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AN OLD KINGDOM FUNERARY SLAB STELA OF A MAN IN ALEXANDRIA NATIONAL MUSEUM

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ABSTRACT

Publication of an old Kingdom slab stela exhibited in Alexandria National Museum (inventory number 20 (formerly Cairo Museum CG 1661=JE 15569), including comments on the style, iconography, paleography, and dating criteria. It was excavated by the Egypt Exploration Fund at Dendera in 1898. It was transferred to Alexandria National Museum 2003.

المخلص

دراسة لوحة حجرية من عصر الدولة القديمة محفوظة بالمتحف القومي بالأسكندرية وتشتمل الدراسة على دراسة نمط اللوحة و أسلوب النقش واللغة والخط وتاريخ اللوحة، ولقد اكتشفت هذه اللوحة بواسطة البعثة المصرية فى دندرة عام 1898 ولقد كانت محفوظة بالمتحف المصرى ونقلت مع غيرها من القطع الأثرية الى متحف الاسكندرية القومى عند افتتاحه عام 2003 .

KEYWORDS

Dendera, Seshemneferpepy, Titles, Offering list, Economical, medical and priestly careers, Social status of the owner.

الكلمات الدالة

دندرة، سشم نفر ببي، الألقاب، قائمة القرابين، الوظائف الاقتصادية والطبية والكهنوتية، المكانة الاجتماعية.

INTRODUCTION

Among the collections of the Alexandria National Museum are a collection of stelae. Slab stela no. 20 caught my eye when I saw it the first time because it has a large figural field of a man is depicted in raised relief, with no offering table, just an inscribed offering list. This paper will study and classify this stela in order to determine: the date of the stela; the owner of this stela; and his career and social status. The object in question was found by the Egypt Exploration Fund at 1898¹ at Dendera,² and entered

¹Cf. the stela of Neferseshem Pepy (British Museum EA1263; James , *Hieroglyphic Texts*, I, 38, pl. xxxvi.

²During the period of Pepy II onwards, Dendera developed its own local features, reflected in its mastaba-tombs of Dynasties 6-8, in particular, a series of niches along the principal façade surmounted by a

the Egyptian Museum as JE 15569, being published by Ludwig Borchardt in the *Catalogue Générale*.¹ It was transferred to the Alexandria National Museum for its inauguration on 31 December 2003.

DESCRIPTION

This object (fig.1, pl.1) is a stone slab stela, of a type that goes back to the First and Second Dynasties.² Such pieces were of many different shapes; usually they were bearing inscriptions, reliefs, or paintings. They usually show the tomb owner in front of an offering table, sometimes standing. They were set into the brick mastabas of the local cemeteries of the late Old Kingdom and the First Intermediate Period. A great number of such stelae from the Sixth to the Twelfth Dynasty were discovered in the cemeteries of Naga el-Deir and Dendera in Upper Egypt.³ The stela under study is a rectangular example of unpainted limestone, measuring 52cm by 41cm, and is generally in good condition. The surface was carefully prepared and is smooth although the lower edges are slightly broken. A large figural field of a man is depicted in raised relief on the right, with an inscribed offering list, which contains six main horizontal lines of hieroglyphic text, the top line across the whole width, the other five lines facing the owner of the stela. All the text is cut in fine, sharp, sunken relief with much individual detail in the signs.

REPRESENTATION

The owner is depicted with such southern facial features as fleshy lips and pug nose. He holds a long staff in his right hand and a scepter in his left, which passes across his figure.^a He stands on the right, facing left, wearing a shoulder length wig with overlapping rows of locks which leaves the ear exposed,^b a broad collar and two bracelets. The owner is represented wearing a short pointed skirt with peculiar transverse ribbings and vertical piping (pleated skirt).^c A belt is shown in raised relief in the surface of the garment with diagonal stripe across the kilt.^d The man's wig and kilt are detailed.

REMARKS ON THE REPRESENTATION AND THE STYLE

^a The owner carrying the stick with his left hand and the scepter in his right is a common style in the Old Kingdom representations.⁴ The scepter is shown in raised relief in the surface of the kilt as usual. This posture had been known probably as early as the Third Dynasty and became common during the Old Kingdom,⁵ the Middle Kingdom⁶ and

corresponding row of stelae, e.g. that of Seshemneferpepy-Senni (see Kitchen, review of Fischer, *Dendera in the Third Millennium B.C.*, 122-123. The form of the tomb of Seshemneferpepy-Senni differs from local norms in that the entrance is in the middle of the façade, which is rare, and thus there is an equal number of portals— eight—on each side of the entrance. The perfect condition of the slabs of sculpture is due to their never having been built into the portals, for which they were intended: these slabs were all found standing on edge, stacked against the wall of the chamber (Petrie, *Denderah 1898*, 11.

¹ Borchardt, *Denkmäler des Alten Reiches II*, 119(1661),Pl.87.

² See: Hölzl, "Stelae," , 319-320. Cf. stelae from Helwan and elsewhere: Der Manuelian, *Slab Stelae of the Giza Necropolis*, 138, 227-232, figs.263-294.

³ Hölzl, *Oxford Encyclopedia*, 320.

⁴ Cf. Harpur, *Decoration in Egyptian Tombs*, 128-129.

⁵ Cf. El-Masry, "An Unpublished Stela from the Ancient Cemetery of Thinis," 272; Harpur, *Decoration in Egyptian Tombs*, 128-129, 456, Fig.19, 459, Fig.25, 461, Fig.30, 462, Fig.32.

⁶ Pflüger "The Private Funerary Stelae of the Middle Kingdom", 130; cf. Aman, "Unusual Middle Kingdom Funerary Stela", 181-187, figs.1-2.

later. The staff and the scepter are indicative of a high status,¹ cf. the staff and scepter which frequently held by high officials in the Old Kingdom. Examples include: the false door of Neferseshemkhufu (British Museum EA1282, Fourth Dynasty);² part of a false door of Nyankhre (British Museum EA658, Fifth Dynasty);³ another slab-stela of Seshemneferpepy-Senna (British Museum EA1263, Sixth Dynasty);⁴ door-reveals from the tomb of Qar (British Museum EA1319B, Sixth Dynasty);⁵ and inscriptions of Tjetu I (Giza G.2001, late Sixth Dynasty).⁶ Middle Kingdom examples include: stela National archaeological museum, Athens L131;⁷ and the stela of Sobekhetep (Alexandria National Museum, no. 223, early Middle Kingdom).⁸

^b The long wig⁹ with braided shoulder-length hair descending from a center part and gradually become wider at the end was common style during Sixth Dynasty. The marked concavity of the flaring contour of the wig is particularly characteristic of this era; before the Sixth Dynasty the sides of the wig are usually straighter.¹⁰ Sixth Dynasty examples include: the inscription of Idu,¹¹ inscriptions of Idu's son Qar and Nakhti, Qar's brother;¹² the stelae of Imydepot-Bau (British Museum EA128)¹³ and Iny (British Museum EA1480);¹⁴ the false doors of Qar (British Museum EA1342)¹⁵ and Tjetu I (Giza G.2001, late Sixth Dynasty);¹⁶ and the other slab-stela of Seshemneferpepy-Senna (British Museum EA1263).¹⁷

^c The style of this kilt¹⁸, which sticks out in front in a triangular projection, was popular throughout Fifth¹⁹, and Sixth Dynasties, for Sixth Dynasty examples see: false door of Qar (British Museum EA1341);²⁰ door-reveals from the tomb of Qar (British Museum

¹ Cf. Baligh, "Three Middle Kingdom Stelae", 170-172, fig.1.

² James, *Hieroglyphic Texts*, I, 11, pl. xi.

³ James, *Hieroglyphic Texts*, I, 27, pl. xxvi[2].

⁴ James, *Hieroglyphic Texts*, I, 38, pl. xxxvi.

⁵ James, *Hieroglyphic Texts*, I, 34, pl. xxxiii[2].

⁶ Simpson *Western Cemetery*, I, pls. xvi, xx.

⁷ Stefanović, "Four Middle Kingdom Stelae", 210, fig. 2.

⁸ Aman, "Unusual Middle Kingdom Funerary Stela", figs.1-2.

⁹ Other style of this wig was used throughout Sixth Dynasty such shoulder-length wigs, half covering the ears; they consist of long locks parted from a median line, See for example: the wig of Idi, Sixth Dynasty, (no. 60.46 University of Missouri's Museum of Art and Archaeology). See: Fischer, "A Provincial Statue of the Egyptian Sixth Dynasty", 65, pl.17, figs1-2. The style of this wig was attested throughout Fifth Dynasty, and it is still frequently represented throughout Sixth Dynasty. See for example the head of statue of Ra-nofre no.19 (CCG) from Saqqara, Cairo, Fifth Dynasty. Scharff, "On the Statuary of the Old Kingdom", 41- 42,pl.viii,figs 1-2.

¹⁰ Fischer, "A Provincial Statue of the Egyptian Sixth Dynasty", 65, pl.17, figs1-2.

¹¹ Harpur *Decoration*, 463, fig.35.

¹² Simpson, *The Mastabas of Qar and Idu*, 1, pl. xxxiv[a, c], fig.18[b].

¹³ James, *Hieroglyphic Texts*, I, 36, pl. xxxiv[2].

¹⁴ James, *Hieroglyphic Texts*, I, 36, pl. xxxiv[3].

¹⁵ James, *Hieroglyphic Texts*, I, 33, pl. xxxii.

¹⁶ Simpson, *Western Cemetery*, pl. xx.

¹⁷ James, *Hieroglyphic Texts*, I, 38, pl. xxxvi.

¹⁸ The most common kilt in the Old Kingdom is the short white kilt. It was a straight piece of white linen cloth wrapped about the hips, the ends being knotted in front or passed under a girdle and sticking up above the waist line. The kilt which have been made out of rush matting was used also. Cf. Cartland, "The Dress of the Ancient Egyptians: I.", 166, figs.2-4.

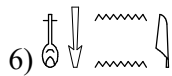
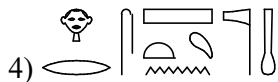
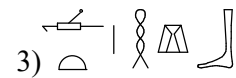
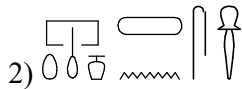
¹⁹ Cf. Perneb's kilt in the representation on the false door and facade of his tomb, accession no. 13.183.3, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Cartland, "The Dress of the Ancient Egyptians: I." 166, fig. 5.

²⁰ James, *Hieroglyphic Texts*, I, 33, pl. xxxii[2].

EA1319B);¹ inscriptions of User (Saqqara);² and another sla-stela of Seshemneferpepy-Senna (British Museum EA1263).³

^d The belt⁴ with diagonal stripe across the kilt, which may have been separate from the kilt, a style was popular throughout the Old Kingdom; for examples see: false door of Neferseshemkhufu (British Museum EA1282, Fourth Dynasty);⁵ part of a false door of Nyankhre (British Museum EA658, Fifth Dynasty);⁶ another slab-stela of Seshemneferpepy-Senna (British Museum EA1263, Sixth Dynasty);⁷ a lintel from Qar's mastaba;⁸ false door of Qar (British Museum EA1341);⁹ and door-reveals from the tomb of Qar (British Museum EA1319B, Sixth Dynasty);¹⁰ and inscriptions of Tjetu I, (Giza G.2001, late of the Sixth Dynasty).¹¹

THE INSCRIPTION



(1) *h̄tp di nisw Wsir nb Ddw*

(2) *p̄rt- h̄rw n smr*

(3) *w^cty h̄ry -h̄b*

(4) *h̄ry s̄šḫ n mdw n̄tr*

¹ James, *Hieroglyphic Texts*, I, 34, pl. xxxiii[2].

² Borchardt, *Denkmäler des Alten Reiches II*, 9 (1551)

³ James, *Hieroglyphic Texts*, I, 38, pl. xxxvi.

⁴ Other style of belt was used throughout Old Kingdom as: a belt, tied around the waist with the ends hanging down in front. Sometimes the skirts were fastened loosely around the loins without belts. Cartland, "The Dress of the Ancient Egyptians: I.", 166, figs.1-5.

⁵ James, *Hieroglyphic Texts*, I, 11, pl. xi.

⁶ James, *Hieroglyphic Texts*, I, 27, pl. xxvi[2].

⁷ James, *Hieroglyphic Texts*, I, 38, pl. xxxvi.

⁸ Simpson, *Qar and Idu*, fig.22[a].

⁹ James, *Hieroglyphic Texts*, I, 33, pl. xxxii[2].

¹⁰ James, *Hieroglyphic Texts*, I, 34, pl. xxxiii[2].

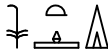
¹¹ Simpson, *Western Cemetery*, pl. xvi.


(5) *sšm-nf- Ppy, rn .f*

(6) *nfr snni*

(1) *An offering which the king gives^c and Osiris^f, Lord of Busiris^g, (2) an invocation offering^h (a voice offering) to the (3) Sole Companionⁱ, the Lector Priest^j, (4) Privy to the Secret of the God's Words^k, (5) Seshemneferpepy, his good name being (6) Senna^l.*

REMARKS ON THE TEXT AND COMMENTARY

^c The writing of the *htp-di-nsw* formula with this arrangement of the signs  is the most common found on the monuments of the Fourth to Thirteenth Dynasties.¹ For examples, see: statue of Kawab (Boston 34-4-1, Fourth Dynasty);² false door and architrave of Ptahshepses (British Museum EA682, Fifth Dynasty);³ inscriptions of Kafr Ammar coffin No.535;⁴ false doors of Khentyka (Sixth Dynasty);⁵ false door of Qar (British Museum EA1342, Sixth Dynasty);⁶ stela of Imydepet-Bau (British Museum EA128, Sixth Dynasty);⁷ stela of Iny (British Museum EA1480, Sixth Dynasty);⁸ inscriptions of Tjetu I (Giza G.2001, late of the Sixth Dynasty);⁹ stelae of Antef (Cairo CG 20009),¹⁰ and Rudjahau (British Museum EA159:¹¹ both Eleventh Dynasty); Cairo stela JE 37515 (Twelfth Dynasty);¹² stela of Ankhib (Canadian private collection, Twelfth/Thirteenth Dynasty);¹³ stela of Dienreankh (Cairo CG 20684), and stela of Dedusobek (Cairo TR 30.10.17.5, Twelfth/Thirteenth Dynasty).¹⁴

^f The two connected elements of the name of Osiris  are common in the Sixth Dynasty;¹⁵ for examples, see: false doors of Khentyka,¹⁶ (mastaba dated to the early years of Pepy I's reign);¹⁷ stela of Imydepet-Bau (British Museum EA128);¹⁸ stela of

¹ See Barta, *altägyptischen Opferformel*, 4, 12, 21, 43–84; Smither, “The Writing of *Htp-di-nsw*”, 34; see also Selim, “Three Identical”, 325–326; El-Enany, “Une stèle privée de la fin du Moyen Empire”, 108; Vernus, “Sur les graphies de la formule ‘l’offrande que donne le roi’”, 144–5; Satzinger, “Beobachtungen zur Opferformel”, 177–88; Morenz, “Der Macht (Lesbarkeit): Die Stele des Antef (Kairo, CG 20009)”, 240, fig.1.

² Barta, *Aufbau und Bedeutung*, 4.

³ James, *Hieroglyphic Texts*, I, 17, pl. xvii.

⁴ Petrie and Mackay, *Heliopolis, Kafr Ammar and Shurafa*, 8, 18, 24, pl.14.

⁵ H.G. Fischer, *Egyptian Studies* III, 3, fig.1.

⁶ James, *Hieroglyphic Texts*, I, 33, pl. xxxii.

⁷ James, *Hieroglyphic Texts*, I, 36, pl. xxxiv[2].

⁸ James, *Hieroglyphic Texts*, I, 36, pl. xxxiv[3].

⁹ Simpson, *Western Cemetery*, pl. xiv(b), xviii(a).

¹⁰ Morenz, “Der Macht (Lesbarkeit): Die Stele des Antef (Kairo, CG 20009)”, 240, fig.1.

¹¹ Faulkner, “The Stela of Rudj’ahau”, 47–48, pl.vii.

¹² El-Enany, “Une stèle privée de la fin du Moyen Empire”, 95–108.

¹³ Leprohon, “A Late Middle Kingdom Stela in a Private Collection”, II, 523, 528–529, figs1–2.

¹⁴ Selim, “Three Identical Stelae”, 319–330, figs. i–ii.


¹⁵ Fischer, *Egyptian Studies* III, 28; id. “The Evolution of Composite Hieroglyphs in Ancient Egypt”, 10–11: on the stelae of Ti (Abydos, Cairo CG.1590) and Weni (CG.1599, both Sixth Dynasty) these two elements separated. Borchardt, *Denkmäler des Alten Reiches*, II,69(1590),76(1599).


¹⁶ Fischer, *Egyptian Studies* III, 3, fig.1.





¹⁷ Fischer, *Egyptian Studies* III, 1.

¹⁸ James *Hieroglyphic Texts*, I, 36, pl. xxxiv[2].

Hynehes (Cairo CG.1695);¹ inscriptions of Tjeti I (Giza G.2001, late Sixth Dynasty).² The feature of the two connected elements of Osiris name becomes less common after the Old Kingdom, when the two signs are usually at least slightly separated.³ Kanawati has noted that from the beginning of Teti's reign a new development is observed in the inscriptions of the burial chambers and sarcophagi: the seated god determinative of

Osiris is eliminated, the name being written .⁴ This feature is found in the stela under study and other inscriptions throughout the time of Sixth Dynasty as in the tombs of the vizier Neferseshemre,⁵ Ankhmahor,⁶ Mereruka, Khentika, Khentika's son, Khentika, the latter probably belonging to the reign of Pepy I,⁷ and the stela of Hynehes (Cairo CG.1695, Sixth Dynasty).⁸ However one can notice also the determinative of the god

Osiris in the name *Wsir*  is as often omitted as it is present in Sixth Dynasty inscriptions, cf. the false doors of Khentyka at Saqqara,⁹ the stela of Khennu (Cairo CG.1615),¹⁰ the stelae of Ti, Cairo CG.1590, from Abydos¹¹ and Imydepet-Bau (British Museum EA128, Sixth Dynasty),¹² the inscriptions of Tjetu I (Giza G.2001, late the Sixth Dynasty),¹³ where the determinative is present.

⁸ *ddw* of the title *nb dddw* was inscribed   . The determinative  was inscribed under the sign *d* front of the sign *w*, this construction occurs repeatedly in the Sixth Dynasty inscriptions, see for examples: slabs of Bia from Saqqara nos.Z247-8¹⁴, and the inscription of Nby¹⁵.

During the Old Kingdom, Herakleopolitan Period, and Middle Kingdom, Osiris is associated with Busiris, his frequent title in the Fifth and Sixth Dynasties being Lord of Busiris,¹⁶ examples being: the architraves and false door of Weriryentpah (British Museum EA80, Fifth Dynasty);¹⁷ the stelae of Weni (Cairo CG.1599, Sixth Dynasty),¹⁸ Neithhotep, Merettjetihetepi, Ipiemses and Ipiankhu-Ipi (Teti pyramid cemeteries, Herakleopolitan Period).¹⁹ On the other hand, on the slab stela of Seshemneferpepy (British Museum EA1263), the title of Osiris *nb dddw* is omitted.²⁰

¹ Borchardt, *Denkmäler des Alten Reiches II*, 139, (1695).

² Simpson, *Western Cemetery*, pl. xxii[a].

³ Fischer, *Egyptian Studies III*, 28; id, "The Evolution of Composite Hieroglyphs in Ancient Egypt", 10-11.

⁴ Kanawati, "Decoration of Burial Chambers, Sarcophagi and Coffins in the Old Kingdom", 60.

⁵ Firth and Gunn, *Teti Pyramid Cemeteries*, II, pl. 58[6].

⁶ Firth and Gunn, *Teti Pyramid Cemeteries*, 101,102

⁷ Kanawati, "Decoration of Burial Chambers, Sarcophagi and Coffins in the Old Kingdom", 60.

⁸ Borchardt, *Denkmäler des Alten Reiches II*, 139, (1695).

⁹ Fischer, *Egyptian Studies III*, 3, fig.1.

¹⁰ Borchardt, *Denkmäler des Alten Reiches II*, 86, (1615).

¹¹ Borchardt, *Denkmäler des Alten Reiches II*, 69, (1590).

¹² James *Hieroglyphic Texts*, I, 36, pl. xxxiv[2].

¹³ Simpson, *Western Cemetery*, pl. xxii[a].

¹⁴ Wilson, "A Group of Sixth Dynasty Inscriptions", 243,245, Pl. viii(a, b).

¹⁵ Fischer, "The Inspector of the *sh* of Horus, Nby", 170, pl. xxv, Fig.1.

¹⁶ Griffiths, "The Origins of Osiris and his Cult", 131.


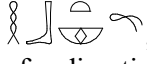

¹⁷ Lambert and Hall, *Hieroglyphic Texts from Egyptian Stelae*, VI, pl.1, 2, 3, 7.




¹⁸ Borchardt, *Denkmäler des Alten Reiches*, II, 76, (1599).




¹⁹ Dawood, *The Inscribed Stelae of the Herakleopolitan Period*, I, 38-63; II, pl. xi, xii, xiii.

²⁰ James, *Hieroglyphic Texts*, I, 38, pl. xxxvi.

inscriptions of Nepepi, Abydos, reign of Merenre¹, and Mereri stelae from Dendera, Seventh Dynasty²

j  *hry –hb(t)* 'Lector priest, he who carries the ritual- book ' the second word in the compound is a feminine, *hbt* means 'ritual-book' , though the ending *t* is almost always omitted³. Lector priest was responsible for directing and reciting the daily rituals in the cult establishment in which he was employed. As reliefs of tombs and temples of the Old Kingdom, he played an essential role in the funeral and temple ceremonies⁴. *hry –hb* is written in the stela under study without determinative⁵. The title  *hry –hb(t)* appears as early as the Second Dynasty, usually held by the crown prince.⁶ It is a common title in the Old Kingdom. See for examples: Cone of Khuu(or Khuue) (British Museum EA199, Fourth or Fifth Dynasty)⁷, architrave of Washptah, (British Museum EA1278, Fifth Dynasty)⁸, stela of Eni, (British Museum EA1485, Sixth Dynasty)⁹, a lintel from Qar's mastaba¹⁰, false door of Qar, (British Museum EA1342, Sixth Dynasty)¹¹, and stela of Imydepot-Bau, (British Museum EA128, Sixth Dynasty)¹².

k *hry sst3* was wrongly determined with  (F51) instead of  (U30A) and  of *sst3* isn't inscribed. Cf. the inscriptions of the offering niche belonging to the Sixth Dynasty high priest of Ptah, Sabu/Ibebi from Saqqara, (Egyptian Museum, Cairo, nos. CG1418, 1419, 1565)¹³.

The title  *hry sst3 n mdw ntr* means 'Provy to the secret of the god's words, secretary of the sacred writings'¹⁴. In our stela, the sign  (P8A) is inscribed instead of  (Gardiner S43) in the word *mdw*. A type is sometimes characteristic of the Sixth Dynasty texts; see for example the inscriptions of Qar, (Giza Sixth Dynasty)¹⁵ Fischer mentioned that the title *hry sst3 n mdw ntr* is suitable to any lector priest *w^cb*, it does not seem to be a very haughty title¹⁶. However, the term *mdw ntr* in the title *hry sst3 mdw*

¹ Borchartd, *Denkmäler des Alten Reiches*, II, 60, (1579).

² Petrie, *Dendereh 1898*, pl.8.

³ Gardiner, *Onomastica*, I, 55*; Wb. III, 61(1-4); Jones, *An Index of Ancient Egyptian Titles, Epithets and Phrases*, I, 781.

⁴ Jones, *An Index of Ancient Egyptian Titles, Epithets and Phrases*, I, 781; Gardiner, *Onomastica*, I, 55*-57* Ward, *Index of Egyptian Administrative and Religious Titles*, 140(1202); Dawood, *The Inscribed Stelae of the Herakleopolitan Period*, I, 236.

⁵ Cf. Wb. III, 395(4-10); Gardiner, *Onomastica*, I, 55*; Kanawati, "Decoration of Burial Chambers, Sarcophagi and Coffins in the Old Kingdom", 65.

⁶ Cf. Dawood, *The Inscribed Stelae of the Herakleopolitan Period*, I, 236, n.1011.

⁷ James, *Hieroglyphic Texts*, I, 25, pl. xxv(1)

⁸ James, *Hieroglyphic Texts*, I, 20, pl. xxi(2)

⁹ James, *Hieroglyphic Texts*, I, 36, pl. xxxiv(3)

¹⁰ Simpson, *The Mastabas of Qar and Idu, G 7101 and 7102*, fig.22(a)

¹¹ James, *Hieroglyphic Texts*, I, 33, pl. xxxii


¹² James, *Hieroglyphic Texts*, I, 36, pl. xxxiv(2)


¹³ El-Khadragy, "The Offering Niche of Sabu/Ibebi in the Cairo Museum", 190, Figs.1-2.

¹⁴ Jones, *An Index of Ancient Egyptian Titles, Epithets and Phrases*, I, 622(2281); Murray, *Index of Names and Titles of the Old Kingdom*, xxxii.


¹⁵ Cf. Simpson, *The Mastabas of Qar and Idu, G 7101 and 7102*, fig.32.


¹⁶ Fischer, *Egyptian Studies* III, 3, fig.1.


ntr probably refers to medical books, Cf. An inscription of an oculist and court physician of the Six Dynasty Period who was entitled " he who masters the secrets of the *mdw ntr*"¹ and stela of physician Erienakhet , Giza necropolis, the reign of Merykare, who was entitled" *hry sst3 mdw ntr*"² .In another slab stela of Neferseshempepy,(British Museum EA1263)³ the title *hry sst3 mdw ntr* 'Provy to the secret of the god's words' was replaced  *hry sst3 n htmt*⁴ (*sd3wt*) *ntr* ' privy to the secrets of the royal documents.'⁵


In another slab stela of Neferseshempepy, British Museum EA1263⁶ the title *hry sst3 mdw ntr* 'Provy to the secret of the god's words' was replaced  *hry sst3 n htmt*⁷ (*sd3wt*) *ntr* ' privy to the secrets of the royal documents.'⁸



¹ The name of Seshemneferpepy was recorded by Ranke:  *sšm-nfr-pipi*⁹.

In our stela his surname Senna was added,  *sšm-*

nfr- ppy, rn f nfr snni, ' Seshemneferpepy, his good name is Senna '. The sign 

(GardinerT22) in the surname Senna was replaced ¹⁰. Seshemneferpepy, Senna, lived during the time of late sixth Dynasty¹¹. He built his tomb in Dendera¹² in the cemetery behind the temple of Dendera¹³. As was mentioned in the stela under study,

Seshemneferpepy, surnamed Senna, was the sole companion  *smr w^cty*, The lector

priest  *hry -hb*, and the privy to the secret of the God's words  *hry*

¹ Saleh, "Plural sense and cultural aspects of the ancient Egyptian Mdw-nTr", 31-32; Cf. also the chief physician nTr-Htp from the Middle Kingdom, who was referred to as the author or transcriber of certain remedies, was entitled 'scribe of the mdw nTr. Saleh , "Plural sense and cultural aspects of the ancient Egyptian Mdw-nTr", 31-32.

² Dawood, *The Inscribed Stelae of the Herakleopolitan Period* , I,18-20.

³ *British Museum EA1263, Tomb slab of Neferseshem pepy*, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/austinevan/5294645944>; James, *Hieroglyphic Texts*, 38, pl. xxxvi

⁴ Fischer prefers the reading *htmt*, Fischer, *Egyptian Studies* III, 50.

⁵ *British Museum EA1263, Tomb slab of Neferseshem pepy*, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/austinevan/5294645944>; Cf. Jones, *An Index of Ancient Egyptian Titles, Epithets and Phrases*, I, 611(2242) ; Murray, *Index of Names and Titles* , xxxii.

⁶ *British Museum EA1263, Tomb slab of Neferseshem pepy*, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/austinevan/5294645944>; James, *Hieroglyphic Texts* , I,38, pl. xxxvi.

⁷ Fischer prefers the reading *xtmt*, Fischer, *Egyptian Studies* III, 50.

⁸ *British Museum EA1263, Tomb slab of Neferseshem pepy*, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/austinevan/5294645944>; Cf. Jones, *An Index of Ancient Egyptian Titles, Epithets and Phrases*, I, 611(2242); Murray, *Index of Names and Titles*, xxxii.


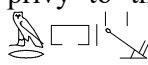




⁹ See: Ranke, *PN*, I, 132 (11).

¹⁰ Cf: Stela of sni (fem.), Teti Pyramid Cemeteries, Herakleopolitan Period, Dawood, *The Inscribed Stelae of the Herakleopolitan Period* , I, 95-97; II, Pl.XVIII(4.1.15).

¹¹ Petrie, *Denderah 1898*,11 ; Schenkel dated his texts after Sixth Dynasty. Schenkel, *Die Epigraphischen Zeugnisse Der7.-11. Dynastie Ägyptens*, 34-35.

¹² Schenkel, *Die Epigraphischen Zeugnisse Der7.-11. Dynastie Ägyptens*, 34-35; Petrie, *Denderah 1898*,11.

¹³ Petrie, *Denderah 1898*,1,4,11,Pl.30. The slab stela under study wasn't mentioned in the publication of Petrie, *Denderah 1898*, among other stelae of Seshemneferpepy from Dendera.

*sšt3 n mdw ntr*¹. From the comparison of the titles and offices of this stela with other stelae of the owner one can say that he was also  *hry sšt3 n htm² ntr* 'privy to the secrets of the god's treasure,' (stela of British Museum EA1263)³,  *Imy-r pr-šn^cw* 'the overseer of the storehouses', (stela of Manchester Museum)⁴. According to other slab stelae which were mentioned by Petrie⁵, and CG1659⁶, he held the other titles: "  ⁷ *imy-r sš* overseer of writing,  *htmty -bity*⁸ which Jones translated it "sealer of the king of Lower Egypt"⁹ while Fischer translated it "treasurer of the King of Lower Egypt."¹⁰  ¹¹ *htmty -bity (sd3wty bity)*¹² *Nhn* sealer of the king of Lower Egypt¹³ and Nekhen", or "treasurer of the King of Lower Egypt and Nekhen"¹⁴, and  ¹⁵ *irr wi3 n hwt hr nbt Twnt* who is making the voyage of Hathor, lady of Dendera.

Another slab stela, (Metropolitan Museum 98.4.6)¹⁶ was found in an N-S pit no. 511 next to the mastaba of Seshemneferpepy, Senna, at Dendera by Egypt Exploration Fund

¹ Cf. Jones, *An Index of Ancient Egyptian Titles, Epithets and Phrases*, I, 622(2281); Murray, *Index of Names and Titles*, xxxii; *Wb.* II,181 (5); *Wb.*IV,299 (6).

² Cf. Fischer, *Egyptian Studies* III, 50.

³ *British Museum EA1263, Tomb slab of Nefersehem pepy*,

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/austinevan/5294645944/>; Cf. Jones, *An Index of Ancient Egyptian Titles, Epithets and Phrases*, I, 638(2340); Murray, *Index of Names and Titles*, xxxii; *Urk*, I, 259, 6


⁴ *pepy-seshem-nefer senna - Ancient Egypt and*,

www.ancient-egypt.co.uk/.../pages/pepy-seshem-nefer%20senna.htm; Cf. Jones, *An Index of Ancient Egyptian Titles, Epithets and Phrases*, I, 125(501); Murray, *Index of Names and Titles*, xxxi; *Urk*.I,98(13).

⁵ Petrie (William Matthew Flinders), *Denderah 1898*,47,Pl.VII.

⁶ Borchart, *Denkmäler des Alten Reiches*, II, 118, (1659).

⁷ Cf. Borchart, *Denkmäler des Alten Reiches*, II, 118, (1659); Petrie, *Denderah 1898*,47,pl.vii. The

papyrus scroll without ties ( Y2) occurs in the Sixth Dynasty in the inscriptions of Dendera (CG1659), Eleventh Dynasty (Stela BM EA 1628) and still occurs in the reign of Senwosret II. Cf. Franke, "The Good Shepherd Antef (Stela BM EA 1628)" ,167, fig.3,pl.vi; See : Schenkel , *Frühmittelägyptische Studien*, 27, §2.; Spanel, "Palaeographic and Epigraphic Distinctions between Texts of the So-called First Intermediate Period and the Early Twelfth Dynasty", 779-784. Cf. also the architrave of Hornakhte, Cairo JE46048, Eleventh Dynasty, Abdalla, "Two Monuments of Eleventh Dynasty Date from Dendera",250,Pl.XXIV, Fig.1.; Petrie, *Denderah 1898*,pl.xv.

⁸ Cf. Borchart, *Denkmäler des Alten Reiches*, II,60 (1579),118(1659); Petrie, *Denderah 1898*,47,pl.vii; Jones, *An Index of Ancient Egyptian Titles, Epithets and Phrases*, I, 764(2778); Fischer, *Egyptian Studies* III, ,50. Dawood reads it *sd3wty bity* and translated it Seal Bearer of King of Lower Egypt', Cf. Stela of khuu , Herakleopolitan Period, Dawood, *The Inscribed Stelae of the Herakleopolitan Period*, I, 169-170;II,Pl.XXVIII(4.1.34).

⁹ Cf. Jones, *An Index of Ancient Egyptian Titles, Epithets and Phrase*, I, 764(2778).

¹⁰ Fischer prefers the reading *htmt*, Fischer, *Egyptian Studies* III, 50.

¹¹ Petrie, *Denderah 1898*, 47, pl.vii.

¹² Cf. Jones, *An Index of Ancient Egyptian Titles, Epithets and Phrases*, I, 763 (2775), 764 (2778).

¹³ Cf. Jones, *An Index of Ancient Egyptian Titles, Epithets and Phrases*, I, 764 (2778).






¹⁴ Fischer prefers the reading *htmt*, Fischer, *Egyptian Studies* III, 50(n.52). From the Herakleopolitan Period example, See: Stela of *in-it.f*, combining Strasbourg 345 and Florence 7595. Fischer, *Egyptian Studies* III, 84(fig.4)

¹⁵ Petrie, *Denderah 1898*, 47, pl. vii.

¹⁶ *Tomb Stela of Hetepsi* www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/552234.

excavations 1898. The owner of this slab –stela called Hetepsi, she was contemporary of Seshemneferpepy. Her stela appears to be by the same hand as the decorations of the mastaba of Seshemneferpepy. Hetepsi bears the titles King's Sole Ornament and Priestess of Hathor Mistress of Dendera, and in her latter capacity she carries a sistrum in her hand¹. Both of she and Seshemneferpepy held priestly titles associated them with Hathor Mistress of Dendera. Perhaps this woman was a wife of Seshemneferpepy.

CONCLUSION

The stela under consideration came from Dendera. Petrie², Borchardt³, Kitchen, Fischer⁴ dated the tomb of Seshemneferpepy through the end of the sixth Dynasty period, while Wolfgang Schenkel dated his texts after Sixth Dynasty⁵. As already shown in the foregoing pages, the stylistic, many of palaeographic, iconographic, and epigraphic details of the stela indicate a date of End of the Sixth Dynasty such as the owner carrying the stick with his left hand and the scepter in his right⁶, the style of the wig⁷, the style of the kilt⁸, the belt with diagonal stripe across the kilt⁹, the writing of the *htp-di-nsw* formula with this arrangement of the signs ¹⁰, the two connected elements of the name of Osiris ¹¹, the title of Osiris lord of Busiris¹², the arrangement of *prt hrw* with the determinative  (elongated bread) + n + the title of the deceased + his name¹³, The title *smr wꜣty* ¹⁴ which is the commonest title of the courtiers¹⁵ through sixth Dynasty¹⁶, the title ¹⁷, and the title

¹ *Tomb Stela of Hetepsi* www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/552234

² Petrie, *Denderah* 1898, 11.

³ See: Borchardt, *Denkmäler des Alten Reiches* II, 119(1661).

⁴ See the Review: Kitchen, "Dendera in the Third Millennium B.C.", 122-123.

⁵ Schenkel, *Die Epigraphischen Zeugnisse Der 7.-11. Dynastie Ägyptens*, 34-35.

⁶ Cf. James, *Hieroglyphic Texts*, I, 34, pl. xxxiii(2)

⁷ Harpur, *Decoration in Egyptian Tombs*, 463, fig. 35; James, *Hieroglyphic Texts*, I, 33, 36, pls. xxxiv(2), xxxiv(3), xxxii; Simpson, *The Mastabas of Qar and Idu, G 7101 and 7102*, 1, pl. xxxiv(a, c), fig. 18(b).

⁸ James, *Hieroglyphic Texts*, I, 33, 34, 38, pls. xxxii(2), xxxiii(2), xxxvi,

; *British Museum EA1263, Tomb slab of Neferseshem pepy*,

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/austinevan/5294645944>

⁹ James, *Hieroglyphic Texts*, I, 33, 34, pls. xxxii(2), xxxiii(2); Simpson, *The Mastabas of Qar and Idu, G 7101 and 7102*, fig. 22(a)

¹⁰ Petrie and Mackay, *Heliopolis, Kafr Ammar and Shurafa*, 8, 18, 24, pl. 14; Fischer, *Egyptian Studies* III, 3, fig. 1; James, *Hieroglyphic Texts*, I, 33, 36, pls. xxxii, xxxiv(2), xxxiv(3).

¹¹ Fischer, *Egyptian Studies* III, 28; id., "The Evolution of Composite Hieroglyphs in Ancient Egypt", 3, 10-11, fig. 1; James, *Hieroglyphic Texts*, I, 36, pl. xxxiv(2);

¹² Griffiths, *The Origins of Osiris and His Cult*, 131; CG.1599.


¹³ Petrie, *Denderah* 1898, pls. 1, iii, vii; James, *Hieroglyphic Texts*, I, 33, pl. xxxii

¹⁴ Strudwick, *The Administration of Egypt in the Old Kingdom*, 205, 4

¹⁵ Gardiner, *Onomastica*, I, 20*; Faulkner, *A Concise Dictionary of Middle Egyptian*, 224.

¹⁶ Fischer, *Egyptian Studies* III, 3, 10, figs. 1, 2, 3, pl. 1; Borchardt, *Denkmäler des Alten Reiches*, II, 76, (1599); James, *Hieroglyphic Texts*, I, 33, pl. xxxii; Simpson, *Western Cemetery*, I, 13

¹⁷ James, *Hieroglyphic Texts*, I, 33, 36, pls. xxxii, xxxiv(2, 3), Simpson, *The Mastabas of Qar and Idu, G 7101 and 7102*, fig. 22(a).

 *hry sšt3 n mdw ntr*¹ which were common through Six Dynasty². The stela of high quality, it is suitable to the social status of the owner. He was *smr wꜥty* sole companion of the king, *hry -hb* the lector priest, *hry sšt3 n mdw ntr*³ privy to the secret of the God's words, *hry sšt3 n htmt ntr* privy to the secrets of the god's treasure⁴, *Imy-r pr-šnꜥw* 'the overseer of the storehouses'⁵, *imy-r sš* overseer of writing⁶, *htmty-bity*⁷ sealer of the king of Lower Egypt⁸, or "treasurer of the King of Lower Egypt, *htmty -bity*⁹ (*sd3wty bity*)¹⁰ *Nhn* sealer of the king of Lower Egypt¹¹ and Nekhen" or "treasurer of the King of Lower Egypt and Nekhen" and *irr wi3 n hwt hr nbt Twnt*¹² who is making the voyage of Hathor, lady of Dendera. This title probably associated with his offices in the temple of Hathor. The titles of the stela's owner reveal his career in the economic and medical profession, such as *hry sšt3 n htmt ntr*, *Imy-r pr-šnꜥw*, *imy-r sš*, *htmty -bity*, *htmty -bity (sd3wty bity)Nhn* and *hry sšt3 n mdw ntr*. The latter title associates him with his medical office. He also pursued a priestly career such as *hry -hb* and *irr wi3 n hwt hr nbt Twnt*. The latter title probably gave him the privilege to associate with Hathor and her temple. All of these offices indicate a high social standing of Seshemneferpepy in the community at the end of Sixth Dynasty.

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¹Jones, *An Index of Ancient Egyptian Titles, Epithets and Phrases*, I, 622(2281); Murray, *Index of Names and Titles*, xxxii.

² Saleh, "Plural sense and cultural aspects of the ancient Egyptian *Mdw-ntr*", 31-32.

³ Cf. Jones, *An Index of Ancient Egyptian Titles, Epithets and Phrases*, I, 622(2281); Murray, *Index of Names and Titles*, xxxii; *Wb*.II,181(5); *Wb*.IV,299(6).

⁴ *British Museum EA1263, Tomb slab of Neferseshem pepy*, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/austinevan/5294645944>; Cf. Jones (Dilwyn), *An Index of Ancient Egyptian Titles, Epithets and Phrases*, I, 638(2340); Murray, *Index of Names and Titles*, xxxii; *Urk* I, 259, 6

⁵ *pepy-seshem-nefer senna - Ancient Egypt and*, www.ancient-egypt.co.uk/.../pages/pepy-seshem-nefer%20senna.htm; Cf. Jones, *An Index of Ancient Egyptian Titles, Epithets and Phrases*, I, 125(501); Murray, *Index of Names and Titles*, xxxi; *Urk*.I,98(13).

⁶ Cf. Borchardt, *Denkmäler des Alten Reiches*, II, 118, (1659).

; Petrie, *Denderah 1898*, 47, pl. vii.

⁷ Cf. Borchardt, *Denkmäler des Alten Reiches*, II, 118, (1659).

; Petrie, *Denderah 1898*, 47, pl.vii.; Jones, *An Index of Ancient Egyptian Titles, Epithets and Phrases*, I, 764(2778); Fischer, *Egyptian Studies* III, 50. Dawood reads it *sd3wty bity* and translated it Seal Bearer of King of Lower Egypt', Cf. Stela of khuu, Herakleopolitan Period, *The Inscribed Stelae of the Herakleopolitan Period*, I, 169-170; II, pl.xxviii(4.1.34).

⁸ Jones, *An Index of Ancient Egyptian Titles, Epithets and Phrases*, I, 764(2778).

⁹ Cf. Petrie, *Denderah 1898*, 47, pl.vii.

¹⁰ Cf. Jones, *An Index of Ancient Egyptian Titles, Epithets and Phrases*, I, 763(2775), 764(2778).

¹¹ Cf. Jones, *An Index of Ancient Egyptian Titles, Epithets and Phrases*, I, 764(2778).

¹² Cf. Petrie, *Denderah 1898*, 47, pl.vii.

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PLATES



Pl. I Stela of Seshemneferpepy, Senna,
(photograph courtesy of the Alexandria National Museum, no. 20).



Pl. II Stela of Seshemneferpepy, Senna