



Study about King Semerkhet of the 1st Dynasty

Noha Mohamed Hafez

Faculty of Tourism and Hotels, Suez Canal University

ARTICLE INFO ABSTRACT


Keywords:
Semerkhet,
Semempses, 1st
Dynasty, Abydos,
Saqqara.

(JAAUTH)
Vol. 21, No. 4,
(December 2021),
PP.58-76.

smr-ht is the Horus name of an early Egyptian king. He was the 7th king of the 1st Dynasty (2930-2920 BC). He was the first Egyptian ruler with a fully developed Nebty name. Manetho called Semerkhet “Semempses” and credited him with a reign continued for 18 years. On the other hand, Turin Canon credited him with a long reign of 72 years. Nowadays, Egyptologists consider both opinions as kind of exaggerations and credited Semerkhet with a reign of 8 ½ years. The last opinion is based on the Cairo Stone Inscription, where the complete reign of Semerkhet has been recorded. Semerkhet is well documented in archeological records. His name was found on vessels made of schist, alabaster, marble and breccia. His name also appeared on ivory tags and jar seals. These various objects that bear Semerkhet’s name and titles came from Abydos and Saqqara. This research aims to study and analyze the reigning period of the king Semerkhet, to collect the representations of the king in order to understand his titles, and to spot the light on the king’s monuments and works. The research framework is an historical, artistic study for tracking the monumental works of king Semerkhet. The research is a combined study between both descriptive and analytical sides.

Introduction

Egypt’s Early Dynastic period (3050-2686 BC), also called the Archaic, was a short era in the long ancient Egyptian history¹. Before 1895, the information about the history of Ancient Egypt during the period before the 4th dynasty was very few. After few years, the discoveries by Petrie at Abydos, de Morgan at Naqada, and Quibell at Hierakonpolis uncovered monuments and objects of early kings². The Abydos king list and Manetho agree that there were eight kings during the 1st Dynasty. The number of those kings is attested by the new discovered necropolis sealing of Qaa³. Manetho called the first two dynasties as “Thinite”. This name derives from a place near

Abydos *ꜥbdw*⁴ called *tnj* ⁵“This”. The tombs of all the kings of the 1st Dynasty along with some of the 2nd Dynasty’s kings were found at Abydos. Most of the Thinite kings had a second tomb at Memphis. The first two dynasties formed an

independent entity. The main source for this period is the funerary equipment from Abydos and Saqqara’s mastabas⁶.

King Semerkhet *smr-ht*

Semerkhet was the 7th king of the 1st dynasty who ruled around 2925-2916 BC⁷. He was the son of king Anedjib *ʿ(n)d-jb*⁸ and queen Betrest⁹*bꜣtj-irj.s*¹⁰. Semerkhet’s reign was probably the shortest of the 1st Dynasty’s kings. Unfortunately, the events recorded on the Cairo Palermo Stone of the annals are regular religious ceremonies of kingship such as ‘following of Horus’, ‘the ritual appearances of the king’, and the dedication of divine image. Some scholars (Emery, Lauer, and Helck) suggested that Semerkhet was an usurper and not the rightful heir to the throne. They indicate that no high official or priest was associated with Semerkhet was found at Saqqara but this might be explained by the short reign of Semerkhet¹¹. The only known official of Semerkhet *hnw-Kꜣ* had survived his king. He served both Semerkhet and his successor Qaa. His name appeared on ivory tags from Semerkhet and Qaa’s tombs¹². Indeed, he erased the name of his predecessor on stone vase and his name himself was omitted from Saqqara List but there is no certain evidence of this. However, the stone vessels discovered at the Step Pyramid at Saqqara which bear four royal names (Den, Anedjib, Semerkhet, and Qaa) were against this claim. Recently, the necropolis sealing of Qaa proved Semerkhet’s rightness¹³.

The Titles of king *smr-ht*¹⁴

From the reign of Semerkhet, the dead king was identified with his *nswt-bitj* name in addition to his *nbtj* name. Later the *nbtj* name was declined and the *nswt-bitj* formed an independent title¹⁵.

Semerkhet’s *kꜣ* name was *mr-shꜣ* Mersekha. He was depicted in Abydos list much like a statue of Ptah. It read *sm-n-ptḥ* but it was doubtful in view of the original form of the figure. It seemed to be a follower *smsw* or possibly a priest of Ptah¹⁶.



- The Horus name: ¹⁷, reads as *smr-ht*











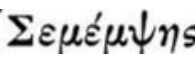
Among the Horus names of the 1st Dynasty, only Semerkhet’s makes a theological statement that expresses the relationship between Horus and the other deities¹⁸. Semerkhet’s Horus name inside the serekh means “companion of the corporation” (Wilkinson 1999) or “thoughtful friend” (Grimal¹⁹⁹²)¹⁹. However, the hieroglyphic *ht* normally means “the body” or “the divine community”²⁰.

- The Nebty name: ²¹, ²², ²³, reads as *irj-nbtj*.

It means “the Guardian of the two Mistresses”²⁴. These two mistresses refer to Nekhbet, the vulture goddess of Nekheb and Wadjet, the serpent goddess of Pe and Dep. His Nebty-name was mentioned in many documents from his tomb at Abydos

and some stone vessel inscriptions from the Step Pyramid at Saqqara and was also found on Palermo Stone²⁵.

The Nebty-name was written in all writings as  that depict a walking priest wearing a long skirt, a *nemes* headdress and holding a staff. This symbol has no phonetic indicator. Because of this, Gardiner when he referred to the king list in his song “Egypt of the Pharaohs”, he wrote “priestly figure”. When some scholars found the priestly figure in documents from the reign of Semerkhet, they read it as *irj-ntr* or *irj* that means “the guardian”²⁶. The phonetic indicator *s + m* fit with *sm* in the New Kingdom king-lists sustaining the equation  = *sm*. This was one of the most important offices in the Memphite cult of god Ptah²⁷

- Later Cartouche name , , , , , , , , ,  reads *smsw* or *smsm* means “the Eldest”²⁸. The Royal Canon of Turin mentioned his name as *smsw*, while the Abydos king list gave the spelling *smsm*.
- His Graeco name  reads Semempses; this name was given to Semerkhet by Manetho.²⁹

The Monuments of King *smr-ht*

I-1 Ivory Label of king *smr-ht*

The events that were inscribed on the 1st dynasty year labels could be divided into three subjects in order to their frequency: religious ceremonies, royal visits and scenes of the military activity³⁰.

An Ivory Label now exhibited in the British Museum. This label was originally from an oil container. It was found in the doorway of his tomb. It is deeply cut and colored with black and red. Its formula is like that was on the Palermo Stone. The right part of the label is introduced by the *rnpt* symbol. The word Horus “*hr*” reads as “*hrw*” and written with three hawks. The figure of Thoth seated on the throne according with the early worship of the baboon. This baboon deity called *hd-wr* ‘the Great White’ was first appeared unquestionably on this ivory label. The figure that is placed for Semerkhet’s name cannot be related to Ptah. It might be a *šm sw* and also give the Greek form Semempses or a priest of Ptah. It reports from the top to the bottom a feast of the Sokar-bark, the regular ‘following of Horus *šms-hr*³¹. There is also a visit to the temple of the deity *wzdt*, and the travelling in a royal boat. The left part of the label is inscribed with the throne name of Semerkhet *irj-nbtj* with blessings wish below. On the upper left corner is described the content of the jar, to which the label was once adjusted. The name of the High Official *hnw-Kz* who was responsible for the jar’s delivery is preserved. The label had a hanging hole in its top left corner (Fig.1)³².


2 - Ivory Label of *smr-ht*

A year label of Semerkhet was recently discovered during the re-excavation of the tomb of king Qaa. It records the planning of a building called *hrw-ib-n/rw*. It might be Semerkhet's funerary enclosure at Abydos. The right part of this label is introduced by the *rnpt* symbol like the previous label. Also on the right part at the top the serekh of king Qaa is inscribed. Below it, there is a figure of the king standing and wearing the White Crown. On the left part, the Horus name of Semerkhet in the serekh is inscribed. Below the serekh there are the *w3s* and the *hrp* symbols. The baboon appeared again kneeling on his hands (Fig.2)³³.

II-Various jars of *smr-ht*

- 1- Two fragments of two vases made of white marble. It bears the serekh of Semerkhet. At the left of the serekh is written *pr bj3* which means "the copper house" or "house of ore". It was discovered originally from Abydos, Umm el Qaab, U tomb (Fig.3a). The last sign on the other vase (Fig.3b) looks like *kh3* more like a fish. It could be noticeable that the *s* sign always has the short side forward in this name on these two vases and on all of his seals. Only these two names of Semerkhet were found of vases³⁴.
- 2- No objects of any sort related to king Semerkhet have been found at north Saqqara except a single fragment of pottery inscribed with the name of Semerkhet³⁵. This form of the serekh shows oval wavy line border usually found on the potmarks. This might mean to signify an enclosure around the king's tomb (Fig.4)³⁶.
- 3- A serekh of Semerkhet incised into wet clay on a piece of a large vase. The *s* sign is almost angular and the *mr* sign seems like a triangle, the *ht* sign is completely missing (Fig.5)³⁷.
- 4- Another example was scratched on the surface of the pot after it was fired. It consists of a falcon on the serekh of Semerkhet. The signs within the serekh are more traditional; the *s* and *mr* signs are easy to recognize. The *ht* sign is changed to an oval filled with lines slanting to the right. This serekh came from different type of pot. It is a fragment from the body below the shoulder. There is cloth on the two edges of the piece from previous re-use as thieves' digging tool (Fig.6)³⁸.
- 5- Many alabaster cylinder jars that were found in the tomb of Semerkhet had some traces of sign nearly erased. The first of three jars found there had traces of door frame and the heart *ib* symbol (Fig.7a). On the second one traces of a large hawk could be seen (Fig.7b). On the third jar, the whole *k3* name could be seen (Fig.7c)³⁹.
- 6- This part of stone vase has a drawing of a group of three birds which are similar to those of king Aha. The birds of Aha's vases look most like ostriches while those of Semerkhet look like plovers. They are not related to the *b3* bird of later times and probably were intended for the *rekhyt* bird (Fig.8)⁴⁰.
- 7- A fine piece of crystal cup that was gathered from two scattered fragments. The lower part of it is the *ht* sign, as the line to left is too close to the middle to be the side of the square. It should be the corner fence of the *ht* sign. So it reads *nb ht*

nh. There is also a trace of a hieroglyphic sign above the animal that could be a hunting dog (Fig.9)⁴¹.

- 8- A part of a large alabaster cylinder jar. It has the *hb-sd* sign on it, which means the Sed festival. This sign that is placed on a platform that has some steps at its end (Fig.10)⁴².
- 9- A fragment of crystal bowl. It has traces of earlier inscription that remain in spite of the re-polishing of it. The later inscription reads *hb-sd* (Fig.11).
- 10- A piece of black pottery. The signs *k3*, *mr*, and a door could clearly be seen. The mysterious sign looks like  but this from ink-written inscription on slate from Abydos (Fig.12).
- 11- A coarse piece of an alabaster cylinder jar. It has the name of king Anedjib's town or palace *hr dw3 hb*.(Fig.13).
- 12- Two inscriptions (Fig.14a, b), one of them (Fig.14b) has the sign of double-headed axe after the royal palace.

III-A funerary stela of *smr-ht*

A great stela made of black quartzite inscribed with the Horus name of Semerkhet was found in the eastern side of his tomb. It is 65 cm height and now in the Egyptian Museum JE14633. It was one of a pair that stood in front of Semerkhet's tomb (Fig.15)⁴³.

IV-The sealing of king *smr-ht*

The richest source of inscribed material is represented in the seal impressions that mark the lumps of clay, which cover the wine and food jars. They were made by engraved cylinders of wood or stone. Those seals contain names and titles and their signs were well formed and detailed⁴⁴. The impressions on the sealing told a lot about the early administration. Because most of the sealing was found in necropolis, they intended to focus on the mortuary cults. There were a numerous number of seal impressions at Umm-el-Qa'ab with the exception of Semerkhet's tomb. Peter Kalpony was able to identify only 17 sealing from this tomb. Only one seal mentions a domain⁴⁵ and the domain name was only known from this sealing⁴⁶.

- 1- The first sealing shows the serekh of Semerkhet and a *hrp* sign⁴⁷. The oval contains the domain name as the following; the upper sign is a falcon and the lower sign is a broad flat sign. It is probably the *ht* sign. The sign in the middle might be a hand holding something. Though Kalpony reads Semerkhet's domain as *hr.w-dsr-h.t(?)*. Helck and Wilkinson later omit the question mark (Fig.16)⁴⁸.
- 2- During the excavations of King Qaa's tomb a complete bag sealing of Semerkhet was discovered in the sand under a layer of mud. It was found to the south of chamber Q-S1. The sealing's base shows the usual impressions of fibers and strings left by the bag to which the sealing was applied. On the upper parts are many impressions from the same seal (Fig.17)⁴⁹.

- 3- The inscription of this seal is similar to the one discovered by Petrie. It shows the sequence of Semerkhet's serekh, the *hrp* sign and the oval frame containing the domain's name. The façade of the palace of Petrie's sealing is more elaborate than this seal. The middle sign inside the oval here is clearer. It resembles this of Gardiner which reads *wp*. Therefore the complete inscription of the seal read: *hr.w-smr-h.t hrp hr.w-wp-h.t* (Fig.18) ⁵⁰.
- 4- The third sealing of Semerkhet is an important one because it fixes the identity of the king. It exists on two small lumps of clay. Each one bears very few prints on it. They were used to join the knot of two cords. The inscriptions of it may be related to some materials used in purifying the mouth. It also has the inscription of



an estate called *hwt p-hr [msn] irj-nbtj* (Petrie 1900) . It is possible that the estate during the reign of Anedjib and Semerkhet which represents the entirety of the palace, its land and income named after the king (Fig.19)⁵¹.

- 5- The next two sealing are difficult to read because of their bad condition. They are the same as the previous sealing as they bear the *niswt bitj* title on black mud. There nothing else related to Semerkhet. They are probably the titles of the king "the Golden Bull". An estate called *hwt ihw-nbw niswt-bitj Mr-p-biz* (Petrie 1900)



appeared on this seal along with the serekh containing the king's Horus name (Fig.20a, b)⁵².

- 6- This sealing is interesting as there is exactly the same sealing in the king Qaa's tomb except that the king's name has been cut out. Therefore, there was just a chunk in the king name's place. This indicates that after the king's death, his seals could not be used again (Fig.21)⁵³. The names of estates connected with providing the royal tombs were inscribed of the seal impression of the Early Dynastic



period. The estate's name shown on this seal called *hwt-iptj* (Petrie 1900) . This estate was probably related to the queen's household as *ipt* means 'the Harem palace'⁵⁴.

V-The royal tomb of *smr-ht*

Until the last part of the 4th millennium BC, Egyptian burial places were simple graves cut into the desert and marked by low mounds of sand. Graves of the Badarian and Naqada I cultures were generally oval or circular. During Naqada II, the design of the grave became more rectangular with more funerary equipment. By Naqada III, the rectangular form became standard.⁵⁵

Abydos was the burial place for the royal families since early Pre-dynastic period. It also served the kings of the Thinite region from Naqada I period. The site has an impressive natural setting.⁵⁶

The tomb of Semerkhet (U) was excavated in 1899 by Sir William Matthew Flinders Petrie. While excavating Petrie did not find any stairways as at the tombs of Den and Adjib. He found a ramp 4 meters wide and leading directly to the main chamber. This ramp starts about 10 meters east outside the tomb. The tomb was simpler than the monuments of the middle of the 1st dynasty. Archaeologists have not discovered a mastaba tomb from his reign at north Saqqara, though his predecessors have mostly built tombs there. His tomb has a single room, accessed by a slope ending on a wood and brick blocking. There is a sub-wall in the eastern side may suggest storage niches. The attached graves were erected against the exterior of the burial chamber.⁵⁷

Semerkhet's tomb shows a new development; the supplementary graves are built adjoining the burial chamber. This forms a single unified structure that the superstructure might cover not only the burial chamber but also the supplementary graves. The tomb of Semerkhet represents the first certain example retainer sacrifice⁵⁸.

This tomb measures 29.2 by 20.8 meters. It is considered larger than that of his predecessor. It is surrounded by a wall 5 feet thick. It consisted of a brick-lined subterranean burial chamber entered from the east by a sloping passage.⁵⁹ There are small surrounding chambers which are 3 to 4 feet deep. Few of these chambers still include anything. Seven stela were found along with other stela were also found. However they were dispersed so it is difficult to identify them with the tombs. There were two interesting stela of dwarfs. They show the dwarf type clearly.⁶⁰

In the corner of the entrance, there was a wooden flooring still preserved. Many beams and broken wood were found in the rubbish. The floor was made from beams 8 inches wide and 10 high which form the frame on which the planks of the floor rest on recessed edges. The entrance is 9 feet and was blocked by large bricks. The tomb was burnt and the floor was carbonized. Traces of fire still could be seen on the walls (Fig.22)⁶¹.

Conclusion

- Semerkhet was the first Egyptian king with a fully developed *Nbty* name. From his reign, the dead king was identified with his *nswt-bitj* name in addition to his *Nbty* name. The component *Nbty* first appeared as a regular component of the royal title in the reign of Semerkhet.
- The baboon that called *ḥd-wr* 'the Great White' first attested in the Ivory Label of Semerkhet. Later this deity was conflated with god *dḥwty*.
- Only 17 seals of king Semerkhet were found by Petrie during the discovery of his tomb. This was a small number of clay seals comparing to other kings.
- The *hrp* scepter of authority appeared on a seal of Semerkhet between the serekh containing his Horus name and an oval containing his domain name.
- Archaeologists have not discovered a mastaba tomb for Semerkhet at north Saqqara, as he was the only king of the First Dynasty that was not represented in the tombs at north Saqqara.

- Semerkhet's tomb shows a new development; the supplementary graves were built adjoining the burial chamber. The tomb of Semerkhet represents the first certain example of retainer sacrifice.
- Semerkhet's reign was probably the shortest of the 1stDynasty's kings.

Table of Semerkhet's Monuments

The monument	The Inscription	The Location
Ivory Label	It was a part of oil container. It depicted the feast of 'following of Horus' <i>šms-ḥr</i> , a royal visit and travelling in the royal boat.	Semerkhet's tomb.
Ivory Label	It recorded the planning of a building called <i>ḥrw-ib-n/rw</i> .	king Qaa's tomb.
Two fragments of two vases of white marble	It bears the serekh of king Semerkhet.	Semerkhet's tomb.
A fragment of Pottery	It is inscribed with Semerkhet's name.	North Saqqara.
A vase	It has the serekh of Semerkhet incised in wet clay.	Semerkhet's tomb.
A fragment from the body below the shoulder of a pot	It has the serekh of Semerkhet.	Semerkhet's tomb.
Three cylinder jars	They inscribed with a door frame, the <i>ib</i> symbol, a hawk and the whole <i>k3</i> name.	Semerkhet's tomb.
A piece of stone vase	It is inscribed with a drawing of three birds look like the plovers.	Semerkhet's tomb.
A piece of crystal cup	It is inscribed with <i>nb ḥt ḥnh</i> and a drawing of probably a hunting dog.	Semerkhet's tomb.
A piece of alabaster cylinder jar	It is inscribed with the <i>ḥb-sd</i> sign above a platform.	Semerkhet's tomb.
A fragment of crystal bowl	It is inscribed with the <i>ḥb-sd</i> sign.	Semerkhet's tomb.
A piece of black pottery	It is inscribed with <i>k3</i> , <i>mr</i> and a door signs.	Semerkhet's tomb.
A piece of an alabaster cylinder jar	It is inscribed with the name of king Adjib's town or palace <i>ḥr</i>	Semerkhet's tomb.

	<i>dwꜣ hb.</i>	
Two inscriptions	One of them has the sign of double-headed axe after the royal palace.	Semerkheth's tomb.
A funerary stela of black quartzite	It is inscribed with the Horus name of Semerkheth.	Semerkheth's tomb.
A sealing	It is inscribed with the serekh of Semerkheth and a <i>hrp</i> sign.	Semerkheth's tomb.
A bag sealing	It is inscribed with Semerkheth's serekh, the <i>hrp</i> sign and the oval frame containing the domain's name	King Qaa's tomb
A sealing	It is inscribed with <i>hr.w-smr-h.t hrp hr.w-wp-h.t</i> .	Semerkheth's tomb
A sealing	The inscriptions of it may be related to some materials used in purifying the mouth and also has an inscription of estate called <i>hwt p-hr [msn] irj-nbtj</i> .	Semerkheth's tomb
Two sealing	They are inscribed with the <i>nīswt bitj</i> title. One of them has the name of estate called <i>hwt ihw-nbw nīswt-bitj Mr-p-biꜣ</i> along with Semerkheth's Horus name.	Semerkheth's tomb
A sealing	It is exactly the same seal as this in king Qaa's tomb. It is inscribed with the king's name which has been cut off. The estate's name shown on this seal called <i>hwt-iptj</i> .	Semerkheth's tomb



Fig.1. An ivory label of king Semerkhet
W.B. Emery, *Archaic Egypt*, Britain (1961), fig.49.



Fig.2. An ivory label of king Semerkhet
Toby A. H. Wilkinson, *Early Dynastic Egypt*, London (1999), p.67.



a



b

Fig.3.A fragment of a white marble vessel of Semerkhet
W. M. Petrie, *the Royal Tombs of the First Dynasty*, part 1, London (1900), pl. VII 2,
3.

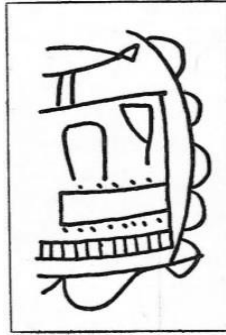


Fig.4. A fragment of pottery bearing Semerkhet’s name
W.B. Emery, *the Tomb of Hemaka*, Cairo (1938), p.54, fig.17.



Fig.5. A Serekh of Semerkhet
Barbara Adams, “Potmark Forgery: A Serekh of Semerkhet from Abydos” in *Discussions in Egyptology 25* (1993), p.9.



Fig.6. A Serekh of Semerkhet
Barbara Adams, “Potmark Forgery: A Serekh of Semerkhet from Abydos” in *Discussions in Egyptology 25* (1993), p.9.

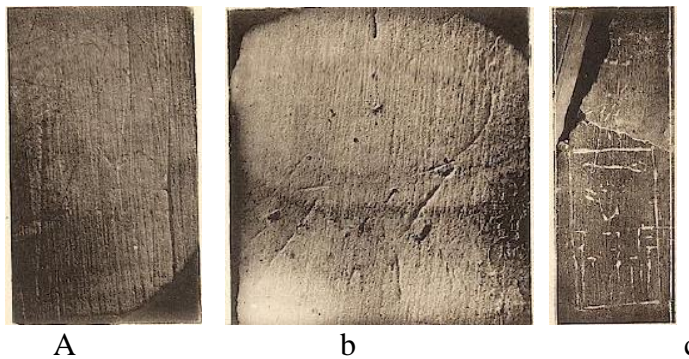


Fig. 7. Alabaster cylinder jars
W. M. Petrie, *The Royal Tombs of the First Dynasty*, part 1, London (1900), pl. VI 9, 10, 11.

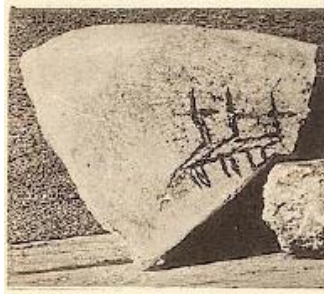


Fig.8. Alabaster vase

W. M. Petrie, *The Royal Tombs of the First Dynasty*, part 1, London (1900), pl. VII 1.



Fig.9. A fragment of a crystal vase

W. M. Petrie, *The Royal Tombs of the First Dynasty*, part 1, London (1900), pl. VII 4.

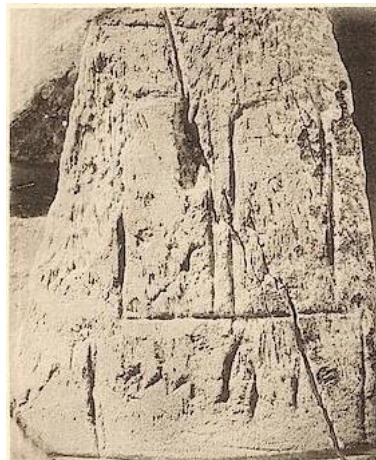


Fig.10. A part of an alabaster jar

W. M. Petrie, *The Royal Tombs of the First Dynasty*, part 1, London (1900), pl. VII 5.



Fig.11. A fragment of crystal bowl

W. M. Petrie, *The Royal Tombs of the First Dynasty*, part 1, London (1900), pl. VII 6.



Fig.12. A piece of black pottery

W. M. Petrie, *The Royal Tombs of the First Dynasty*, part 1, London (1900), pl. VII 9.

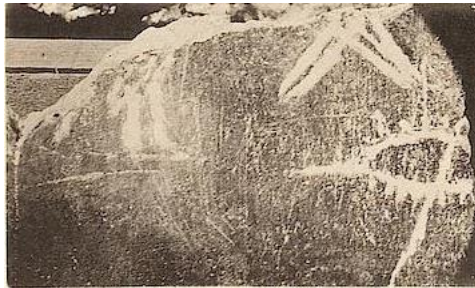
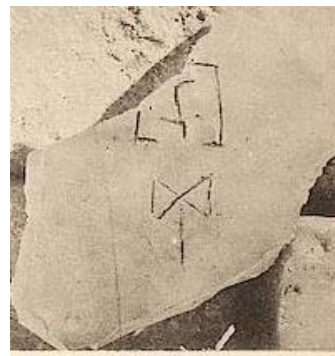


Fig.13. A coarse piece of an alabaster cylinder jar

W. M. Petrie, *The Royal Tombs of the First Dynasty*, part 1, London (1900), pl. VII 10.



A



b

Fig.14. Two inscriptions of volcanic ash and crystal

W. M. Petrie, *The Royal Tombs of the First Dynasty*, part 1, London (1900), pl. VII 11, 12.



Fig.15. Stela of Semerkhet
W. B. Emery, *Archaic Egypt*, Britain (1961), p. 86.

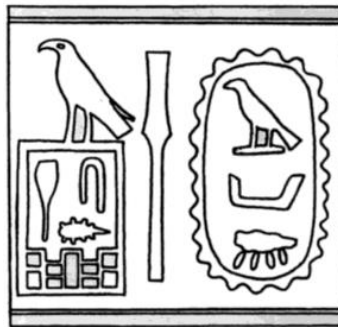


Fig.16. the Domain of Semerkhet
Eva-Maria Engel, “The Domain of Semerkhet” in *OLA* 138, Paris (2004), p. 706.

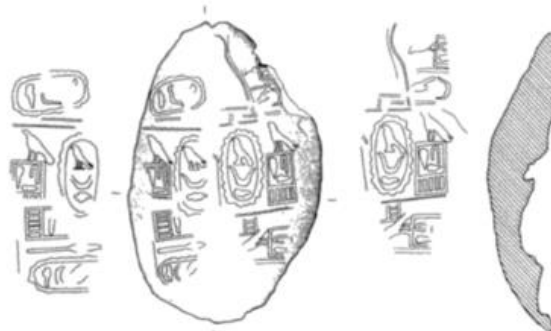


Fig.17. bag sealing of Semerkhet
Eva-Maria Engel, “The Domain of Semerkhet” in *OLA* 138, Paris (2004), p. 707.

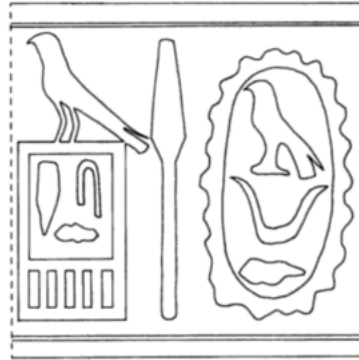


Fig.18. sealing of Semerkhet

Eva-Maria Engel, “The Domain of Semerkhet” in *OLA* 138, Paris (2004), p. 708.

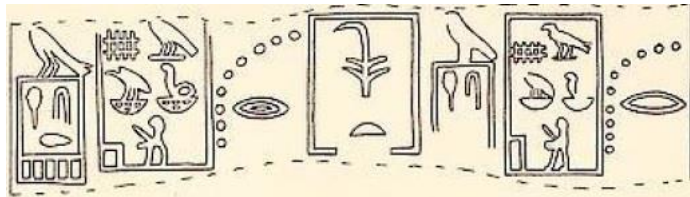
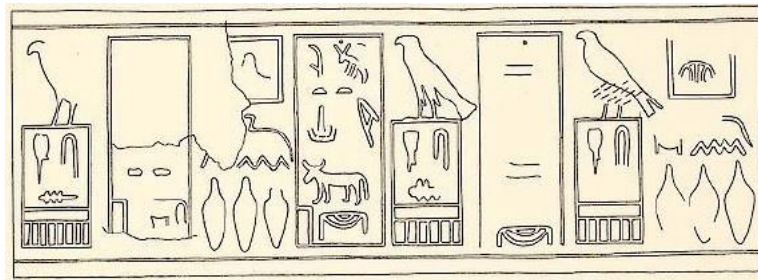
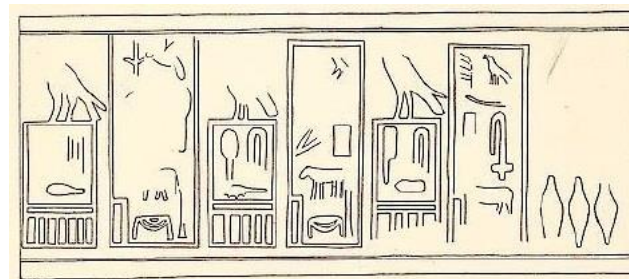


Fig.19. Jar sealing with the name of Semerkhet

W. M. Petrie, *The Royal Tombs of the First Dynasty*, part 1, London (1900), pl. XXVIII72



a



b

Fig.20. Jar sealing of Semerkhet

W. M. Petrie, *The Royal Tombs of the First Dynasty*, part 1, London (1900), pl. XXVIII73, 74.

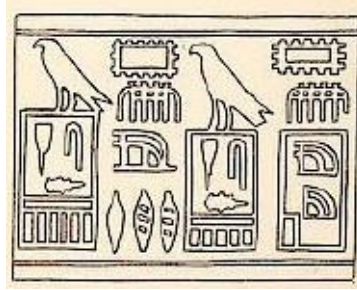


Fig.21. Jar sealing of Semerkhet

W. M. Petrie, *The Royal Tombs of the First Dynasty*, part 1, London (1900), pl. XXVIII 77.

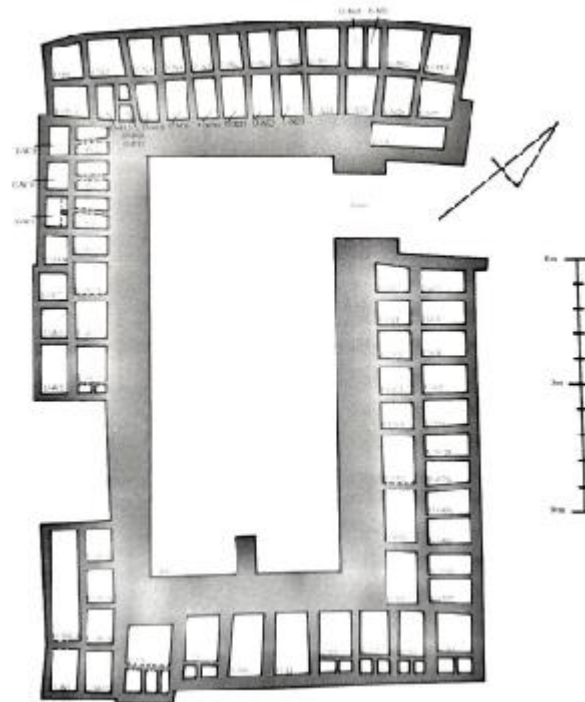


Fig.22. the plan of Semerkhet tomb

Gunter Dreyer, Umm el-Qaab-Nachuntersuchungen im fruhzeitlichen Konigsfriedhof "Grab des Semerchet" in *MDAIK* 62, Berlin (2006), p. 93-98.

Bibliography

- ¹ - Robert J. Wenke, "Early Dynastic Period" in *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Egypt*, volume I, Oxford (2001), p.413-418.
- ² - W. B. Emery, *Archaic Egypt*, Britain (1961), p.21.
- ³ - Toby A. H. Wilkinson, *Early Dynastic Egypt*, London (1999), p.55.
- ⁴ - Beckerath, J, "Abydos" in *LÄ* I, p.27; *WB* I, p.9.
- ⁵ - *WB* V, p.372.
- ⁶ - Grimal. N, *A History of Ancient Egypt*, United Kingdom (1992), p.49.

- ⁷ - Peter Clayton, *Chronicle of the Pharaohs*, London (1994), p.16.
- ⁸ - Kalpony. P, “Adjib” in *LÄ I*, p.62.
- ⁹ - Aidan Dodson & Dyan Hilton, *The Complete Royal Families of Ancient Egypt*, Cairo (2004), p.46; Tyldesley. J, *The Complete Queens of Egypt from Early Dynastic Times to the Death of Cleopatra*, Cairo (2006), p.34.
- ¹⁰ - Kalpony. P, “Semerchet” in *LÄ V*, p.842.
- ¹¹ - Wolfgang Helck: *Untersuchungen zur Thinitenzeit*. (Ägyptologische Abhandlungen, Volume 45), Wiesbaden, p. 124, 160 - 162 , 212 – 214; Emery. W. B , *Ägypten, Geschichte und Kultur der Frühzeit, 3200-2800 v. Chr.* Fourier, Wiesbaden (1964), p. 15–17, 94–95.
- ¹² - Iorwerth Eiddon Stephen Edwards: *Early History of the Middle East* (The Cambridge Ancient History; Vol. 1, Pt. 2), Cambridge (2006), p. 27–31.
- ¹³ - Toby A. H. Wilkinson, *Early Dynastic Egypt*, London (1999), p.66.
- ¹⁴ - J. von. Beckerath, *Handbuch der Agyptischen Konigsnamen Issue 20 of Munchner Agyptologische Studien Munchner*, MAS 49, Mainz (1999), p.40.
- ¹⁵ - Emery. W. B, *Archaic Egypt*, Britain (1961), p.35.
- ¹⁶ - Petrie. W. M, *the Royal Tombs of the First Dynasty*, part 1, London (1900), p. 5.
- ¹⁷ - Gauthier. H, *Le Livre des Rois D’Egypte*, volume I, Le Caire (1907), p.11.
- ¹⁸ - Toby A. H. Wilkinson, *Early Dynastic Egypt*, London (1999), p.172, 173.
- ¹⁹ - Grimal. N, *A History of Ancient Egypt*, United Kingdom (1992), p.54.
- ²⁰ - Jochem Kahl, *Fruhagyptisches Worterbuch 1* (2002), p.46; *WB III*, p.356.
- ²¹ - J. von. Beckerath, *Handbuch der Agyptischen Konigsnamen Issue 20 of Munchner Agyptologische Studien Munchner*, MAS 49, Mainz (1999), p.40.
- ²² - *Ibid.*
- ²³ - Gauthier. H, *Le Livre des Rois D’Egypte*, volume I, Le Caire (1907), p.13.
- ²⁴ - Kalpony. P, “Semerchet” in *LÄ V*, p.841-843.
- ²⁵ - Jorge R. Ogdon, *Studies in Archaic Epigraphy*, VIII. “On the Reading of the Nebty-name of King Semerkhet”, in *GM 72* (1984), p.15-19.
- ²⁶ - *Ibid.*
- ²⁷ - *Ibid.*
- ²⁸ - Leprohon, R. J. *The Great Name: Ancient Egyptian Royal Titulary*, Atlanta (2013), p. 26–27.
- ²⁹ - Jorge R. Ogdon, *Op.cit.*
- ³⁰ - Toby A. H. Wilkinson, *Early Dynastic Egypt*, London (1999), p.187.
- ³¹ - The event of ‘following of horus’ was the most common event during the reign of the Early Dynastic period on the Palermo Stone. It looked like a journey of the king or his officials at regular periods for tax collections; Toby A. H. Wilkinson, *Early Dynastic Egypt*, London (1999), p.189.
- ³² - Galal Ali Hassan, “Mechanical Engineering in Ancient Egypt, Part 71: Labels and Tags Inscription”, *International Journal of Advanced Research in Management, Architecture, Technology and Engineering (IJARMATE)* Vol.IV, Issue IX, September 2018, p.7-12;
- ³³ - Toby A. H. Wilkinson, *Early Dynastic Egypt*, London (1999), p.67.

- ³⁴ - Petrie. W. M, *The Royal Tombs of the First Dynasty*, part 1, London (1900), p.20, pl. VII 2, 3.
- ³⁵ - Emery. W. B, *Excavations at Saqqara Great Tombs of the First Dynasty III*, London (1958), p.4; Emery. W. B, *the Tomb of Hemaka*, Cairo (1938), p.54, fig.17.
- ³⁶ - Barbara Adams, "Potmark Forgery: A Serekh of Semerkhet from Abydos" in *Discussions in Egyptology* 25 (1993), p.5-12.
- ³⁷ - *Ibid.*
- ³⁸ - *Ibid.*
- ³⁹ - Petrie. W. M, *The Royal Tombs of the First Dynasty*, part 1, London (1900), p.20, pl. VI 9,10,11.
- ⁴⁰ - *Ibid.*
- ⁴¹ - *Ibid.*
- ⁴² - *Ibid.*
- ⁴³ - E. Amelineau, *Les Nouvelles Fouilles d'Abydos I*, Paris (1899), p.245, fig.65; Emery. W. B, *Archaic Egypt*, Britain (1961), p. 85, 86.
- ⁴⁴ - *Ibid.*, p.197, 198.
- ⁴⁵ - During the 1st dynasty, some institutions that were responsible for supplying tomb goods were mortuary foundations. Their names were written in an oval frame. They were usually translated as "domains". From king Djer, every king has founded his own domain, which delivered goods to his tomb at Abydos and also to some of the high officials at Saqqara; Eva-Maria Engel, "The Domain of Semerkhet" in *OLA* 138, Paris (2004), p. 705.
- ⁴⁶ - Eva-Maria Engel, "The Domain of Semerkhet" in *OLA* 138, Paris (2004), p. 705-709.
- ⁴⁷ - Scepter of authority *ḥbꜣ* scepter, *šm* scepter and also named as *hrp* which means "be at head" or "control". In the titles *†* is possibly to be read *hrp*; A. Gardiner, *Egyptian Grammar*, Oxford (1935), p.509.
- ⁴⁸ - Eva-Maria Engel, *Op.cit.*
- ⁴⁹ - *Ibid.*
- ⁵⁰ - *Ibid.*
- ⁵¹ - Petrie. W. M, *The Royal Tombs of the First Dynasty*, part 1, London (1900), p.26, pl. XXVIII 72.
- ⁵² - *Ibid.*, pl.XXVIII 73, 74.
- ⁵³ - *Ibid.*, pl.XXVIII 77.
- ⁵⁴ - Toby A. H. Wilkinson, *Early Dynastic Egypt*, London (1999), p.102.
- ⁵⁵ - Dodson. A, *The Royal Tombs of Ancient Egypt*, Great Britain (2016), p. 52.
- ⁵⁶ - Toby A. H. Wilkinson, *Early Dynastic Egypt*, London (1999), p.199.
- ⁵⁷ - Dodson. A, *Op.cit.*
- ⁵⁸ -Wilkinson. T, *Early Dynastic Egypt*, London (1999), p.204.
- ⁵⁹ - Emery. W. B, *Archaic Egypt*, Britain (1961), p. 85.
- ⁶⁰ - Petrie. W. M, *The Royal Tombs of the First Dynasty*, part 1, London (1900), p.13.
- ⁶¹ - Gunter Dreyer, Umm el-Qaab-Nachuntersuchungen im fruhzeitlichen Konigsfriedhof "Grab des Semerchet" in *MDAIK* 62, Berlin (2006), p.93-98; *Ibid.*, p.13, 14.



مجلة اتحاد الجامعات العربية للسياحة والضيافة (JAAUTH)

المجلد 21، العدد 4، (ديسمبر 2021)، ص 58-76.
الموقع الإلكتروني: <http://jaauth.journals.ekb.eg>

دراسة عن الملك سمرخت من الأسرة الأولى

نهي محمد حافظ

قسم الإرشاد السياحي، كلية السياحة والفنادق، جامعة قناة السويس

المعلومات المقالة	المخلص
<p>الكلمات المفتاحية سمرخت؛ سمميس؛ الأسرة الأولى؛ أبيدوس؛ سقارة.</p>	<p>سمرخت هو الاسم الحوري لفرعون مصري من عصر الأسرات المبكر. هو الملك السابع من ملوك الأسرة الأولى (2930 - 2920 ق.م). هو الملك المصري الأول الذي استخدم اللقب النبتي بصورة كاملة. وقد أطلق مانيثون على الملك سمرخت اسم "سمميس" ونسب إليه فترة حكم مدتها 18 عام. على الجانب الآخر بردية تورين أسندت الية فترة حكم طويلة تصل ل 72 عام. حديثا اعتبر علماء المصريين ان كلا الرأيين بهما قدر كبير من المبالغة واسندوا لسمرخت فترة حكم مدتها 8 سنوات ونصف. وهذا الرأي الاخير كان مبني على النقش الموجود على حجر باليرمو. وقد وثق سمرخت على السجلات الأثرية فقد ظهر اسمه بالنقوش على الأواني المصنوعة من الشست، الألباستر، البرشيا والرخام. وقد ظهر اسمه كذلك على بطاقات عاجية وأختام الجرات. والاثار التي تحمل اسم سمرخت ترجع الي منطقة أبيدوس وسقارة. ويهدف هذا البحث الي الفاء الضوء على فترة حكم الملك سمرخت ودراسة اهم أعماله وأثاره.</p>
<p>(JAAUTH) المجلد 21، العدد 4، (ديسمبر 2021)، ص 58-76.</p>	