

# **The Career of Amenemopet (TT 276)**

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### Abstract

This article aims to clarify the professional life of the noble Amenemopet, who lived around the middle of the eighteenth dynasty, through presenting the titles and epithets that this nobleman bore. The source of these titles and epithets is what remains of the scenes and texts of his tomb No. TT 276 in the Thebes necropolis, Qurnet Murai that contains about 20 titles and epithets including honorable, administrative, military, and religious nature. The article concluded that he was one of the distinguished men of the royal court, as his upbringing in the royal nursery allowed him to rise in positions to be responsible for the king's personal suite, close to him, his trust, and his personal advisor.

### Key words:

Amenemopet, TT 276, Thebes necropolis, titles, epithets.

### الملخص العربي:

تستهدف المقالة توضيح الحياة المهنية للنبييل آمون إم أوبت الذي عاش في فترة منتصف الأسرة الثامنة عشرة، وذلك من خلال عرض الألقاب والنعوت التي حملها. ومصدر هذه الألقاب والنعوت هو ما تبقى من مناظر ونصوص مقبرته رقم 276 بجبانة طيبة منطقة قرنة مرعي والتي تقدم لنا فيما يمكن قراءته حوالي 20 لقب ونعت ما بين شرفية ووظيفية وذات صبغة عسكرية ودينية. وخلصت المقالة إلى أنه كان من رجال البلاط الملكي المميزين إذ سمحت له نشأته في الحضانة الملكية أن يتدرج في المناصب ليكون مسئولاً عن جناح الملك الشخصي ومقرباً منه ومحل ثقته ومستشاره الشخصي.

### الكلمات الدالة:

آمون إم أوبت، المقبرة رقم 276، جبانة طيبة، الألقاب، النعوت.

## 1. Introduction

Amenemopet,<sup>1</sup> a high official who was lived around the mid-18<sup>th</sup> Dynasty during the reigns of Thutmose III to Amenhotep II.<sup>2</sup> His tomb offers an excellent specimen for representing valuable information, where archaeology can play important roles toward understanding scenes and texts. It has also important implications that help in disclosing the undiscovered data through straight investigating these tombs.

The tomb of Amenemopet TT 276<sup>3</sup> is a T-shaped tomb located at the Qurnet Murai area below the tomb of Amenhotep, “Viceroy of Kush” TT 40.<sup>4</sup> It is very similar to Nebamun’s tomb TT 17, which can be dated to the mid-18<sup>th</sup> Dynasty, to the beginning of Amenhotep II’s reign according to its façade, architecture, decorative style, and content.<sup>5</sup> Therefore, it is likely that this TT 276 dates back to the same period, especially as its decorative program generally follows the pattern of other mid-18<sup>th</sup> Dynasty Theban private tombs.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Ranke, H., *Die Ägyptische Personennamen*, I, Glückstadt, 1935, p.27 (no. 18).

<sup>2</sup> Kampp, F., *Die Thebanische Nekropole: Zum Wandel des Grabgedankens von der XVIII. bis zur XX. Dynastie*. Theban 13, Mainz, 1996, p. 547.

<sup>3</sup> Porter, B. & Moss, R., *Topographical Bibliography of ancient Egyptian hieroglyphic texts, reliefs and painting*, vol. I, part I, Oxford, 1960, pp. 352-3.

<sup>4</sup> PM I.I, pp. 75-8

<sup>5</sup> Cf. Shirley, J., “*The life and career of Nebamun, the physician of the king in Thebes.*” *The Art and Archaeology of Ancient Egypt: Essays in Honor of David B. O'Connor*, Supplément aux Annales du Service des Antiquités de l’Égypte, 36, 2007, p. 382.

<sup>6</sup> As for the distribution of scenes in the tombs of the Eighteenth Dynasty that predated the Amarna period, the centerpiece of which is the owner of the tomb in a group of scenes, some of which relate to his career. cf. Hartwig, M., *Tomb painting and*

There are no sources of information about Amenemopet, the owner of TT 276 except for the inscriptions and scenes depicted on the walls of his tomb and a few funerary cones.<sup>7</sup>

## 2. Amenemopet's titles and epithets

The titles<sup>8</sup> that officials held in ancient Egypt give us important information about their careers.<sup>9</sup> In our case, although the tomb is almost the only source of information, its inscriptions are badly damaged, except some remains of a scene. Through the examination and interpretation of the remaining scene we inferred the nature of the tomb owner's career. That scene depicts him sitting on a chair next to his mother or wife receiving a group of people who offer him some products.<sup>10</sup>

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identity in ancient Thebes, 1419- 1372 BCE, Turnhout, 2004, pp.18-19.

<sup>7</sup> So far, to my knowledge, no statue of Amenemopet has been discovered in any temples at Thebes, no object related to him has been found in any museum, and it seems that he does not have any chapel or dedication texts in Gebel es-Silsilah, just two different types of funerary cones were found inside his tomb and in its courtyard, Nos. 60 and 186. Zenihiro, K., *The Complete Funerary Cones*, Tokyo, 2009, pp.66, 104; Gauthier, H., "Cônes funéraires trouvés à Thèbes en 1917 et 1918", in: *BIFAO* 16, 1919, pp.176-183.

<sup>8</sup> Quirke has discussed the meaning of the term "title" based on worktime or the sphere of activity in the introduction of his book: *Titles and bureaux of Egypt 1850-1700 BC*, London, 2004, pp. 1-5.

<sup>9</sup> Davies, N., *The tomb of Puyemrê at Thebes, vol. I: The hall of memories*, New York, 1922, p.26.

<sup>10</sup> The tomb was severely damaged due to its use as a place of residence in the modern era, and it was also subjected to vandalism in the Amarna period, as in the rest of the scenes it is noted that the name of Amun was destroyed and removed. There are examples in other tombs of this vandalism. Cf. Shirley, J., *The life and career of Nebamun*, p. 394, n. 6.



## 2.1. From his tomb TT 276

As previously mentioned, the tomb is in poor condition, but the rest of the scenes and texts provide us with number of titles and epithets carried by the tomb's owner that refer to some important information about his career.

### 2.1.1. Amenemopet's titles:

 *jry-p<sup>c</sup>t* Hereditary prince, crown prince, noble<sup>11</sup>

This title was a high-level one and thus most suitably written at the head of a column of titles.<sup>12</sup> The reading of this title is *jry-p<sup>c</sup>t*.<sup>13</sup> Gardiner who discussed this title at length,<sup>14</sup> translated the term *jry* as “appertaining to”, and the term *p<sup>c</sup>t* as “men, patricians”. He acquired this title with the nobles of the highest class and first of all with the crown prince.<sup>15</sup>

Towards the end of the Old Kingdom, the title  was associated with . Davies translated them together as “Count”. The combined title expresses the nobility of high stature and gave his owners hereditary rights. However, in the era of the New Kingdom, it became granted to senior officials without regard to issues of heredity.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Al-Ayedi, A., Index of administrative, religious, and military titles of the New Kingdom, Ismailia, 2006, p. 291, (1010).


<sup>12</sup> Baer, K., Rank and Title in the Old Kingdom, Chicago, 1960, pp. 35, 300.

<sup>13</sup> Kuentz, C., “*Deux versions d'un panégyrique royal.*” Studies presented to F. LL. Griffith, Egypt Exploration Society, London, 1932, p. 102.

<sup>14</sup> Gardiner, A., Ancient Egyptian Onomastica I, Oxford 1947, p. 14\* -19\* (72).

<sup>15</sup> Gardiner, A., Onomastica I, p.18\*.

<sup>16</sup> Davies, N., The tomb of Puyemrê at Thebes, p. 28.

 *h3ty-ꜥ* Mayor<sup>17</sup>

During the Old Kingdom, it represented one of the highest occupational ranks, and it was held by the viziers<sup>18</sup> and by the treasurer as well.<sup>19</sup> According to Helck, it became an official title for a city's mayor and had an administrative office from the 12<sup>th</sup> dynasty.<sup>20</sup> This title usually comes behind the title *jry-pꜥt* "hereditary prince" and followed by the titles *htmty-bjty* "seal-bearer of the king of lower Egypt" and *smr wꜥty* "sole companion" to describe the men granted the highest rank.<sup>21</sup>

 *htmty bjty* Royal seal-bearer<sup>22</sup>

This title identifies the person responsible for the royal seal. It appeared regularly from the 4<sup>th</sup> dynasty. It is a title that characterizes officials who have attained the highest rank, as in most cases it occurs with the holders of *jry-pꜥt*. Furthermore, it is usually found together with

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<sup>17</sup> Jones, D., *An Index of Ancient Egyptian Titles, Epithets and Phrases of the Old Kingdom*, vol. I, Oxford, 2000, p. 496 (1858); Taylor, J., *An Index of Male non-royal Egyptian Titles, Epithets & Phrases of The 18<sup>th</sup> Dynasty*, London, 2001, p. 142 (1381); Al-Ayedi, A., *Titles of the New Kingdom*, p.315 (1062)

<sup>18</sup> Strudwick, N., *The Administration of Egypt in the Old kingdom*, London, 1985, p. 310.

<sup>19</sup> Bryan, B., *The Reign of Thutmose IV*, Baltimore, 1991, p. 246.

<sup>20</sup> Helck, W., *Zur Verwaltung des Mittleren und Neuen Reichs*, *Probleme der Ägyptologie* 3, Leiden, 1958, p. 211.

<sup>21</sup> Strudwick, N., *The Administration of Egypt in the Old kingdom*, p. 310.

<sup>22</sup> Al-Ayedi, A., *Titles of the New Kingdom*, p. 453 (1566); Ward read this title as *sd3w.ty bj.ty* he translated it as "sealer of the king of Lower Egypt", Ward, W., *Index of Egyptian administrative and Religious Titles of the Middle kingdom*, 1982, p.170 (1472).

*h3ty-<sup>c</sup>* or *smr-w<sup>c</sup>ty* or both of them.<sup>23</sup> “Sealbearer of the king” is one of the titles that attested to the national level of the official.<sup>24</sup>

𓆎 *jmy-r pr-ḥd* Overseer of the treasury<sup>25</sup>

The term 𓆎 *pr-ḥd* could refer to several concepts such as treasury, the treasure house, or the house of silver.<sup>26</sup>

Bryan translated the title 𓆎 as “Overseer of the treasure house”, she also mentioned that the title 𓆎 means “Overseer of the treasury”.<sup>27</sup> She indicated that the former title generally associated with the vizierate, while the latter title subordinates to the king personally.<sup>28</sup> She argues that Helck's translation for this title as “overseer of the gold and silver houses” is not identical to a treasurer's rank. Instead, it mostly designates any person responsible for invaluable metals on the occupation.<sup>29</sup>

Yet, it seems that the House of Treasures was a facility attached to many structures in ancient Egypt. Individuals responsible for this facility bore the title “overseer of the

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<sup>23</sup> Strudwick, N., *The Administration of Egypt in the Old Kingdom*, p. 310.

<sup>24</sup> Quirke, S., *Titles and bureaux of Egypt 1850-1700 BC*, London, 2004, p. 12.

<sup>25</sup> Al-Ayedi, A., *Titles of the New Kingdom*, p. 56 (194).

<sup>26</sup> Jones, D., *Titles, Epithets and Phrases of the Old Kingdom*, p. 123 (489); Taylor, J., *Male non-royal Egyptian Titles*, p. 18 (160); Faulkner, R.O., *A concise dictionary of middle Egyptian*, Oxford, 1964, p. 90; Gardiner, A., *Onomastica II*, p. 215\*; Helck, W., *Zur Verwaltung des Mittleren und Neuen Reichs*, p. 181; Bryan, B., *The Reign of Thutmose IV*, pp.247-8.

<sup>27</sup> Bryan, B., *The Reign of Thutmose IV*, p. 244.


<sup>28</sup> Bryan, B., *The Reign of Thutmose IV*, p. 247.




<sup>29</sup> Bryan, B., *The Reign of Thutmose IV*, p. 247; for the Helck's discussion about this title in the middle and new kingdom, cf. Helck, W., *Zur Verwaltung des Mittleren und Neuen Reichs*, pp. 180- 91.



silver and gold houses”, and this title linked them to the facility, whether it was a temple or a royal palace.<sup>30</sup>

According to Strudwick, the title *jmy-r pr-ḥd* overseer of the treasury appeared at the beginning of the Fourth Dynasty and was widely used in the Fifth Dynasty. It considers to be the most important title in relation to the management of the treasury during the old kingdom.<sup>31</sup> The owners of *jmy-r pr-ḥd* are normally officials who carried other titles in the treasury and related institutions.<sup>32</sup>

 *jmy-r ḥnwty* Chamberlain<sup>33</sup>

This title consists of two distinct groups: the phrase  *jmy-r* “overseer”, and the word  *ḥnwty* “audience chamber”,<sup>34</sup> or “cabinet” as part of the palace probably from the king’s chambers, also from the temple as the residence of the god.<sup>35</sup> Thus, the title could mean “overseer of the audience chamber”, “chamberlain”,<sup>36</sup> “head of cabinet”,<sup>37</sup> “interior overseer”,<sup>38</sup> and “overseer of the Residence”.<sup>39</sup> Gauthier has discussed this title in detail. He believes that the word  *ḥnwty* used to designate the intimate part of

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<sup>30</sup> Bryan, B., *The Reign of Thutmose IV*, p. 248.

<sup>31</sup> Strudwick, N., *The Administration of Egypt in the Old Kingdom*, p. 276.

<sup>32</sup> Strudwick, N., *The Administration of Egypt in the Old Kingdom*, p. 299.

<sup>33</sup> Al-Ayedi, A., *Titles of the New Kingdom*, p. 23 (79).

<sup>34</sup> Faulkner, R. O., *Concise dictionary*, p. 48.

<sup>35</sup> *Wb I*, p. 226 (18).

<sup>36</sup> Al-Ayedi, A., *Titles of the New Kingdom*, p. 23 (79); Ward, W., *Titles of the Middle Kingdom*, p. 14 (72); Taylor, J., *Male non-royal Egyptian Titles*, p. 16 (144).

<sup>37</sup> *Wb I*, p. 227 (1).

<sup>38</sup> Quirke, S., *Titles and bureau*, p. 28.

<sup>39</sup> Jones read the title *jmy-r ḥnw*. Cf. Jones, D., *Titles, Epithets and Phrases of the Old Kingdom*, p. 197 (728).

the royal palace.<sup>40</sup> Holder of this title is an official linked to the palace or the King personally.<sup>41</sup> Few information is available regarding the competence of the title's holder as well as his assigned tasks. Yet, the title's holder certainly enjoyed high level of freedom to move within the country, as their traces found in separate areas. It is also believed that this title has wide importance and awarded to high personalities that associated with the royal palace.<sup>42</sup>

### **2.1.2. Amenemopet's epithets:**


Ancient Egyptian epithets consist of phrases or words that describe the characteristics of their owner and are found alongside the name and titles of that person. It is a challenge to distinguish epithets from titles. The functions of these epithets are multiple. They help to define the person, and they serve symbolically in transforming the inanimate element belong to that person with these qualities into an embodiment one. They also add a kind of legitimacy and reinforcement to the status of this person himself or his office. It contributes to the preservation of his monuments and the memorialization of his memory.<sup>43</sup>

 *s3b* Dignitary<sup>44</sup>

This epithet *s3b* appears only once on the ceiling of the transverse hall, associated with the title of overseer of the

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<sup>40</sup> Gauthier, H., "Le Titre  (ími-ra âkhnouti) et ses Acceptions diverses", in : *BIFAO* 15, 1918, p. 171.

<sup>41</sup> Gauthier, H., Le Titre  (ími-ra âkhnouti), p. 173.



<sup>42</sup> Gauthier, H., Le Titre  (ími-ra âkhnouti), p. 204.

<sup>43</sup> Doxey, D. M., Egyptian Non-Royal Epithets in the Middle Kingdom, A social and historical analysis. *Probleme der Ägyptologie* 12, Leiden, 1998, p. 1; Fischer, H. G., Egyptian titles of the Middle Kingdom. A Supplement to Wm. Ward's Index, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New York, 1997, p. 1.

<sup>44</sup> Ward, W., Titles of the Middle kingdom, p. 147 (1263)



To be praised is to perform the work required by these entities that deserve their favor.<sup>51</sup>

 *w<sup>c</sup> n nswt m šm<sup>c</sup>w Mhw* Unique one of the kings in Upper and Lower Egypt<sup>52</sup>;  *mh jb n nswt m šm<sup>c</sup>w Mhw* Confidant of the king<sup>53</sup> in Upper<sup>54</sup> and Lower Egypt<sup>55</sup>



Epithets that link individuals to kings are usually lack the name of a specific king, but rather refer to the king or his position in certain ways, or even refer to him by the suffix pronoun third person singular. One way is the word *nswt*, which has appeared at an early time in Egyptian history to express the king of all Egypt, not only the king of Upper Egypt. This word defines the divine position or function of the king. Thus, when people describe themselves as being loved or preferred by the king, they express these qualities to the gods as well.<sup>56</sup> When the official describes himself as *mh jb n nswt*, he thus expresses his entitlement to the trust of the king and clarifies the important role that he played in bringing happiness to the king through the implementation of his military or administrative orders. The official who are related to the treasury, as well as

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<sup>51</sup> Doxey, D., A social and historical analysis of Egyptian non-Royal epithets in the Middle Kingdom, PhD diss. University of Pennsylvania, 1995, pp. 60-1.

<sup>52</sup> This epithet is mentioned in Taylor's index with a different adverbial adjunct. Cf. Taylor, J., Male non-royal Egyptian Titles, p. 89 (802).


<sup>53</sup> Taylor, J., Male non-royal Egyptian Titles, p. 124 (1135)

<sup>54</sup>  *šm<sup>c</sup>w* or  *rsw* both hieroglyphs used to refer to upper Egypt. Cf. Gauthier, H., Dictionnaire des noms géographiques Contenus dans les textes Hiéroglyphiques, III, *IFAO*, Le Caire, 1926, pp. 138-9.


<sup>55</sup> Faulkner, R. O., Concise dictionary, pp. 114, 266.

<sup>56</sup> Doxey, D. M., Egyptian Non Royal Epithets, pp. 110-1.

those who contributed to the expeditions, describe themselves as such.<sup>57</sup>

 *r shrr m t3 r dr.f* Spokesman who makes peace in the entire land<sup>58</sup>

The above epithet is one of the epithets that shows the personal courage and military skills of its bearer. This kind of epithets may have a background based on actual historical events. Epithets, which involve foreign relations, trade, and military courage, have appeared since the Old Kingdom, and were often found in the expedition inscriptions, as they were also found inside tombs. It may also refer to raw material expeditions or describe mining and quarrying activities.<sup>59</sup>

 *jry rdwy n nb t3wy hr h3swt nbt* Attendant of the lord of the two lands and in every foreign land<sup>60</sup>

The term *jry rdwy*, which is to be taken literally as "belonging to the legs (of the king)" or more appropriately as stated by Jansen-Winkel "der Begleiter",<sup>61</sup> is a military-related epithet that indicates loyalty to the king or a statement of allegiance. *jry rdwy* occurs alone or with some additions to indicate geographical and topographical areas. Also, it used to indicate steadfastness on the battlefield, in any place, and at any time. *jry rdwy* adds to the allegiance statement the aspect of direct contact with the royal person. This

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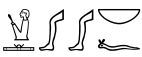
<sup>57</sup> Doxey, D. M., *Egyptian Non Royal Epithets*, pp. 145-6.


<sup>58</sup> Taylor, J., *Male non-royal Egyptian Titles*, p. 135 (1317).


<sup>59</sup> Cf. *shrr t3 m dr.f*, Doxey, D. M., *Egyptian Non Royal Epithets*, pp. 72- 75.





<sup>60</sup> Taylor, J., *Male non-royal Egyptian Titles*, p. 66 (610).

<sup>61</sup> Jansen-Winkel, K., *Ägyptische Biographien der 22. und 23. Dynastie*, vol. II, Harrassowitz, 1985, p. 321; Vittmann, G., *Die Autobiographie der Tathotis (Stele Wien 5857)*, in : *SAK* 22, 1995, pp. 291, 305, n. 64.

physical closeness also helps *jry rdwy* to be used outside of military activities, particularly in periods when external conflicts such as the Amarna period have subsided as this expression has been increasingly used to describe the exceptional closeness of the king.<sup>62</sup> The epithet  *jry rdwy nb.f* Attendant of his lord<sup>63</sup> may be refer to the same as *jry rdwy n nb t3wy*.

 *šms nb.f [hr nmtwt].f hr mw [hr t3] hr h3swt nbt* One who followed his lord [on his journeys] on water [on land] and in every foreign lands<sup>64</sup>

 *šms nswt hr h3st r stwtw r sd3 hr.f* One who followed the king in foreign lands ...?<sup>65</sup>

This epithet is rare and so difficult to identify its meaning. The first part *šms nswt hr h3st* is mentioned by Taylor with the addition of *nbt*, which is not shown here. As for the word  may be a writing equivalent to the verbal noun *swtwt* , which means journey.<sup>66</sup> For the last phrase of the epithet , two hypotheses are proposed for interpretation: First, it could be an infinitive form of the caus. 3ae-inf. verb *sd3y-hr* ,<sup>67</sup> which lost its ending -t<sup>68</sup> and means to amuse

<sup>62</sup> Guksch, H., Königsdienst: zur Selbstdarstellung der Beamten in der 18. Dynastie. *SAGA* 11. Heidelberg, 1994. p. 65-6.

<sup>63</sup> This epithet mentioned by Taylor with an adverbial adjunct, cf. Taylor, J., *Male non-royal Egyptian Titles*, p. 66 (605).


<sup>64</sup> Taylor, J., *Male non-royal Egyptian Titles*, p. 226 (2210). *hr nmtwt* is missing in the text, and it is noted that the plural strokes come after the suffix pronoun.

<sup>65</sup> This epithet is rare, and it is so difficult to identify its meaning.

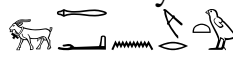
<sup>66</sup> *Wb* IV, p. 78 (1); Faulkner, R. O., *Concise dictionary*, p. 218.

<sup>67</sup> Faulkner, R. O., *Concise dictionary*, p. 258.

<sup>68</sup> Allen, J. P., *Middle Egyptian. An introduction to the language and culture of hieroglyphs*, Cambridge, 2010, p. 161, §14.3.2.

one-self. Second hypotheses is to be an infinitive of the caus. 3-lit. verb *swd3*  that means keep safe or make healthy.<sup>69</sup> Hence the meaning of the epithet is: one who followed the king in foreign lands at journey in order to amuse him/ keep him safe.

The two later epithets that begin with *šms*, are military-related epithets. Yet, Shirley questioned the nature of those individuals holding those epithets and if they conducted actual military activities<sup>70</sup>. She concluded that some civilians are founded to provide administrative task in a military environment. Perhaps officials acquired these epithets due to the increased military activities in the 18<sup>th</sup> Dynasty.<sup>71</sup>

 *sḥ* *ʿ3 n mrwt* Noble great of love<sup>72</sup>

The word *sḥ* is used to refer to a person of high standing, such as *sr* and *smr*, but *sḥ* is of higher rank. *sḥ* refers to the nobility of its owner rather than specific job. By tracing the epithets associated with this word and the places where it is mentioned, it could be suggested that the bearer has local and funerary associations.<sup>73</sup> This assumption is consisting with Moret's opinion, who mentioned that the meaning extend to the dignity of the

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<sup>69</sup> Faulkner, R. O., Concise dictionary, p. 218.


<sup>70</sup> Shirley, J., "What's in a title? Military and civil officials in the Egyptian 18<sup>th</sup> dynasty military sphere", in: *Egypt, Canaan and Israel: History, Imperialism, Ideology and Literature, Culture and History of the Ancient Near East*, vol.52. Leiden, 2011, p.293.

<sup>71</sup> Shirley, J., "What's in a title?" pp. 291, 313.


<sup>72</sup> The word noble in Taylor is associated with other words and phrases not mentioned here. Cf. Taylor, J., *Male non-royal Egyptian Titles*, pp. 196-7 (1916-24).

<sup>73</sup> Doxey, D. M., *Egyptian Non Royal Epithets*, pp. 163-4.

privileged who obtain, simultaneously, offices in the State and accession to the Osirian rites.<sup>74</sup>

 *jmy-jb n Hr m pr.f* Favorite of Horus in his temple<sup>75</sup>

The above epithet refers to the obedience of deities and provides a linkage between this deity and the person who is described by this attribute. Through establishing or participating in the cult regarding this deity, the person can receive the deity blessing and therefore deserve his love, praise, and approval.<sup>76</sup>

 *hrr tw hr tpt-r.f* One with whose utterance is pleased<sup>77</sup>

This epithet tightens its owner with eloquence, which has practical benefits such as the ability to provide administrative reports effectively, and to choose the appropriate moment to speak in the situation of social and administrative contact.<sup>78</sup>

## 2.2. From funerary cones: (Fig.1)

The funerary cones, which belong to the owner of the tomb Amenemopet were found by Gauthier<sup>79</sup> between 1917 and 1918. They are of two different types, the first one is no. 60 and the second type is no. 186 in the Davies

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<sup>74</sup> Moret, A., “La légende d'Osiris à l'époque thébaine d'après l'hymne à Osiris du Louvre, avec 3 Planches”, in: *BIFAO* 30, 1931, p. 736.

<sup>75</sup> Taylor, J., *Male non-royal Egyptian Titles*, p. 8 (72).

<sup>76</sup> Doxey, D. M., *Egyptian Non Royal Epithets*, pp. 163-4.

<sup>77</sup> Related titles in: Taylor, J., *Male non-royal Egyptian Titles*, p. 141 (1373-4).

<sup>78</sup> Doxey, D. M., *Egyptian Non Royal Epithets*, p. 52, table 7, p. 55, *hrr hr prw n r.f.*

<sup>79</sup> Gauthier, H., “Cônes funéraires trouvés à Thèbes en 1917 et 1918”, in: *BIFAO* 16, 1919, pp.176-183.





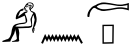
and Macadam catalog (fig. 1).<sup>80</sup> Both cones contain the title of  “overseer of the audience chamber”, but the first type contains another title that is not found in his tomb, which is  “child of the nurse”.



Fig.1 the two types of funerary cones of Amenemopet

 *hrd n k3p* Child of the nurse<sup>81</sup>

It is not known exactly what is meant by this title, although it is a common rank during the 18<sup>th</sup> dynasty relating to youths. It is associated with the children of the nurse growing up inside the palace.<sup>82</sup> The *hrd n k3p* was an educational institution, for non-royal children, and was intended only for a selected number of children born on the same day as the Crown Prince. Thus, they may have received a special education in the royal palace as they grow side by side with the future king. These people were supposed to be his closest and most loyal servants.<sup>83</sup>

In many cases, the title *hrd n k3p* is associated with individuals with no posterior career posts. Yet, some individuals hold this title were promoted in different positions and in some cases, they promoted to high-rank positions.<sup>84</sup>

<sup>80</sup> Davies, N.; Macadam, M., *A corpus of Inscribed Egyptian Funerary cones, part I plates*, Oxford, 1957.

<sup>81</sup> Taylor, J., *Male non-royal Egyptian Titles*, p. 190 (1862).

<sup>82</sup> Bryan, B., *The Reign of Thutmose IV*, p. 261.

<sup>83</sup> Desroches-Noblecourt, C., “Les enfants du Kep”, in *Actes du XXIe Congrès international des orientalistes*, Paris, 1949, pp. 68-70; Mathieu, B., “L’énigme du recrutement des ‘enfants du kap’: une solution? ”, in : *GM* 177, 2000, pp. 43-48.

<sup>84</sup> Bryan, B., *The Reign of Thutmose IV*, p. 261.

During the eighteenth Dynasty, where this title widely spread and carried by many officials, it was noted that these employees began their careers as chamberlain, and they bore titles that had military connections.<sup>85</sup>

### **3. The career of Amenemopet:**

All the previous titles and epithets were recorded in the tomb of Amenemopet TT 276, except one title *hrd n k3p* that was recorded in one type of his funerary cones. In order to understand his professional progression these designations could be systematically listed as follows:

#### **3.1. Ranking and honorific:**

- |                                   |                                       |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 3.1.1. <i>jry- p<sup>c</sup>t</i> | 3.1.2. <i>h3ty-<sup>c</sup></i>       |
| 3.1.3. <i>smr</i>                 | 3.1.4. <i>smr w<sup>c</sup>ty</i>     |
| 3.1.5. <i>s3b</i>                 | 3.1.6. <i>s<sup>c</sup>h 3 n mrwt</i> |

#### **3.2. The palace:**

- |                            |                          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 3.2.1. <i>hrd n k3p</i>    | 3.2.2. <i>htmty bjty</i> |
| 3.2.3. <i>jmy-r ʿhnwty</i> |                          |

#### **3.3. Treasury:**

- 3.3.1. *jmy-r pr hḏ*

#### **3.4. Military & Expeditions:**

- 3.4.1. *jry rdwy n nb t3wy hr h3swt nbt*  
3.4.2. *w<sup>c</sup> n nswt m Šm<sup>c</sup>w Mḥw*  
3.4.3. *mḥ jb n nswt m Šm<sup>c</sup>w Mḥw*  
3.4.4. *r shrr m t3 r dr.f*  
3.4.5. *jry rdwy nb.f*  
3.4.6. *šms nswt hr h3st r stwtw r sd3 hr.f*  
3.4.7. *šms nb.f (hr nmtwt).f hr mw hr t3 hr h3swt nbt*

#### **3.5. E. Eloquence:**

- 3.5.1. *hrr tw hr tpt-r.f*

#### **3.6. Religious:**

- 3.7.1 *jmy-jb n Hr m pr.f*  
3.7.2. *ḥsy n ntr nfr*

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<sup>85</sup> Malek, B., “An Early eighteenth dynasty Monument of Sipair From Saqqara”, in *JEA* 75, 1989, p. 71.

Inside his tomb TT276, there is a scene<sup>86</sup> associated with the most important office attained by Amenemopet (fig. 2). This scene depicted him sitting on a chair with his mother or wife,<sup>87</sup> receiving a group of Egyptian and foreign peoples offering him some products and tributes. Davies assumed that the scene describes the contributions to the treasury, which showing the nature of Amenemopet's office as the supervisor of the treasury.<sup>88</sup> Davies also stated that the foreigners were four Syrians carrying ingots of metal: copper and lead. (fig.3)



Fig. 2: Amenemopet and his wife? receiving tributes and products

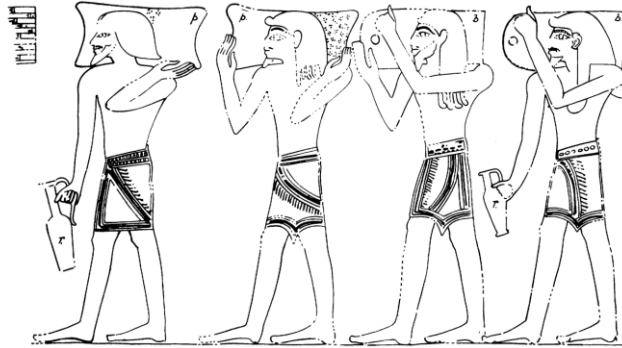


Fig. 3: foreigners bringing tributes and products<sup>89</sup>

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<sup>86</sup> PM I.I, pp. 352-3 (4).

<sup>87</sup> There is a reference in PM to a couple without specifying their personalities, the only scene that depicts the couple and includes a text defining the character of the lady is the one that includes Amenemopet and his mother Ayahotep in PM I.I, p. 353, (9).

<sup>88</sup> Davies, N., "The Work of the Graphic Branch of the Expedition", in: *BMMA* 27, no. 3, part II, 1932, p. 62.

<sup>89</sup> Davies, Graphic, fig.13.

**4. Titles and epithets assigned to Amenemopet in TT 276 and cones, with variants, their location and number of attestations:**

Titles & Epithets	TH	LH	Ceiling	Cones	Total
	4	1	—	—	5
	4	1	—	—	5
	2	1	—	—	3
	2	1	5	—	8
	2	1	5	2	10
	—	—	1	—	1
	—	1	—	—	1
	1	—	—	—	1
	—	1	—	—	1
	1	—	—	—	1
	1	—	—	—	1
	1	—	—	—	1
	1	—	—	—	1
	—	1	—	—	1
	—	1	—	—	1
	1	—	—	—	1
	1	—	—	—	1
	1	—	—	—	1
	—	—	—	1	1

The remaining texts in the tomb, which illustrates the designations of Amenemopet are distributed on the ceiling of the transverse hall, in the north<sup>90</sup> and west<sup>91</sup> wall of the transverse hall, and in the north wall of the long hall.<sup>92</sup> It is noted that the titles *jmy-r pr-hd* and *jmy-r hnwtj* were repeated 8 times in the texts, and they were unparalleled at the ceiling of the tomb except for the title of *s3b*.

Furthermore, the title *iry-pt* is followed by *h3ty-c* and the two titles were repeated 4 times. Whereas both titles are followed by *htmtj-bjty* twice, followed by *r shrr m t3 r dr:f* once, and lastly followed by *wc n nswt m ŠmSw Mhw* one time. As for the rest of the designations, each of them was mentioned only once in the remaining scenes and texts of the tomb.

## 5- Conclusion

Investigating the tomb TT 276 shows that Amenemopet represents an excellent courtier, as his career can be traced through the previously presented titles and epithets that this nobleman entitled. He spent most of his life in the royal palace attached to the office of the treasury, where his duties required movement around the country to conduct inventory management and property registrations.

He began his life at the royal nursery, where he was raised and educated in the palace institution as *hrd n k3p*. He spent his childhood and adolescence close to the princes and his peers from the sons of nobles who joined the royal nursery *k3p* until adulthood. This indicates that he was a close friend of the Crown Prince or the next

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<sup>90</sup> PM I.I, p.353(7).

<sup>91</sup> PM I.I, pp.352-3(4-9).

<sup>92</sup> PM I.I, p. 353(11).

king. This situation enables him enjoying a high position evidenced by the set of designations that he carried.

Like other 18<sup>th</sup> Dynasty officials, held the epithet *hṛd n k3p*, Amenemopet began his career as an overseer of the treasury *jmy-r pr hḏ*, responsible for recording its contents. The treasury that he supervised was often attached to the palace, as many epithets indicate his closeness to the king suggest this possibility. It seems that he reached a high rank by exercising the tasks of this job as evidenced by the honorary titles he held as *h3ty-ꜥ* and *sꜥh ꜥ3 n mrwt*.

In view of the eloquence, he described himself as *hrr tw hr tpt-r.f*, meaning that he was qualified to increase his closeness to the king, as he had the ability to choose the appropriate time to share his opinion or present his administrative reports. Since this skill is very important and is related to the wisdom of the official, he was a special advisor to the king, evidenced by his being a *s3b*, at least in terms of treasury matters.


It seems that he showed his talents while being a supervisor of the treasury, which qualified him to be in charge of the treasuries of the royal palace *jmy-r ꜥhnwty*. That is, he was responsible for the valuable properties belong the king personally. As a person in charge of the treasury, He was given freedom of movement throughout the country to perform those duties, bring valuable things, and raw materials that delight the king. So, He was *r shrr m t3 r dr.f, mh jb n nswt m Šmꜥw Mḥw* and *wꜥ n nswt m Šmꜥw Mḥw*.

As was the custom of those were raised in the royal nursery during the eighteenth dynasty, Amenemopet held designations linked him to the military such as *šms nswt hr h3st r stwtw r sd3 hr.f* and the other epithets that listed in 3.5 above. These epithets show his constant presence with the king as a close friend, perhaps for his amusement or to guard him, or for both reasons together.

Through these qualities, it can be strongly suggested that Amenemopet participated in some military campaigns, not necessarily as a soldier, but perhaps as an administrative employee in a military environment. It also suggests that he may have participated in some mining missions to bring the products for the royal treasury, which brings happiness to the heart of the king.

Through the religious-connected epithets, Amenemopet attempts to make it clear that he is obeying gods, performs his duties towards them, participates in the establishment of their cults. thus, he deserved their praise and love, and deserved to be mentioned and offered prayers to his name in their temples.

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