiers, then clearly imy-r-nfrw is also described a military title; After: M.A. Murray, *Index of Names and Titles from the Old Kingdom*, 1908, pl. 31.

<sup>40</sup> Bia -Punt; its location was a matter of discussion. AS Prof. Breasted considered the term of Bia-Punt denotes two regions [Sinai and Punt], Prof. Gardiner gave the same opinion also, but with the translation of the word BiA as the Mineral -land. On the other hand, Golenischeff considered the term Bia-Punt as a designation of one region only and he translated it [the Mines of Punt, Sayed Abdel Monem agreed with him proved that the word is used in a context that gives it the significance of one geographical region situated in the south on the Red Sea coast; After: Sayed, Abdel Monem A. H., *Op. Cit.*, p. 176.

<sup>41</sup>The term  tA-nTr [God's Land] remained a very uncertainly defined area, but we are told that the myrrh terraces of Punt are a part of God's Land from reliefs of Deir El-Bahari from the time of queen Hatshepsut, while in the time of king Ramesss III when an inscription from Medinet Habu places the gum (kmyt) of God's Land at the top of the list of tribute, the gum of Punt coming second on the list. So, it may be that Punt was a part of God's Land or perhaps be Punt and God's Land do not belong the same geographical region; After: Nibbi, A., 'Remarks on the Two Stelae from the Wadi Gasus', in: *JEA* 62,1976, pp. 51-53.

<sup>42</sup>Farout, D., *Men on the Red Sea under Senusert I*, p. 237f.

<sup>43</sup>The Title  . aD-mr Sayed Abdel-Monem translated it as the official of the Ocean, and the Ocean may be the Red Sea; After: Sayed, Abdel Monem A. H., in: *RdE* 29, 1977, p. 162.

<sup>44</sup>Sayed, A. M., 'Observations on Recent Discoveries at Wadi Gawasis', *JEA* 66, pp.154-157, Fig. 1.

<sup>45</sup>Wilkinson, J. G., *Topography of Thebes and general view of Egypt*, London, p. 364.

<sup>46</sup>Nibbi, A., *JEA* 62, pp. 51-53, pl. IX.

<sup>47</sup>Coptos was an ancient city about 40 km north of Thebes in Upper Egypt. It was an important place because its position at the mouth of a dry river valley, or wadi known as Wadi Hammamat, it was the access point to the coast of the Red Sea. Its principal deity was the fertility and vegetation god Min; After: <https://www.metmuseum.org> (Last Access 29/9/2018).