The Titles of the Seal Bearer of the Ships in Ancient Egypt until the end of Middle Kingdom

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Abstract

As the seal was put to varied and important uses in Ancient Egypt, they were not only used as administrative securing devices for the state bureaucracy, private individuals, documents, containers, places, but also as amulets during daily life and in the netherworld. It is no wonder that many officials of the Government were concerned about its employment. 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 htm(w) or sdstw(ty) "seal bearer" in their household, During the Old kingdom, many high-ranking members of the royal government bore the title “htm(w)/ htm(ty)-ntr (wi3), wi3, Seal bearer, God’s seal bearer, Ship.

Keywords: htm(w)/ htm(ty)-ntr (wi3), wi3, Seal bearer, God’s seal bearer, Ship.

1. Introduction

Hieroglyphic symbols for seals appeared early and occurred in many words referring to sealing practices. Seals in ancient Egypt were referred to by a number of different terms, most prominently: htm or sdstw (wt) 𓊵, 𓊵 showing the two ends of the necklace thrust through the perforation of the seal. Seals played an important role in ancient Egypt. They were not only
used as administrative securing devices for the state bureaucracy, private individuals, documents, containers, places, but also as amulets during daily life and in the netherworld.\(^1\)

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.\(^2\)

The personnel who were responsible for sealing appeared in the scenes in the companion of other personal servants of the master and also the attendants of the master who carried his personal luggage, the offering bearers, fan bearers, the sun shade bearers, musicians, and the sedan chair bearers.\(^3\) Seal bearers used to carry other something together with the seal which related to their function, the box or the basket on which they keep the luggage, short or long bag, and other personal tools like mirror, bouquet of flower, staff. They often bear compound titles incorporating these words. For instance, it’s found common variants such as: “sealer, “divine seal bearer” (an official involved in temple administration).\(^4\) During the same period, high-ranking members of the royal government bore the prefix title \(hntm(ty)-bity\), “royal seal bearer,” a title that likely indicates not just status but responsibility for holding seals and sealing on behalf of the reigning king. Frequent references to sealing practices occur in iconographic and textual sources. Administrative documents refer to sealing as an integral component of institutional functions. An example of this occurs in the well-known New Kingdom text the duties of the vizier, where the inspection of sealed rooms was part of daily administrative routine.\(^5\)

I. \(\large \text{��\textsuperscript{2}人死亡究}\): God’s seal bearer of the (bark)\(^6\)

Doc. 1 A relief from north wall of the sacrificial chamber, Giza, Mastaba of \(\text{Mry-ib}\) (Fig. 1a)\(^7\)

**Date:** Fourth -early Fifth Dynasty

**Provenance:** Giza, Mastaba of \(\text{Mry-ib}\), Tombe G 2100-1-annexe (LG 24),\(^8\)

**Material:** Limestone

**Dimensions:** H: 1.78 x W: 120 cm

**Present location:** Chapel Berlin insel museum, 1107

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\(^1\) 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 Kiel Costello, Gregg Jamison, Sarah Jarmer Scott, United Kingdom, 2018, pp. 230-1.


\(^3\) W. E. Crum, ZÄS, 32, 1894, p. 66 and n. 1.


\(^5\) Ibid., p. 126.


\(^7\) LD II, pl. 22c;

\(^8\) The mastaba found by Lepsius in December 1842, which is now in the Berlin Museum, is one of the best-known of the Old Kingdom; H. Junker, Giza, II, p. 121, to know more see: *Ipid.*, pp. 121-135; PM III\(^5\), pp. 71-72. LD Text I, p. 46-49; LD II, pl. 18-22; JG II, p. 121-135.
Description

*Mry-ib* seats holding a staff and receiving list of offerings from scribes in two registers, with offerings above, and register of offering-bringers and group of butchers under whole scene.\(^9\)

Inscriptions

There is 6 vertical lines of hieroglyphics above the deceased inscribed as follow:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

In front of the deceased

7.

Transliteration

(A)

1. \(ss \ nswt \ n \ ht. \ f \ smr \ htm(ty)-ntr \ wiz.\)
2. \(inm-rs \ m\hbar \ hpr \ h10\)
3. \(wr \ md \ sm\hbar \ w,11 \ hts \ inbw,12 \ wr \ md \ wh\hbar \ w13.\)
4. \(inm-rs \ kst \ nbt \ nswt \ r \ p.\)
5. \(wr \ msw \ iwnw14 \ (Hw.f-wy) \ hm \ ntr.\)
6. \(mry \ nb. \ f \ mrr(w) \ nb. \ f \ inpw \ wt, \ Mry-ib.\)

(B)

7. \(ss \ ss \ mdst.\)

Translation

(A)

1. Royal son from his body, companion, god’s seal bearer of the (bark).
2. The overseer of the army, palace director.

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\(^9\) PM IIF\(^2\), pp. 71-72.
\(^12\) Adorners (?) Of Anubis; Finisher (?) Of Anubis: D. Jones, An Index of Ancient Egyptian Titles, vol. II, p. 684, n. 2501.
3- Greatest of the ten Upper Egypt, Adorners (?) Of Anubis; Finisher (?) Of Anubis, Overseer of the fishers.
4- The overseer of all royal works in Buto.
5- Greatest of seers of Heliopolis, (Khufu), priest.
6- Beloved of his lord, beloved of his lord Anubis, Mry-ib.

(B)

7- Beholder of the Writings.

Doc. 2 A stela from the Mastaba of Tnty (Fig. 2)\(^ {15} \)

Date: Old kingdom, Fourth Dynasty, Reign of the King Hwf.w

Provenance: Saqqara, Mastaba of Tnty, no. 71.\(^ {16} \)

Material: Limestone

Dimensions: H: 2. 20 cm

Present location: Still in situ

Description

The room has a stele discovered on its back, with hieroglyphs and reliefs, the offering slap representing the deceased Tnty and his wife Iy-nfrt sitting in front of offering table.\(^ {17} \)

Inscriptions

The middle lintel is inscribed with: \[ nTr wiA \]

Transliteration

\[ htm(w) / htm(ty) - nfr wis. \] \(^ {18} \)

Translation

God’s seal bearer of the (bark).


\(^{16}\) A stone built mastaba dates back to fourth dynasty; M. Mariette, Les Mastabas, p. 88, n. B1.

\(^{17}\) PM III, p. 483.

Doc. 3 A false door stela of of $K(i).nfr$ (Fig. 3)\textsuperscript{19}

**Date:** Fourth Dynasty, Reign of $Snfr.w$

**Provenance:** Mastaba of $K(i).nfr$, G. 2150.\textsuperscript{20}

**Material:** Limestone

**Dimensions:** H: 2.58 x W: 1.16 m.

**Present location:** Purchased 1901

**Description**

The mastaba-niche in which this stela was discovered with the offering-table 1345 contained also two side-panels with representations of $hns.w$, wife of of $K(i).nfr$, and a panel set above the main stela. The whereabouts of these three additional panels is not now known.\textsuperscript{21}

The Figures and texts on the stela are finely carved, the Figures being in low relief and the texts in sunk relief, apart from those accompanying the figures of $k(i).w$b. The stela has no cornice, its place having been taken by the panel mentioned above. The texts it bears commemorate the Prince, $k(i).nfr$, son of King ($Snfr.w$), and they are mostly concerned with his titles and dignities. The lintel and drum carry short texts with brief titles, and the full list of $K(i).nfr$ honors is reserved for the upper parts of the two panels on either side of the false doorway; each panel has six lines of text. The lower parts of these panels are divided into two registers. Contrary to the regular practice, there are no representations of $K(i).nfr$ himself; on both sides there are large Figures of his eldest son $k(i).w$b, dressed in official uniform and carrying a scepter and a staff. On the left $k(i).w$b is shown accompanied by his son probably son of $k(i).nfr$; on the right he is accompanied by $pth-\delta psi$, who is not named as a son. The bottom register on each side is occupied by three Figures of men, all possibly sons or other relatives of $k(i).nfr$, and all presumably bearing offerings (although this is now certain in only one case): on the left, $k(i).w$b, $lti$ and $lvw$; on the right, $(Dw-3(t)-snfrw)$ and $(Hf. f snfrw)$ and $bs-snfrw$.

**Inscriptions**

The title appears on two panels the door jambs, inscribed as follow:

**Transliteration**

$hnm(w)/ hnm(ty)-nfr wis$.\textsuperscript{23}

**Translation**

God’s seal bearer of the (bark).

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\textsuperscript{20} PM III\textsuperscript{2}, p. 77.

\textsuperscript{21} For the niche as it was excavated, see de Morgan, Fouilles a Dahchour, II, pl. xxvi.

\textsuperscript{22} T. H. James, Hieroglyphic texts from the Egyptian stelae, vol. I, 2 ed, p. 10.

\textsuperscript{23} D. Jones, An Index of Ancient Egyptian Titles, vol. II, p. 767, n. 2793; Murray, Index, pl. xxxix; H. G. Fischer, Coptie Nome, pp. 126-9; E. Eichler, Expeditionswesen, p. 249. (40).
**Ks(.t)-nfr** also had the titles:

24. 'Imy-r₃ wpwt: overseer of the commissions.

25. 'Imy-r₃ phw: overseer of the marshlands.

26. mdw rḥyt: herdsman of rḥyt people.

27. mdw kꜣ-ḥq: herdsman of the white bull.

28. hmr-ntfr Sbk ṣḥt: priest of Sbk the crocodopolite.

29. Ḥmr-sḥty: sole companion.

30. smsw ḫ(t): elder of the ḫ(t) chamber.

31. smsw js m prwy, elder of the ḫ(t) chamber in the two houses.

32. sꜣ nswt: royal son.

### Doc. 4

A remaining part of thickness base from the mastaba of **Kṣi** (Fig. 4a-b)

**Date:** Fourth Dynasty, reign of *(Mn-kꜣw-R*)

**Provenance:** Giza, Mastaba of Kṣi (Fig. 4a-b)

**Material:** Limestone

**Dimensions:** H: 35 x W: 40 cm

**Present location:** Unknown

**Description**

Fragment of right jamb with upper part of deceased and remains of right thickness, deceased, the head and shoulders are only preserved. Above and in front of the head is inscribed.

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26. Wb 2, 178.12; 447.17; Jones, Titles OK, no. 1698.


31. S. Hassan, Excavations at Giza 3: 1931-1932. Cairo: Faculty of Arts, Fouad I University & Government Press, 1941, p. 33, fig. 33 and pl. XIV.

32. PM III, p. 277.

33. S. Hassan, Giza, vol. III, p. 33
Inscriptions
1. 
2. 
3. 

Transliteration
1. sst nswt
2. htm(w)/ htm(ty)-ntr wj3
3. ksi

Translation
1. The King’s Son.
2. God’s seal bearer of the (bark) (= Boat Captain).\(^{34}\)
3. ksi.

\(kst\) also had the titles:

1. \(\text{imy-r3} kst nbt nt nswt\): overseer of all royal works.
2. \(\text{imy-r3} prwy\): overseer of the two treasures.
3. \(\text{smr}\): companion.
4. \(\text{smr-wt} ty\): sole companion.
5. \(\text{hry-} \) h: director of ‘h-palace.\(^{35}\)
6. \(\text{hry-hbt}\): lector priest.
7. \(\text{hry-wdb}\): master of the largess.\(^{36}\)
8. \(\text{hry-s} stz n mdw-ntr\): privy secret of the god’s words.
9. \(\text{hry-s} stz n mdw-ntr\): privy secret of the house of the morning.
10. \(\text{wd-mdw}\): giver of the orders.


\(^{36}\)Ibid., vol. II, p. 603, n. 2212.
II. **ḥtm(w)/ḥtm(ty) ntr m wỉỉ sỉỉ:** God’s seal bearer in the great bark

Doc. 5 The false door of the lady **Nfrt** and **Ṭy** (Fig. 5)

**Date:** Mid to end of Fifth dynasty, perhaps about the reign of Ḫd-kꜣ-Rˁ (*Issi)*.

**Provenance:** Saqqara, Mastaba of Ṭy, Tomb no. 20.

**Material:** Limestone

**Dimensions:** W: 2.62 m. x H: 4.58 m. (8ft.7 ins. x 15 ft.)

**Present location:** Cairo museum, no. 57124

**Description**

It represents *Nfrt* standing in the niche of the false door, facing to the right. The head and possibly in inscription of her name and titles are completely destroyed. Her dress consists of the usual tight fitting robe, the shoulder straps showing a rather charming variant from the prevailing fashion. Her ornaments are a necklace and anklets.

Right jamb, on the right side of the door is a precisely similar Figure, facing left. The peculiarity of the profile shows that this must certainly have been a portrait. In front of her is the damaged Figure of a man, represented on a much smaller scale; this was presumably her son. Below is a row of four women, whose titles do not indicate that they were members of family of *Nfrt*.

Left jamb, on the left, facing right, is Ṭy, the husband of *Nfrt*, holding a *shmt* wand in the right hand a long staff in the left. In front is the small Figure of a man; and though there is again no indication of filiation, this is probably the son. Below is a row of four men, matching symmetrically the four women under the Figure of *Nfrt* on the opposite side. These, like the women, are without indication of relationship to the owners of the tomb.

**Inscriptions:**

On the left jamb, above Ṭy, there is a five vertical columns, the first inscribed as follow:

**Transliteration:**

ḥtm(w)/ḥtm(ty)-ntr m wỉỉ sỉỉ ṣḥḏ12 m wỉỉ ḳỉỉỉỉỉw.

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40 The mastaba found by Lepsius in December 1842, located at North Saqqara, south of the pyramid of Tety, east of that of Weserkaf, C 26 (LS 20), which is now in the Berlin Museum, is one of the best-known of the Old Kingdom; H. Junker, Giza, II, p. 121, to know more see: Ipid., pp. 121-135; PM III2, p. 565; LD II, pl. 100b; JG II, p. 121-135; N. strudwick, Administrations, p. 58 (5).
41 Petrie & Murray, Memphite Tomb Chapels, p. 17.
42 ṣḥḏ: Inspector or Overseer: Wb. IV, p. 227.8-15; Jones, Titles OK, no. 3336.
Translation:

God’s seal bearer in the great bark, inspector of the ship, revered one.\textsuperscript{43}

\textit{ɏ}y also had the titles:

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textit{imy-r3 kst nbt nt nswt}: overseer of all royal works.
  \item \textit{ḥry-sšt3 n ḥ3swt nbwt}: privy secret of all foreign lands.
  \item \textit{imy-r3 mšš}: overseer of the army.
  \item \textit{ḥtm(w)/ ḥtm(ty)-nṯr m ṭis(wy)}: God’s seal bearer of the two barks.\textsuperscript{44}
\end{itemize}

\textbf{Doc. 6} \hspace{1em} \textbf{Incomplete statue of \textit{Itti} (Fig. 6a-b-c-d)\textsuperscript{45}}

\textbf{Date}: Old Kingdom, Fourth dynasty, reign of (\textit{Hfr-fRfr})

\textbf{Provenance}: Giza - eastern necropolis / mastaba of \textit{Itti} (G 7391)\textsuperscript{46}

\textbf{Material}: Sandstone

\textbf{Dimensions}: H: 117cm x W: 32 cm x D: 48 cm

\textbf{Present location}: Museo Egizio in Turin Room 02 Showcase 10, (col. no. suppl. 1876)

\textbf{Description}

It was found by the Italian Expedition, Schiaparelli excavations (1903), above the fill of the serdab.\textsuperscript{47} Only parts remain: the head damaged about the eyes, gouged out to steal their valuable materials; arms, lap, and legs; and the cubical seat. Carved of a soft yellow limestone quarried at Giza, also used for the external false-door, the statue could hardly withstand erosion and even less wanton destruction. According to Curto, the use of this soft limestone is not exemplified elsewhere.\textsuperscript{48}

The seated Figure must have measured about 1.15 meters and was stuccoed and painted. On the head is a short graded wig beneath which appears on the brow and cheeks a fine band of natural hair and locks. The ears and the back of the neck are completely hidden. The face,
treated in broad planes, is wide, with high cheekbones and well-defined mouth and chin, both broad. A well-groomed slight mustache closely follows the upper lip, and there is an indication of subtle modeling at the base of the nose and the corners of the mouth. To judge by the traces left, the eyes were large and slanted toward the nose.\textsuperscript{49}

The neck is exceptionally short so that the chin is at a lower level than the shoulders. The right hand is clenched, thumb up, resting vertically on the right leg and holding a round topped stump, the conventional \textit{pars pro toto} of the handle of a scepter. The left hand with well-defined nails, palm down, lies open on the left knee touching the lower hem of the short kilt, a gesture characteristic for private statuary at Giza since \textit{Hwfw}. The legs slant forward slightly in a relaxed posture. Knee and musculature are softly indicated in longitudinal planes. The cubical seat imitates in bold relief on both sides the horizontal traverse and the two legs, animal-shaped, of a wooden chair. The feet are missing and the legs could well have been calf's legs, to judge by the chairs represented on the walls. This exceptional imitation of wooden legs in the seat of a private statue after the Archaic Period could be an influence from Khafre statuary.

Seal bearer of the god in the Great Boat, inspector of \textit{w'r} priests of (Great-is-\textit{Hfr}.f-\textit{Ra}), \textit{Itti}. Whether the name of the state boat was "Great" is debatable, for names of such boats are written before the determinative, as for \textit{Mry}-.\textit{tb} who was treasurer of the god in four state boats.\textsuperscript{50} Worthy of mention also is the "treasurer of the God in the two great boats.\textsuperscript{51}

Appears only as fragmentary . . . \textit{dpt} ' on the left horizontal member of the chair in the statue of \textit{Itti}. In this form, it is surmised by S. Curto, the title denotes a date in the fourth dynasty. The form "Seal bearer of the god in the two great boats" would belong to the fifth dynasty,\textsuperscript{52} or could it read \textit{shd} \textit{dpt} "Inspector of the Great Boat"? A title of \textit{lm-htp}.\textsuperscript{53}

\textbf{Inscriptions:}

The inscriptions in sunken hieroglyphs on the horizontal traverses. On the left is

\begin{center}
\begin{figure}
\includegraphics[width=0.5\textwidth]{inscription1.png}
\end{figure}
\end{center}

On the right:

\begin{center}
\begin{figure}
\includegraphics[width=0.5\textwidth]{inscription2.png}
\end{figure}
\end{center}

\textbf{Transliteration:}

\begin{enumerate}
\item \textit{1-hym(nty)-mtr (?)} \textit{dpt} \textit{z(t)} \textit{shd} \textit{wr} \textit{bw} \textit{(Wr-Hfr}.f-\textit{Ra}) \textit{Itti}.
\item \textit{2- (iry mtr)rt nb.f r} \textit{nb Itti"}. \textsuperscript{54}
\end{enumerate}

\textbf{Translation:}

\begin{enumerate}
\item [The seal bearer of the god in the great] ship, inspector of the "pure" of the (pyramid) "Great is (He appears (as) Re)."
\end{enumerate}

\textsuperscript{49} A. Badawy, The tombs of Iteti, Sekhem 'ankh-Ptah, and Kaemnofert at Giza (Univ. of California Publ. 9), Berkeley 1976, pp. 10-11.

\textsuperscript{50} Junker, \textit{Giza} II, pp. 132-133.


\textsuperscript{52} Helck, \textit{Beamtentiteln}, pp. 95, 98-99.

\textsuperscript{53} Junker, \textit{Giza} VI, p. 240.

\textsuperscript{54} D. Jones, An Index of Ancient Egyptian Titles, vol. II, p. 768, n. 2794, Seal bearer of the god (in) the great boat; Jones, Glossary, p.105(240); N. Strudwick, Administration, p. 67(20).
2- (The one doing what) his lord likes every day, 'Itti.

Comment
This eulogy was usually attributed to civic officials as acknowledgment from the king of their loyal service.55

'Itti' also bore the titles:

- 'lmry-r3 hmvw-k3 mwvw nswjt, “overseer of the k3 servants of the king’s mother”.56
- w'b nswjt, “w'b priest of the king”.57
- rh nswjt, “royal acquaintance”.58
- shd: inspector.
- imy-r3 k3t nbt nt nswjt: overseer of all royal works.

III. htm(w)/ htm(ty)-nfr m wlswy: God’s seal bearer of the two barks.59

Doc. 7 The false door of 'Iy and his wife Nfrt (Fig. 7)60
Date: Mid to end of Fifth dynasty, perhaps about the reign of Dd-k3-Rc (Issi).61
Provenance: Saqqara, Mastaba of 'Iy, LS. 20.62
Material: Limestone
Dimensions: W: 2. 62 m. x H: 4.58 m. (8ft.7 ins. x 15 ft.)
Present location: Cairo museum, no. 57124

Description
Nfrt stands in the niche of the false door, facing to the right. The head and possibly in inscription of her name and titles are completely destroyed. Her dress consists of the usual tight fitting robe, the shoulder straps showing a rather charming variant from the prevailing fashion. Her ornaments are a necklace and anklets. Right jamb, on the right side of the door is a precisely similar Figure, facing left. The peculiarity of the profile shows that this must certainly have

57 Ibid., vol. I, p. 373, n. 1382.
60 LD, II, pl. 100b; Mariette, Les Mastabas, p. 120, c26. J. Lieblein, Dictionnaire, Dictionnaire de noms hiéroglyphiques: en ordre généalogique et alphabétique (Hauptwerk), Heidelberg, 1871, no. 68; Petrie & Murray, Memphite Tomb Chapels, pl. 2.
61 N. strudwick, Administrations, p. 58 (5).
62 The mastaba found by Lepsius in December 1842, located at North Saqqara, south of the pyramid of Tety, east of that of Weserkaf, C 26 (LS 20), which is now in the Berlin Museum, is one of the best-known of the Old Kingdom; Junker, Giza, II, p. 121, to know more see: Ipis., pp. 121-135; PM III2, p. 565; LD II, pl. 100b; JG II, p. 121-135; N. Strudwick, Administrations, p. 58 (5).
been a portrait. In front of her is the damaged Figure of a man, represented on a much smaller scale; this was presumably her son.

Below is a row of four women, whose titles do not indicate that they were members of family of *Nfrt*. Left jamb, on the left, facing right, is *Iy*, the husband of *Nfrt*, holding a *shm*-wand in the right hand a long staff in the left. In front is the small Figure of a man; and though there is again no indication of filiation, this is probably the son. Below is a row of four men, matching symmetrically the four women under the Figure of *Nfrt* on the opposite side. These, like the women, are without indication of relationship to the owners of the tomb.

**Inscriptions:**
On the left jamb, above *Iy*, there is a five vertical columns, the first inscribed as follow:

Transliteration:
\[\text{htm(w)/ htm(ty)-ntr m w3wy sHd wi3 iml3w.}\]

Translation:
God’s seal bearer of the two barks, inspector of the ship, reverence one.

**Doc. 8**  
A false door from the mastaba of *S3mw* (Fig. 8)

**Date:** Middle or latter of Fifth Dynasty  
**Provenance:** North Saqqara, mastaba of *S3mw*, LS 5.  
**Material:** Limestone  
**Dimensions:** H: 2.20 cm x W: 1.57 cm  
**Present location:** Berlin Museum. 1110  

**Description**  
This chapel has a small east-west offering room with a false door at the end of a corridor. The small size of the chapel may represent an early stage in the development of the east-west type, the earliest examples of which belong to the middle of the fifth dynasty. Such a date is also supported by the arrangement of the doorjamb, as there is a larger Figure of the deceased on the outer ones than on the inner, a feature not found in the later part of the dynasty. His titles make a date before the reign of (*Nfr-ir-kz-R*) impossible, and his proximity to such tombs as that of *Phḥ-śps*, might suggest he was no earlier than the reign of (*Ny-wsr-R*).

The false door inscribed on its lower jambs with the deceased *S3mw* and his wife on the left jamb. On the right jamb the deceased holding a staff and standing with his son. Right to the false door, an inscription represents the deceased larger holding a staff.

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63 Petrie & Murray, Memphite Tomb Chapels, p. 17.
65 LD, II, 97a; L. Borchardt, Das Grabdenkmal des Königs S‘ahu-Re (Band 2: Die Wandbilder: Abbildungsblätter, Leipzig, 1913, p. 130, pl. 74.
66 RPN I 320.22.
67 N. Strudwick, Administrations, p. 137 (127).
68 Ibid., p. 137 (127).
69 PM III², p. 492.
Inscription

A- The upper lintel is inscribed as follow:

1- 

B- 2 -

3- 

C- 4- 

5- 

D- 6- 

E-

Transliteration:

A- 1- htm(w)-nṯr ʾImy-r3.

B- 2- htm(w)-nṯr (m) ṡḥwy ʾṣ(wy).

3- htm(w)-nṯr Sšmw.

C- 4- htm(w)-nṯr (m) ṡḥwy ʾṣ(wy).

5- htm(w)-nṯr m ṡḥwy Sšmw.

D- 6- htm(w)-nṯr m ṡḥwy Sšmw.

Translation:

A- 1- God’s seal bearer, The Overseer###.

B- 2 - God’s seal bearer in the two great barks.70

3- God’s seal bearer, Sšmw.

C- 4- God’s seal bearer in the two great barks.

5- God’s seal bearer in the two barks, Sšmw.

D- 6- God’s seal bearer in the two barks, Sšmw.

Sšmw also bore the titles:

imy-r3 ššr: overseer of cloth, linen, clothing distribution.71

slaught-štḥ(w)-ḥpr(w): inspector of the scribes of the crews.72

ḥr-Ḥ: assistant/ under director.73

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71 Wb. IV, p. 296.4-5; D. Jones, An Index of Ancient Egyptian Titles, vol. II, no. 864.


73 Ibid., vol. I, no. 2828.
Mohamed Refaat et al., (JAAUTH), Vol. 22 No. 3, 2022, pp. 78-119

Doc. 9 The lintel from the mastaba of \textit{Ir-shw} (Fig. 9)

Date: Fourth- Fifth Dynasty
Provenance: Giza, the mastaba of \textit{Ir-shw}
Material: Limestone
Dimensions: H: 110 cm x W: 40 cm
Present location: unknown

Description

The lintel (A) of the entrance bears two horizontal rows of hieroglyphs. At the end of these two horizontal rows the name of the deceased is written vertically: "Ir-shw". At the extreme left-hand end of the lintel is the Figure of the deceased, who is represented rested upon a chair and facing north. He wears a long wig, and is clad in a close-fitting short kilt. His left arm is bent, with the hand clenched upon the breast, while the right hand rests open upon the thigh. The drum (B) is inscribed with a horizontal row of hieroglyphs.

Inscription

The lintel (A) of the entrance bears two horizontal rows of hieroglyphs, reading:

1. \textit{shd-taww}: (inspector of boatmen (?))

2. \textit{imsh.w-ḥr-wsr}: the revered one to Osiris.

\textit{iry-ḥt (n) nswt pr-ś}: royal acquaintance of the great house.

\textit{ḥry sšt3 (n) ip(š)t nswt}: privy to the secret of the kings private apartment.

\textit{imy-rš is(t) ḫnw}: overseer of the crew of oarsman/rowers.

\textit{ḥtm(w)-nṯr m ṣwy}: God’s seal bearer in the two great barks.

\textit{Hry sStA (n) ip(A)t nswt}: privy to the secret of the kings private apartment.

\textit{imy-rA is(t) Xnww}: overseer of the crew of oarsman/rowers.

\textit{xtm(w)-nTr m wiAwy}: God’s seal bearer in the two great barks.

\textit{iry-xt (n) nswt pr-ś}: royal acquaintance of the great house.

\textit{ḥry sšt3 (n) ip(š)t nswt}: privy to the secret of the kings private apartment.

\textit{imy-rš is(t) ḫnw}: overseer of the crew of oarsman/rowers.

\textit{ḥtm(w)-nṯr m ṣwy}: God’s seal bearer in the two great barks.

\textit{Hry sStA (n) ip(A)t nswt}: privy to the secret of the kings private apartment.

\textit{imy-rA is(t) Xnww}: overseer of the crew of oarsman/rowers.

\textit{xtm(w)-nTr m wiAwy}: God’s seal bearer in the two great barks.

\textit{ irrigation judge of the western ridge of Irshw, the mastaba of Irshw}.

\textit{ ḫnw}: overseer of the crew of oarsman/rowers.

\textit{ḥtm(w)-nṯr m ṣwy}: God’s seal bearer in the two great barks.

\textit{ irrigation judge of the western ridge of Irshw, the mastaba of Irshw}.

\textit{ ḫnw}: overseer of the crew of oarsman/rowers.

\textit{ḥtm(w)-nṯr m ṣwy}: God’s seal bearer in the two great barks.

\textit{ irrigation judge of the western ridge of Irshw, the mastaba of Irshw}.

\textit{ ḫnw}: overseer of the crew of oarsman/rowers.

\textit{ḥtm(w)-nṯr m ṣwy}: God’s seal bearer in the two great barks.

\textit{ irrigation judge of the western ridge of Irshw, the mastaba of Irshw}.

\textit{ ḫnw}: overseer of the crew of oarsman/rowers.

\textit{ḥtm(w)-nṯr m ṣwy}: God’s seal bearer in the two great barks.

\textit{ irrigation judge of the western ridge of Irshw, the mastaba of Irshw}.

\textit{ ḫnw}: overseer of the crew of oarsman/rowers.

\textit{ḥtm(w)-nṯr m ṣwy}: God’s seal bearer in the two great barks.

\textit{ irrigation judge of the western ridge of Irshw, the mastaba of Irshw}.

\textit{ ḫnw}: overseer of the crew of oarsman/rowers.

\textit{ḥtm(w)-nṯr m ṣwy}: God’s seal bearer in the two great barks.

\textit{ irrigation judge of the western ridge of Irshw, the mastaba of Irshw}.

\textit{ ḫnw}: overseer of the crew of oarsman/rowers.

\textit{ḥtm(w)-nṯr m ṣwy}: God’s seal bearer in the two great barks.

\textit{ irrigation judge of the western ridge of Irshw, the mastaba of Irshw}.

\textit{ ḫnw}: overseer of the crew of oarsman/rowers.

\textit{ḥtm(w)-nṯr m ṣwy}: God’s seal bearer in the two great barks.

\textit{ irrigation judge of the western ridge of Irshw, the mastaba of Irshw}.

\textit{ ḫnw}: overseer of the crew of oarsman/rowers.

\textit{ḥtm(w)-nṯr m ṣwy}: God’s seal bearer in the two great barks.

\textit{ irrigation judge of the western ridge of Irshw, the mastaba of Irshw}.

\textit{ ḫnw}: overseer of the crew of oarsman/rowers.

\textit{ḥtm(w)-nṯr m ṣwy}: God’s seal bearer in the two great barks.

\textit{ irrigation judge of the western ridge of Irshw, the mastaba of Irshw}.

\textit{ ḫnw}: overseer of the crew of oarsman/rowers.

\textit{ḥtm(w)-nṯr m ṣwy}: God’s seal bearer in the two great barks.

\textit{ irrigation judge of the western ridge of Irshw, the mastaba of Irshw}.

\textit{ ḫnw}: overseer of the crew of oarsman/rowers.

\textit{ḥtm(w)-nṯr m ṣwy}: God’s seal bearer in the two great barks.

\textit{ irrigation judge of the western ridge of Irshw, the mastaba of Irshw}.

\textit{ ḫnw}: overseer of the crew of oarsman/rowers.

\textit{ḥtm(w)-nṯr m ṣwy}: God’s seal bearer in the two great barks.

\textit{ irrigation judge of the western ridge of Irshw, the mastaba of Irshw}.

\textit{ ḫnw}: overseer of the crew of oarsman/rowers.

\textit{ḥtm(w)-nṯr m ṣwy}: God’s seal bearer in the two great barks.

\textit{ irrigation judge of the western ridge of Irshw, the mastaba of Irshw}.

\textit{ ḫnw}: overseer of the crew of oarsman/rowers.

\textit{ḥtm(w)-nṯr m ṣwy}: God’s seal bearer in the two great barks.

\textit{ irrigation judge of the western ridge of Irshw, the mastaba of Irshw}.

\textit{ ḫnw}: overseer of the crew of oarsman/rowers.

\textit{ḥtm(w)-nṯr m ṣwy}: God’s seal bearer in the two great barks.

\textit{ irrigation judge of the western ridge of Irshw, the mastaba of Irshw}.

\textit{ ḫnw}: overseer of the crew of oarsman/rowers.

\textit{ḥtm(w)-nṯr m ṣwy}: God’s seal bearer in the two great barks.

\textit{ irrigation judge of the western ridge of Irshw, the mastaba of Irshw}.

\textit{ ḫnw}: overseer of the crew of oarsman/rowers.

\textit{ḥtm(w)-nṯr m ṣwy}: God’s seal bearer in the two great barks.

\textit{ irrigation judge of the western ridge of Irshw, the mastaba of Irshw}.

\textit{ ḫnw}: overseer of the crew of oarsman/rowers.

\textit{ḥtm(w)-nṯr m ṣwy}: God’s seal bearer in the two great barks.

\textit{ irrigation judge of the western ridge of Irshw, the mastaba of Irshw}.

\textit{ ḫnw}: overseer of the crew of oarsman/rowers.

\textit{ḥtm(w)-nṯr m ṣwy}: God’s seal bearer in the two great barks.

\textit{ irrigation judge of the western ridge of Irshw, the mastaba of Irshw}.

\textit{ ḫnw}: overseer of the crew of oarsman/rowers.

\textit{ḥtm(w)-nṯr m ṣwy}: God’s seal bearer in the two great barks.

\textit{ irrigation judge of the western ridge of Irshw, the mastaba of Irshw}.

\textit{ ḫnw}: overseer of the crew of oarsman/rowers.

\textit{ḥtm(w)-nṯr m ṣwy}: God’s seal bearer in the two great barks.

\textit{ irrigation judge of the western ridge of Irshw, the mastaba of Irshw}.

\textit{ ḫnw}: overseer of the crew of oarsman/rowers.

\textit{ḥtm(w)-nṯr m ṣwy}: God’s seal bearer in the two great barks.
Ad rum (B) with name and titles:

3.

Transliteration:

1- $htp\ in\ \text{Inpw}\ \text{Imnty}\ \text{m}\ \text{inmtt}\ \text{wr}\ \text{nfr}\ \text{wr}\ \text{nb}\ \text{im3hw}\ \text{hr}\ \text{nfr}\ \text{m}\ \text{mwi3wy}$.
2- $\text{Prt}\ \text{n}\ \text{Prt}\ \text{hrw}\ \text{m}\ \text{wp(t)}\ \text{rnty}\ \text{m}\ \text{dhwty}\ \text{m}\ \text{hb}\ \text{r}^{\circ}\ \text{nbw}\ \text{imy-r3}\ \text{m}$\text{3}\ \text{imy-r3}\ \text{sb3(w)}\ \text{n}\ \text{nsw}\ \text{mswt}\ \text{n}\ \text{ht.f}^{83}\ \text{imy-r3}\ \text{nswt}\ \text{isw}\ \text{prw}\ \text{nswt}^{84}\ \text{Ir-}\ \text{shw}$.
3- $\text{htm(w)-ntr}\ \text{m}\ \text{mwi3wy}\ \text{im3hw}\ \text{hr}\ \text{nb}\ \text{f}\ \text{ir-shw}$.$^{85}$

Translation:

(1) . . . a boon which Anubis ($\text{Inpw}$), Presiding Over the God's Dwelling [gives]: That he may be buried in the Necropolis of the Western Desert, after a very good old age as the Possessor of Honour in the Presence of the Great God; the Captain of the Two Divine Boats.

(2) " That offerings may come forth to him at the voice on the Opening Day of the Year Feast, the Feast of Thoth ($\text{Dhwty}$), at every feast and every day [ to ] the Overseer of the Army, the Overseer of the Tutors of the King's Children of His Body, the Overseer of the Royal Crew(?).

(3) At the end of these two horizontal rows the name of the deceased is written vertically: God’s seal bearer of the two barks, the revered one to his lord, $\text{Ir-shw}$ $^{86}$

$\text{Tr-shw}$ also hold the titles:

$\text{imy-r3}\ \text{m3}$\text{c}: overseer of the army.

$\text{imy-r3}\ \text{sb3}\ \text{ny}\ \text{msw}\ \text{nswt}\ \text{[ny]}\ \text{ht.f}:\text{overseer of the tutors of the king’s children of his body.}$

$\text{imy-r3}\ \text{nswt}\ \text{is(wwt)}\ \text{pr(w)}:\text{Overseer of the royal crew.}$

$\text{nb}\ \text{im3hw}\ \text{hr}\ \text{nfr}\ \text{c3}:\text{possessor of Honour in the Presence of the great god.}$

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$^{83}\text{imy-r3}\ \text{sb3(w)}\ \text{n}\ \text{nsw}\ \text{nswt}\ \text{n}\ \text{ht.f}:\text{the Overseer of the Tutors of the King’s Children of His Body; D. Jones, An Index of Ancient Egyptian Titles, vol. I, p. 226, n. 836.}$

$^{84}\text{imy-r3}\ \text{nswt}\ \text{isw}\ \text{prw}\ \text{nswt}:\text{the Overseer of the Royal Crew; D. Jones, An Index of Ancient Egyptian Titles, vol. I, p. 70 n. 315}$

$^{85}\text{W. Helck, Beamtentiteln, pp. 98-99; D. Jones, Glossary, p. 104(239); E. Eichler, Expeditionswesen, p. 243 (9); M. Baud, “Famille Royale et pouvoir sous l'Ancien Empire Égyptien”, vol. II. BDE; CXXVI/II, 1999, p. 418 [25].}$

$^{86}\text{S. Hassan, Giza, VII, p. 65-8.}$
A false door from the Mastaba of ṣnh-(Issi) (Fig. 10)

Date: Fifth Dynasty
Provenance: Mastaba of ṣnh-(Issi), D 8 (n° 85, QS 910), north of the step pyramid, Saqqara.
Material: Limestone
Dimensions: 1.35 x 2.60 cm
Present location: Still in situ

Description
The false door from the mastaba of ṣnh-(Issi), the upper and lower lintels represent the deceased sitting and holding a staff, an offering slab in the middle, the king and his wife Nfr-Nfrw in the lower part of the door.

Inscription
A: The upper lintel represents the deceased sitting holding a staff and two horizontal hieroglyphic lines inscribed as follow:

1. ...
2. ...

B: The offering slap is inscribed as follow:

1. ...

C: The lower lintel inscribed as follow:

1. ...
2. ...

D&E: The outer jamb:

1. ...

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87 Ibid., a, VII, p. 65.
88 A. Mariette, Mastabas, D. 8, p. 191.
89 PM III, 489.
F&G: The inner jamb

Transliteration:
A
1. ss nswt htm(ty)-nṯr m wỉšwy ʾs(wy)\textsuperscript{91} imy-rš mš\textsuperscript{9}
   2. smr wʾty imy-rš kṣt nb t nswt, ʾnh-(Issī).
B
1. ss nswt hm.ty-nṯr wỉšwy imšḫw, ʾnh-(Issī).
C
1. ss nswt htm(ty)-nṯr
   2. smr wʾty imy ib n nb.f,\textsuperscript{93} ʾnh-(Issī).
D&E
1. ss nswt imy-rš mš\textsuperscript{9} mrr(w) nb. f smr wʾty hm.ty-nṯr wỉšwy ʾs(wy).
   2. ḥry ṣšššt n nswt ḥr p wỉšw ḥr m ḥst. f\textsuperscript{94} mniw kšw,\textsuperscript{95} Nfr-nfrw.
F&G
1. šmr wšty imy-rš kṣt nb t nswt, ʾnh-(Issī).
   2. ss nswt htm(ty)-nṯr imy-rš wḏt-mdw nb(t) t nswt.\textsuperscript{96}

Translation:
A
1. Royal son, god’s seal bearer in the two great barks,\textsuperscript{97} overseer of the army.
   2. Sole companion, overseer of all royal works, ʾnh-(Issī).
B
1. Royal son, god’s seal bearer in the two great barks, revered one, ʾnh-(Issī).
C
1. Royal son, god’s seal bearer.
   2. Sole companion, favorite of his lord, ʾnh-(Issī).

\textsuperscript{91} htm(ty) nṯr m wỉšwy ʾs(wy): M. Baud, Famille Royal, vol. II, p. 421 [31]; Urk. I, p. 181, 1, 5; H. Müller, Die Formale Entwicklung der Titulatur der ägyptischen Könige, ÄF 7, Glückstadt, 1938, p.120(c); Anthes, ZÄS 82, 1957, p. 50 and n. 2.
\textsuperscript{92} imy-rš kṣt nb t nswt Jones, An Index of Ancient Egyptian Titles, vol. I, p. 107, n. 436.
\textsuperscript{93} imy ib n nb.f Favorite of his lord; Jones, An Index of Ancient Egyptian Titles, vol. I, p. 44, n. 231.
\textsuperscript{94} ḥr p wỉšw ḥr m ḥst. f: director of bark of Horus ḥr m ḥst. f; Jones, An Index of Ancient Egyptian Titles, vol. II, p. 709, n. 2484.
\textsuperscript{95} mniw kšw: guardian of the cattle; Jones, An Index of Ancient Egyptian Titles, vol. II, p. 434, n. 1600.
\textsuperscript{96} imy-rš wḏt-mdw nb(t) t nswt: overseer of all commands of the king; Jones, An Index of Ancient Egyptian Titles, vol. I, p. 107, n. 436.
D & E
1- Sole companion, overseer of the army, beloved of his lord, Sole companion, god’s seal bearer in the two great barks.
2- Privy to the secret of the king, director of bark of Horus Hr m ḫst. f, guardian of the cattle, Nfr-nfrw.

F & G
1- Sole companion, overseer of all royal works.
2- Royal son, god’s seal bearer in the two great barks, overseer of all commands of the king, ‘nh-(Issi).

‘nh-(Issi) also had the titles98:

\(\text{imy-rs kst nbt nt nswt} \): overseer of all royal works.
\(\text{mnw wkw} \): keeper of the cattle.99
\(\text{mdw-nfrw} \): leader of the youngmen.100
\(\text{htm(w)-nfr} \): Seal bearer of the god.

IV. \(\text{htm(w)-nfr (m)wlwy s(wy)} \): God’s seal bearer in the two great barks.101

Doc. 11 Southern Façade Stela from the tomb of Ny-‘nh-Ppi the black (Fig. 11)102

Date: Six Dynasty
Provenance: Saqqara, tomb of Ny-‘nh-Ppi G. 4760
Material: Limestone
Dimensions: H: 110 cm x W: 46 cm
Present location: Still in situ
Description
Southern Façade Stela from the tomb of Ny-‘nh-Ppi, made of limestone inscribed with three horizontal lines.103

98 ‘nh-(Issi) also had this title see the previous document, doc. 10.
102 A. M. Blackman, The rock tombs of Meir Part V, ASE 28 1953, pl. 7.
103 PM. III2, p. 137.
Inscription

1. 
2. 
3. 

Transliteration:
1. $htp\ di\ nsw\ (n)\ inpw\ tpy\ dw.\ f\ im.\ y\ wt\ prt\ hrw\ n\ it.\ f\ imy-r3\ \{n\}\ {m}\ d3t\ s\ pr.^{104}$
2. $imy-r3\ \hs\ {inm}\ \{n\}\ imshw\ smr\ w\ ty\ ####.$
3. $\{smr\ w\ ty\}\ hn\{(w)\}\ htm\{(ty)\}-nt\ m\ \{wis\}\ wy\ s\{(wy)\}\ \{imshw\}.$

Translation:
1. An offering given by the king (to) Anubis, who is on his mountain, who is in his coils, overseer of the document of the house.
2. Overseer of the western foreign lands, revered one, sole companion ##.
3. {Sole companion}, god’s seal bearer of the two great barks, {revered one}.

Doc. 12 Stela of the chief of Expedition $Hpl$ (Fig. 12a-b)$^{106}$

Date: Fifth dynasty to Tenth dynasty
Provenance: Probably Memphis
Material: Limestone
Dimensions: H: 0.94 x W: 0.46 m. except two fragments glued in the lower right part, this slab has not undergone any restorations
Present location: Switzerland

Description

The stele arrived in Switzerland in 1973, officially provided with an export license obtained through the minister of communications at the time, S. E. Hafiz Hassan pasha. The information is now found incidentally confirmed by the existence of a cliche preserved in the museum in Cairo. H. G Fischer, who had pointed out the stele, in fact possessed a view of the monument, taken before his departure from the Egyptian museum.

The monument embraces the architecture of a classic false door stele. The door itself is only marked by a niche, surmounted by a roller blind. This narrow bay is limited by a first pair of uprights which, with the projecting lintel, constitute the interior frame. A second element, of identical composition, enriches this surround and gives the stele its double difference in level. Between the two lintels, a second opening presents, through two hollow lateral fields, a square window. On the outside, the facade, bordered by a torus, is surmounted by a grooved cornice, terminated by a flat band. Apart from a few superficial breaks, the overall structure

$^{104}$ $imy-r3\ \{n\}\ \{m\}\ d3t\ s\ pr$, “overseer of the document of the house”: D. Jones, An Index of Ancient Egyptian Titles, vol. I, p. 146, n. 570.
$^{105}$ $imy-r3\ \hs\ {inm}\ \{n\}\ imshw$, “overseer of the western foreign lands”: D. Jones, An Index of Ancient Egyptian Titles, vol. I, p. 184, n. 695.
$^{106}$ M. Valloggia, La stèle d’un chef d’expédition de la Première Période Intermédiaire [avec 2 planches], BIFAO 85, 1985, pl. XLII, XLIII.
therefore remains perfectly preserved. Finally, on the sides of the slab, the rough squaring of the slices reminds us of the insertion of this stele in the wall of a chapel.

The decoration is also in conformity with the customs of the time: on the upper lintel, the effigy of the deceased, turned to the right, occupies the left end of the register. The man, standing, wearing a wig and wearing a loincloth with a triangular front, holds a cane in his left hand and a staff of command in his right fist. It is observed here that the curious position of this scepter which, contrary to reality, passes behind the loincloth of the character.\textsuperscript{107}

Below, the window presents the conventional scene of the funeral banquet; its treatment, hollow, however differs markedly from the custom. In this painting, the deceased is seated on a low-backed seat, the left hand brought to the chest, while the right moves towards the table of offerings. The latter is made up of a foot and a tray with raised edges on which are arranged reeds, schematically represented by an empty rectangle. Finally, we will note the existence, under the table, of a ewer placed in a basin.

Inscriptions

Like the Figures, the hieroglyphs are grave hollow and have been painted in blue, as indicated by the traces of this color conversed in the upper half of the monument.\textsuperscript{108}

**Inscribed as follows:**

\begin{center}
A.\begin{figure}
\begin{center}
\includegraphics[width=0.5\textwidth]{figure-a.png}
\end{center}
\end{figure}

D.\begin{figure}
\begin{center}
\includegraphics[width=0.5\textwidth]{figure-d.png}
\end{center}
\end{figure}
\end{center}

**Transliteration:**

A. $htp\ di\ nsw\ in\ inpw\ pr\ h\ yr\ m\ t\ hnk\ (n)\ ntr\ hmt(w)\ ntr\ m\ wi\ wy\ s(wy),\ Hpi.$

D. $hmt(w)\ ntr\ m\ wi\ wy\ s(wy)\ im\ shw\ hr\ Pth,\ Pth\ sbk.$

**Translation:**

A. A favor given by the king and Anubis, so that the funeral offering for the privilege is made to the great god, the seal bearer of the god in two great royal boats, $Hpi^{109}.$

D. God’s seal bearer in the two great barks.\textsuperscript{110} The revered one to $Pth,\ Pth\ sbk.$

\textsuperscript{107}M. Valloggia, La stèle d’un chef d’expédition, pp. 259-263.

\textsuperscript{108}M. Valloggia, La stèle d’un chef d’expédition, pp. 259-263.

\textsuperscript{109}RPN I 238.6.

**Hpi** also had the titles:

- imy-r3 mšš: overseer of the army.
- imyw ʿprw wiš: inspector of the crew.
- shd: inspector.
- imsw: revered one.

V.

(htm(w)/htm(ty)-nṯr m wš.wy ʿ3.wy dd nṛw Ḥṯr m ḫ3swt ḫn ḫkr nswt m ḫ3swt rswyt: God’s seal bearer in the two great barks who places the dread of Horus (i.e. the king) in foreign lands, who brings the king’s/ royal treasure adornment (ḥkr) from the southern lands.\(^{111}\)

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**Doc. 13**  The Stela of the ship captain Ḥn-Kṣ.f (Fig. 13)\(^{112}\)

**Date:** Old Kingdom, Sixth Dynasty

**Provenance:** Abydos

**Material:** Limestone

**Dimensions:** H: 98 cm x W: 61 cm x Th: 6 cm

**Present location:**

**Description**

The proprietor and his wife are seated on a sofa to the left and in front of them in an offering table and seven lines of inscriptions. Over the wife's head, are her name and titles and under the sofa is her toilet-box. No perruque is over her head, she wears a long robe, and a necklace of six branches. Her left arm is round her husband's shoulder while she holds his right arm with her left. He wears perruque, a necklace and a short apron; a long stick is in his left hand while he puts his right one on his chest holding a handkerchief. All the inscriptions are in high relief and no traces of colour are left.

**Inscriptions:**

1.  
2.  

---


\(^{112}\) A. Fakhery, ASAE 38, 1938, pp. 36, fig. 2 and 42.
Transliteration:

1. **ḥtp-di-nsw (n) ḫnw t ḫnkt (n) ḥm(w)/ ḥm(ty)-nṯr m ḫswt ṣ(wy) dd nrw Ḥr m ḫs(w) tḏw ḫṭ ṣ ḳw ṭ ḫswt tswy t Nh-k3.f.

2. **ḥtp-di-nsw (n) ḫnty ṣḥt ḫw t ḫnkt (n) ḫm(w)-ḥr nṯr ṭ Ḫm(w)/ ḥm(ty)-nṯr ‘nh-k3.f.

Translation:

1. An offerings which the kings gives to ḫnw who is on his mountain, the embalmer, lord of the necropolis, a verbial offerings of bread and beer to the god’s seal bearer in the two great barks who places the dread of Horus (l.e the king) in foreign lands, who brings the king’s/ royal treasure adornment (ḥkr) from the southern lands ‘Nh-k3.f.\(^1\)\(^2\)

2. An offerings which the kings gives to ḫnw, who is in the place of Embalming, a verbial offerings of bread and beer to the revered to the great god, god’s seal bearer ‘Nh-k3.f.

**‘Nh-k3.f had the titles:**

:\(\mathbb{S}\mathbb{S}\): scribe.

:\(\mathbb{S}d\): shd w/b.w: inspector of the w/b priests.

:\(\mathbb{I}m\mathbb{S}h\mathbb{W}\): revered one

:\(\mathbb{I}m\mathbb{S}h\mathbb{W}-h\mathbb{R}\): revered one to the god Wsr.

:\(\mathbb{I}r\mathbb{Y}-h\mathbb{T}\): custodian of the king’s property.

:\(\mathbb{H}m\mathbb{W}/\mathbb{H}m\mathbb{T}-n\mathbb{T}\): God’s Seal bearer.

**Doc. 14 The stela of Ḥnty, Karlsruhe Museum, H. 411 (Fig. 14)**\(^1\)\(^5\)

**Date:** Old Kingdom, Six Dynasty

**Provenance:** Zwayda

**Material:** Limestone

**Dimensions:** H: 35 cm x W: 45 cm

**Present location:** Karlsruhe Museum, H. 411

Wiedmann,\(^1\)\(^6\) states that the piece was offered to him for sale in January, 1881, at Luxor; it was subsequently purchased by a traveler named Riebeck who presented it [in October 1884] to the Karlsruhe Museum.\(^1\)\(^7\)

**Description**

Figures in relief, inscriptions incised. The owner stands at the left, facing right, with his wife beside him. He holds a staff, scepter and wears a shoulder-length wig and projecting kilt, as in the Naqada stelae, and a broad collar, but with fewer rows of beads; he is beardless. His

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\(^1\)\(^3\) RPN I 36.1.
\(^1\)\(^5\) H. G. Fischer, Coptie Nome, pl. 12.
\(^1\)\(^6\) A. Wiedemann, Proceedings of Society of Biblical Archaeology 8, 1889, pp. 95-96.
\(^1\)\(^7\) H. G. Fischer, Coptie Nome, p. 32.
wife clasps his right arm and left shoulder, she wears a broad collar like her husband’s and the shoulder- straps are shorter, but her costume is otherwise the same. The main inscription (A) consists of five lines: three and half columns on the right side a terminal group containing the owner’s name. The label identifying the wife (B) continues in a single line above her head.¹¹⁸

**Inscriptions:**

1- ![Inscription Image]

2- ![Inscription Image]

3- ![Inscription Image]

4- ![Inscription Image]

5- ![Inscription Image]

6- ![Inscription Image]

**Transliteration:**

1- ḥtp-di nswt (n) Inpw tpy ḏw.f ḫnty ś nṯr nb ṭs ḏs ṛpr-ḥrw ṭ ḫṅt n.

2- ḫtm(w)/ ḫtm(ty)-nṯr m ṯšwy ṣ(ṣḥy) ḏd ṅrw,

3- Ḥr m ḥsšt ḳn ḫkr nswt m ḥḥswt ṛswt.

4- ḫṃṣḥw ḥr ṅṯr ṣḥ

5- Ṣḥn.f ṇfr Ḥnty¹¹⁹.

6- ḫḥt.f, ṣḥrt.f, Ḝwṭy

**Translations:**

1- An offering which the king gives to ‘Inpw, who is upon his mountain, who is in the place of Embalming, Lord of the sacred land.

2- That funerary offerings be presented to the captain of the ship’s crew, one who puts the fear of Horus.

3- Into the foreign lands, who brings all the treasures of the king from the southern lands.

4- Revered one with the great god.

5- His good name being Ḥnty.

6- His wife, his beloved, Ḟwṭy.

**Ḥnty also had the titles:**

![Inscription Image]

imṣḥw: revered one

![Inscription Image]

ṇr-ḥt nswt: custodian of the king’s property.


¹¹⁹ RPN I 245.11-12.
VI. $\text{htm(w)/ htm(ty)-nfr (wiz) Wn-Hr-b3w}$: God’s seal bearer of (the ship) $\text{Wn-Hr-b3w}$.

Doc. 15 The ride in the swamps and the demonstration of the flocks from the mastaba of the dwarf $\text{Sn}n$ (Fig. 15)

Date: Old Kingdom, Sixth Dynasty

Provenance: Giza: The mastaba of the dwarf $\text{Sn}n$.

Material: Limestone

Dimensions: H: 2.30 x W: 1.2 cm

Present location: Still in situ

Description

An inscription represents the ride in the swamps and the demonstration of the flocks from the mastaba of the dwarf $\text{Sn}n$.

Inscriptions:

On the northern pillar of the false door:

$\text{htm(w)/ htm(ty)-nfr (wiz) Wn-Hr-b3w}$.

Translation:

God’s seal bearer of (the ship) $\text{Wn-Hr-b3w}$.

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121 H. Junker, Giza, V, fig. 6.

122 The mastaba, excavated by Junker in 1877–1962, is located in Giza at the end of the western cemetery. Mastaba built on northern concession boundary, north of Ankhu (2) and west of Ankhmare (2). Mastaba might be Reisner’s G 1459 (if he did not identify Anchmare) or G 1460 which Reisner says are west of G 1458 which is south of G 1457: H. Junker, AnzAWW, 1972, p. 107.

123 $\text{Wn-Hr-b3w}$, Wolf-Brinkmann, B, p. 25.

VII. ḫtm(w)/ ḫtm(ty)-nṯr (wis) Bṣ-nṯrw: God’s seal bearer of (the ship) Bṣ-nṯrw.¹²⁵

Doc. 16 A relief from facade of the burial chamber no. 2, the tomb Mry-ib (Fig. 16)¹²⁶

Date: End of Fourth dynasty-early Fifth dynasty

Provenance: Giza, Mastaba of “Mry-ib” , Tomb no. G 2100-1-annexe (LG 24).¹²⁷

Material: Limestone

Dimensions: H: 2.56 x W: 3.41 cm

Present location: Chapel Berlin insel museum no. 1107

Description

A door way in a chapel now in Berlin (East) Museum. 1107, excavated and removed by Lepsius in 1842. (a) The lintel representing an offering text with deceased Mry-ib on left holding staff and mace, and (b) drum with name and titles, jambs, (c) deceased wears short heavy wig holding staff and mace, (c2) with his eldest son “(Ḥw.f-wy) mry-nṯrw” and (d2) another unnamed son on the right side.

Mry-ib was the God seal bearer;¹²⁸ in particular he had the supreme command of four ships of state, which are especially mentioned,¹²⁹ Bṣ nṯrw ṣḥ, Bṣ/ḥ-nṯrw ṣḥ, Nb ṟḥt and Dwš-tšwy ṣḥ.¹³⁰

Inscriptions:

(a) 1-  
2-  
(b)  
(C) 1-  
2-  
(d) 1-  
2-  

¹²⁵ D. Jones, An Index of Ancient Egyptian Titles, vol. II, p. 771, n. 2801; Murray, Index, pl. xxxix; L. Borchardt, Sa’šure II, p. 84.

¹²⁶ H. Junker, Giza, VII, fig. 97; P. Kaplony, Katalog der Rollsiegel, Text. Monumenta Aegyptiaca 3A. Brussels: Fondation Égyptologique Reine Elisabeth; RAR IIA, 1981, II, pl. 65 (7); LD, II, pl. 18.

¹²⁷ The mastaba found by Lepsius in December 1842, which is now in the Berlin Museum, is one of the best-known of the Old Kingdom; Junker, Giza, II, p. 121, to know more see: Ipid., pp. 121-135; PM 71-72. LD Text I, p. 46-49; LD II, pl. 18-22; JG II, p. 121-135;

¹²⁸ PM III², p. 71-72

¹²⁹ H. Junker, Giza, II, p. 129.

¹³⁰ W. Helck, Beamtentitel, p. 95; PM III², p. 71.
Transliteration:

(a)  
1- nb imḫsw hr nṯr s nṯr wrt ḫtm(w)/ ḫtm(ty)-nṯr (wis) Bz-nṯrw sst nswt Mry-ib.
2- ḫtm(w)/ ḫtm(ty)-nṯr (wis) Dw3-tṣwy nb imḫsw mrr.w nb.f Mry-ib.

(b) ss nswt n ht. f ḫtm(ty)-nṯr (wis) Bz-nṯrw131 Dw3-tṣwy Nb-rḥyt Mry-ib

(c) 1- ḫtm(ty)-nṯr (wis) Bz-nṯrw n (wis) Nb-rḥyt (wis) Dw3-tṣwy Mry-ib
2- ss. f n ht. f rḥ nswt132 (Ḥw.f wy) mry nṯrw

(d) 1- ḫtm(ty)-nṯr (wis) Bz-nṯrw Mry-ib
2- ss. f n ht. f rḥ nswt Mry-ib

Translation:

(a) 1- Possessor reverence with the great god, very beautiful, God’s seal bearer of (the ship) Bz-nṯrw, the king’s son, Mry-ib.
2- God’s seal bearer of (the ship) Dw3-tṣwy, beloved of his body, Mry-ib.
(b) The king’s son, from his body, God’s seal bearer of (the ships) Bz-nṯrw133 /Dw3-tṣwy/ Nb-rḥyt, Mry-ib.
(c) 1- God’s seal bearer of (the ships) Bz-nṯrw/Nb-rḥyt/Dw3-tṣwy, Mry-ib.
2- The king’s son, from his body who is known to the king, (Ḥw.f wy) beloved of the gods.
(d) 1- God’s seal bearer of (the ship) Bz-nṯrw.
2- The king’s son, from his body, who is known to the king, Mry-ib.

Comment

Behind the name of the ship you miss that determinatively. Its lack is probably explained by the fact that it can be used as a gigantic sign. Such a combination of image and writing can also be found elsewhere in the

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131 Bz-nṯrw: souls of the gods; Boreaux, Études, p. 76ff; Borchardt, Sa’šhure II, p. 84, manifestation of the god; KBIÄF, pp. 63, 236; W. Helck, OLZ 54, 1959, p. 19.
It is noticed that the mace which Mry-ib holds in his left hand inscribed unusually behind his kilt. Mry-ib is represented on the right wearing a long heavy wig and on the other side a short wig.

VIII. htm(w)/htm(ty)-ntr (wis) Bʿr-b-ntrw: God’s seal bearer of (the ship) Bʿr-b-ntrw.\(^\text{134}\)

On reading the term see doc. 16.

IX. htm(w)/htm(ty)-ntr (wis) Nb-ṛḥyt: God’s seal bearer of (the ship) Nb-ṛḥyt.\(^\text{135}\)

On reading the term see doc. 16.

X. htm(w)/htm(ty)-ntr (wis) Dw3-tswy: God’s seal bearer of (the ship) Dw3-tswy.\(^\text{136}\)

On reading the term see doc. 16.

XI. htm(w) ḫw: Seal bearer of the ships.\(^\text{137}\)

**Doc. 17** A Round-topped black granite stela of S3-hwt-Hr (Fig. 17a-b)\(^\text{138}\)

**Date:** Twelfth Dynasty, (Imn-m-ḥst) IV  
**Provenance:** Wadi el-Hudi  
**Material:** Black granite  
**Dimensions:** H: 38 xW: 22 x Th: 15 cm  
**Present location:** Aswan Museum on Elephantine, no 1483.

**Description**

A Round-topped black granite inscribed horizontally with ten of eleven lines, made of black granite and it was found in Wadi el-Hudi.\(^\text{139}\)


\(^{135}\) Ibid., vol. II, p. 771, n. 2801; Murray, Index, pl. xxxix.

\(^{136}\) Ibid., vol. II, p. 771, n. 2802; Murray, Index, pl. xxxix.

\(^{137}\) Ward and Fischer no.: 1436


Inscription:

6 & 7- smn ṛḥ nsw ḫtm(w) ḫr. ṣ n imy-ṛš ḫtm.t, 140 Sš-ḥwt-Hr, Ṣr. n mṛyt.

10- ḫtm(w) ḫw, Mn-ḥbt.

Transliteration

6 & 7- smn ṛḥ nsw ḫtm(w) ḫr. ṣ n imy-ṛš ḫtm.t, 140 Sš-ḥwt-Hr, Ṣr. n mṛyt.

Translation

6 & 7- Strong, royal acquaintance, assistant sealer to the overseer of the treasury, Sš-ḥwt-Hr. 141

10- Seal bearer of the ships, Mn-ḥbt.

Fig. 1. A relief from north wall of the sacrificial chamber, Giza, Mastaba of Mry-ib K. priese, die Opferkammer des Merin Staatliche Museen zu Berlin Hauptstadt der DDR Ägyptisches, Museum, 1984, p. 33.

140 ḫtm(w) ḫr. ṣ n imy-ṛš ḫtm: assistant sealer to the overseer of the treasury: Ward and Fischer no.: 1488 / TLA no.: 400382

141 Sš-ḥwt-Hr: Son of Hathor; Ranke no.: I, 30.16, I, 30.12, I, 3.1 / TLA no.: 706490, 600139, 706464.
Fig. 2. A stela from the Mastaba of Tuty

A. Mariette, Les Mastabas, p. 88.

Fig. 3. A stela of $K_{3(i)}$-nfr

T. H. James, Hieroglyphic texts from the Egyptian stela, vol. I, 2 ed, pl. x.
Fig. 4. A remaining part of thickness base from the mastaba of Kaš.t

b: S. Hassan, Giza, vol. III, pl. XIV.
Fig. 5. The false door of the lady $Nfrt$ and $Iy$.

W. F. Petrie and Murray, Memphite Tomb Chapels, pl. 2.

Fig. 6a-b
Fig. 6c

Fig. 6d

Fig. 6. Incomplete statue of 'Itti, Museo Egizio in Turin Room 02 Showcase 10, (col. no. suppl. 1876)
S. Cutro, Ghiza, pl. 11;
http://collezioni.museoegizio.it/itIT/material/S_1876/?description=Iteti&inventoryNumber=
&title=&cgt=&yearFrom=&yearTo=&materials=&provenance=&acquisition=&epoch=&dynasty=&pharaoh=(15/1/2021)
Fig. 7. The false door of Iy and his wife Nrt

LD, II, pl. 100b; Mariette, Mastabas, p. 120, c26. J. Lieblein, Dictionnaire, Dictionnaire de noms hiéroglyphiques: en ordre généalogique et alphabétique (Hauptwerk), Heidelberg, 1871, no. 68; W. M. F. Petrie & Murray, Memphite Tomb Chapels, pl. 2; Petrie & Murray, Memphite Tomb Chapels, pl. 2.
Fig. 8. A false door from the mastaba of ∞šm∞ LD, II, 97a

Fig. 9. The lintel from the mastaba of 7r-shw
S. Hassan, Giza, VII, pl. xxxiii, fig. 55, 60
Fig. 10. A false door from the Mastaba of ‘nh-Issi
A. Mariette, Mastabas, D. 8, p. 191.

Fig. 11. Southern Façade Stela from the tomb of Ny-‘nh-Ppi the black, Room A
A. M. Blackman, The rock tombs of Meir, pl. 7.
Fig 12a-b. Stela of the chief of Expedition Ḥpi.

M. Valloggia, La stèle d’un chef d’expédition de la Première Période Intermédiaire, pl. XLII, XLIII.
Fig. 13. The Stela of the ship captain ḫn-Kṣ.f

A. Fakhry, ASAE 38, 1938, pp. 36, fig. 2

Fig. 14. The stela of Ḫnty, Karlsruhe Museum, H. 411

H. G. Fischer, Coptic Nome, pl. 12.
Fig. 15. The mastaba of the *snb*, the ride in the swamps. The mastaba of the *snb*, the demonstration of the flocks.

H. Junker, Giza, V, fig. 6.

Fig. 16. A relief from facade of the burial chamber no. 2, the tomb *Mry-ib* LD, II, pl. 18; http://giza.fas.harvard.edu/drawings/49200/full/#details
Fig. 17. A round topped black granite stela from Wadi el-Hudi, Aswan Museum, acc. No. 1483, inscribed with ten horizontal lines, middle kingdom 'Imn-m-hst IV


Conclusion and Recommendations

- The Titles has ten Terms, nine appeared in the Old kingdom and there is only one term was found in the middle kingdom which is \( \text{htm(w)-ch(w)} \): “seal bearer of (the ship), for a noble called Mn-tb.t.
- Until now, there is no any document for the title during the first intermediate period.
- The person who bore this title played an important role as a person who can lead ships of the gods and ships of states in expeditions, celebrations, processions and supervise the ship’s crew.
- Most of the scenes which accompanying the title are scenes of seas, sailors, cruises and offerings.
- It is not clear that, the title could be held by more than one person at the same time.
- The oldest inscription found for this term is for 'tti, dates back to the Old kingdom, Fourth Dynasty, reign of (Hfy-R).

- No woman had the term before.

- Mry-ib was the God seal bearer; in particular he had the supreme command of four ships of state, which are especially mentioned, B3 ntrw , Bctb-ntrw, Nb rh(yt) and Dwstw which are used in celebrations and expeditions.

- On reading the term \( \text{htm(w)-ntr (wis)} \) Wn-Hr-bsw, The interpreter sign of wn-Hr-bsw is a symbol of a ship in the shape of a flat papyrus boat, similar to that sbs(\( t \)), this type of boat is also used in particular for the voyage of the dead, however, its use was probably not related to these ceremonies. In any case, wn-Hr-bsw can’t have been a large ornate ship and was more likely used at certain celebrations.
here might be a reference to a "the presence of a ritual role, however, the ships of mry-ib are not cult ships and ships of the royal administration. The bsw ship are revealed during the ship procession.

The most accompanying titles held by the seal bearer of the ship are w+b nswt, “w+b priest of the king”, nh nswt, “royal acquaintance”, shd-tsww-Ę, “inspector of boatmen”, lmy-r3-tsww-Ę, overseer of the boatmen, imy-r3 is(t) ltw-w, overseer of the crew of oarsman/rowers, imsh.w-hr-wsr, the revered one to Osiris, imy-r3 mš “overseer of the army”, nb imshw hr ntr Ę, “possessor of Honour in the Presence of the great god”, hstt-Ę, Mayor, htm(w)-bity: seal bearer of lower Egypt, hry-sšts: privy secrets to king, smr-wty: Sole companion and ss-nswt: royal son. It indicates that this title was held by officials and nobles as a functional title and an honorary title.

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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142 Helck, Beamtentitel, p. 95, n. 34.
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الملخص

نظرًا لاستخدامات الختم المتعددة والهامة في مصر القديمة، لم يتم استخدامه فقط كأداة تأمين إداري لبيروقراطية الدولة والأفراد والوثائق والحاويات والأماكن، ولكن أيضًا ككابوس أثناء الحياة اليومية وفي العالم السفلي، ولا عجب أن تم استخدامه كمودة في الحكومة كمانا طرود توشق بشأن توظيفها، تم إلحاق حامل اختياره بمختلف إدارات الخدمة العامة بالدولة، وكذلك بجميع المؤسسات الدينية، وحتى النبلاء الأثرياء، عادة ما كان لديهم واحد أو أكثر من هؤلاء "حامل الختم"، في جعبتهم. لقد خضع هذا الوظيفة للتغييرات عبر العصور. في بعض الوثائق، كانت مجرد شرف، ولست وظيفة إدارية، في بعض الوثائق الأخرى، كان حامل هذا اللقب مسؤولاً كبيراً في الدولة وكان على اتصال مباشر مع الحاكم. "\( htm (w) / htm (ty) - ntr (wis) \)" حامل الختم الملكي "\( htm(w) htm (ty) - ntr" m (wis) " وحمل العديد من رفيعي المستوى في الحكومة الملكية اللقب "\( htm (w) / htm (ty) - ntr (wis) \)"، حامل ختم الآلهة للسفينة. ارتبط حامل هذا اللقب بالسفن ذات الأنواع والدافلات المختلفة ولعب دورًا إداريًا ووظيفيًا لهذا اللقب مشاركات متعددة ووظائف متربطة بها.

لذلك يهدف البحث إلى دراسة ألقاب حامل ختم السفينة ومصطلحاتها ومصطلحاتها وربطها بالوثائق وتفصيلها لغويًا، التعرف على دور حامل ختم السفينة، حصر أهم الموظفين الذين حملوا اللقب في مصر القديمة حتى نهاية عصر الدولة الوسطى، تسعة ضوء على لقب المصاحبة لحامل اللقب وإستنتاج طبيعة صلاحيات وخصوصية حالي الختم من خلالها.

الكلمات المفتاحية

حامل الختم؛ حامل ختم السفينة؛ حامل ختم الآلهة للسفينة؛ السفينة.