New Lights on Tuna El - Gebel Necropolis Through a Selection of Religious and Administrative Titles*

Abstract: Tuna el-Gebel is a modern village which is located in Mallawi, El-Minya governorate. It contains many important monuments but this study will focus on the animal cemetery which is located in the west of the ancient city of Hermopolis Magna. The animal cemetery is devoted to bury the sacred animals specially the Ibis and Baboon.

The excavations at tuna El-Gebel have revealed religious association which was managed by a group of employees who they were in charge of taking care of the sacred animals. Among the members were there women and Greek officials who served the sacred ibis. According to the demotic documents it is clear that the members of the ibis organization promise to pay their monthly dues and to perform certain payments in kind. Furthermore they were expected to be present at the meetings to bury the sacred animals.

Keywords: Administrative – Demotic - Galleries – Ibis – Religious –Tuna El–Gebel.

An introduction: The subterranean Galleries of the sacred animals are located in the west of the ancient city of Hermopolis Magna'. The Galleries are four to five meters beneath the ground'. It was a part of a large complex devoted to the animal cult especially the Ibis and baboon, with the feeding place (ibiotapheion), the temples complex, and the archive of the priests'. The underground galleries were built to house these mummified Animals from the '\tau' the Dynasty onward.' The official name of the Gallery in Tuna may have been "resting place of the ibis, the baboon, the falcon and the gods who rest with them" p3 '.wy htp n p3 hb p3 '\tau n p3 bk n3 ntrw nty htp hn' sn . In Greek.

The ibiotapheion The catacomb is divided into four areas: the galleries A, B, C, and D, each with its own staircase access. It is clear that there have been a number of the officials who were in charge of managing the Animal Cemetery.

\. Religious Titles:

while, **Johnson.J**, Translated it as a caretaker of the ibis . **Ray.J** read it as **swt** and translated it as embalmer of the ibis . **Zauzich.k.Th** reading it as **swt**. **Ebeid.M** showing an agreement with the reading **swrd**, **swrt**, **caretaker** of the ibis). The title occurs on papyrus P.Louvre. E. TTTT (fig. ^)

and P.Louvre.E. ۲۳۳۳٤ (fig. ٩) , it also Limestone block Inv.nr: ۱۷۲۸/۲۰۸ (fig. ۱۰) occurs on آلِكُمُ الْمِلْلَا . According to Papyrus Louvre P.louvre.E. ٢٣٣٣ and P.louvre.E. ٣٣٣٤, the priests of the Thoth temple at Hermopolis sent Herieu (swt p3 hb), who was a citizen of Hermopolis and served in the nomes of the north, to the sanctuary of the shining (tA aXy(t) thny) in the region of \check{s}^{r} , to take the lotus to the burial also to perform the services and do the work of the back to late Ptolemaic) nA ntr.w pA a.wy-Htp (the gods of the resting place) give life to caretaker of the ibis (swrd (n) p3 hb) p3 di-p3-hb s3 p3y-wsir due to his interest of the ibis affairs 15. To sum up. it is clear that the responsibility of this official was different from place to another, for instance, swrd "takes care of" someone (in that case it is "guardian" of a minor child "steward" of such a character) or animals (responsible for ensuring the procreation of the animals) or association "manager" who may be assisted by two or three secretaries '°. In the Ptolemaic

document P.Louvre. E. TTTE, this sign represents a man striking with stick, used as a determinative while in Roman

document inv.nr. 'YYA/YoA this sign bow-string was used as a determinative 'Y. Both signs, were used as a determinative in words which mean trustee, inspector, administrator.'

nty ir imnt n hmnw: The doorkeeper (shrine opener) and servant of the gods of the resting place of the ibis and baboon, which is in the west of Hermopolis.

The Title	Inventory number
かいり」ーなるうしろういいかっしていかべのようしょーターナナ	PaP.Cairo. Y ٤/١١/٦٢/Y
	Fig.7
ا ريحيد الااسا له	PaP.Cairo. 7 ٤/١١/٦٢/٣٠
1030 hors 66 180-2/15. 2100-	Fig. [∨]
O(n 2) [23 0 -18,000,000 - 1034	PaP.Cairo. 75/11/77/A
	Unpublished
ってっていいいいしんをいかとのっていいしょ	= PaP.Cairo. Υ ٤/١ ١/٦ Υ/9
	Unpublished
いるかしかかってきょういいしいだいかんの	PaP.Cairo. Y 5/1 1/7 Y/1.
3ングランク	Unpublished
2)(**(1))	PaP.Cairo. Y £/1 1/77/11
	Unpublished
كودد بو الكاهدام عُ الداركا المدي العادد	Onpublished
かっとりというからから	
WEU 3/2 +14) 3/	PaP.Cairo. Y 5/1 1/Y 7/1 Y
	Unpublished
محود الماخ يك ويم المحرور والمعروري	
, <u>-</u>	PaP.Cairo. 7 5/1 1/77/17
	Unpublished

It seems that $dd - dhwty - iw = f^{-c}nh s + dhwty - ir - ti = s$ carrying two titles, irv? and b3k. The first one iry aA (wn-pr) has raised controversy about its reading as follows:

Problematic of reading:

firstly: (wn-pr reading): **Spiegelberg.W** reads this title as **Wn-pr** in the text "wn-pr p? ".wy htp n p? hb n p? bik". According to **Erichsen.W** for "wn-pr" The front part of the word is usually made of a ligature, whose reading is not immediately understandable, and the word ends with a house determinative. According to vittmann.G" "the Egyptian name for "pastophor" was always read as wn- or wn-pr". **Pestman.P.W**^{†‡} preferred the reading *wn-pr*, because *wn* "opener" without the pr sign is too vague and does not distinguish the "opener" of one "who (discovers the face (of a statue of a god) " wn-hr. So **Pestman.P.W** considered the pr sign as a separate word (phonetic pr) not as a determinative 's. Reymond.E' observed that the title iry-aA was written in the Hieroglyphic inscriptions with Multiple forms, idea of the abbreviation, eliciting that this form implies might show the abbreviated figure of the previous forms. Also **Reymond.E**, added that this abbreviation had an influence on the pronunciation of the title. **Reymond.E** thought that the spelling wn replace the old spelling iry-aA. This situation appears especially in the late period as opposed to the use of both spellings in the new empire. **Reymond.E** v came to the conclusion that the title iry-3 had disappeared of the administrative vocabulary of late period or it would have been replaced by the term wn in demotic documents. In this case (wn-pr reading): According to Otto.W (wn pr) was low ranking priests corresponding to the old Egyptian title

fAi-xnt(?) $^{\text{YA}}$. **El-Aguizy.O** $^{\text{YA}}$ reading the title as wn-pr ,

and thought that he was carrying sand and strew it in front of the temple, and he was doing rituals in the necropolis. Also she added that this title refers to the one who holds the boat of the god in different Processions According to **Griffith** wn means "shrine opener" for ritual libations and offerings to the god (of the necropolis or tomb) and corresponds to the title w3ħ-mw (water-pourer) who was from a similar rank. during the Ptolemaic period the title wn was preferred rather than the title w3ħ-mw. According to **Pestman.P.W**" wn-pr was a mere guardian "that opens the doors of the temple.

<u>Secondly</u>: (iry aA reading): **Zauzich.K.Th**^{rr} read this title as **pA iry aA** instead of wn-pr , He also considered that the previous reading was the result of disorder the alphabet. also **Quack.J.F**^{rs} followed **Zauzich.K.Th**`s reading as **pA-iry aA**

In this case: (iry? reading): This Title was used in demotic and was known since the New-kingdom. According to Meeks.D'' iry -? were playing for at least in the new empire an important role in the economic life of the temples. Their responsibilities very far exceeded the mere guarding the entrance: sticks weapons, they were a sort of stewards, and each year, during the lifting of taxes, accompanied the people of the treasure to force defaulters. According to Hoffmann and Quack, the (iry aA Greek pastophor) is originally someone who is responsible for guarding the house or the temple as a gatekeeper. According to Hoffmann and Quack iry-? may be the correct reading of the demotic word for "Pastophor".

1, \(\text{stm.w n3 hb.w(stm.w (\sections)} \): servant of the ibises \(\text{is} \), the one who hears call.

The Title	Transliteration	Document
ومشرا و درون و ۱۳۰۰ و ۱۳۰۰	nA sDm.w nA hb.w n xmnw	Inv.Nr. ٤٨R.L. Y.(fig. Y)
16.44 June; (4.4.5)	nA sDm.w nA hb.w n xmnw	Inv.Nr ٤٨٢. R.L. ٢.(fig. ٣)
وسرسها والعدابدي والمعادرة	nA sDm.w nA hb.w n xmnw	INV.Nr٤٨٣. R.L.٢.(fig.٤)
على رسالاة الماحدة	stm.w nA hb.w	Leinwand michaelides.L.*\
12152- Sarana-Juna	tA sDm.w n nA hb.w n tmi pA-bwi- Sa	Tongefäß Berlinº/٦٦ (clay pot berlin).L.٤ ^{٤٢}
व्यक्तिमें इस्तायको इस्तिया है।	nA sDm.w nA hb.w n pA - sbtj-n-pA- mr-mSa m- bAH DHwty aA aA nb xmnw	P.Wien D
31m"N 5-7124"	sDm.w n nA	Leinwand BMYTYA£.L.\.''

Throughout three commendation letters (inv.nr. $\xi \wedge \tau$ - inv.nr. $\xi \wedge \tau$ -

demotic period, the $s\underline{dm.w}$ n3 hb.w and $w^cb.w$ n \underline{dhwt} are sent to $\underline{ht-nn-nsw}$ $\underline{s^c}$ p3 \underline{ts} n p3 \underline{jm} . to the districts of Herakleopolis and to the districts of El-fayoum to bring the dead ibises to Hermopoliswest to be buried in pA a.wy Htp (in Gr. ibiotapheion)^{£7}.

The general pA mr-mSa (Inv.nr. ¿AY) 'nh-w3h-ib-r' was responsible for their safe transfer. 'It is worth mentioning that this title was preceded by the definite article(feminine) the document tongefäß Berlin o/17. As

a woman called tA-tj- wsir carried this title at Tuna. This refers to the role of women in the service of the sacred ibis at tuna El-Gebel.

1, ξ. pA TAy (nA) ntrw: holders (Porters) of the gods ^{ελ}. The title occurs on papyrus inv.nr. Enl. (fig. 7) Enly Demotic). p3 t3v (n3) ntrw, were part of the lower clergy. Also they were attached to the animal necropolis p? (.wy htp. pA TAy)(.nA) ntrw should be organized in teams and were part of religious associations . pA TAy (.nA)ntrw were probably responsible for the transport of animal mummies (n3 ntrw) from place of embalming (w^cbt) to the necropolis (the resting place p) 'wy-htp)°'. The gods (n3 ntrw) must have the special sense of "the dead", the physical corpses or mummies". In demotic the noun TAy is always singular. TAy also attested both with and without the definite article p3, the presence or the absence of the article pA is not related to the meaning of a singular or collective. The use of articles p³ and n³ is optional. The term t³vis applied to a person, a "carrier" who, with his colleagues, transported to the cemetery the dead animal. ntr.w the second element is always in plural and it is built with the first word through direct genitive° .

1,0. Bk hr: servant of Horus⁶. This title was mentioned on document TG. οξ ξλήμος

Dated back to the persian period. It seems that the servant of Horus ($Bk \ hr$) was in charge of receiving mummified flacons from the donors to be buried inside the ibiotapheion $^{\circ}$.

This sign k, represents Jabiru bird standing on a wickerwork basket with a handle (phonetic bk k) It seems that the k sign was depicted throughout three movements.

The first movement: drawing the upper slanting line which represents the head and the back line .**The second movement:** drawing an angular shape represents the body line, including the

belly and the feet Line the third movement: the Horizontal line perhaps represents the upper part of the basket, omitting the other parts of the basket and the handle.

Y. Administrative Titles:

The chief priest , Lesonis priest , supervisor/administrator of a temple or cult association ; In Gr. (λασανι, λασωνις) . this title occurs on letter Al-Ashmunein Inv.No.\(\frac{1}{2}\circ{1}{2}\ci

"president", and then "" verwalter"" (administrator), **Erichsen.W** translated it as director, manager, or agent/deputy or guardian. **Kaplony-Heckel.U** translates **rwD** as "geschäftsführer" (manager). **Vittmann.G**, translated it as representative inspectors. **Johnson.J** translated it as an agent. This title was written on letter Inv.No.1500.(fig.0) and TG 17759 it seems that 1795 was responsible for the organization laws, and was also responsible for making the

decisions of the organization and respects it. In the court of justice he is the representative or bailiff of the Greek officer who attends the trials representing the Greek –court. He is the one who reads the decree of Judges TV.

Y. T. p3 mr 3h.w: Johnson. J translated it as overseer of the fields. Spiegelberg. W considered p3 mr 3h.w as a senior official (Minister of Agriculture?) or a field - administrator of the temple. This title occurs twice on document TG TAY'. According to vittmann. $G^{(1)}$ mr 3h was responsible for the central administration, confiscation of farmland, the treasury official, and the appointment of officials. More and above, p3 mr 3h(w) seems to have been attached to the administration of the htpw-ntr and the "endowed estate" of the temple and acted as the subordinate of the $mr-5n^{(1)}$. The income from specials field endowments, called "fields of the Ibis' was attributed to sustain the local institution of the ibiotapheion, and parts were used for the feeding of the sacred animals, and partly for the group of priests and servants responsible for the animals upkeep".

Y, ξ . hr-ntr n p3 'wi-htp n p3 hb p3 '\(\cap n\) nti p3 imnt n hmnw.: stonemason \(\cap \xi\), stone cutter \(\cap \cap \) of the rest place of the Ibis and the baboon which is in the west of Hermopolis \(\cap \xi\).

According to the papyrus PaP. Cairo. $7 \frac{\xi}{1} \frac{1}{1} \frac{1}{$

and baboon in Hermopolis-west.

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Y,o. \underline{sh} (n) \underline{Ghwty} : the Writer of \underline{dhwty} , occurs on Pottery coffin TG. $\underline{VV9} + \underline{VVA}$. Also on TG \underline{VOY} . It seems that \underline{sh} (n) \underline{dhwty} was responsible for receiving the dead ibises and baboons from the servants (\underline{sdm} - \underline{v}) and registering their

numbers. All scribes may have been under control of the local leader of the ibis Community ^{vq}.

on Document TG TVTY 6 dated back to late Ptolemaic period. "Scribe of the resting-place" might be identical with the "scribe of the temple (and) the resting-place. The "scribe of the resting-place" was a member of the ibis organization; he was interested in the affairs of the organization and of the oracle system."

To Sum: Tuna El-Gebel Necropolis (the underground Gallery, the ibiotapheion, pA aw.y Htp) was considered the first Egyptian ibis burial place where thousands of ibises and other sacred animals were buried. The sacred animals were living in m3rw, after death, the mummies were taken to the w'b.t "purification (room)," where they were mummified wrapped in linen, and placed into jars prior to deposition in the p3 'wy htp.

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Figures







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Fig.\.Inv.nr.٤٨. Inv.nr.٤٨٣

Fig. ۲. Inv.nr. ٤٨١

Fig. T. Inv.nr. ٤ ٨ ٢ Fig. ٤

(O.M. El-Hussein zeghloul, frühdemotische urkunden aus Hermopolis, cairo vol,II, Bcps ۱٩٨٥.)





Fig. 7. PaP. Cairo. 75/11/17/7 Fig. V.

(Ebeid.M., JEA ٩٨, ٢٠١٢)

(Farid.A, CASAE, \(\frac{\pi}{2}\), FS. Radwan.A (Cairo, \(\frac{\pi}{2}\)).







Fig. A. P.Louvre. E. TTTT

Fig. 9. P.Louvre.E. ٣٣٣٤

Fig. 1. Limestone block inv.nr. \\\\/\/\oA

(Ray .J., $RdE ^{\dagger q}$, $^{\dagger q \lor q}$) (Ebeid.M, $BIFAO ^{\dagger \lor \land}$, $^{\dagger \lor \lor \land}$) (Ray.J, RdE. Υ 9, Υ 9)

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