



## The Significance of "Wehem Ankh" in Ancient Egypt

دلالة وحم - عنخ في مصر القديمة

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### Abstract


المستخلص

Wehem ankh,  *whm ʿnh*, literally means repeating life, it was an expression used in Ancient Egypt in various contexts.

On the one hand, it was an epithet applied to the deceased from the Middle Kingdom onwards; it designates repetition of life or living again. According to some Egyptologists, it was a designation of the afterlife and sometimes death itself. In the ancient Egyptian word *whm ʿnh*, the hieroglyphic frog sign is sometimes used as a determinative; this might be due to the fact that the goddess Heqet, represented as a frog, assisted at childbirth, where she participated at the last stage of labor. This clarifies the conception of this title for the ancient Egyptian, as he considered it as a rebirth of the deceased, a renewal of life in the other world.

On the other hand, wehem ankh was one of the festivals celebrated during the New Kingdom. It was a procession of royal statues performed in the Akhmenu at Karnak where the statues of Thutmosis III were transported to Mut temple.

The research is a linguistic and religious study which focuses on the interpretation of the expression and its different uses in Ancient Egypt.

وحم- عنخ  حرفيا، تعنى إعادة الحياة، تعبير استخدم في مصر القديمة في عدة مجالات. من ناحية، هو لقب أطلق على المتوفى منذ الدولة الوسطى فصاعدا، يعبر عن إعادة الحياة أو الحياة مرة أخرى. وفقا لبعض علماء المصريات، هو تعبير أحيانا عن العالم الآخر أو الموت نفسه. في الكلمة المصرية القديمة *whm ʿnh* استخدمت علامة الضفدع أحيانا كمخصص يرجع ذلك ربما إلى أن الألهة *hkt*، المصورة على هيئة ضفدع كانت تساعد في الولادة حيث شاركت في المرحلة الأخيرة منها، وهذا يوضح مفهوم اللقب بالنسبة للمصري القديم، حيث أنه اعتبره إعادة ميلاد للمتوفى، بمعنى آخر تجديد الحياة في العالم الآخر.

من ناحية أخرى، وحم- عنخ كان أحد إحتفالات الدولة الحديثة، عبارة عن انتقال موكب التماثيل الملكية من معبد الإحتفالات الخاص بالملك تحتمس الثالث في الكرنك والذهاب إلى معبد الألهة موت ثم العودة مرة أخرى.

هذه الورقة البحثية هي دراسة لغوية ودينية تلقي الضوء على تفسير هذا التعبير واستخداماته المختلفة في مصر القديمة.



Keywords: wehem ankh; epithet; festival; afterlife.

الكلمات الدالة: وحم؛ عنخ؛ لقب؛ احتفال؛ العالم الآخر.

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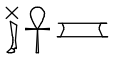
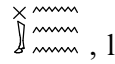
## Introduction

Epithets, either words or phrases, form an important structure of the monumental inscription. They accompany the name and titles of the text owner in order to identify him (Doxey, 1996, 1).






Wehem ankh is a phrase consisting of two words:  wHm meaning repeat (Wb I, 1971, 340) and  anx meaning life (Wb I, 1971, 193). It is one of the funerary non-royal epithets related to the afterlife such as mAa-xrw (justified) and nb imAx (the lord of veneration) (Doxey, 1996, 90). It designates repetition of life or living again. It comes after the deceased's name on funerary objects from the Middle Kingdom onwards. (Doxey, 1996, 90, 103; Mistress of the House, 1997, 97; Grajetzki, 2009, 11; Remler, 2010, 79; Wegner, 2018, 240). The earliest appearance was by the end of the reign of Amenemhat III, in the expedition sites of Sinai, and occurred later in various sites in Egypt by the 13<sup>th</sup> Dynasty (Doxey, 1996, 102; Quirke, 1996, 669).

This title is used to describe the deceased, it is a term used to assure the renewal of the soul, to assure the resurrection and the rebirth, in other words to wish the deceased to repeat his life or to live again after his death (Gifts of the Nile, 1998, 208; Remler, 2010, 79). According to some Egyptologists, wHm anx was a designation of the afterlife ( Najovits, 2003, XIII), and sometimes death itself (Hart, 1986, 12; Maulana, 2004, 157), since the idea of living again in the other world was the aim of every Egyptian, the god's gift of immortality and "reward for a righteous life" ( Maulana, 1990, 34; Maulana, 2004, 157).

This paper is a linguistic and religious study which focuses on the interpretation of the expression and its different uses in Ancient Egypt, from the Middle Kingdom till the end of the New Kingdom. It starts with the designation of wehem ankh in the Ancient Egyptian language, followed by displaying the epithet's archaeological attestations. Also, wehem ankh was one of the festivals celebrated during the New Kingdom. It was a procession of royal statues performed in the Akhmenu at Karnak where the statues of Thutmosis III were transported to Mut temple.

It is worth mentioning that wehem ankh was the name of the Nile flood during the Graeco\_Roman Period as found on the walls of the temples of Edfu and Dendara (Wilson, 1991, 445-455), it was written  or  , literally means "that which returns" (Wb I, 344), but this will not be discussed in this research as it discusses only the different uses of the title till the New Kingdom.

## The Designation of Wehem Ankh in the Ancient Egyptian Language:

In the Middle and New Kingdom texts, *wHm anx*  means "live again, live as new (after death), often used as a joined word for death" (Wb I, 1971, 193, 341; Faulkner, 1964, 67), *wHm anx*  was used for men and *wHmt anx*  for women (Wb I, 1971, 341). Gardiner states that it means "repeating life, living a second time". He also mentions that it is an "epithet after personal names", and the frog sign  was sometimes used as a determinative for this epithet from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> Dynasties  (Gardiner, 1957, 475, n. 7, 572; Wb I, 1971, 344; Aman, 2011, 158).

It is noteworthy that the frog is an important creature for the Egyptians, as it symbolizes fertility and regeneration. This role was derived from the large number of infant frogs that appeared along the Nile banks after the annual flood (Andrews, 1994, 63; Aman, 2011, 158). The Hermopolitan creation mythology included eight primordial gods, paired male and female, the four male were frog-headed, (Shaw and Nicholson, 1995, 103- 104; Armour, 2010, 126; Aman, 2011, 158).

Furthermore, the frog was the symbol of Heqet, the goddess of birth, who featured either as a frog or as a frog-headed woman (Kakosy, 1977, LÄ II, cols.1123-1124). This clarifies the association of Heqet with this title and its conception for the ancient Egyptian, as he considered it as a rebirth of the deceased, a renewal of life in the other world. Heqet's first occurrence was probably in the Pyramids

Texts, Spell 486. Her role was to accompany the soul of the king to his palace in the sky (James, 2005, 177; Remler, 2010, 79). She was also associated with childbirth along with Bes and Tauret, especially at the last stage of labor. In the temple of Deir El-Bahari, she was present in the divine birth scenes of Hatshepsut, where she was represented as a frog-headed woman (Remler, 2010, 79). Later, she participated at the deceased rebirth in the afterlife, and the frog sign was used as a determinative for the title *wehem ankh* (Gardiner, 1957, 475; Andrews, 1994, 63; Mistress of the Nile, 1996, p.97, n. 20; Gifts of the Nile, 1998, 108; Remler, 2010, 97; Aman, 2011, 158).

### Archaeological Attestations

**Table (1)** Displaying Examples of the Epithet *Wehem Ankh* on Various Stela Organized in a Chronological Order:

	Object	Place of Discovery	Dating	Location	Reference
1.	Stela of <i>Imny</i> , Chief Attendant of the Treasury.	Mines of Serabit el khadim, Near the Temple of Hathor, Sinai	12 <sup>th</sup> Dynasty, Reign of Amenemhat III (year 42)	in situ	Gardiner, 1917, 11, pl. LIII ; Gardiner, 1955, 141 ; Doxey, 1998, 102
2.	Stela of <i>s3-mntw</i> , Chief of the Local Regiment (pl.1, b)	Probably Abydos	Early 13 <sup>th</sup> Dynasty	Private Collection, Canada	Leprohon, 1996, pp. 523-531, figs. 2-3
3.	Stela of <i>sn<sup>c</sup>-sw- m<sup>c</sup></i> , Treasurer	Abydos, northern cemetery	13 <sup>th</sup> Dynasty	The Egyptian Museum, Cairo, CG 20334	Mariette, 1880, 244, n. 784; Grajetzki, 2009, 44.
4.	Stela of <i>sn<sup>c</sup>-sw-m<sup>c</sup></i> , Treasurer (pl. 2, a)	Probably Abydos	13 <sup>th</sup> Dynasty	The British Museum, EA 238	Hieroglyphic Texts, 1912, pl. 15.
5.	Fragments from a Stela of <i>d3b</i> , Master Craftsman Responsible of the Adornment of the Sacred Image of the God (pl. 2, c)	Abydos, in the Sand above Tomb n. 14 in Cemetery D of the Middle Kingdom	13 <sup>th</sup> Dynasty	Chicago Oriental Institute, E 6897	Randball and Maclver, 1902, 85, 95, pl. XXXIV, n. 2; PM V, 1962, 68(B); Franke, 2003, 98-99, n. 2
6.	Obelisk-shaped stela of <i>Imn-m-h3t</i> , Overseer of the Storeroom of the Fruits Chamber, Probably Made for the King's Son <i>bb</i> (pl. 3, a)	Abydos	13 <sup>th</sup> Dynasty	The Oriental Museum, University of Durham, n. 1984.	Birch, 1880, pp.324-326, n. 1984; Franke, 2003, 106-107, n. 12.
7.	Stela of <i>hnsu</i> , King's Sealer and Overseer of an Administrative District (pl. 3, b)	Abydos, Tomb no. 6.A'06, Cemetery E	13 <sup>th</sup> Dynasty, Probably the Reign of Neferhotep I	The Metropolitan Museum of Art, MMA 21.2.69	Hayes, 1953. 345-346, fig. 227; Snape, 1986, 189; Franke, 2003, 109.

8.	Stela of <i>s3-Imn</i> , High Priest of the Temple of Nekhbet	El Kab	13 <sup>th</sup> Dynasty	The Egyptian Museum, Cairo CG 20791	Kubisch, 2008, 272-274, fig. 26
9.	Stela of <i>ib-īw</i> , Deputy of the Royal Treasurer	Abydos, Northern Cemetery	13 <sup>th</sup> Dynasty	The Egyptian Museum, Cairo CG 20086	Mariette, 1880, n. 926; PM V, 1962, 57; Franke, 2003, 99.
10.	Stela of <i>intf</i> , the High Priest of Min and <i>kw</i> , the Overseer of the House of the Divine Offerings (pl. 4, a)	Probably Qift	13 <sup>th</sup> Dynasty	The British Museum EA 1247	PM V, 1962, 129; Hieroglyphic Texts, 1912, pl. 9.
11.	Stela of <i>shtp-ib</i> , Senior Keeper of Nekhen (pl. 4, b)	Probably el Kab	13 <sup>th</sup> Dynasty	The British Museum, EA 221	Hieroglyphic Texts, 1912, pl. 14.
12.	Fragment of a Stela of <i>βw</i> , the Administrator of the City	Tell Edfu	Probably 17 <sup>th</sup> Dynasty	Coll. Gardiner	PM V, 1962, 203
13.	Pyramidion-shaped Stela of <i>sbk-htp</i> , the Scribe of the Temples of Sobek, Anubis and Khonsu (pl. 4, c)	Thebes	17 <sup>th</sup> Dynasty, reign of Sobekemsaf II	The British Museum, EA 1163	PM I, 2, 1964, 847; Franke, 2003, 112;
14.	Stela of <i>spd-hr</i> , Commandant of Buhen (pl. 4, d)	Buhen, in the Area of the Temple of the 18th Dynasty	Probably 17 <sup>th</sup> Dynasty	Pennsylvania University Museum 10984	PM VII, 1975, 138; Ranball-Maclver and Woolley, 1911, 113
15.	Fragments of a stela of <i>nht</i> , the Son of the King (pl. 5, a)	Abydos, the Temple of Osiris	17 <sup>th</sup> Dynasty, Possibly Reign of Antef VII	Chicago Oriental Institute, E 7176	PM V, 1962. 45 ; Petrie, 1902, 28, 41-42, pl. LV(8), pl. LVII
16.	Stela of <i>m-hb</i> , the Governor of Edfu and Drummer in the Egyptian Army	Tell Edfu	17 <sup>th</sup> Dynasty, Reign of Kamose	The Egyptian Museum, Cairo, JE 49566	Baines, 1986, 41-53
17.	Fragments of a stela of <i>m s3.f</i> , Commander of the Army	Unknown	17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> Dynasty	Turin Museum, Cat. 1584	Ranball-Maclver and Woolley, 1911 110; Kubisch, 2008, 342
18.	Stela of <i>ī3t</i> , the Great Steward (pl. 5, b)	Unknown	Beginning of the 18 <sup>th</sup> Dynasty	The Louvre Museum, C 90	Vallogia, 2016, 825-835.

19.	Stela of <i>it-nfr</i> , Governor of the Oasis, Dedicated to him by his brother, the Scribe <i>hr-im-3ht</i> (pl. 5, c)	Unknown	18 <sup>th</sup> Dynasty, Reign of Amenhotep I	The Louvre Museum, C 47	Pierret, 1878; Sethe, Urk IV, 1906, 50-51.
20.	Stele of <i>intf</i> , Scribe and Governor of Thinis (pl. 6, b)	Dra abu el Naga, TT 155	18 <sup>th</sup> Dymasty, Reign of Thutmosis III	The Louvre Museum, C 26	Gayet, 1886, pl. XVI-XXII; Pierret, 1878, 25-25; Sethe, Urk IV, 1906, 963-965,
21.	Stela of <i>d3b</i> , the Mayor of Esna and Son of the King (pl. 6, d)	Probably Esna	18th Dynasty	The Louvre Museum, C 41	Pierret, 1878, 24 ;
22.	Stela of <i>Imn- w3h-sw</i> , the Scribe of the Offering Table and <i>ty</i> , the Royal Scribe (pl. 7, c)	Abydos	19 <sup>th</sup> Dynasty	Chicago Oriental Institute, E 10507	Teeter, 2003, 56, n. 25; Staring, 2014-2015, p. 60, n. 60; Scalf, 2022, p. 85.

**Table (2)** Displaying Examples of the Epithet Wehem Ankh on Statues Organized in a Chronological Order:

1.	Headless Statue of <i>ddw-sbk</i> , Scribe and Head of Recruits (pl. 2, b)	Mortuary Temple of Mentuhotep Nebhepetre at Deir- el Bahari	13 <sup>th</sup> Dynasty	The Egyptian Museum, Cairo, CG 887	Borchardt, 1930, pl. 155; PM II, 1972, 784; Franke, 2003, 112, n. 22; Saadallah, 2018, 35-42.
2.	Family Group of <i>s-n- wsrt- ʿnh</i> , Ruler of the Pyramid Town, with his Wife and his daughter (pl. 3, c)	Ugarit, Ras Sharma, northern Syria, (probably from Memphis)	13 <sup>th</sup> Dynasty	The Louvre Museum, AO 17223	PM VII, 1975, 394; Connor, 2020, 150, note 760, pl. 99, fig. 3.2.21
3.	Statuette of <i>rn-snb</i> , Overseer of the Estate (pl. 1, c)	Probably Abydos	13 <sup>th</sup> Dynasty	Private Collection	Gillam, 1979, 15-27; Quirke, 1996, 665-677, figs. 1-6
4.	Statuette of the Scribe <i>Imn-m-h3t</i>	Buhen, Near the Temple of the 18 <sup>th</sup> Dynasty	18 <sup>th</sup> Dynasty	Not Determined	Maspero, 1882, 115, n. 3; Brugsch, 1891, 1433, n. 37
5.	Block Statue of <i>s3-tp-ihw</i> , Overseer of the Priests at Thinis (pl. 6, a)	Abydos, Cemetry D	18 <sup>th</sup> Dynasty, Reign of Hatshepsut	Pennsylvania University Museum, E 9217	Sethe, Urk IV, 1906, 518; Randall-Maclver and

					Mace, 1902, pl. XXXII, XXXIII.
6.	Ushabti of HAt, Deputy (pl. 7, a)	Thebes	18 <sup>th</sup> Dynasty, Reign of Amenhotep IV (Akhenaten)	Not Determined	Maspero, 1915, 27-28, pl. XXIII.
7.	Male Statue Dedicated by <i>m<sup>c</sup>hw</i> , a Governor, to his father <i>iwni</i>	Balansoura (20 km south-west El Minieh)	18 <sup>th</sup> Dynasty, Amarna Period	Not Determined	Daressy, 1918, 53-57; Graves, 86-87
8.	Female statue Dedicated by <i>m<sup>c</sup>hw</i> , to his Mother <i>mwt-nfrt</i>	Balansoura (El Minieh)	18 <sup>th</sup> Dynasty, Amarna Period	Not Determined	Daressy, 1918, 53-57; Graves, 86-87

**Table (3)** Displaying Examples of the Epithet Wehem Ankh on Tombs Organized in a Chronological Order:

1.	Tomb n. 25 of <i>iy</i> , the Scribe and the Feather-bearer	Tell el-Amarna	18 <sup>th</sup> Dynasty, Amarna Period		Davies, 1908, 33, pl. XXIV, XXV, XXXII.
2.	Tomb n. 10 of <i>ipy</i> , Royal Scribe and Householder	Tell el-Amarna	18 <sup>th</sup> Dynasty, Amarna Period		Davies, 1906, 27 ff, pl. 32, 43
3.	Tomb n. 9 of <i>m<sup>c</sup>hw</i> , Chief of the Police	Tell el-Amarna	18 <sup>th</sup> Dynasty, Amarna Period		Davies, 1906, 27 ff, pl. 15, 29, 40
4.	Tomb n. 7 of <i>p<sup>3</sup>-rn-nfr</i> , the Attendant of the King	Tell el-Amarna	18 <sup>th</sup> Dynasty, Amarna Period		Davies, 1908, 3, 25, pl. 3, 8

**Table (4)** Displaying Examples of the Epithet Wehem Ankh on Door Jambs Organized in a Chronological Order:

1.	Door Jambs of <i>sbk m s<sup>3</sup>.f</i> , the Priest of Khnum	Elephantine, Sanctuary H 50	13 <sup>th</sup> Dynasty	in situ	Kubisch, 2008, 261-264
2.	Door jambs of <i>sn<sup>c</sup>-ib</i> , Chief of the Tens of Upper Egypt	Tell Edfu, Found in the Rubble above the Mammisi of Edfu.	13 <sup>th</sup> Dynasty	The Egyptian Museum, Cairo, JE 38998	Legrain, 1902, 267-268; PM V, 1962, 205
3.	Door Jambs of <i>m<sup>33</sup> nht.f</i> , the Head of the Masons.	Tell el-Amarna	18 <sup>th</sup> Dynasty, Amarna Period	Berlin Museum, 20376	Roeder, 1913, 127

**Table (5)** Displaying Examples of the Epithet Wehem Ankh on Miscellaneous Monuments Organized in a Chronological Order:

1.	A Text from a Shrine of <i>rnf-snb</i> , Governor of the	Mines of Serabit el khadim,	12 <sup>th</sup> Dynasty, Reign of	in situ	Gardiner, 1917, 8, pl. XVIII, n. 51 ; Gardiner,
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	Castle and Commander (pl. 1, a)	Near the Temple of Hathor, Sinai	Amenemhat III (year 38)		1955, 78-79 Doxey, 1998, p. 102, PM VII, 1975, 348
2.	Altar of <i>sbk-htp</i> , the Great of the Tens of Upper Egypt	Elephantine	13 <sup>th</sup> Dynasty	Aswan Museum 1353	Kubisch, 2008, 259-261
3.	Inscription of <i>pn-ibty</i> in Shat el Regal	Shat el Regal (North of Kom Ombo)	18 <sup>th</sup> Dynasty, reign of Thutmosis III	in situ	Sethe, Urk IV, 1906, 52-53;
4.	Scribe palette of <i>pn-ibty</i> , Overseer of the Work (pl. 6, c)	Unknown	18 <sup>th</sup> Dynasty, Reign of Thutmosis III	The Louvre Museum, E 3212	Sethe, Urk IV, 1906, 51-52; Pierret, 1874, 95; Wild, 1971, 100, n. 1
5.	Wooden Box of <i>iy</i> , the Scribe and the Feather-bearer	Tuna el-Gebel	18 <sup>th</sup> Dynasty, Amarna Period	Berlin Museum, 17555	Roeder, 1924, 267-268;
6.	Pyramidion of <i>mry-R</i> , Official (Cupbearer) in the Temple of Aten	A Tomb of Tell el-Amarna	18 <sup>th</sup> Dynasty, Amarna Period	Berlin Museum, 14123	PM IV, 1968, 235; Rammont-Peters, 1983, 6-8, pl. II
7.	Scarab of <i>mn-htp</i> , the Retainer of the Palace (pl. 7, d)	Buhen	19 <sup>th</sup> Dynasty	Pennsylvania University Museum E 10116	Randball-Maclver and Woolley, 1910, pl. 58; Wegner, 2018, 240.

### Commentary

The archaeological attestations discussed in this research, as can be shown in the previous table, vary from stelae, tombs, and other monuments. The total is forty-four monuments, twenty-two of which are funerary stelae which makes 50% of the total, eight statues including one ushabti (18%), four tombs (9%), the others are: an altar, a scribe palette, a box and a scarab.

As for the dating, only two objects date to the Middle Kingdom (4.5%), twenty-one are from the Second Intermediate Period (47.7%) and twenty-one are from the New Kingdom (47.7%).

Concerning the location, eleven attestations were found in Abydos, which makes 25,5%, nine were found in el Minieh (Tuna el-Gebel and Tell el-Amarna), which makes 20,9%, and the others were found between Thebes, El-Kab, Edfu, Aswan, Esna, and Sinai.

As mentioned above, the earliest occurrence of the title was on two stelae from the 12<sup>th</sup> Dynasty, dating to year thirty- eight and forty- two of the reign of Amenemhat III (Doxey, 1998, 102) near the mines of Serabit el-Khadim in Sinai (table 1, no. 1, pl. 1, a; no. 2). The first one is the remaining of a text from a destroyed scene, in a small shrine near the temple of Hathor in Serabit el Khadim. The king is standing before Hathor. The text mentions one of his commanders and the governor of the castle, *rnf-snb* followed by *whm nḥ*, (table 5, no. 1, pl. I, a) (Gardiner, 1917, 8, pl. XVIII, n. 51; Gardiner, 1955, 78-79; PM VII, 1975, 348). The other one is a stela of the chief intendant of the treasury *imny* (Gardiner, 1917, pl. LVIII) (table 1, no. 1). It seems that the title appeared only in the expedition sites of Sinai, and then it became common in various sites in Egypt by the 13<sup>th</sup> Dynasty







In this festival, the kings are burning incense and offering libations to Mut's statues, while his statues and those of his wife, queen *s3t- iʿh*, are transported to and from Mut temple (Troy, 2006, 137; Sullivan, 2008, 12-13). The royal statues are carried by the priests and the procession is accompanied by male and female singers and clappers (Barguet, 1962, 179; PM II, 2), 1972, 123, Room XXXVII, 426). The main ritual of the festival is to present life to the statues at the temple of Mut (Barguet, 1962, 179). The procession went out from the Akhmenu through the western or northern doors in the festival hall, went around the royal palace and then headed to Mut temple. After performing the ritual of "presenting life to the statues", the procession returned back through the same route (Sullivan, 2008, 13-14). On the way back, the scenes depicted on the walls show the procession of the royal statues, visiting the god statue, and being stored in their niches in the Akhmenu (Sullivan, 2008, 14).

## Conclusion

Wehem ankh is one of the funerary non-royal epithets that appeared from the Middle Kingdom onwards. It followed the name of the deceased on objects and monuments. It means literally repeating life, in other words to live again in the afterlife.

The expression was also used to designate death itself and sometimes afterlife; as the aim of every ancient Egyptian was to renew and repeat his life in the other world.

The frog sign was associated with the title during the New Kingdom; it was sometimes used as a determinative; as it was the symbol of regeneration and rebirth in the ancient Egyptian religion.

The epithet was widely used on objects during the 13<sup>th</sup> Dynasty onwards; it was considered a higher status epithet than *m3ʿ-ħrw*.

It first appeared at the expedition sites of Sinai during the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> Dynasty, and then it became common in various sites in Egypt by the 13<sup>th</sup> Dynasty.

The first occurrence was on texts carved in the mines of Serabit el-khadim, dating to year thirty-eight and forty- two of the reign of Amenemhat III.

The title was seen on different objects and monuments, especially the funerary stelae. The text usually begins with the offering formula *ħtp di nsw* and ends with the deceased titulary followed by *wħm ʿnh*.

On many of the stelae, the deceased is accompanied by one or more of his relatives; mother, father, son, daughter, wife, brother or sister, and sometimes by one of his colleagues.

Some of the objects were not made by the deceased himself, they were dedicated to him by family members, colleagues or attendants. In this case, the higher status would receive *wħm ʿnh* while the other would have *m3ʿ-ħrw*.

Large numbers of Middle Kingdom stelae were found in Abydos, one of the most important religious centre of the period.

The texts inscribed on the monuments are usually hymns to the gods, especially Osiris, Hathor, Re and Aten.

From the various objects discussed, there were tombs, statues, some door jambs, an altar, a scribe palette and a wooden box.

The title followed the names of high officials, of different administrative and religious posts: princes, counts, overseers, treasurers, scribes, stewards, judges and commanders of the army

Moreover, kings did not use the title *wḥm ḥnh*, there are only two texts of two officials from the New Kingdom where the royal cartouche was followed by this epithet.

Wehem ankh was one of the local festivals celebrated at Karnak, it is a procession of royal statues of Thutmosis III and his wife to and from the temple of Mut, to present life to the divine statue.

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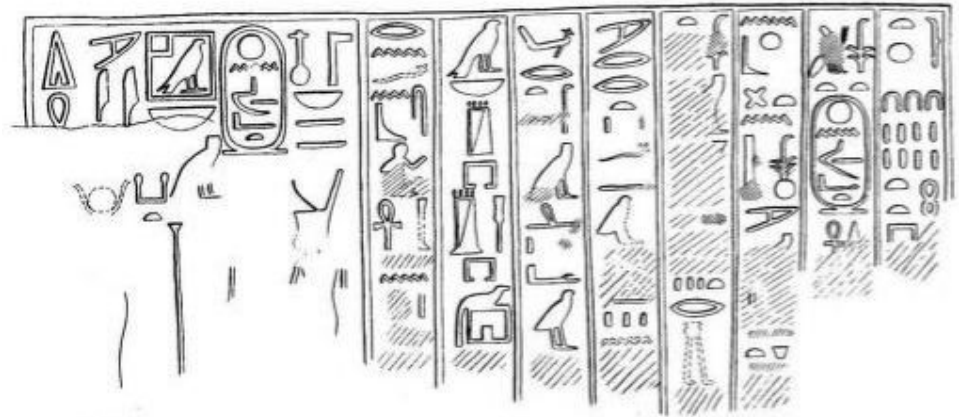
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Plate. 1

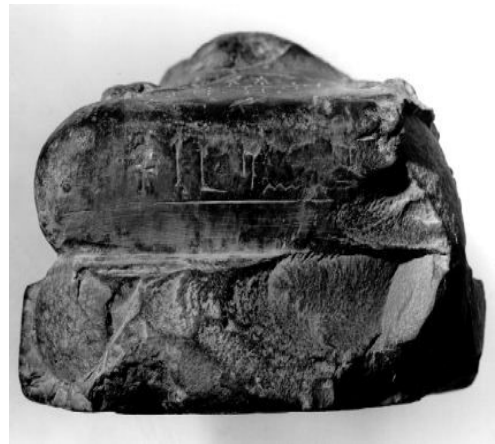


**a:**Text of *Rnf-snb*, from a destroyed scene of a shrine near the temple of Hathor at Serabit el Khadim, 12<sup>th</sup> Dynasty  
Gardiner, 1917, pl. XVIII



**b:** Stela of *s3-mnw* probably 13<sup>th</sup> Dynasty, most probably Abydos, Private Collection  
Drawing by R.E. Bransby.

Leprohon, 1996, figs. 2-3



**c:** Statuette of *rn-snb*, probably 13<sup>th</sup> Dynasty, most probably Abydos, Private Collection

Quirke, 1996, figs.

Plate. 2





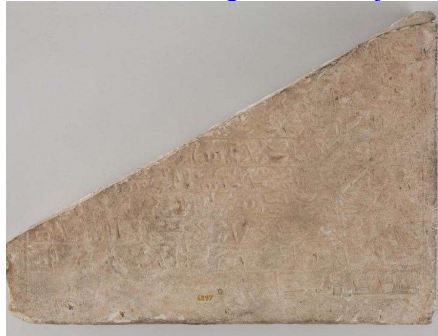
**a:** Stela of *sn<sup>c</sup>-sw-m<sup>c</sup>*, 13th Dynasty, Abydos, the British Museum EA 238

[https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/Y\\_EA238](https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/Y_EA238)



**b:** Stauē of *ddw-sbk*, 13th Dynasty, Deir el-Bahari, temple of Mentuhotep II, The Egyptian Museum CG 887

Borchardt, 1930, 155



**c:** A fragment of a stela of *d3b*, 13<sup>th</sup> Dynasty, Abydos, Chicago Oriental Institute E 6897

[https://oi-idb-static.uchicago.edu/multimedia/212365/D.%2019668\\_E6897\\_001.1920x1200.jpg](https://oi-idb-static.uchicago.edu/multimedia/212365/D.%2019668_E6897_001.1920x1200.jpg)

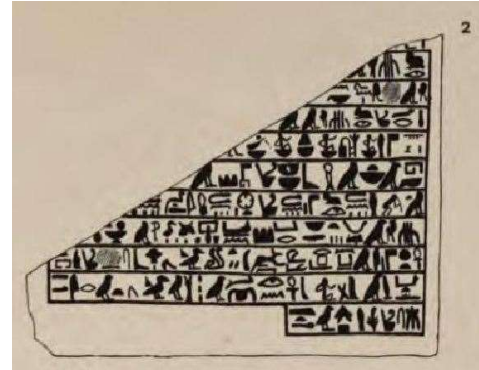


Plate 3



**a:** Obelisk-shaped stela of *Imn-m-h3t*, 13<sup>th</sup> Dynasty, The Oriental University Museum of Durham, n. 1984  
[https://discover-old.durham.ac.uk/primo-explore/fulldisplay?docid=44DUR\\_ADLIB\\_DS607&context=L&vid=44DUR\\_VU4&lang=en\\_US&search\\_scope=LSCOP\\_MUSCOL&adaptor=Local%20Search%20Engine&tab=muscol\\_tab&query=any,contains,amenemhat%20obelisk](https://discover-old.durham.ac.uk/primo-explore/fulldisplay?docid=44DUR_ADLIB_DS607&context=L&vid=44DUR_VU4&lang=en_US&search_scope=LSCOP_MUSCOL&adaptor=Local%20Search%20Engine&tab=muscol_tab&query=any,contains,amenemhat%20obelisk)



**B:** Stela of *hnsu*, 13<sup>th</sup> Dynasty, Abydos, The Metropolitan Museum of Art 21.2.69  
<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/544360>



**c:** Group statue of *s-n-wsrt ʿnh*, 13<sup>th</sup> Dynasty, Ras Sharma, northern Syria, The Louvre Museum AO 17223  
<https://collections.louvre.fr/en/ark:/53355/cl010140499>



Plate 4



**a:** Stela of *intf* 13<sup>th</sup> Dynasty, probably from Qift, The British Museum EA 1247

Hieroglyphic Texts, 1912, pl. 9



**c:** Pyramidion-shaped stela of *sbk-htp*, 17<sup>th</sup> Dyansty, Thebes, The British Museum EA 1163  
[https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/Y\\_EA\\_1163](https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/Y_EA_1163)



**b:** Stela of *shp-ib*, 17<sup>th</sup> Dynasty, probably El-Kab, The British Museum EA 221

Hieroglyphic Texts, pl. 14



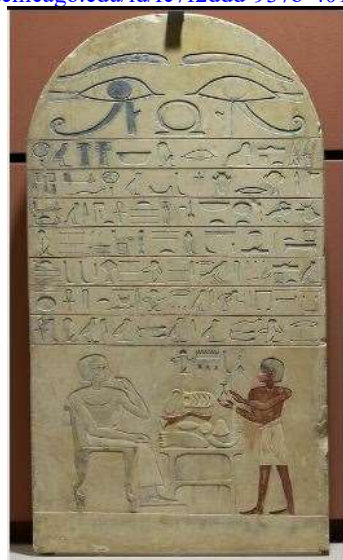
**d:** Stela of *spd-hr*, 17<sup>th</sup> Dynasty, Buhen, Pennsylvania University Museum 10984

<https://www.penn.museum/collections/object/315633>

Plate 5



**a:** Fragmentary stela of *nht*, 17<sup>th</sup> Dynasty, Abydos, Chicago Oriental Institute E 7176  
<https://oi-idb.uchicago.edu/id/1c7f2ddd-937b-4015-bb9f-0612b0de5ee8>



**b:** Stela of *ibt*, 18<sup>th</sup> Dynasty, the Louvre Museum C 90  
<https://collections.louvre.fr/en/ark:/53355/cl010021999>



**c:** Stela of *imfr*, 18<sup>th</sup> Dynasty, the Louvre Museum C 47  
<https://collections.louvre.fr/en/ark:/53355/cl010022870>



Plate 6



**a:** Block statue of *s3-tp-ihw*, 18<sup>th</sup> Dynasty, Abydos, Pennsylvania University Museum E 9217

<https://www.penn.museum/collections/object/53332>



**b:** Stela of *intf*, 18<sup>th</sup> Dynasty, Draa Abu el-Naga, The Louvre Museum C26

<https://collections.louvre.fr/en/ark:/53355/cl010025023>



**c:** Scribe palette of *pn-i3ty*, 18<sup>th</sup> Dynasty, The Louvre Museum E 3212

<https://collections.louvre.fr/en/ark:/53355/cl010015407>



**d:** Stela of *dbb*, 18<sup>th</sup> Dynasty, Esna, The Louvre Museum C 41.

<https://collections.louvre.fr/en/ark:/53355/cl010022864>

Plate 7



a: Ushabti of *h3t*, 18<sup>th</sup> Dynasty, Thebes

Maspero, 1915, pl. XXIII



b: Wooden box of *iy*, 18<sup>th</sup> Dynasty, Tuna el\_Gebel, Berlin Museum 17555

<http://www.aegyptologie.com/forum/cgi-bin/YaBB/YaBB.pl?action=albumprint&idn=20090726141852>



c: Stela of *Imn-w3h-sw*, 19<sup>th</sup> Dynasty, Abydos, Chicago Oriental Institute E 10507

<https://oi-idb.uchicago.edu/id/d74f4cd9-72f2-4da8-bd71-da8a2dfec82f>



d: Scarab of *mn-htp*, 19<sup>th</sup> Dynasty, Buhen, Pennsylvania University Museum E 10116

[https://www.penn.museum/collections/object\\_images.php?irn=79767#image1](https://www.penn.museum/collections/object_images.php?irn=79767#image1)