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ABSTRACT
This research paper publishes a painted limestone statue of an official called Imby. It was discovered by Selim Hassan in association with Cairo University during the excavation at the Giza Necropolis. It is currently displayed at the Museum of the Faculty of Archaeology- Cairo University - no.597-68. Imby is sitting on a cubic seat, wearing a short black wig, a long necklace, and a loincloth, his mustache is a thin black line. His left forearm rests upon his left thigh with an opened hand, palm downwards, while his right forearm rests on his right thigh with the hand closed. On both sides of Imby's legs, his name and titles are inscribed in two vertical lines of hieroglyphs on the front of the stool. Imby was an official in the Sixth Dynasty during the reign of Pepi II.

KEYWORDS
Old Kingdom - Sixth Dynasty - Giza Necropolis - Statue – Imby - The Overseer of ka-servants of the king's mother - The inspector of the royal palace - The inspector of the attendants of the royal palace.
INTRODUCTION:
One of the most important excavations in Giza was carried out by Selim Hassan in association with Cairo University.¹ Season 1929-1930’s excavations included the whole of the great tomb of the Sem-priest Rawer and seventeen Old Kingdom mastabas lying to the east-west, and south of the tomb. Eleven of these mastabas were built for officials. One of these tombs is the partly rock-cut and partly stone-built tomb of Imby and his wife Nefert². Imby was an official of the 6th Dynasty during the reign of Pepi II. Imby's tomb contained a fine sarcophagus. Moreover, his tomb contained an array of vessels and offering tables, and stands’ models. The most valuable objects found in this tomb were a false door of the deceased and his wife, and this seated statue from the serdab.³

DESCRIPTION: (pls.1-7, fig.1-2)
The limestone painted statue of Imby is 68 cm high and 26 cm wide across the shoulders. It is currently preserved in the Museum of the Faculty of Archaeology- Cairo University, no.597-68. Imby is sitting on a cubic seat, wearing a short black wig, a collar, and a loincloth. His skin is red, his eyebrows and eyelashes are black, and his mustache is a thin black line. His left forearm rests up on his left thigh with an open hand, palm downwards, while his right forearm rests on his right thigh with the hand closed. The legs and feet are slightly separated from one another. An error is noticeable in the left toe’s carving. This error is seen in their lengths and orientation. Furthermore, the nails of two fingers were not depicted on the right foot. On the front of the stool on both sides of Imby's legs, his name and titles are incised.

³Hassan, *Excavations in Gîza*, I, 91-5, figs. 154, 159- 60; *PM*, III , 284-5.
The text on the right side:

*Fig. 1. Facsimile of the text on the right side of Imby's statue*

`imi-r3 hm-k3 mwt-nswt ṛḥt-nsw tḥd pr-ḳ3 Imby`

“The Overseer of *ka*-servants of the king's mother, the Royal acquaintance, the Inspector of the royal palace Imby”

The text on the left side:

*Fig. 2 Facsimile of the text on the left side of Imby's statue*

`sḥḏ ḫnt-š pr-ḳ3 nb ḫmr ḫw r nb.f Imby`

“The Inspector of the attendants of the royal palace, the Possessor of honour before His Lord, Imby”
ANALYSIS:

- The symbolic meaning of the tomb and the statue in ancient Egyptian religion.

Tombs had two important functions: Protecting the body of the deceased and the funerary cult’s location.1 As it symbolises the Duat, the tomb was a liminal space, from one world to another.2 It helped the dead to proceed towards rebirth.3 The Egyptians included in their tombs statues that acted as physical repositories for the spirit and material representation of the individual. Each statue became a real being able to accept offerings and prayers through the opening of the mouth’s ritual.4 The Egyptians assumed that the dead would continue to live within the tomb5, and his ka passed through the statue of the dead in the serdab to benefit from the offerings in the tomb chapel.6

-The name, titles, and epithets of Imby:

Imby’s name is written in its complete form several times in his tomb; for instance, on a lintel, a panel, and an inner lintel of the false door from his mastaba7, On the other hand, on his statue, his name appears as קק.

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7Hassan, S., Excavations in Giza, I, 92.fig.155, 94.fig. 158.

DOI: 10.21608/shedet.2022.248910
The name of Imby was common during the Old Kingdom, commonly found in Giza, and Qubbet el-Hawa. It was sometimes a nickname.

Imby has many titles and epithets:

1-  개념-3 hmw-k3 mwt-nswt
2-  stw-nsw(t)
3-  shd pr-53
4-  shd hnt- ś pr-53
5-  nb imḥw ḫr nb.f

1-imy-r3 hmw-k3 mwt-nswt
the Overseer of ka-Servants of the King’s Mother

With the rise of pyramid complexes and their associated towns, the role of ka-servants, mainly related to the tomb, increased in importance. They were heavily engaged in daily jobs in the tomb, carrying and transporting tomb equipment, bringing food offerings and the material needed for rituals. They also worked in the tomb endowment, towns, and states. The ka-servants acts on behalf of the deceased and his family in the necropolis and manages and maintains the eternal house of the dead.

The title “The Overseer ka-servants of the king's mother”, it was common in the Old Kingdom, especially in the Giza necropolis. For instances, are also known:

-Iteti in Giza (LG 68) the Overseer of the ka-servants of the King’s mother, dating to the 5th or 6th Dynasty.
Akhtihotp, the Overseer of the ka-servants of the king's mother, also dating to the 5th or 6th Dynasty. In some cases, all the family members served as overseers of the ka-servants of the king's mother. In the family of ḫṯj-ḥtp they were all "Overseer of the ka-servants of the king's mother". His wife Nj-k3w-hthr, was also an (imj-r3 ḥmw-k3 nỉ mwt nswt), being a female Overseer of the ka-servants of the king’s mother, whereas his mother Psṭ was (imj (t)-r3 ḥmw-k3 [mwt nswt], a female Overseer of the ka-servants of the king's mother. ⁴

2- ṭ nb nswt

_rb nswt_ was a common title from the Old Kingdom. ⁵ Its most common meaning is known to the king. It refers to people who worked close to the king, were related to the king’s affairs, wealth and worship. ⁶

3- "sd pr-r5" "The inspector of the palace":

This title first appears in the late Old Kingdom, perhaps from the reign of Djedkare Izezi or Unais. ⁸ It was common in Giza, ⁹ Saqqara, ¹⁰ and Dahshur Necropolises. ¹¹

4-ṣd ḥnt-š pr-r5

Before the ⁵th Dynasty, ¹² no ḥntjw-š is attested ¹³ but during the ⁶th Dynasty, it become widespread and remained in use until the 18th Dynasty. ¹⁴ This title ḥnt-š pr-r5 is believed to be:

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¹ Reisner, _Giza Necropolis, I_, 243; _LD I, 89_; _PM III, 210._
² Hassan, _Excavations in Giza, I_, 73-86.
³ There are many examples of women who served as “Ka-servants”, ḥmw-k3, Allam, S., “Le ḥm-k3 était-il exclusivement un prêtre funéraire?”, in: _RdE_ 36, (1985), 1-15.
⁴Hassan, S., _Excavations in Giza, I_, 73-86. Figs. 132 133, 136, 139, 142; Romanova, O., Two Wab-priests and the Identity of an Unknown King’s Mother of the Old Kingdom. In: _Vestnik Drevney Istoriyi_, n°. 2 (265), (2008), 88-97.
⁵ Fischer, H.G., _Egyptian Studies I, Varia, New York_, (1976), 8, nr.15.
⁷ Jones, _Index of Ancient Egyptian Titles, Epithets and Phrases of the Old Kingdom_, 327-328, n° 1206.
⁹ Curto, S., _Gli scavi italiani a el-Ghiza_, Roma: Centro per le Anichita e la Storia dell'Arte del Vicino Oriente, (1963), 34-39, 42-46; Wilson, A. M., _Pure Ones: The W.Weight and W.Weight from the Old Kingdom to the end of the Middle Kingdom_; A Thesis Submitted to the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, Psychology, and Egyptology in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts, The American University in Cairo, (2014), 55; _PM III, 145._
¹³ Matthew, J.A., _The Title ḥntj-wj in the Old Kingdom_, p.91; for the discussions about dating the title see: Kanawati, N., _Governmental Reforms in Old Kingdom Egypt_, Warminster: Aris and Phillips Ltd, (1980), 11 ff; Baer, K., _Rank and Title in the Old Kingdom_. _The Structure of the Egyptian Administration in the Fifth and...
- Related to royalty and is potentially associated with the royal bodyguards.  
- Perhaps the main preoccupation of the lower levels of “tenant-landholders”.  
- Other proposed translations are “landowner” and “tenant farmer”.  
- “Deputy to the pyramid / palace working life”.  
- It could be translated as the inhabitants of the royal palace and of the pharaoh’s pyramid complex palace.  
- Translated as the palace attendants, whether in life as hnt-š pr-ṣ3 or death as hnt-š pr-ṣ3 of a pyramid complex palace.

The title hnt-š was qualified through the reference to a building rather than a person, either to the palace (pr-ṣ3) or to the temple palace of a king.

Types of the hntyw-š:

A-The hntyw-š pr-ṣ3 of the Palace:

hntyw-š pr-ṣ3. The attendants of the palace were the persons who served the king in the private parts of the palace. They were responsible for taking care of the king, overseeing

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1 WB III, 310; Baer, Rank and Title in the Old Kingdom, 272–73.


9 The term pr-ṣ3 is synonymous to the king’s actual living quarters, and pr-ṣ3 staffs were also involved in the king’s everyday life and his immediate family. See: Goetel, O., Two Aspects of the Royal Palace in the Egyptian Old Kingdom. Unpublished Ph.D. (Columbia University, 1982), 64-65,534 ff; Id., “The Nature of the Term pr-ṣ3 during the Old Kingdom”, in: Bulletin of the Egyptological Seminar 10 (1989/90), 77-90.

10 PM III2, 145, 174, 238; Matthew, The Title hntyw-š in the Old Kingdom, 89ff.
his toilet, clothing, and meals, tending to his comfort, entertaining him. They were his chefs, food tasters, private musicians, and others. They were also supervisors of different departments and managers of the king’s personal properties. All the ranks ofḥnt-š pr-⟨⟩⟨⟩ are a clear indication that they had functionality in the daily life of the king and administrative roles in the bureaucracy of the king’s finances. They were the closest servants to the king both in physical space and in confidence. They may have had more importance than their counterpart at the pyramid complex.

The title šḥd ḫnt-š pr-⟨⟩⟨⟩ refers to a chain of commands and hierarchy among the palace attendants. The major supervisory ranks of ḫnt-š pr-⟨⟩⟨⟩ in the descending order of series are

- ḥmj-r ḫntjw-š pr-⟨⟩⟨⟩ “The overseer of palace attendants”.
- ḥmj-r ṣt ḫntjw-š pr-⟨⟩⟨⟩ “The assistant overseer of palace attendants”.
- šḥd ḫntjw-š pr-⟨⟩⟨⟩ “The inspector of palace attendants”.
- ḥmj-ḥt ḫntjw-š pr-⟨⟩⟨⟩ “The assistant inspector of palace attendants”.

Some individuals held some or all of these titles, indicating that they were promoted.

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- šḥd ḫntjw-š pr-⟨⟩⟨⟩ “The inspector of palace attendants”.
- ḥmj-ḥt ḫntjw-š pr-⟨⟩⟨⟩ “The assistant inspector of palace attendants”.

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The title šḥd ḫntj-š spread during the 5th and 6th Dynasties in Giza, Dahshur, Saqqara, and Abu Sir.

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2 Matthew, The Title ḫntj-š in the Old Kingdom, 64ff.
3 Goequier, Two Aspects of the Royal Palace in the Egyptian Old Kingdom, 53ff.
4 Matthew, The Title ḫntj-š in the Old Kingdom, 89.
6 Matthew, The Title ḫntj-š in the Old Kingdom, 11.
9 Kanawati, The Egyptian Administration in the Old Kingdom, 85; PM III I: 1, 134.
10 For example “Kasemu” from Dyn. V-VI, Giza West: G 5340 held the titles, šḥd ḫntj-š pr-⟨⟩⟨⟩, ḥmj-r ṣt ḫntj-š pr-⟨⟩⟨⟩, ḥmj-ḥt ḫntj-š pr-⟨⟩⟨⟩; see: Kanawati, The Egyptian Administration in the Old Kingdom, 111.
11 Examples of officials held all or some of these titles include ḥmj-ḥt ḫntj-š pr-⟨⟩⟨⟩, ḥmj-r ṣt ḫntj-š pr-⟨⟩⟨⟩, šḥd ḫntj-š pr-⟨⟩⟨⟩ see: PM III I: 629; Kanawati, Teti vol II 25-29, 43-46; PM III I: 126; PM III I: 518.
12 Whb, III, 311, 2.
The title $\text{hntyw-š n pr-3}$ appeared regularly throughout the Giza’s Western Cemetery mastaba field. Several officials bear the title or one of its supervisory variants. It is noteworthy that none are known from the Eastern Cemetery in any period.

B-The $\text{hntyw-š pr-3}$ of the pyramid city:

The $\text{hntyw-š}$ of the pyramid’s duty is the transaction of the cult for the deceased king in the royal mortuary temples. The pyramid $\text{hntyw-š pr-3}$ were responsible for clothing, adorning, and purifying the cult statues. They did for the dead king the services performed for the living king in the palace by those with the same title. The $\text{hntyw-š}$ of a pyramid only represented a very low social category without any title and monumental tomb, which lived in the cities built around the pyramid valley temples.


2 PM III$^+$ II 3,891; PM III$^+$ II , 3, 892; Kanawati, The Egyptian Administration in the Old Kingdom, 115.

3 PM III$^+$ II, 630; PM III$^+$ II, 568; PM III$^+$ II: 629; PM III$^+$ II:518; Kanawati, The Egyptian Administration in the Old Kingdom, 97; Kanawati, Teti vol II, 7,11,25,29,43-46.

4Matthew, J.A., The Title $\text{hnty-š}$ in the Old Kingdom,119.


8The title “$\text{hnty-š}$ of the pyramid” is documented from at least the early 5th Dynasty although this title could be traced back to the very beginning of the 4th Dynasty when the first monumental pyramids were erected, Baud, La date d’apparition des $\text{hnty-š}$”,13-28.


11Matthew, The Title $\text{hnty-š}$ in the Old Kingdom, 6; Borchardt, L., “Ein Königsrass aus Dahschur.”,in: ZÄS 42, (1905), 4.

12The $\text{hntyw-š}$ were not documented either in the temples of the gods or in private funerary cult before the Middle Kingdom, Roth, A.M., “The Distribution of the Old Kingdom Title $\text{hnty-š}$ ”, in: SAK Beiheft 4 (1991), 184.


Imby held two titles related to the king and the royal palace, which confirms that some titles of the Old Kingdom officials provided some data for the study of the royal court in the Old Kingdom.

5-nb jm\textit{i}hw hr nb.f “The possessor of honour before His Lord”.

Epithets and titles are used before the name to emphasise the holder's personal relationship with the king or a god. The epithet nb jm\textit{i}hw hr is usually considered a simple honorary title shows that the connection between its holder and the honoured one. This epithet was commonly recorded at the beginning of almost all the funerary offering formulas of the Old Kingdom before the real sequence of titles. This title was not limited to the dead only, as it was also carried by the living ones.

This title exists in the form nb jm\textit{i}hw.w hr nb.f, “the possessor of honour before His Lord” or without “ nb” jm\textit{i}hw.w nb. f, “the revered one before His Lord”, who was in the Old


The actual palace of the king, his place of residence is designated by the term pr-\textit{i}. The titles of some officials, who were entrusted with the personal service of the king were connected with the pr-\textit{i}. Ogden, G., The Nature of the Term pr-\textit{i} during the Old Kingdom, Bulletin of the Egyptological Seminar, (1990), 10, 77, 90; Lange-Athinedor, E., Palaces of the Ancient Mind: The Textual Record versus Archaeological Evidence, (2018), 39-62; Brunner, H., “Der Bekannte des Königs”, in: SAK 1, (1974), 55-60.

\textit{Uni} Bastions, G., King and Officials in the Old Kingdom, Conference organized within the SNS-Project (2019), 6.


8 Nuzzolo, The Vth Dynasty Sun Temples Personnel, 300.


DOI: 10.21608/shedet.2022.248910
Kingdom, usually the king or the ‘great god’\(^1\). Sometimes, *nb jm\(\dot{\imath}\)hw \(hr\) nswt “ the possessor possessor of honour before the king” or nb jm\(\dot{\imath}\)hw \(hr\) ntr \(^3\), “ the possessor of honor before the great god”, and nb jm\(\dot{\imath}\)h,w associated with a god’s name are mentioned clearly. Accordingly, *nb*f may indicate a god or a king. The one mentioned in Imby’s title probably referred to the king as he held titles functions related to the king and his palace. This is supported by the officials who held both titles jm\(\dot{\imath}\)h,w \(hr\) ntr \(^3\) and jm\(\dot{\imath}\)h,w \(hr\) nb.f. It may imply that ntr \(^3\) indicated the god, while nb*f meant the king.\(^2\)

**DATING:**

The statue is dated to the late 6\(^{th}\) Dynasty as Imby was an official during the reign of Pepi II. Technically, the sculpting of the statue’s \(^1\) and the style of the wig and the kilt resemble those that appeared in the late 5\(^{th}\) Dynasty and became common during the 6\(^{th}\) Dynasty.\(^4\) The titles which he held related to the function hntyw-\(s\) pr-\(^3\), and the \(hm-k3\) servants, who share similar tasks \(^5\) related to serving the king’s ka\(^6\) were common in the late 6\(^{th}\) Dynasty,\(^7\) Dynasty.

**SUMMARY:**

This research paper addresses the publication of the statue of Imby from Giza. It was discovered by Selim Hassan in association with Cairo University during the excavation in Giza Necropolis. It is currently displayed at the Museum of the Faculty of Archaeology-Cairo University. Imby is portrayed sitting on a cubic seat, wearing a short black wig, and a long necklace. His left forearm rests upon his left thigh with an opened hand, while his right forearm rests on his right thigh with the hand closed. The legs and feet are slightly separated from one another, noting that there is an error in the method the left toe is carved. On the front of the seat on both sides of Imby’s legs, there are his name and titles. He held the following titles:

1. **imy-r3 \(hm-k3\) mwt-nswt** “ The Overseer of ka-servants of the king’s mother”
2. **rht-nsw(t)** “Royal acquaintance”

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\(^7\)Roth, “ The Distribution of the Old Kingdom Title *hnty-\(s\)”, 177-186; Matthew, The Title *hnty-\(s\)* in the Old Kingdom, 43; Kanawati, *The Egyptian Administration in the Old Kingdom*, 85; *PM III* 1,134.
The way of sculpting the statue, and the titles which he held illustrated that Imby was an official in the 6th Dynasty during the reign of Pepi II. The statue is certainly dated to the late 6th Sixth in the reign of Pepi II.

3- *shdj pr-rt* “The inspector of the palace”.
4- *shdj hnt-s pr-rt* “The inspector of palace attendants”.
5- *nb im3hw hr nb f* “The possessor of honour before His Lord”.

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PLATES

Pl. 1 The statue of Imby

Pl. 2 The upper part of the statue
Pl. 3 The lower part of the statue

Pl. 4 The back of the statue

Pl. 5 The side of the statue
Pl.6 The inscriptions beside the right leg

Pl.7 The inscriptions beside the left leg