

A Study of the King Menkauhor / The 5th Dynasty

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Abstract:

This research is entitled as ‘A Study of the King ‘Menkauhor’; the seventh king of the 5th Dynasty of the Old Kingdom. The birth name of the king is Kaiu, and it is suggested that he has a burial pyramid at Dahshur. It could also be recommended that this king has no obvious relationship with that who preceded him in kingship; the king ‘Niuserre’. Menkauhor was also considered one of the kings of the 5th Dynasty who remarkably was buried outside the area of Abu Sir/Sakkara, although he has constructed a sun temple in Abu Ghurab. In spite of reigning shortly, that king’s monumental works had proved the remarkable improvements in the internal and external political conditions of the 5th Dynasty.

The objectives of the research:

- This research aims to study and analyze the reigning period of the King ‘Menkauhor’ during the Old Kingdom.
- It aims to collect the published and unpublished representations of the king in the temples and tombs of Egypt in order to better understand his forms, titles and his relation with other kings and gods.
- It also aims to focus the light on the king’s ‘Menkauhor’ monuments and works.

The research framework: The research framework is an artistic study, for tracing the scenes and monumental works of the King ‘Menkauhor’.







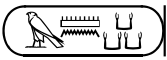


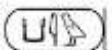
The research type: The research is a combined study between both descriptive and analytical sides.


Keywords:


Menkauhor, 5th Dynasty, Kaiu, Abu Ghurab.

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Menkauhor's Names and Titles:

<p>Horus  Name</p>	<p><i>Hr -mn-h^cw</i>  (1)</p>	<p>‘Horus, Permanent of Apparition’</p>
<p>S3 R^c  Name</p>	<p><i>Tk3w-Hr</i>  (2)</p>	<p>‘Eternity of the Souls of Horus’</p>
<p>Nswt bity  Name</p>	<p><i>Mn-k3w-Hr</i>  (3)  (4) <i>Mn-k3-Hr</i>  (5)</p>	<p>‘Eternals are the Souls of Horus’⁽⁶⁾ ‘Eternal is the Soul of Horus’</p>
<p>Golden Falcon Name</p>	<p><i>Bik-nbw h_d</i>  (7)</p>	<p>‘The Golden Falcon Shines’⁽⁸⁾</p>
<p>Other</p>	<p> <i>Tk3w</i>⁽⁹⁾</p>	<p>‘Eternity of Souls’</p>

(1) *Mn-h^cw*  ‘Eternal appearing’: In the memory of an expedition to the copper pits in Giza, Menkauhor’s name was detected written as ‘Eternal Appearing’, in Beckerath, *Handbuch der ägyptischen Königsnamen*; MÄS 49, Verbesserte und Erweiterte Auflage der Erstausgabe von 1984, p. 55; Leprohon, *The Great Name: Ancient Egyptian Royal Titulary*, Atlanta, 2013, p. 40.

(2) *Tk3w-Hr* ; This title has been found in Giza Pyramids ‘Vth Dynasty’ in a rock tablet, fig. (1), in Beckerath, *Handbuch der Ägyptischen Königsnamen*, Münchner Ägyptologische Studien; 49, 1999, p. 55.

(3) Gardiner - Peet, *The Inscriptions of Sinai. Part I. Introduction and plates*, London, 1917, pl. VII; Gardiner - Peet, *The Inscriptions of Sinai. Part II. Translations and commentary*, London: Egypt Exploration Society: Geoffrey Cumberlege, 1955, p. 21.

(4) Mariette, *Abydos description des fouilles exécutées sur l’emplacement de cette ville*, Tome premier, Paris, 1869, pl. 43.

(5) Beckerath, MÄS 49, p. 55.

(6) *Ibid.*

(7) *Ibid.*

(8) Kaplony, “*Die Rollsiegel des Alten Reichs. I. Allgemeiner Teil mit Studien zum Königtum des Alten Reichs*”, MAE 2, 1977, p. 84.

(9) Beckerath, *op. cit.*, p. 55.

The Reigning Duration: 9 years (according to Maniton⁽¹⁰⁾), or 8 years and 10 months (according to Turin papyrus⁽¹¹⁾), in the late 25th to early 24th century BC. (Fifth Dynasty). Menkauhor is considered the 7th king of the 5th dynasty during the Old kingdom.

The Royal Family Members: The Family Members information concerning this king is rather scarce, hence his familial relation to his predecessor and successor is unclear and this proposed relationship with the royal family members buried in Abusir is thus very important. He succeeded the throne as a successor to the king Neuserre and he might have been his son and this is actually not certain? He is proclaimed to be the son of the king Neferefre and the queen Kentkaues III⁽¹²⁾ and this is also uncertain⁽¹³⁾. Menkauhor might have married both queens Meresankh IV⁽¹⁴⁾ and Khamerernebtj III⁽¹⁵⁾. He might also be the father of Raemka⁽¹⁶⁾ and Khaemtjenet. He was succeeded by his son king Djedkare Isesi. Reliefs from the mortuary temple of Khentkaus II may point to this proposed family

⁽¹⁰⁾ Unger, *Chronologie des manetho*, Berlin: Weidmannsche Buchhandlung, 1867, p. 96.

⁽¹¹⁾ Lepsius, *Auswahl der wichtigsten Urkunden des ägyptischen Alterthums Theils zum Erstenmale, Theils nach den Denkmälern berichtet, herausgegeben und erläutert von Dr Richard Lepsius. Tafeln*, Leipzig : Georg Wigand, 1842, pl. IV.

⁽¹²⁾ The title of Khentkaus - "Mother of the King" suggests that if the queen was buried during the reign of King Neuserre, as is suggested, for example, by the find of mud seals, one can assume that she probably was the mother of King Menkauhor, the successor of Neuserre on the Egyptian throne, in "Czech expedition discovers the tomb of an ancient Egyptian unknown queen". Charles University in Prague. 16 January 2015.

⁽¹³⁾ Gardiner - Peet, *The Inscriptions of Sinai. Part I. Introduction and plates*, London, 1917, p. 21; Clayton, 'Chronicle of the Pharaohs', Thames and Hudson, 1994, p. 61.

⁽¹⁴⁾ Dodson – Hilton, *The Complete Royal Families of Ancient Egypt*. London, 2004, p. 64, 65, 68.

⁽¹⁵⁾ Queen Meresankh born Raemka, Djedkare and Kaemtjenet and Queen Khamerernebtj born Khuit I (*Hwit*) and Djedkare Isesi; in Leprohon, *The Great Name: Ancient Egyptian royal Titulary*, Atlanta, 2013, p. 40; Seipel considered that *Hwit* could be a queen of Menkauhor, according to the date which is approximately, it seems probable that this the queen may have been initially buried in a mastaba in the continuity of the practices of the reign of Unas, in Seipel, *Untersuchungen zu den ägyptischen Königinnen der Frühzeit und des alten Reiches: Quellen und historische Einordnung*, 1980, Hamburg, p. 214; Baud, *Famille Royale et pouvoir sous l'Ancien Empire égyptien*, Tome 2, Bibliothèque d'étude 126/2, Cairo: Institut français d'archéologie orientale, 1999, p. 537.

⁽¹⁶⁾ He was an ancient Egyptian prince of the 5th dynasty. He was buried in tomb 80 in Saqqara and was possibly a son of Pharaoh and Queen Meresankh IV, in Dodson – Hilton, *The Complete Royal Families of Ancient Egypt*. London, 2004, p. 64.

relationship⁽¹⁷⁾. The only known activity dated to Menkauhor's reign is an expedition to the copper and turquoise mines in Sinai⁽¹⁸⁾.

Texts Mentioning Menkauhor's Names and Titles:

In Saqqara Cemetery, in the tomb of Ptah-hotep II, (D 62) which lies to the north of the great Ptahhotep (D 64); a mastaba published by the Egyptian Research Account and the Archaeological Survey. The two almost touch, being only separated by a very narrow passage. On the north and south walls the figures are on an unusually large scale, as will be seen by comparing them with the figures on the east wall⁽¹⁹⁾, fig. (2). **The Text reads:**

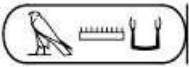
On the north wall: *Ik3-Hr nfr h^cw* “Menkauhor is perfect of appearances”.

On the south wall: *Ik3w-Hr nfr hst* “Menkauhor is perfect of praises”.

In Abydos King List, Menkauhor's name is given on the 31st entry of the Abydos King List, (fig. 3)²⁰, which was inscribed on the walls of a temple during the reign of Seti I (1290–1279 BC), as

being:  *Mn-k3w-hr* “Menkauhor”.

In Saqqara Tablet, The king is also mentioned on the Saqqara

Tablet (29th entry, fig. (4)) as being:  *Mn-k3-hr*⁽²¹⁾ Menkahor.

⁽¹⁷⁾ Leprohom, *The Great Name: Ancient Egyptian Royal Titulary*, Atlanta, 2013, p. 40.

⁽¹⁸⁾ Baker, *The Encyclopedia of the Pharaohs: Volume I — Predynastic to the Twentieth Dynasty 3300–1069 BC*, 2008, p. 198, 199.

⁽¹⁹⁾ Murray, *Saqqara Mastabas. Part I, Egyptian Research Account, 10th year*, London, 1905, p. 11, pl. IX.

⁽²⁰⁾ Mariette, *Abydos description des fouilles executées sur l'emplacement de cette ville*, Tome premier, Paris, 1869, pl. 43.

⁽²¹⁾ Mariette, "La table de Saqqarah", *Revue Archéologique*, Paris, 1864, p. 15, pl. 17.

Menkauhor's Statue

Material: Alabaster.

Height: 0.475 m.

Origin: Memphis, 5th Dynasty.

Colors: No traces for colors.

Attitude: The king appears looking straight ahead, his arms are hidden under a smooth coat, and from the front the hands look out in the chest. The right hand is shown above. The lower legs converge slightly downwards, fig. (5).

The throne is a cube-shaped, and is little higher from behind. The footboard is rectangular in shape. The back pillar is up to the top. The crown could be seen without uraeus. Eyes with make-up strips. The Shoulders are wrapped up to the knees with a cloak, which is taken together in front of the chest. In the back of this coat is stiff in the air. The right hand holds the *w3s* sceptre close to the body⁽²²⁾.

The Inscription reads: *niswt bity Mn-k3w-Hr ʕnh dt*⁽²³⁾ ‘The king of Upper and Lower Egypt Menkauhor (may) live eternally’.

The Pyramid of Menkauhor

The name of the king's pyramid:

ntri-stw Ik3w-Hr "The Divine Places of Menkauhor"⁽²⁴⁾.

ntri-stw Mn-k3w-Hr "The Divine Places of Menkauhor"⁽²⁵⁾.

⁽²²⁾ Borchartd, *Statuen und Statuetten von Königen und Privatleuten im Museum von Kairo*, Teil 1. Text und. Tafeln, Berlin : Reichsdruckerei, 1911, CG 40, p. 37.

⁽²³⁾ *Ibid.*

⁽²⁴⁾ Gauthier, "Le Livre des rois d'Egypte. 1. Des Origines à la fin de la XIIe dynastie, 1907, p. 130.

⁽²⁵⁾ *Ibid.*, p. 130.

In 1843 Menkauhor's pyramid was reported to have been found by the German archaeologist Karl Richard Lepsius at Saqqara?! He called it number 29 or "The Headless Pyramid"⁽²⁶⁾. He had given this pyramid the number 29 of the list composed of 67 pyramids in Saqqara; he discovered the material of this rock pyramid as it seems to be useful for newer buildings, because it is quite worn down except for small piles of rubble, which, however, on closer examination through the remains of the pyramid whose the base is of 60 meters square⁽²⁷⁾.

The site of the king's pyramid: The site of this pyramid is not known for sure. The archaeologist A. Gardiner and P. Clayton had suggested that the king Menkauhor has been buried in Dahshur, and built his pyramid at the mean place²⁸. M. Wiedemann thinks that it was in Saqqara, although if this conclusion is not certain, it is at least very likely⁽²⁹⁾. The Archaeologist Abd el-Aziz Saleh suggest that it might has been in Saqqara to the south of Titi's pyramid⁽³⁰⁾, and Berlandini⁽³¹⁾ suggests it to be to the east of that of Titi⁽³²⁾!

According to the site where Menkauhor's statue has been found in Memphis, another opinion would suggest that the king might has built his pyramid in Memphis. Another opinion that might assure that probability is that of the Egyptologist D. Baker, according to the rock tablet bearing the king's name found in the Serapeum of Memphis³³.

Texts Mentioning the Pyramid's Name:

In Saqqara Cemetry:

عبد العزيز صالح، تاريخ مصر القديمة، ص. ٨٧^(٢٦)

⁽²⁷⁾ Lepsius, *Denkmäler aus Ägypten und Äthiopien* I, Leipzig, 1845, p. 88.

⁽²⁸⁾ Gardiner, 'Egypt of the Pharaohs. An Introduction', *JNES* 21/1, p. 62.


⁽²⁹⁾ Gauthier, *op. cit.*, p. 130.


عبد العزيز صالح، تاريخ مصر القديمة، ص. ٨٧^(٣٠)

⁽³¹⁾ Berlandini, "La pyramide ruinée de Sakkara-nord et le roi Ikaouhor-Menkaouhor", *Revue d'Égyptologie*, La Société Française d'Égyptologie, 1979, p. 31.

⁽³²⁾ *Ibid.*

⁽³³⁾ Baker, *The Encyclopedia of the Pharaohs: Volume I— Predynastic to the Twentieth Dynasty 3300–1069 BC*, 2008, p. 198-199.


The name has been mentioned several times in the tombs of Saqqara; in particular in that of the prince Ptah-hotep⁽³⁴⁾  (D64) who was most probably the priest of the pyramid⁽³⁵⁾; he is mentioned as ‘The Divine of Situation of the king Menkauhor’ as an office consigned to him in the tab over the head of Akhet-hotep in the mastaba of Ptah-hotep and Akhet-hotep in Saqqara⁽³⁶⁾.

That name of the pyramid has also been mentioned in several other tombs at Saqqara, for instance in that of *R^c-nfr-m^c*  in his inner burial chamber, fig. (6), and the inscription reads as:



Mn-k3w-Hr ntri-stw hm-ntr m-ht m nh krs imy-r i3kb

‘The prophet of the pyramid ‘divine place’ of Menkauhor, under the authority of the overseer of the mourned burial place’.

In the small tomb of *Pth-nfr-irt* , the third chamber constitutes an inscription that reads as:



Mn-k3w-Hr ntri-stw ht hm-ntr hry sst3.

‘The prophet of the pyramid ‘divine place’ of Menkauhor, (who) is under the authority of being over (keeping) the secrets’.

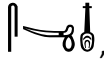
⁽³⁴⁾ The opinion expressed by Griffith that Ptah-hotep identified by Mariette in the tombs of Saqqara was the father of King Assi; in Gauthier, “Le Livre des rois d’Egypte. 1. Des Origines à la fin de la XIIe dynastie: Recueil de titres et protocoles royaux, noms propres de rois, reines, princes et princesses, noms de pyramides et de temples solaires, suivi d’un index alphabétique”, *Mémoires de l’Institut Français d’Archéologie Orientale*; 17, 1907, p. 130.

⁽³⁵⁾ Mariette, *Les Mastabas de l’ancien empire, fragment du dernier ouvrage de A. Mariette*; publié d’après le manuscrit de l’auteur par G. Maspero, Paris, 1889, p. 350.

⁽³⁶⁾ Davies, *The Mastaba of Ptahhetep and Akhetetep at Saqqarah. Part II. The Mastaba: the Sculptures of Akhetetep*; with Notes by the Editor F. Ll. Griffith, London, 1901, p. 12, pl. VI.


⁽³⁷⁾ Mariette, *Les Mastabas de l’ancien empire, fragment du dernier ouvrage de A. Mariette*; publié d’après le manuscrit de l’auteur par G. Maspero, Paris, 1889, p. 284.

⁽³⁸⁾ *Ibid*, p. 322.

In the tomb of Šsm-nfr , the pyramid is mentioned in the burial chamber's eastern wall as being:

 ³⁹. Mn-k3w-Hr ntri-stw
 ḥm-ntr rht r rh(y)t nswt

‘The prophet of the pyramid ‘divine place’ of Menkauhor, (who) repel the common people (for) the king of Upper Egypt’.

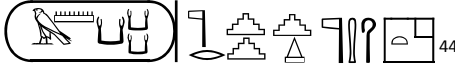
In the tomb of  the inscription related to the pyramid

reads as:  ⁴⁰ Mn-k3w-Hr ntri-
 stw ḥm-ntr ḥry sr st di nb dd

‘The prophet of the pyramid ‘divine place’ of Menkauhor, (who) is upon the office of the throne be given all eternity’.

In the Necropolis of Giza (Vth Dynasty Mastabas)⁽⁴¹⁾:

- In the official niche of the stone-built mastaba of Ni-ankhmin “Minankh”; “The prophet of the pyramids of Menkauhor and Neuserre”, and “The overseer of the new settlements, Dyn. VI”⁽⁴²⁾, has six perpendicular lines of inscription, dated for the Vth Dynasty; the titles read as follows, fig. (7)⁽⁴³⁾:

 ⁴⁴. Mn-k3w-Hr ntri-stw ḥm-ntr ḥk3
 niswt

“The prophet of the pyramids of Menkauhor and Neuserre, the cheftains of the kingship⁴⁵”.

⁽³⁹⁾ *Ibid.*, p. 399.

⁽⁴⁰⁾ Mariette, *Les Mastabas de l'ancien empire, fragment du dernier ouvrage de A. Mariette ; publié d'après le manuscrit de l'auteur par G. Maspero*, Paris, 1889, p. 403.

⁽⁴¹⁾ Porter – Moss, *Topographical Bibliography of Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphic Texts, Reliefs and Paintings* III, Oxford, 1959, p. 55.





⁽⁴²⁾ *Ibid.*

⁽⁴³⁾ J.T. Dennis, “New Officials of the IVth to the VIth Dynasties”, *P.S.B.A.* XXVii, London, 1905, p. 33(7).

⁽⁴⁴⁾ Dennis, “New Officials of the IVth to the VIth Dynasties”, *P.S.B.A.* XXVii, London, 1905, p. 33(7).


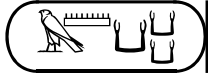


The Sun-Temple of Menkauhor:

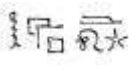
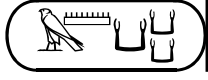
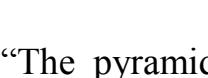

The last sun temple built, this sun temple, known from inscriptions found in the tombs of its priests, is yet to be located, and could be buried under the sands of Saqqara or Abusir just like Menkauhor's predecessors⁽⁴⁶⁾.

The king has established a sun temple to the worship of the god Re, and it is called  *3h.t-R^c*, which means 'Re's horizon', and it is also called  *3h.t-Hr* 'Horus's horizon'⁽⁴⁷⁾, or   *3h.t-Hr* 'Horus's horizon'; with the determinative of a mastaba⁴⁸.

Texts mentioning the Sun-temple of Menkauhor:

In Saqqara (5th Dynasty Mastabas):

In the Tomb of *R^c-nfr-m^c* , in the western corridor leading to the burial chamber, the inscription reads    ⁽⁴⁹⁾ *3h.t-R^c Mn-k3w-Hr* "The sun-temple of Menkauhor".

In the Tomb of , the inscription reads    *ntri-stw 3h.t-Hr Mn-k3w-Hr* "The pyramid and the sun-temple of Menkauhor"⁵⁰.

⁽⁴⁵⁾ *Ibid.*

⁽⁴⁶⁾ Kanawati, *Conspiracies in the Egyptian Palace: Unis to Pepy I.* London, 2003, p. 146.

⁽⁴⁷⁾ أحمد فخرى، مصر الفرعونية، ص. ١٠٨


⁽⁴⁸⁾ L. Borchardt, *Das Grabdenkmal des Königs Ne-User-Re*, Leipzig, 1907, p. 132.

⁽⁴⁹⁾ Mariette, *Les Mastabas de l'ancien empire, fragment du dernier ouvrage de A. Mariette; publié d'après le manuscrit de l'auteur par G. Maspero*, Paris, 1889, p. 283, 284.

⁽⁵⁰⁾ Mariette, *Les Mastabas de l'ancien empire, fragment du dernier ouvrage de A. Mariette; publié d'après le manuscrit de l'auteur par G. Maspero*, Paris, 1889, p. p. 384.

The Priests of the Sun-temple of Menkauhor:

In the Necropolis of Abusir (5th Dynasty Mastabas); Cemeteries North-East and East of the Pyramid of Neuserre⁽⁵¹⁾:

- In the Burial Chamber of Kaḥotep “The Son of Ptahshepes  Pth-šps⁽⁵²⁾; the Chief Justice and Vizier of Neuserre”:

In the sealing of this burial chamber, fig (8), exactly in the narrow corridor between the pillar and the east wall were fragments of pitchers from Nile mud. On some are sealed prints. Among these is the most important one, which still rested firmly on the large pitcher. It shows the names Neuserre and his successor Menkauhor in his Sun-temple, which belong to the end of the fifth dynasty⁽⁵³⁾. The

inscription to the left reads as followed: 



Hr-mn-h'w ntri-stw 3h.t-Hr hmt.f “The prophet of the sun-temple ‘Horus’s Horizon’ of Menkauhor and his wife”.


The inscription to the left reads as followed: 



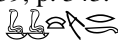
Hr-mn-h'w M3't hm-ntr w' b nswt hwt-ntr Inpw

“The prophet of the goddess Maet, the purifying priest of the king Menkauhor and the temple of Anubis”.

In Giza necropolis:

- In the door thickness found fallen down in front of the mastaba of the *Hmw*  and *Šps-K3.f 'nh* in Giza Necropolis, fig. (9), the right thickness bears a large figure of the owner of the tomb. He is represented in a walking attitude, and holds a long staff in his left hand, and a handkerchief in his right one. He wears a curled wig, a

⁽⁵¹⁾ Porter – Moss, *Topographical Bibliography of Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphic Texts, Reliefs and Paintings* III, Oxford, 1959, p. 343.

⁽⁵²⁾ His wife Kha'mernebti  was the king's daughter and the prophetess of Hathor mistress of the Sycamore; in Porter – Moss, *op. cit.*, p. 343.

⁽⁵³⁾ Borchardt, *Das Grabdenkmal des Königs Ne-User-Re'*, Leipzig, 1907, p. 132.

false beard, and a short kilt with a triangular apron. Above his head are three vertical rows of hieroglyphs, reading: "The Priest of the Sun-temple of King Neuserre the King's Relative, the Priest of Neuserre R^c, the King's Purificator, *Hmw*"⁽⁵⁴⁾.

- Behind *Hmw* stands a figure of a woman, probably his daughter, who embraces his leg with her left arm. Above her head is inscribed: "The Court lady, *Hmw.t*". Below this scene is a narrow register in which is depicted a woman, symbolizing an estate of the deceased, leading an ox⁽⁵⁵⁾. The woman bears upon her head a basket laden with the produce of the estate which she represents, before her an

inscription reads:  *Hr km3 s wndw Mn-k3w-Hr* "The short horned cattle provenance (of) Menkauhor the form of Horus".

The Monuments bearing the names and titles of the king Menkauhor outside the Nile valley

In a Rock Tablet in Wadi Magharah, fig. (10):

Measurements: 65 x 105 cm.

Current Location: Cairo Museum (no. J.E. 38566).

This tablet was found in Wadi Magharah mentioning the name of the king Menkauhor⁽⁵⁶⁾. Gardiner described it as being "A poorly carved tablet, part of which on the left had been cut away anciently, beneath the finer tablet of Snofru. This monument is the earliest example of the second type of record, the characteristics of which

⁽⁵⁴⁾ Hassan, *Excavations at Giza: 1934-1935, The Mastabas of the Sixth Season and their Description*, vol. VI, part III, Cairo, 1950, fig. 66.

⁽⁵⁵⁾ *Ibid.*

⁽⁵⁶⁾ Gardiner mentioned that "All the pharaonic records of Magharah are graven upon the rock and commemorate the expeditions sent either by particular kings, or the visits paid by particular individuals in the course of those expeditions. The monuments of the Old Kingdom are without exception, so far as can be judged, in raised relief. As a rule the entire surface around the figures and hieroglyphs has been chiseled away by the sculptor, but occasionally only a small portion has been removed, giving the whole composition a strange and confused appearance", in Gardiner - Peet, *The Inscriptions of Sinai. Part II*. Translations and commentary, London: Egypt Exploration Society: Geoffrey Cumberlege, 1955, p. 25, 60.

are the further development of the inscripational part and the reduction or complete suppression of the pictorial part”.

Menkauhor is believed to be the first to abandon this royal type of rock tablets instituting a simple inscription with no figure or scene, and this is considered a development from those having such scenes, for here the cartouches and titles occupy a compartment to themselves and replace the earlier figured representations⁵⁷.

The inscription reads: 



Hr-mn-h^cw nswt bity di ^cnh dt wpt ... Mn-k3w-Hr

“Horus, constant of risings, King of Upper and Lower Egypt, Menkauhor, granted life, stability, mission which was performed by ...”.

In a Seal of an official of the king Menkauhor in Serabit el Khadem, fig. (11):




This seal was found in Serabit el Khadem, as an official of the king Menkauhor⁽⁵⁸⁾. Personal names like Menkauhor which contain a god’s name like Kherty⁵⁹ are infrequent.

⁽⁵⁷⁾ *Ibid*, p. 27, 28.

⁽⁵⁸⁾ A.H. Gardiner, T.E. Peet, *The Inscriptions of Sinai. Part II. Introduction and plates*, MEEF 45, London, 1917, p. 44.

⁵⁹ A ram-god with a dual nature of hostility and protection. His name means ‘Lower One’. He is an earth-god, and so can act as a guardian for the royal tomb. The king’s power over the winds is likened to the grasp of Kherty’s hand. Kherty’s major cult center appears to have been at Letopolis, north-west of Memphis, in G. Hart, *The Routledge Dictionary of Egyptian Gods and Goddesses*, New-York, 2005, p. 85.

Conclusions



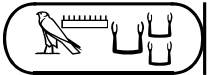

- Menkauhor the 7th king of the 5th dynasty of the Old kingdom most widespread name-form is *Tk3w-Hr*  and *Mn-k3w-Hr* 
- According to the table illustrating the king's names, the direct relationship of the king Menkauhor and the god Horus (*Hr* ⁶⁰)⁶¹ appears so obvious in the king's names and titles.
- His familial relation to his predecessor and successor is unclear and he might have been the king Neuserre's son.
- He has borne several epithets such as "Menkauhor is perfect of appearances", "Menkauhor is perfect of praises", "The king of Upper and Lower Egypt Menkauhor (may) live eternally", "Menkauhor and Neuserre, the chieftains of the kingship", and "Constant of risings, King of Upper and Lower Egypt, Menkauhor, granted life, and stability."
- During the New Kingdom, it should be noted that Menkauhor's name is given on the 31st entry of the *Abydos King List*, (1290–1279 BC), and is also mentioned on the *Saqqara Tablet* (30th entry).
- It is more recommended that the pyramid of Menkauhor is still buried under the sands of Abusir or more likely in Saqqara, since Abusir might have been crowded by the kings of the 5th Dynasty.




According to the site where Menkauhor's statue has been found in Memphis, and according to the Egyptologist D. Baker's opinion, it could be suggested that the king might have built his pyramid in Memphis.

⁶⁰ Faulkner, *CD*, p. 173; Gardiner, *Egyptian Grammar*, p. 582.

⁶¹ The Falcon-god, 'lord of the sky' and symbol of divine kingship. His name (*Hr* in Egyptian) is probably to be interpreted as 'the high' or 'the far-off'. Horus was one of the earliest of Egyptian deities. His name is attested from the beginning of the Dynastic Period. The earliest occurrence of Horus, in complete hawk-form, is on monuments from the late Predynastic period, such as the palette showing a number of sacred creatures hacking at the walls of fortified towns. He continues to appear in the total falcon shape throughout Egyptian civilization but his form, anthropomorphic to the shoulders with the hawk head becomes the most usual iconography, in Wilkinson, *The Complete Gods and Goddesses*, p. 200.

- In Saqqara cemetery, Giza necropolis and Abusir, several tomb owners had been described as being Menkauhor's Pyramid and sun-temple priests; with several epithets that assures that conjunction such as being 'The prophet of the pyramid of Menkauhor', 'The prophet of the pyramid and the sun-temple of Menkauhor'.

- The name of Menkauhor's pyramid is  ,
  *ntri-swt 'Ik3w-Hr* "The Divine Places of Menkauhor".

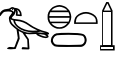

- The writing of the word *stw* in the name of the pyramid of Menkauhor "ntr-stw" appeared in several texts either with the sign of 'a throne' *st*  or the sign of 'a high place' or mastaba'  *k3y* and in both cases the determinative of the  *mr* 'a pyramid' or 'a tomb' is usual.

- The name of the pyramid has been mentioned several times in *The Tombs of Saqqara*, and *Giza necropolis*.

- The king appeared looking straight ahead, and his arms are hidden under a smooth cloak in an alabaster statue found in Memphis, and bearing the epithet of "The king of Upper and Lower Egypt Menkauhor (may) live eternally".

- In a Rock Tablet in Wadi Magharah, currently located in Cairo Museum, the king Menkauhor appeared as being "Horus, constant of risings, King of Upper and Lower Egypt, Menkauhor, granted life, stability".

- It should be noted that there is a direct relationship between the King and the following gods: Re, Horus and Kherty;

• The king has established a sun temple to the worship of the god Re, and it is called  *3h.t-Rc*, which means 'Re's horizon', and it is also called  *3h.t-Hr* 'Horus's horizon'.

• In a broken seal of an official of the king Menkauhor in Serabit el Khadem, Personal names like Menkauhor which contain a god's name like Kherty.

- The god Horus appears so obvious in the king's names and titles, illustrating the direct relationship between the king and the god Horus. The king appeared with the epithet of "Menkauhor the form of Horus" in the door thickness in front of the mastaba of the *Hmw* and *Špss-K3.f^cnh* in Giza Necropolis.

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List of Plates

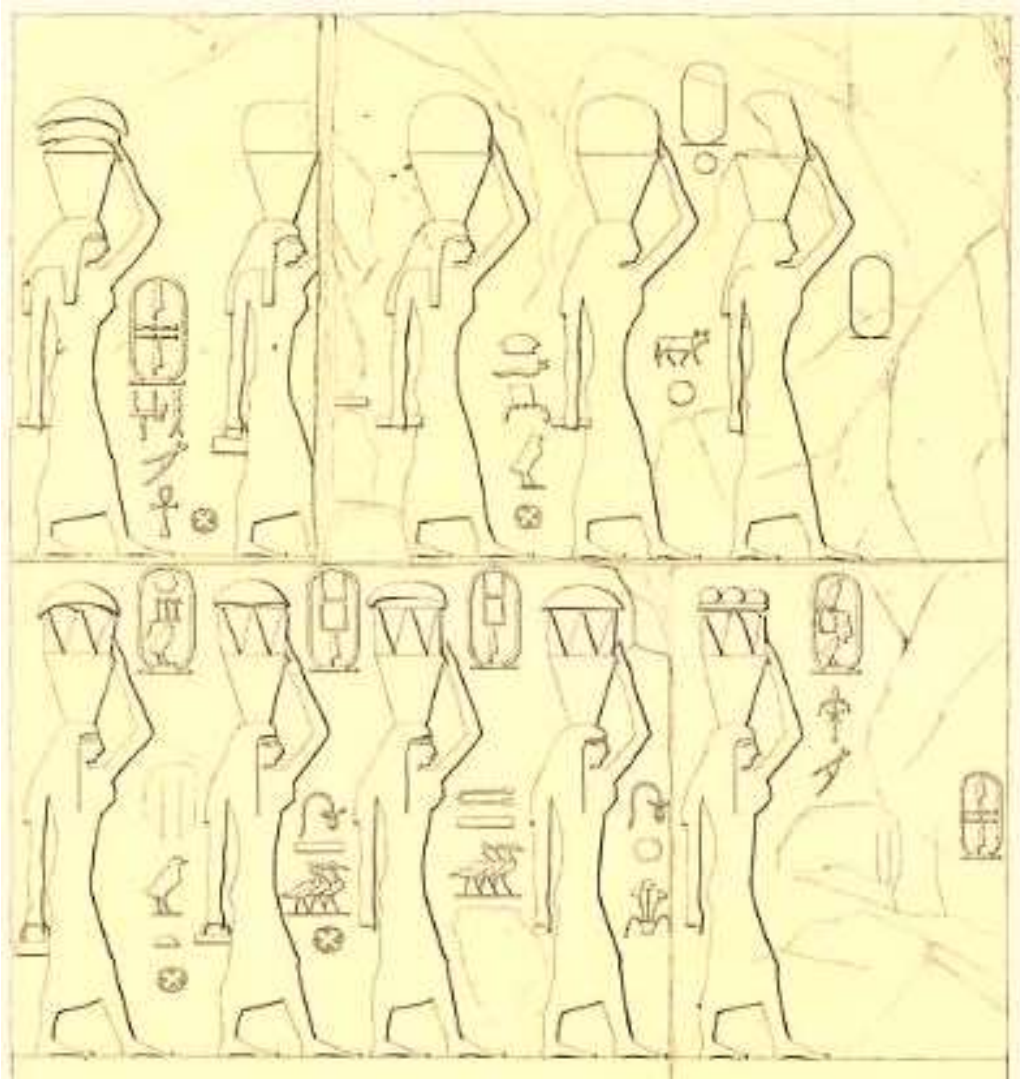


Fig. 1 -.A rock tablet found in Giza Pyramids.

After, LD II, pl. 74 (d).



Fig. 2 - Northern and Southern Walls of the tomb of Ptahhotep II, 5th Dynasty.
After, M.A. Murray, *Saqqara Mastabas. Part I*, Egyptian research account, 10th year.
London, 1905, p. 11, pl. IX.

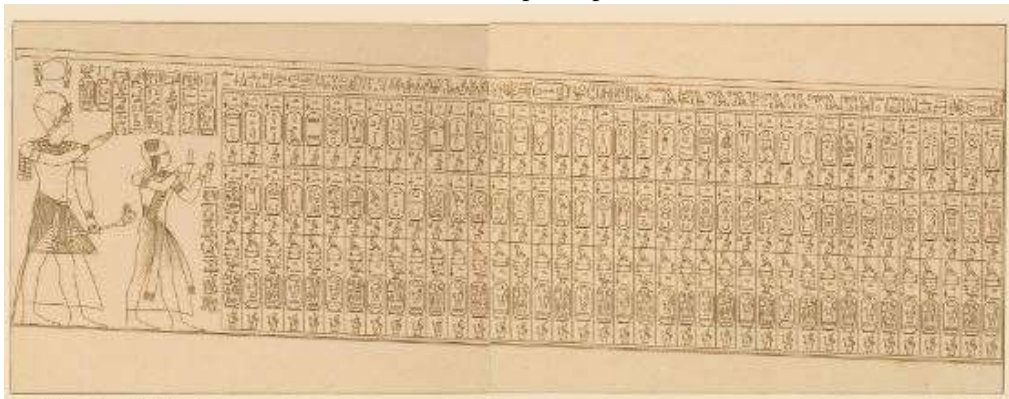


Fig. 3 – Abydos king List.

After, A. Mariette, *Abydos description des fouilles executées sur l'emplacement de cette ville*, Tome premier, Paris, 1869, pl. 43.



Fig. 4 - Saqqara King List.

After, A. Mariette, "La table de Saqqarah", *Revue Archéologique*, Paris, 1864,
pl. 17.'



Fig. 5 - Statue of Menkauhor wearing the dress of the Sed festival from Memphis.

After, L Borchardt, *Statuen und Statuetten von Königen und Privatleuten im Museum von Kairo. Teil 1. Text und. Tafeln*, Berlin : Reichsdruckerei, 1911, CG 40, p. 37.



Fig. 6 - The tomb of of R^c-nfr-m^c in his inner burial chamber
After, Mariette, *Les Mastabas de l'ancien empire, fragment du dernier ouvrage de A. Mariette; publié d'après le manuscrit de l'auteur par G. Maspero*, Paris, 1889, p. 284.

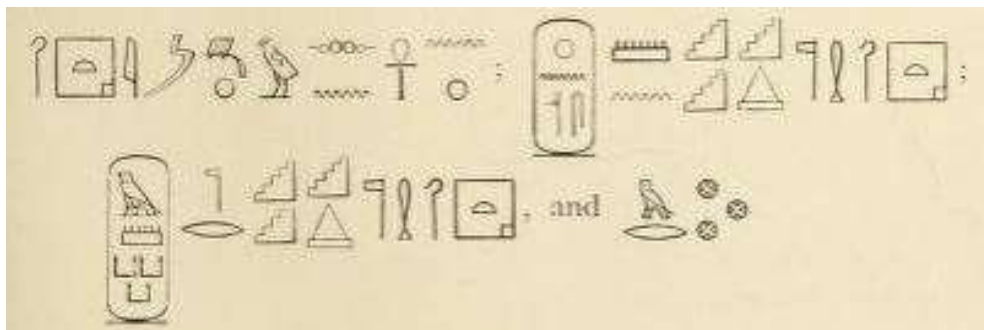


Fig. 7 - The official niche of the mastaba of Minankh in Giza.
After, J.T. Dennis, "New Officials of the IVth to the VIth Dynasties", *P.S.B.A.* XXVii, London, 1905, p. 33(7).



Fig. 8 - The sealing of Ka-hotep burial chamber, bearing the name of Neuserre and Menkauhor in his Sun-temple.
After, L. Borchardt, *Das Grabdenkmal des Königs Ne-User-Re'*, Leipzig, 1907, p. 132.

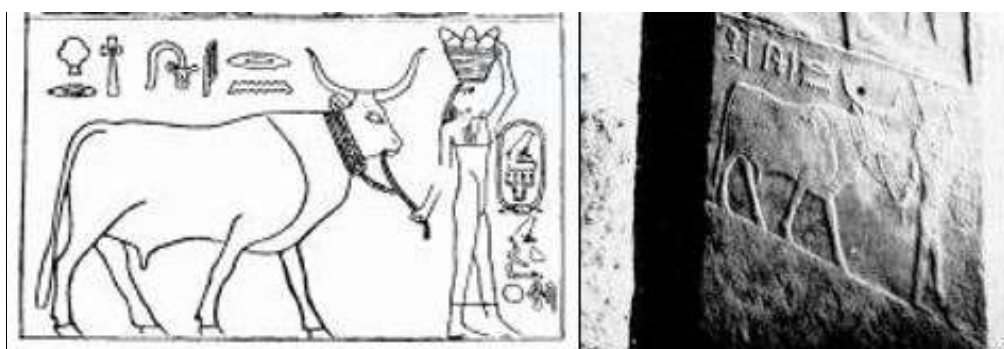


Fig. 9 - The door thickness in front of the mastaba of the *Hmw* and *Šps-K3.f'nh* in Giza Necropolis
After, S. Hassan, *Excavations at Giza: 1934-1935, The Mastabas of the Sixth Season and their Description*, vol. VI, part III, Cairo, 1950, fig. 66, pl. XXXV.

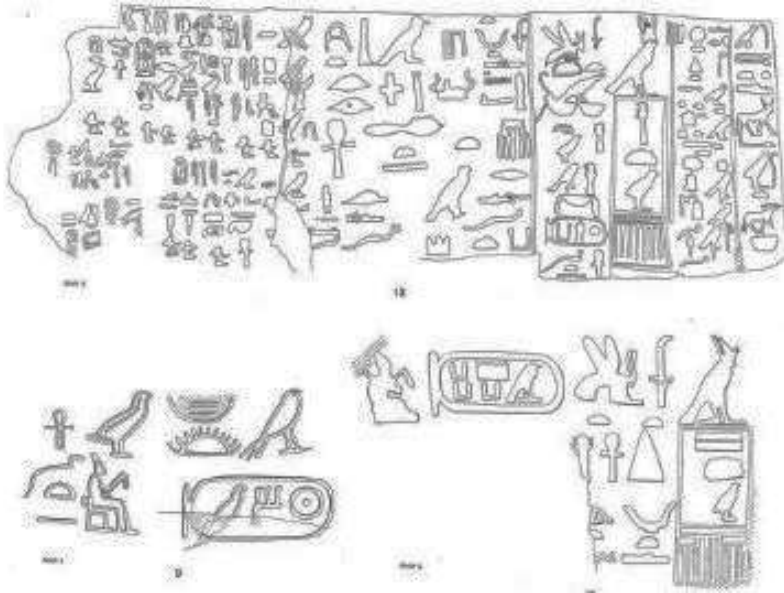


Fig. 10 - A rock tablet found in Wadi Magharah.

After, A.H. Gardiner, T.E. Peet, *The Inscriptions of Sinai. Part I. Introduction and plates, MEEF* 36, London, 1917, pl. VII.

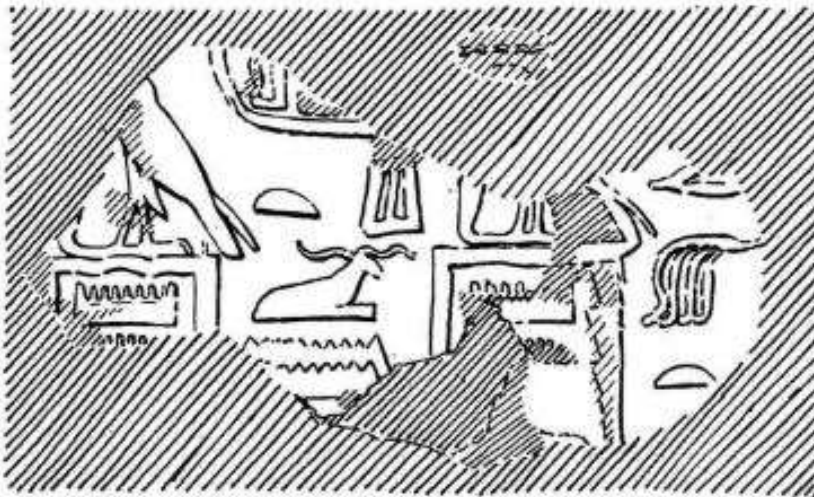


Fig. 11 - A Seal of an official of the king Menkauhor mentioning the god Kherty.

After, A.H. Gardiner, T.E. Peet, *The Inscriptions of Sinai. Part II. Introduction and plates, MEEF* 45, London, 1917, fig. 1.

دراسة حول الملك 'من كاو حور'

• د. نهى هانى جرجس

الملخص:

يعد هذا الملك 'من كاو حور' هو الملك السابع فى الأسرة الخامسة من الدولة القديمة عصر بناء الأهرامات، و يسمى أيضا باسم 'كا يو'. هو من الملوك الذين يحتمل عدم وجود صلة بينه و بين ما سبقه فى الحكم و هو الملك 'نى أوسر رع'، كما أن هذا الملك يعد من الملوك الخمسة من الأسرة الخامسة الذين دفنوا فى خارج منطقة أبو صير سقارة، على الرغم من أنه أقام معبدا للشمس فى منطقة أبو غراب و يحتمل و جود هرما له فى دهشور. فترة حكم هذا الملك تعد قصيرة و بالرغم من ذلك إن أعماله الأثرية تثبت استمرار التطور فى السياسة الداخلية و الخارجية لعصر الأسرة الخامسة.

أهداف البحث:

يهدف هذا البحث إلى دراسة و تحليل فترة حكم الملك 'من كاو حور' فى الدولة القديمة . يهدف إلى جمع التمثيلات المنشورة و غير المنشورة للملك فى المعابد و المقابر فى مصر من أجل فهم أفضل لأشكاله و وظائفه و ألقابه و علاقته بالملوك و الآلهة الأخرى. يهدف أيضا إلى تركيز الضوء على أعمال هذا الملك و آثاره. إطار البحث: إطار البحث هو دراسة فنية ، لتتبع مشاهد و آثار الملك من كاو حور. نوع البحث: البحث هو دراسة مشتركة بين الجانبين الوصفي و التحليلي . الكلمات الدالة: من كاو حور، الأسرة الخامسة، أبو غراب.