

THE STATUE OF *IMBY* IN THE MUSEUM OF THE FACULTY OF ARCHEOLOGY- CAIRO UNIVERSITY (NO.597- 68).

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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.

المخلص

يتعلق موضوع البحث بنشر تمثال لموظف يدعى امبى ، عُثر عليه فى جبانة الجيزة أثناء حفائر سليم حسن بالتعاون مع جامعة القاهرة، والتمثال محفوظ حالياً بمتحف كلية الآثار- جامعة القاهرة تحت رقم ٥٩٧ - ٦٨. يُصور امبى جالساً على مقعد قصير مرتدياً نقبة قصيرة وباروكة شعر قصيرة ويظهر بشارب اسود رفيع ، يضع ذراعه الأيسر على ساقه بيد مبسوطة، فى حين يضع ذراعه الأيمن بيد مقبوضة على الساق ، وسُجل على المقعد على جانبي الساقين نصين رأسيين بهما إسم امبى والقابه، و كان امبى موظفاً من عصر الدولة القديمة فى فترة حكم الملك بيبى الثانى.

الكلمات الدالة

الدولة القديمة - الأسرة السادسة - جبانة الجيزة - تمثال - إمبى - قرابين - المُشرف على خدم كا الأم الملكية - مُفتش القصر الملكى - مُفتش قاطنى القصر الملكى.

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 upon 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.

¹Hassan,S., *Excavations in Giza*. 10 vols, Oxford and Cairo:Oxford University Press;Government Press, Bulâq; Government Press, Cairo;General Organisation for Government Printing Offices, (1932-1960).

²Imby is not identical with Mer-ptah-ankh Ptahshepses Impy, the son of Nekhebu. Nekhebu's son was "count, overseer of all works of the king, royal master builder in both houses, overseer of the two workshops"; For the latter, see recently: Brovarski, E., *The Senedjemib Complex*, Part 1: The Mastabas of Senedjemib Inti (G 2370), Khnumenti (G 2374), and Senedjemib Mehi (G 2378). *Giza Mastabas 7*, Boston, Museum of Fine Arts, (2003), 33-34; Reisner, G. A., *New Acquisitions of the Egypt Department* Boston, Museum of Fine Arts Bulletin I, (1913), 58ff; Reisner, G. A. & Smith, W.S., *A History of the Giza Necropolis*, 1, Cambridge, Mass, (1955), 54ff; Reisner, G.A., Harvard/MFA Expedition, Book XI reg. 1922-23 Sudan par Mero, Bagarawiya (1923b),178-80; for more see: Brovarski, E., "The Senedjemib Complex at Giza: An Interim Report" *L'Égyptologie en 1979. Axes prioritaires de recherches*, tome II. *Colloques Internationaux du Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique No. 595*, Paris: Éditions du Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, (1982), 115-121; Id., "The Senedjemib Complex at Giza: Report on the February-March 1999 Field Season of the Giza Mastabas Project.", in: *ASAE* 76, (2001), 65-72.

³ Hassan, *Excavations in Giza*, 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

imy-r3 hm-k3 mwt-nsw rht-nsw shd pr-3 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

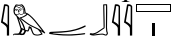

shd hnt-š pr-3 nb im3hw hr nb.f Imby

“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 .

¹Kanawati, N., *Tombs at Giza*, Volume 1, Australian Centre for Egyptology Studies, (2001), 6; Hays, H.M., "Unreading the Pyramids", in: *BIFAO* 109, (2009), pp. 195-198; Baines, J & Lacovara, P., "Burial and the dead in ancient Egyptian Society", in: *Journal of Social Archaeology*, (2002), 5-36; For more see: Taylor, J.H., *Death and the Afterlife in Ancient Egypt*, London & British Museum Press, (2001)

²Baines, J. & Lacovara, P., *Burial and the Dead in Ancient Egyptian Society*, p.16; Nicole, A., "Tomb and Social Status. The Textual Evidence", in: Miroslav Bárta, ed. *The Old Kingdom Art and Archaeology. Proceedings of the Conference held in Prague, May 31-June 4, 2004*. Prague, Czech Institute of Egyptology, (2006), 1-8.

³Allen, J.P., "Genesis in Egypt. The Philosophy of Ancient Egyptian Creation Accounts", in: *YES* 2, (1988), 6-7, 56-57; Id., "The Cosmology of the Pyramid Texts", in: *W.K. Simpson (ed.), Religion and Philosophy in Ancient Egypt*, in: *YES* 3, (1989), 21-25; Beaux, N., "La douat dans les Textes des Pyramides. Espace et temps de gestation", in: *BIFAO* 94, (1994), 1-6; Bickel, S., "Die Jenseitsfahrt des Re nach Zeugen der Sargtexte", in: *A. Brodbeck (ed.), Ein Ägyptisches Glasperlenspiel, Ägyptologische Beiträge für Erik Hornung aus seinem Schülerkreis*, Berlin, (1998), 55-56; Milde, H., "Going out into Day", *Ancient Egyptian Beliefs and Practices concerning Death* in: J.M. Bremer et al. (eds.), *Hidden Futures. Death and Immortality in Ancient Egypt, Anatolia, the Classical, Biblical and Arabic-Islamic World, Symposium, University of Amsterdam*, December 1992, Amsterdam, (1994), 23 n. 22; Hays, *Unreading the Pyramids*, 195-220; for more see: Spencer, A.J., *Death in Ancient Egypt*, Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, (1982).

⁴Brovarski, E., *False Doors and History, The First Intermediate Period and Middle Kingdom*, the Old Kingdom Art and Archaeology Proceedings of the Conference held in Prague, May 31-June 4, (2004), 19.

⁵Baines, J & Eyre, C.J., "Four Notes on Literacy", *Göttinger Miszellen*, (1983), 65-67; Butzer, K.W., *Early Hydraulic Civilization in Egypt: A Study in Cultural Ecology*, Chicago, IL and London: University of Chicago Press, (1976), 76-80; O'Connor, D., "A Regional Population in Egypt to circa 600 BC" in: *B. Spooner (ed.) Population Growth: Anthropological Implications*, Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, (1972), 81-3.

⁶Anderson, J. B., "The tomb owner at the offering table", in: *Donovan, L. & McCorquodale, K. (eds), Egyptian art: principles and themes in wall scenes*, Cairo, (2000), 129; Kanawati, N., *Tombs at Giza*, pp. 58-59; Bolshakov, A.O., *Man and His Double in Egyptian Ideology of the Old Kingdom*, Agypten Und Altes Testament, (1997), 50; Peter, J., "The Tombs of Officials. Houses of Eternity", in: *Egyptian Art in the Age of the Pyramids. New York*, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, (1999), 26-39; Martin, F., *Statue und Kult: Eine Studie der funerären Praxis an nichtköniglichen Grabanlagen der Residenz im Alten Reich Bd.1: Text. Internet-Beiträge zur Ägyptologie und Sudanarchäologie 3*. Berlin: Lepsius-Institut, Humboldt-Universität zu, Berlin, (2001); Id., *Statue und Kult: Eine Studie der funerären Praxis an nichtköniglichen Grabanlagen der Residenz im Alten Reich, Bd. 2: Belegtabellen. Internet-Beiträge zur Ägyptologie und Sudanarchäologie 3*. Berlin: Lepsius-Institut, Humboldt-Universität zu, Berlin, (2001).

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

The name of Imby was common during the Old Kingdom,¹ commonly found in Giza,² Saqqara³, and Qubbet el-Hawa.⁴ It was sometimes a nickname.⁵

Imby has many titles and epithets:

- 1- *imy-r3 hmw-k3 mwt-nswt*
- 2- *rht-nsw(t)*
- 3- *shd pr-ꜥ3*
- 4- *shd hnt-š pr-ꜥ3*
- 5- *nb im3hw hr nb.f*

1-*imy-r3 hmw-k3 mwt-nswt*⁶ "the Overseer of *ka*-Servants of the King's Mother"⁷

With the rise of pyramid complexes and their associated towns,⁸ 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.⁹ 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.¹⁰

The title "The Overseer *ka*-servants of the king's mother", it was common in the Old Kingdom, especially in the Giza necropolis.¹¹ 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 Dynasty¹.

¹*P.N*, I, 26,13; Maddin, R& Stech, T& Muhly J.D & Brovarski.E., " Old Kingdom Models from the Tomb of Imby: Metallurgical Studies ", in: *JEA* 70 (1984), 33-41; *PM*, III², 569.

²Hölscher, *Das Grabdenkmal des Königs Chephren*, 112-14; *PM*, III 292.

³*PM*, III, 626; *PM* III², 610.

⁴De Borah, V., *Community and Identity in Ancient Egypt, the Old Kingdom Cemetery at Qubbet el-Hawa*, Cambridge, (2015), 270.

⁵Reisner, G. A., *Giza Necropolis*, I, fig. 27, 89, 153 [17]; Cuno, J. (Ed.), *A Decade of Collecting: Recent Acquisitions by the Harvard University Art Museums*, Harvard University Art Museums, Cambridge, (2000), 21.

⁶All the Old Kingdom examples of *mwt nswt bjtj* are queens that appear to have been mothers of kings who ascended the throne after some disruption to the normal pattern of patrilinear descent, Callender, V.G., "A Contribution to Discussion on the Title of *s3t ntr*", in: *SAK* 18, (1991), 96-97; For more information about the royal mother in the Old Kingdom, see: Baud, M., "Les formes du titre de 'mère royale' à l'Ancien Empire", in: *BIFAO* 96, (1996); Id., *Famille royale et pouvoir sous l'Ancien Empire Égyptien*, tome 1, *Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale Bibliothèque D'Étude* 126/1, (1999), 193.

⁷Hassan, *Excavations in Giza*, I, 91-95. Figs. 55-158, Pl. LVI (2, 1; 3), LVII; *PM* III² 1, 284-285.

⁸Matthew, J.A., *The Title hntj-š in the Old Kingdom*, A Thesis in History, The Pennsylvania State University, (2003), 99; For more information about the servants of the Ka, see: Reisner, G. A., "The Servants of the Ka", in: *Bulletin of the Museum of Fine Arts* 32, no. 189 February, (1934), 1-12; Nuzzolo, M., "The Vth Dynasty Sun Temples Personnel: An Overview of Titles and Cult Practice Through the Epigraphic Evidence", in: *SAK* 39, (2010), 289-312.

⁹Bárta, M. E. A., *Abusir XIII. Tomb complex of the vizier Qar, his sons Qar Junior and Senedjemib, and Iykai. Abusir South 2*, Prague: Czech Institute of Egyptology, (2009), 25-30; Schneider, H.D., *Shabtis: An Introduction to the History of Ancient Egyptian Funerary Statuettes with a Catalogue of the Collection of Shabtis in the National Museum of Antiquities at Leiden*, (1977), 14.

¹⁰Strudwick, N., *Texts from the Pyramid Age*, R. Leprohon (ed.), Atlanta, (2005), 110-115, 194, 198, 201-204; Menu, B & Harari, I., "La notion de propriété privée dans l'Ancien Empire Égyptien", in: *CRIPPEL* 2, (1974), 127-154; Helck, W., "Wirtschaftliche Bemerkungen zum privaten Grabbesitz im Alten Reich", in: *MDAIK* 14, (1956), 63-75; Eyre, C.J., *Weni's Career and Old Kingdom Historiography*, in: C.J. Eyre/A. Leahy/L. Montagnolo Leahy (eds.), *The Unbroken Reed. Studies in the Culture and Heritage of Ancient Egypt in Honour of A.F. Shore*, London, (1994), 107-110.

¹¹ *PM*, III, 1, 185-6

-Akhtihotp, the Overseer of the *ka*-servants of the king's mother, also dating to the 5th or 6th Dynasty.²

In some cases, all the family members served as overseers of the *ka*-servants of the king's mother. In the family of *3htj-htp* they were all "Overseer of the *ka*-servants of the king's mother". His wife *Nj-k3w-htthr*, was also an (*imj-r3 hmw-k3 nw mwt nswt*),³ being a female Overseer of the *ka*-servants of the king's mother, whereas his mother *Psst* was (*imj (t)-r3 hmw-k3 [mwt nswt]*), a female Overseer of the *ka*-servants of the king's mother.⁴

2- *rḥ nswt*

rḥ nswt was a common title from the Old Kingdom.⁵ Its most common meaning is known to the king.⁶ It refers to people who worked close to the king, were related to the king's affairs, wealth and worship.⁷

3- "*shd pr -ʿ3* "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- *shd hnt-š pr- ʿ3*

Before the 5th Dynasty,¹² no *hntjw-š* is attested¹³ but during the 6th Dynasty, it become widespread and remained in use until the 18th Dynasty.¹ This title *hnt-š pr-ʿ3* is believed to be:

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", *hmwt-k3*, Allam, S., "Le *hm-k3* était-il exclusivement un prêtre funéraire?", in: *RdE* 36, (1985), 1-15.

⁴ Hassan, 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.

⁶ Helck, W., "Titel und Titulaturen", in: *LÄ* VI, (1986), cols. 596-601.

⁷ Jones, *An Index of Ancient Egyptian Titles, Epithets and Phrases of the Old Kingdom*, 327-328, n° 1206.

⁸ Baud, M., "La date d'apparition des *hntjw-š*", in: *BIFAO* 96 (1996), 13-49; Baer, K., *Rank and Title in the Old Kingdom*, Chicago, (1960), 272-273.

⁹ Curto, S., *Gli scavi italiani a el-Ghiza*, Roma: Centro per le Antichità e la Storia dell'Arte del Vicino Oriente, (1963), 34-39, 42-46; Wilson, A. M., *Pure Ones: The W⁶B and W⁶BT 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; *P.M* III,145.

¹⁰ Jones, *An Index of Ancient Egyptian Titles*, 924-925, no. 3401; Jing, W., "The Iconography of Family Members in Egypt's Elite Tombs of the Old Kingdom", *Publicly Accessible Penn*, (2018), 451.

¹¹ Wilson, A.M., *Pure Ones: The W⁶B and W⁶BT from the Old Kingdom to the end of the Middle Kingdom*, 60; Fakhry, A., *The Monuments of Sneferu at Dahshur II*, Cairo: General Organization for Govt. Print. Offices, (1961), 10-11; Id., "The Excavation of Sneferu's Monuments at Dahshur: Second Preliminary Report", in: *ASAE* 52, (1952), 589; Aplony, P. K., *Rollsiegel II A*, 412-413; There is another expression of this title see: Barta, M., "The Title Inspector of the Palace during the Egyptian Old Kingdom", in: *Archiv Orientalní* 67, (1999).

¹² For *hnty-š* in the 4th ? and 5th Dynasties, see: Brovarski, E., "The Washerman of the God Senenu," in *The Realm of the Pharaohs: Essays in Honor of Tohfah Handoussa*, Vol. 1, ed. by Zahi A. Hawass, Khaled A. Daoud and Sawsan Abd el-Fattah, Supplément aux Annales du Service des Antiquités de l'Égypte, Cahier No 37, Cairo: Conseil Suprême des Antiquités de l'Égypte, (2008), 161.

¹³ Matthew, J.A., The Title *hntj-š* 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.²
- Perhaps the main preoccupation of the lower levels of “tenant-landholders”.³
- Other proposed translations are “landowner” and “tenant farmer”.⁴
- “Deputy to the pyramid / palace working life”.⁵
- It could be translated as the inhabitants of the royal palace and of the pharaoh’s pyramid complex palace.⁶
- Translated as the palace attendants, whether in life as *hnt -š pr-ꜥ3* or death as *hnt-š pr-ꜥ3* of a pyramid complex palace.⁷

The title *hnt -š* was qualified through the reference to a building rather than a person, either to the palace (*pr-ꜥ3*) or to the temple palace of a king.⁸

Types of the *hntyw-š*:

A-The *hntyw-š pr-ꜥ3* of the Palace:

hntyw-š pr-ꜥ3.⁹ The attendants of the palace were the persons who served the king in the private parts of the palace.¹⁰ They were responsible for taking care of the king, overseeing

Sixth Dynasties, (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1960), 264; Brovarski, E., *Naga ed-Dêr in the First Intermediate Period*, Atlanta, Georgia: Lockwood Press in association with the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, (2018), 94-96.

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

² Andrassy, P., “Die *hntiw-š* im Alten Reich”, in: *Ägyptische Tempel - Struktur, Funktion und Programm Akten der Ägyptologischen Tempeltagungen in Gosen 1990 und in Mainz*, (1992). R. Gundlach, R. & Matthias R., eds. *Hildesheimer Ägyptologische Beiträge*, Hildesheim: Gerstenberg Verlag, (1994), 3-12.

³ Roth, A.M., *A Cemetery of Palace Attendants Including G 2084–2099, G 2230+2231, and G 2240* Department of Ancient Egyptian, Nubian, and Near Eastern Art Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, (1995), 40-43.

⁴ Gardiner, A. H., “Inscriptions from the tomb of Si-renpowet I, prince of Elephantine”, in: *ZÄS* 45, (1908), 123-140; Meyer, E., *Geschichte des Altertums I*, Berlin/Stuttgart, (1909), § 244; Kees, H., *Ägypten*, München (1933), 30; Junker, H., *Giza VI*, Wien, (1943), 15-19; Helck, W., *Untersuchungen zu den Beamtentiteln des Ägyptischen Alten Reiches. Ägyptologische Forschungen. Glückstadt* (Verlag J.J. Augustin, 1954), 108-109; Id., “Bemerkungen zu den Pyramidenstädten im Alten Reich”, in: *MDAIK* 15, (1957), 98, 102-103; Schott, S., “Aufnahmen vom Hungersnotrelief aus den Aufweg der Unaspyramide”, in: *RdE* 17 (1965), 9-12; Andrassy, “Die *hntiw-š* im Alten Reich.”, 3-12.

⁵ Eyre, C.J., Work and the Organization of Work in the Old Kingdom, in: *M.A. Powell (ed.), Labor in the Ancient Near East*, New Haven, (1987), 35-36; Nuzzolo, M., “The Vth Dynasty Sun Temples Personnel. An Overview of Titles and Cult Practice through the Epigraphic Evidence”, in: *SAK* 39, (2010), 210; Matthew, The Title *hntj-š* in the Old Kingdom, 93.

⁶ Stadelmann, R., “Die *hntjw-š*, der Königsbezirk *š n pr-ꜥ3* und die Namen der Grabanlagen der Frühzeit”, in: *BIFAO* 81, (1981), 153-164; Id., “La ville de Pyramide à l’Ancien Empire”, in: *RdE* 33, (1981), 76-77.

⁷ Roth, A.M., *A Cemetery of Palace Attendants: Including G 2084-99, G 2230+2231, and G 2240*. Giza Mastabas 6, Boston, MA: Museum of Fine Arts, (1995), 40-42.

⁸ Roth, A.M., *A Cemetery of Palace Attendants*, pp.40-43; For the title *hntjw-š* in Giza necropolis from the index of *PM III*², see: Roth, A.M., “The Distribution of the Old Kingdom Title *hntj-š*”, in: *Akten des Vierten Internationalen Ägyptologen Kongress*, München, (1985), 177-186; *PM III*², 728, 739; For details see: Eyre, C.J., “Village Economy in Pharaonic Egypt”, in: *Agriculture in Egypt From Pharaonic to Modern Times. A.K. Bowman and E. Rogan, eds. Oxford*, Oxford University Press, (1999), 48ff.

⁹ The term *pr-ꜥ3* is synonymous to the king’s actual living quarters, and *pr-ꜥ3* staffs were also involved in the king’s everyday life and his immediate family. See: Goelet, 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-ꜥ3* during the Old Kingdom”, in: *Bulletin of the Egyptological Seminar* 10 (1989/90), 77-90.

¹⁰ *PM III*², 145, 174, 238; Matthew, The Title *hntj-š* in the Old Kingdom, 89ff.

his toilet, clothing, and meals, tending to his comfort, entertaining him¹. 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.² All the ranks of *hnty-š pr-ꜥ3* 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.³ They were the closest servants to the king both in physical space and in confidence.⁴ They may have had more importance than their counterpart at the pyramid complex.⁵

The title *šhd hnt-š pr-ꜥ3* refers to a chain of commands and hierarchy among the palace attendants. The major supervisory ranks of *hnt-š pr-ꜥ3* in the descending order of series are⁶

- *jmj-r hntjw-š pr-ꜥ3*⁷ “The overseer of palace attendants”.
- *jmj-r st hntjw-š pr-ꜥ3*⁸ “The assistant overseer of palace attendants”.
- *šhd hntjw-š pr-ꜥ3*⁹ “The inspector of palace attendants”.
- *jmj-ht hntjw-š pr-ꜥ3* “The assistant inspector of palace attendants”.

Some individuals held some or all of these titles,¹⁰ indicating that they were promoted.¹¹ The title *šhd hntj-š pr-ꜥ3*¹² spread during the 5th and 6th Dynasties in Giza¹, Dahshur², Saqqara³, and Abu Sir⁴.

¹Eyre, C. J., Weni's Career and Old Kingdom Historiography, in: C.J. Eyre/A. Leahy/L. Montagno Leahy (eds.), *The Unbroken Reed. Studies in the Culture and Heritage of Ancient Egypt in Honour of A.F. Shore*, London, (1994), 110-112; *Urk*, II, 98-110.

²Matthew, The Title *hntj-š* in the Old Kingdom, 64ff.

³Golet, Two Aspects of the Royal Palace in the Egyptian Old Kingdom, 53ff.

⁴Matthew, The Title *hntj-š* in the Old Kingdom, 89.

⁵Jéquier, G., *Le monument funéraire de Pepi II*, Tome II. Le Temple, Le Caire, (1938), pl. 46; Posener-Kriéger, p., *Les archives du temple funéraire de Néferirkarê-Kakai (Les papyrus d'Abousir)*. Traduction et commentaire. Vol II, Cairo: Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale du Caire, (1976), 581.

⁶Matthew, The Title *hntj-š* in the Old Kingdom, 11.

⁷Kanawati, *The Tombs of el-Hagarsa*, Vol. I. The Australian Centre for Egyptology. Reports: 4. Sydney, The Australian Centre for Egyptology, (1993), 40; Andrassy, “Die *hntiw-š* im Alten Reich.”, 7-8; Borhardt, L., *Denkmäler des Alten Reiches (ausser den Statuen) im Museum von Kairo. Catalogue Général des Antiquités Égyptiennes du Musée du Caire 97, teil I*, Berlin: Reichsdruckerei, (1937), 142-143; Wilson, *Pure Ones: The W^sB and W^sBT from the Old Kingdom to the end of the Middle Kingdom*, 77-79; James, T., *The mastaba of Khentika called Ikhekhi*, London: EES, (1953); Fischer, H.G., *Egyptian Studies III: Varia Nova*, New York: Metropolitan Museum of Art, (1996a), 1-6; *PM*, III, 148; *PM III*² I: 281, 134; *Urk* I, 253; Junker, *Giza*, VI, 14-17, 208-17, *P.M.*, III, 126; Kroenke, K.R., *The Provincial Cemeteries of Naga ed-Deir: A Comprehensive Study of Tomb Models Dating from the Late Old Kingdom to the Late Middle Kingdom*, A dissertation submitted in partial satisfaction of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Near Eastern Studies, the University of California, Berkeley, (2010), 35.

⁸Edel, E., *Hieroglyphic Inschriften des Alten Reiches. Abhandlungen der Rheinisch-Westfälischen Akademie der Wissenschaften*, Band 67, Opladen: Westdeutscher Verlag, (1981), 66-70, 72-75; Gaber, N., The Tomb of Ja-MAat in Saqqara and Its Date, Institut Des Cultures Méditerranéennes et Orientales De L'Académie Polonaise Des Sciences, *Études et Travaux*, XXVI (2013), 223; Jones, *An Index of Ancient Egyptian Titles, Epithets and Phrases of the Old Kingdom*, 241, no. 882; Wilson, *Pure Ones: The W^sB and W^sBT from the Old Kingdom to the end of the Middle Kingdom*, 82; Junker, *Giza VII*, 24-28; *PM III*² I, 148; *PM III*² I, 53.

⁹Kanawati, *The Egyptian Administration in the Old Kingdom*, 85; *PM III*² I, 134

¹⁰For example "Kaseuza" from Dyn. V-VI, Giza West: G 5340 held the titles, *šhd hntj-š pr-ꜥ3*, *jmj-r3 ist hntj-š pr-ꜥ3*, *jmj-ht hntj-š pr-ꜥ3*, see: Kanawati, *The Egyptian Administration in the Old Kingdom*, 111.

¹¹Examples of officials held all or some of these titles include *jmj-ht hntj-š pr-ꜥ3*, *jmj-r3 st hntj-š pr-ꜥ3*, *šhd hntj-š pr-ꜥ3* see: *PM III*² II, 629; Kanawati, Teti vol II 25-29, 43-46; *PM III*² I: 126; *PM I III*² II, 518.

¹²*Wb*, III, 311, 2.

The title *hntyw-š n pr-ꜥ3* appeared regularly throughout the Giza's Western Cemetery mastaba field. Several officials bear the title or one of its supervisory variants.⁵ It is noteworthy that none are known from the Eastern Cemetery in any period.⁶

B-The *hntyw -š pr-ꜥ3* of the pyramid city:⁷

The *hntj-š* of the pyramid's⁸ duty is the transaction of the cult for the deceased king⁹ in the royal mortuary temples.¹⁰ The pyramid *hntyw-š pr-ꜥ3* were responsible for clothing, adorning, and purifying the cult statues.¹¹ They did for the dead king the services performed for the living king in the palace by those with the same title.¹² The *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.¹³

¹ Hölzl, R., *Reliefs und Inschriftensteine des Alten Reiches I. Corpus Antiquitatum Aegyptiacarum. Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien, Ägyptisch-Orientalische Sammlung*, Mainz/Rhein: Verlag Philipp Von Zabern, (1999), 101-106; *PM III² I*, 113; *PM III² I*: 94; *PM III² II*: 292; *PM III² II*: 607; *PM III² II*: 891; *PM III² I*, 69; *PM III² I*: 108; *PM III² I*: 69; Kanawati, *The Egyptian Administration in the Old Kingdom*, 105, 113, 115, 123; *PM III² I*: 76; *PM III² I*: 293; *PM III² I*, 164; *PM III² I*: 69; Hassan, *Giza*, II, 87-95; Junker., *Giza*, VII, 14-17.

² *PM III² II* 3, 891; *PM III² II*, 3, 892; Kanawati, *The Egyptian Administration in the Old Kingdom* 103, 115.

³ *PM III² II*, 630; *PM III² II*, 568; *PM III² II*: 629; *PM III² II*, 518; Kanawati, *The Egyptian Administration in the Old Kingdom*, 97; Kanawati, *Teti* vol II, 7-11, 25-29, 43-46.

⁴ Matthew, J.A., The Title *hntj-š* in the Old Kingdom, 119.

⁵ Roth, A.M., *A Cemetery of Palace Attendants Including G 2084-2099, G 2230+2231, and G 2240. Giza Mastabas 6*, Boston: MFA, (1995), 40.

⁶ Helck, W., "Untersuchungen zu den Beamtentiteln des ägyptischen Alten Reiches", in: *ÄF* 18, Glückstadt, (1954), 107; Stadelmann, "Die *hntj-š*, der Königsbezirk *hntj-š pr-ꜥ3 n pr* und die Namen der Grabanlagen der Frühzeit", 156-57.

⁷ The Old Kingdom *hntyw-š* denoted not an occupation but a class of people, "the ones who live on the *š*". The "*š*" means a "funerary establishment" of the pyramid and the funerary cult, see: Posener-Kriéger, P., *Les archives du temple funéraire de Néferirkarê-Kakaï (Les papyrus d'Abousir). Traduction et commentaire. vol II*, Cairo: *Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale du Caire*, (1976), 577-81; Stadelmann, *Die hntyw-š der Königsbezirk š n pr-ꜥ3 und die Namen der Grabanlage der Frühzeit*, 153-164; Nuzzolo, M., "The Vth Dynasty Sun Temples Personnel. An overview of titles and cult practice through the epigraphic evidence", in: *SAK* 39, (2010), 210; Roth, A.M., *Egyptian Phyles in the Old Kingdom: The Evolution of a System of Social Organization. Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization*, 48, Chicago: The Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, (1991), 77; Baud, "La date d'apparition des *hntjw-š*", 26-27; Posener-Kriéger, *Les nouveaux papyrus d'Abousir*, in: *JSSEA* 13/1, (1983), 153; Baud, *Famille royale et pouvoir sous l'Ancien Empire Égyptien*, 8, 307.

⁸ The title "*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 hntj-š*, 13-28.

Posener-Kriéger, *Les archives* II, 579-580; Stadelmann, "Die *hntjw-š*, der Königsbezirk *š n pr-ꜥ3* und die Namen der Grabanlagen der Frühzeit", 153-154.

⁹ Goedicke, H., *Königliche Dokumente aus dem Alten Reich*, Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, (1967), 60-61. Matthew, *The Title hntj-š in the Old Kingdom*, 6; Borchardt, L., "Ein Königserlass aus Dahschur.", in: *ZÄS* 42, (1905), 4.

¹⁰ The *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 *hntj-š*", in: *SAK Beiheft 4* (1991), 184.

¹¹ Posener-Kriéger, P., "Les Archives du temple funéraire de Néferirkarê-Kakaï II", in: *BdE* 65, (1976), 577-81.

¹² Roth, A.M., "The Distribution of the Old Kingdom Title *hntj-š*", *Akten des vierten internationalen Ägyptologenkongresses, München, 1985*, Beihefte zu Studien zur Altägyptischen Kultur 4, Hamburg, (1991), 177-86.

¹³ Quirke, S., *Titles and Bureaux of Egypt 1850-1700 BC*, London, (2004), 66; Stadelmann, R., "Die *hntjw-š*, der Königsbezirk *š n pr-ꜥ3* und die Namen der Grabanlagen der Frühzeit.", 153-154; Nuzzolo, "The Vth

Imby held two titles related to the king and the royal palace,¹ which confirms that some titles of the Old Kingdom officials provided some data for the study of the royal court in the Old Kingdom.²

5-*nb im3hw 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.³ The epithet *nb jm3hw hr*⁴ is usually considered a simple honorary title⁵ that shows the connection between its holder and the honoured one.⁶ This epithet was commonly recorded⁷ at the beginning of almost all the funerary offering formulas of the Old Kingdom before the real sequence of titles.⁸ This title was not limited to the dead only, as it was also carried by the living ones.⁹

This title exists in the form *nb jm3h.w hr nb.f*, “the possessor of honour before His Lord” or without “*nb*” *jm3h.w hr nb.f*¹⁰, “the revered one before His Lord”, who was in the Old

Dynasty Sun Temples Personnel. An overview of titles and cult practice through the epigraphic evidence”, 210.

¹The actual palace of the king, his place of residence is designated by the term *pr-ꜥ3*. The titles of some officials, who were entrusted with the personal service of the king were connected with the *pr-ꜥ3*, Ogden, G., *The Nature of the Term pr-ꜥ3 during the Old Kingdom*, Bulletin of the Egyptological Seminar, (1990), 10, 77, 90; Lange-Athinodor, 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.

²Uni Bastions, G., King and Officials in the Old Kingdom, *Conference organized within the SNSF-project* (2019), 6.

³Hornung, E., *Der Eine und die Vielen: ägyptische Gottesvorstellungen*, Darmstadt, (1973), 181–183; Baines, J., “Greatest God’ or Category of Gods? ”, in: *GM* 67, (1983), 13-28; Kees, *Der Götterglaube im alten Ägypten* (Berlin, 1977), pp. 270-278; Pyr. 272b, 274c, 1616c; Osiris: Pyr. 2000a-b, perhaps also Pyr. 1180d; Jansen-Winkeln, “Zur Bedeutung von *jm3h* ”, 29-36; Kloth, *Die (auto-)biographischen Inschriften*, 69–72; Jones, *An Index of Ancient Egyptian Titles, Epithets and Phrases of the Old Kingdom*, no. 142; Doxey, D. M., *Egyptian non-royal epithets in the Middle Kingdom. A social and historical analysis*, Brill, (1998), 262 (2.8); Taylor, *An Index of Male Non-Royal Egyptian Titles*, 5, for more about the *im3hw hr* see: Lapp, G., Die Opferformel des Alten Reiches, unter Berücksichtigung einiger späterer Formen. *Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, Abteilung Kairo, Sonderschrift* 21, Mainz: Philipp von Zabern, (1986), 211- 215; Allen, *Some aspects of the non-royal afterlife in the Old Kingdom*, 12, 16-17; Helck, W., “Wirtschaftliche Bemerkungen zum privaten Grabbesitz im Alten Reich”, in: *MDAIK* 14 (1956), 63-75; Jansen-Winkeln, “Zur Bedeutung von *jm3h* ”, 29-36; Kloth, *Die (auto-)biographischen Inschriften*, 67-74; Goedicke, H., “Die Privaten Rechtsinschriften aus dem Alten Reich”, in: *BWZKM* 5, Vienna, (1970), 37-38; Assmann, J., “Totenkult, Totenglauben”, in: *LÄ* VI, (1986), cols. 661-662; Eyre, C. J., “Work and the Organisation of Work in the Old Kingdom”, *Labor in the Ancient Near East*, ed. M. A. Powell. *American Oriental Series*, 68, New Haven: American Oriental Society, (1987), 22.

⁴About the meaning of the term *jm3hw* see: Jansen-Winkeln, K., “Zur Bedeutung von *jm3h* ”, in: *SEG* 20 (1996), 33ff.

⁵Allen, J. P., *Some aspects of the non-royal afterlife in the Old Kingdom*, in: M. Barta (ed.), *Old Kingdom Art and Archaeology*, 2004, Prague, (2006), 9-17

⁶Assmann, J., “Totenkult, Totenglauben”, *LÄ* VI, (1986), cols. 661- 662.

⁷Helck, “Wirtschaftliche Bemerkungen zum privaten Grabbesitz im Alten Reich ”, 63ff; Jansen-Winkeln, “Zur Bedeutung von *jm3h* ”, 29-36; Kloth, N., *Die (auto-)biographischen Inschriften des ägyptischen Alten Reiches*, Studien zur Altägyptischen Kultur Beihefte, Band 8, Hamburg, (2002), 67-74.

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

⁹Chauvet, V., *The Conception of Private Tombs in the Late Old Kingdom*, *UMI Dissertation Services*, Maryland, (2004), 143-147; Eyre, C. J., Work and the Organization of Work in the Old Kingdom, in: M. A. Powell (ed.), *Labor in the Ancient Near East*, *AOS* 68, New Haven, (1987), 23. Many examples of living people who held *jm3h.w*-status mentioned this epithet permanently associated with *n* or *hr* + the king, the god, see: Jansen-Winkeln, “Zur Bedeutung von *jm3h* ”, 31-33.

¹⁰El-Elimi, F & Hamdy, F & Enany, A., The Title *smsw h3yt* in Ancient Egypt, pp. 1-22; Enany, A & Badawi, A., “Denkmäler Aus Saqqarah”, in: *ASAE* 40, (1940), 573-574; Helck, W., “Bemerkungen zu den Pyramidenstädten im Alten Reich ” in: *MDAIK* 15, (1957), 106; Hassan, *Giza VII*, 35; *PM III*², 237.

Kingdom, usually the king or the ‘great god’¹. Sometimes, *nb jm3hw hr nswt* “the possessor of honour before the king” or *nb jm3hw hr ntr* ³, “the possessor of honor before the great god”, and *nb jm3h.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 *jm3h.w hr ntr* ³ and *jm3h.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 6th Dynasty as Imby was an official during the reign of Pepi II. Technically, the sculpting of the statue³ and the style of the wig and the kilt resemble those that appeared in the late 5th Dynasty and became common during the 6th Dynasty.⁴ The titles which he held related to the function *hntyw-š pr-³*, and the *hm-k3* servants, who share similar tasks⁵ related to serving the king’s ka⁶ were common in the late 6th Dynasty.⁷

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”.

¹Taylor, *An Index of Male Non-Royal Egyptian Titles*, 131, 1201-1202; Allen, *Some Aspects of the Non-Royal Royal Afterlife in the Old Kingdom*, 16; Helck, W., “Wirtschaftliche Bemerkungen zum privaten Grabbesitz im Alten Reich”, in: *MDAIK* 14, (1956), 63-75.

²Abd el-Sattar, I. & Boraik, M. & Laila Fayez, L., “Two Unpublished False Doors of *Intj* and *hwjt* from Giza”, in: *SAK* 44, (2015), 321-32.

³Cherpion, N., “Sentiment conjugal et figuration à l'Ancien Empire”, in: *SDAIK* 28, (1994), 37; Id., *La Statuaire Privée D'Ancien Empire; Indices De Datation*, in: *Les Critères De Datation Stylistiques à l'Ancien Empire*, Édité par Nicolas Grimal, Institut Français D'Archéologie Orientale, Le Caire, (1997), 100ff; Smith, W.S., Old Kingdom Sculpture, *American Journal of Archaeology* 45, No. 4 (Oct. - Dec., 1941), 514-528.

⁴Kanawati, N., “Nepotism in the Old Kingdom”, in: *BACE* 14, (2003), 65; Cherpion, “Sentiment conjugal et figuration à l'Ancien Empire”, 37; Id., *La Statuaire Privée D'Ancien Empire*, 100; Barta, M., *The Old Kingdom Art and Archaeology*, Proceedings of the Conference Held in Prague, May 31 – June 4, 2004; Tassie, G. J., *The Social and Ritual Contextualisation of Ancient Egyptian Hair and Hairstyles from the Proto-dynastic to the End of the Old Kingdom Volume 1 (Text)* Thesis Submitted to University College London for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy Institute of Archaeology University College, London, (2008), 81.

⁵Posener-Kriéger, *Les archives du temple funéraire*, II, 52-57, 574-581; Nuzzolo, *The Vth Dynasty Sun Temples Personnel*, 210; Eyre, C. J., *Work and the Organization of Work in the Old Kingdom*, in: M. A. Powell (ed.), *Labor in the Ancient Near East*, *AOS* 68, New Haven, (1987), 11-12, 35-36.

⁶Barta, *Abusir XIII. Tomb complex of the vizier Qar*, 25-30; Schneider, H., *Shabtis: an introduction to the history of ancient Egyptian funerary statuettes*, p.14; Strudwick, N., *Texts from the Pyramid Age*, R. Leprohon (ed.), Atlanta, (2005), 202.

⁷Roth, “The Distribution of the Old Kingdom Title *hntj-š*”, 177-186; Matthew, *The Title hntj-š in the Old Kingdom*, 43; Kanawati, *The Egyptian Administration in the Old Kingdom*, 85; *PM III*², 134.

3- *shd pr-ꜣ3* “The inspector of the palace”.

4- *shd hnt-š pr-ꜣ3* “The inspector of palace attendants”.

5- *nb im3hw hr nb.f* “The possessor of honour before His Lord”.

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.

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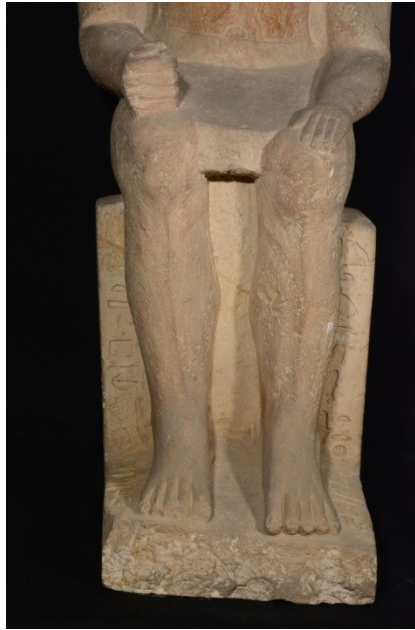
PLATES



Pl.1 The statue of Imby



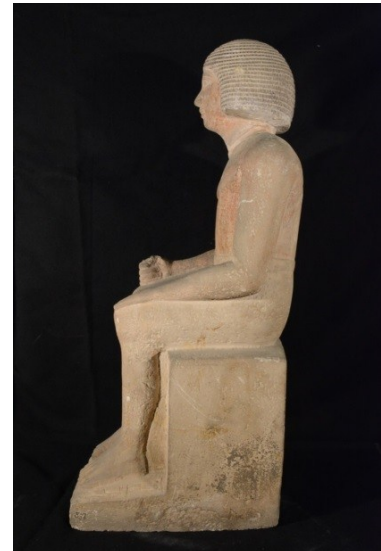
Pl.2 The upper part of the statue



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