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Inscribed Material from Saqqara, 2004

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INSCRIBED MATERIAL FROM SAQQARA, 2004

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FALSE DOOR OF KHEKERET

A late Old Kingdom false door stela (inv. no. S/04/09) [*Fig. 1*] was found in the secondary filling of Shaft 32 (square 2103), at a depth of ca. 4.8 m. The stela, carved from one block of fine white limestone (35.5 x 58 x 8.5 cm), was found broken into two horizontally; a small fragment was missing from the right side. Upon discovery, it had a thick coating of gypsum that concealed much of the relief decoration.¹

On three sides the stela has a framing covered with inscriptions and representations of the deceased,² enclosing the false door proper, which is topped with a *cavetto* cornice and consists of three sets of jambs and lintels. All three lintels, as well as outer and middle jambs are inscribed, while the inner jambs are blank. Between the middle and inner lintel there is a relatively high (almost square), T-shaped panel (type 'a' after Rusch) with inscription and representation of the deceased at an offering table. The decoration is carved in sunken relief some 2 mm deep. There is a single line/column of inscription on each lintel and

jamb, framed with lines, horizontal on the lintels and vertical on the jambs.

The framing, lintels and jambs are decorated with text either in single lines (horizontal elements) or columns (vertical elements). On both the vertical elements of the frame a small figure of the deceased is shown facing the center of the stela. The woman is depicted with one arm resting loosely by her side, the other bent at the elbow and holding a lotus flower. Her dress is an ankle-long robe and a short wig.

Depicted on the panel is the stela owner. She is seated in a lion-legged chair, with one hand extended toward the offering table and the other folded across the breast. Marked on top of the offering table is the outline of loaves of bread.

Traces of paint are preserved on the surface: black in straight lines framing the inscriptions and on the owner's hair; blue and red on the *cavetto*; reddish on the outer and middle jambs and lintels; yellow on the inner jambs, in apertures on both sides of the panel, as well as above and in the apertures on both sides of the *cavetto*.

1 Cf. reports by K. Myśliwiec and Z. Godziejewski in this volume.

2 In this, the stela resembles type B II 7 in Rusch's typology (A. Rusch, *Die Entwicklung der Grabsteinformen im Alten Reich*, ZÄS 58 (1923), 113-114, Tafel B), the difference being the absence of the bottom element of the frame and a different arrangement of the lintel and jambs.

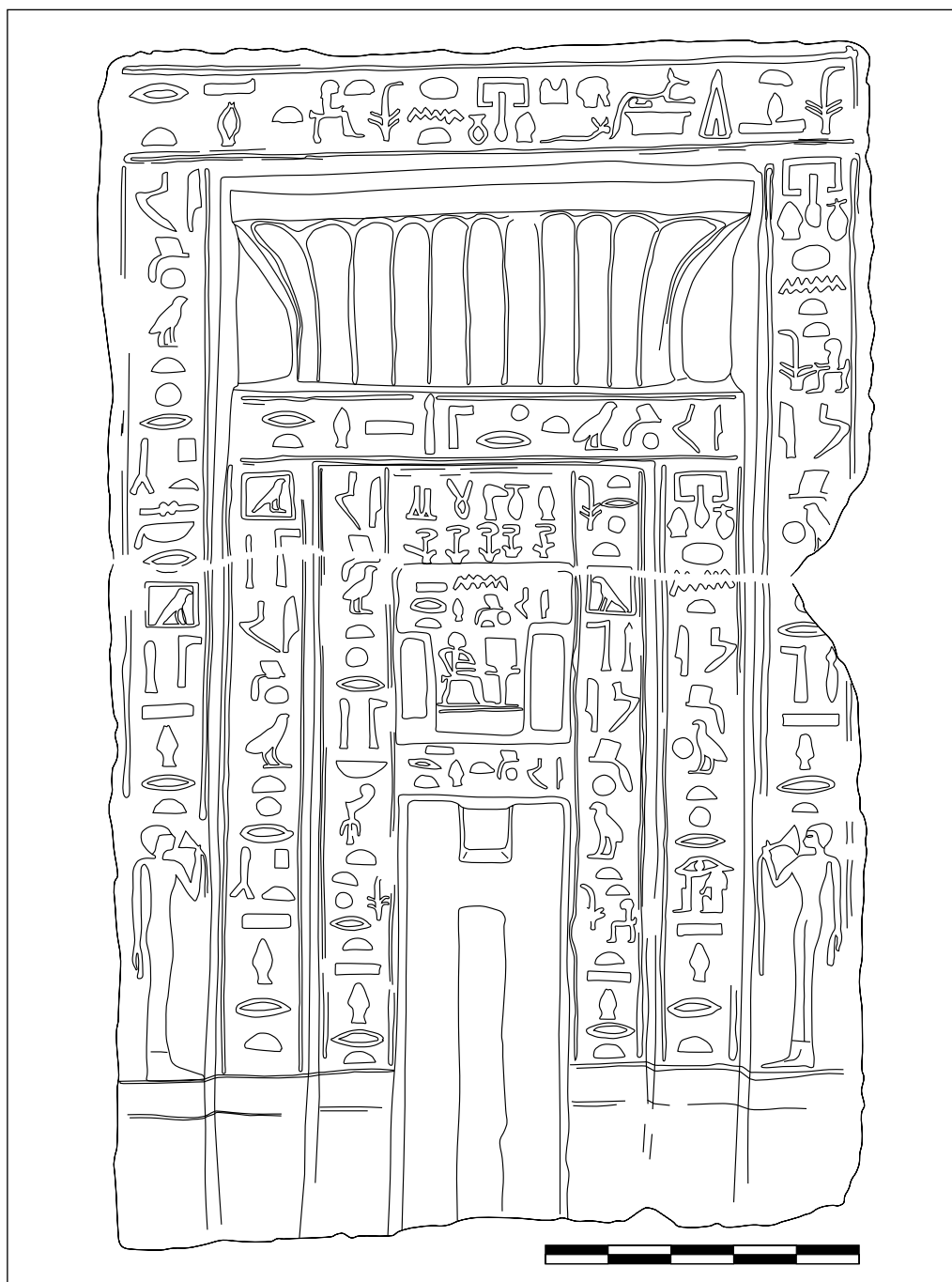


Fig. 1. False door of Khekeret
(Drawing K. Kuraszkiewicz)

There is a red band, framed with black horizontal lines, painted horizontally across the framing, outer and inner jambs, and below the inscriptions and figural representations;

a similar band is found on the inner jambs and drum. Moreover, the offering table on the panel bears traces of blue paint, while the loaves of bread upon it are painted yellow.

TEXT

A) Framing, horizontal element:

hṭp dj njswt Jnpw tpj dw.f prjt-hrw njt špst njswt Hkrt;

May the King give offering and Anubis-Who-Is-Upon-His-Hill, (namely) the invocation offering of³ noblewoman of the king⁴ Khekeret⁵.

B) Framing, left vertical element:

jm3hwt hr Pth-Zkr hm(t)-ntr Hwt-Hr Hkrt;
Honored by Ptah-Sokar, priestess of Hathor, Khekeret.

C) Framing, right vertical element:

prjt-hrw njt špst njswt jm3hw[t] hr ntr ʕ Hkrt;

The invocation offering of a noblewoman of the king, honored by the great god, Khekeret.

D) Outer lintel:

jm3hwt hr ntr ʕ Hkrt;

Honored by the great god, Khekeret.

E) Left outer jamb:

hm(t)-ntr Hwt-Hr jm3hwt hr Pth Hkrt;
Priestess of Hathor, honored by Ptah, Khekeret.

F) Right outer jamb:

prjt-hrw njt jm3hwt hr Wsjr Hkrt;

The invocation offering of an honored by Osiris, Khekeret.

G) Left middle jamb

jm3hwt hr ntr ʕ nb jmnt rht njswt Hkrt;
Honored by the great god, Lord of the West, king's acquaintance, Khekeret.

H) Right middle jamb

rht njswt hm(t)-ntr Hwt-Hr jm3hwt špst njswt Hkrt;

King's acquaintance, priestess of Hathor, honored one, noblewoman of the king, Khekeret.

I) Panel:

h3 (m) t⁶ h3 (m) hnkt h3 (m) 3pdw h3 (m) k3w h3 (m) mnht n im3h(w)t Hkrt;

Thousand loaves of bread, thousand jars of beer, thousand birds, thousand oxen and thousand clothes for the honored one, Khekeret.

J) Inner lintel:

jm3h(w)t Hkrt;

Honored one, Khekeret.

As suggested by other finds from Shaft 32 and the funerary complex to which the shaft belonged (see below), the false door of Khekeret certainly did not originate from this tomb.

3 Concerning the nominal *prjt-hrw* in genitival construction, see G. Lapp, Die Opferformel des Alten Reiches (=SDAIK 21), (Mainz 1986) §§ 68, 160.

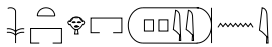
4 D. Jones, An Index of Ancient Egyptian Titles, Epithets and Phrases of the Old Kingdom (Oxford 2000), (henceforth: Jones, Index), 990-991, no. 3664.

5 The name is attested in the Memphite necropolis (PM III, 676). On this graphy, cf. Wb III, 401.

6 Edel, Gramm. § 398; Lapp §§ 199-226.

INSCRIBED VESSELS OF NY-PEPY

In the burial chamber of Shaft 32, evidently robbed in antiquity, some remnants of funerary equipment were found in its northern part. Among these, a set of miniature inscribed copper vessels (inv. no. S/04/12a-k) [Fig. 2] consisting of six bowls (H. 15-17 mm; Dia. 46-51 mm); one cup (H. 47 mm, Dia. 78/89 mm); and two miniature *nmst*-jars (H. 44-45 mm, Dia. 31-34 mm), all with identical inscriptions:



hrj-pr pr-njswt Nj-Ppjj;

Majordomo of the royal palace Ny-Pepy

This name and title are attested on two elements of a false-door frame found in Chapel 5, adjoining Shaft 32 on the east.⁷ It is noteworthy that the title occurs here in the same rare form that can be seen on the frame.⁸ Dispersed human bones (burial no. 396) found in the burial chamber of Shaft 32 have been identified as the remains of a male individual.⁹ The data points to an official named Ny-Pepy who would have been the owner of a tomb complex consisting of a small mud-brick mastaba with Chapel 5 in its eastern part and Shaft 32 in the center.

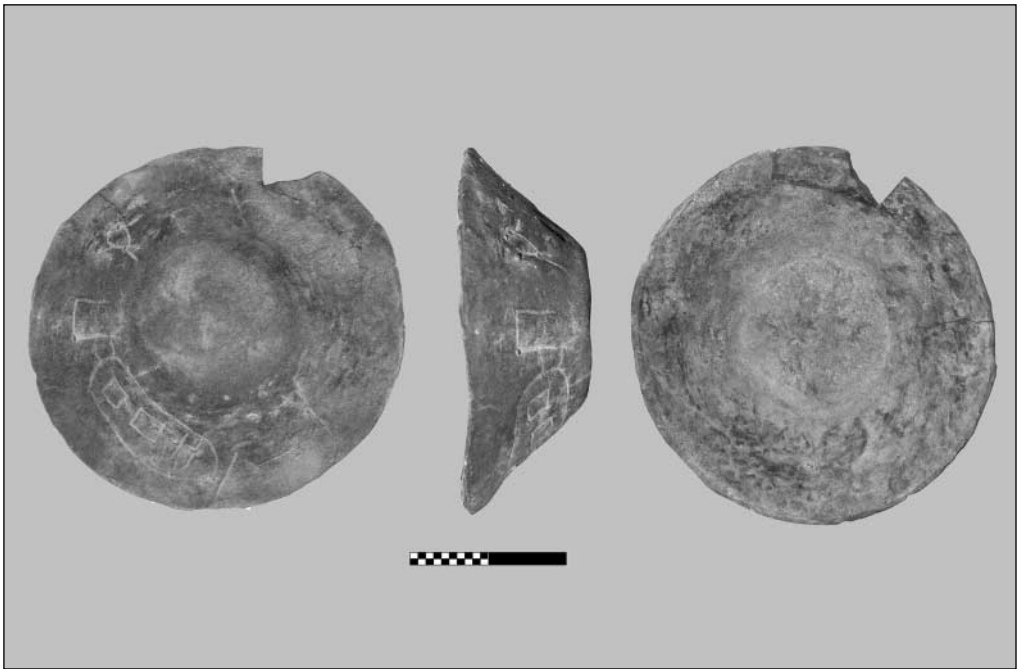


Fig. 2. One of the miniature copper vessels found in Shaft 32
(Photo K. Kuraszkiewicz)

7 Cf. K. Kuraszkiewicz, "Inscribed objects from the Old Kingdom necropolis west of the Step Pyramid", *ArOr* 70 (2002), 361-363 (with previous bibliography).

8 Ibid., 363, n. 46.

9 Personal communication from Prof. M. Kaczmarek.

LIMESTONE BLOCKS WITH BUILDING INSCRIPTIONS

In the secondary filling of Shaft 69 (square 2002) two large, roughly worked blocks of white, fine-grained limestone were found. Each bears hieratic inscriptions in red ink. On the larger block (inv. no. S/04/26, measuring approximately 70 x 24 x 30 cm) [Fig. 3] there are two lines of inscription visible (the upper one only partly preserved):

(1) *jmj-r3 gs pr hrj-tp njswt [...]* (2) *z3b ʕd mr zh3 ʕ(w)¹⁰ njswt Nfr-sšm¹¹-Sš3t (?)¹² rn.f nfr [...]*¹³

(1) Overseer of a work place,¹³ chamberlain of the king¹⁴ [...], (2) juridical ʕd-mr official,¹⁵ scribe of the royal documents¹⁶ Neferseshemseshat whose fair name is [...]reri (?).¹⁷

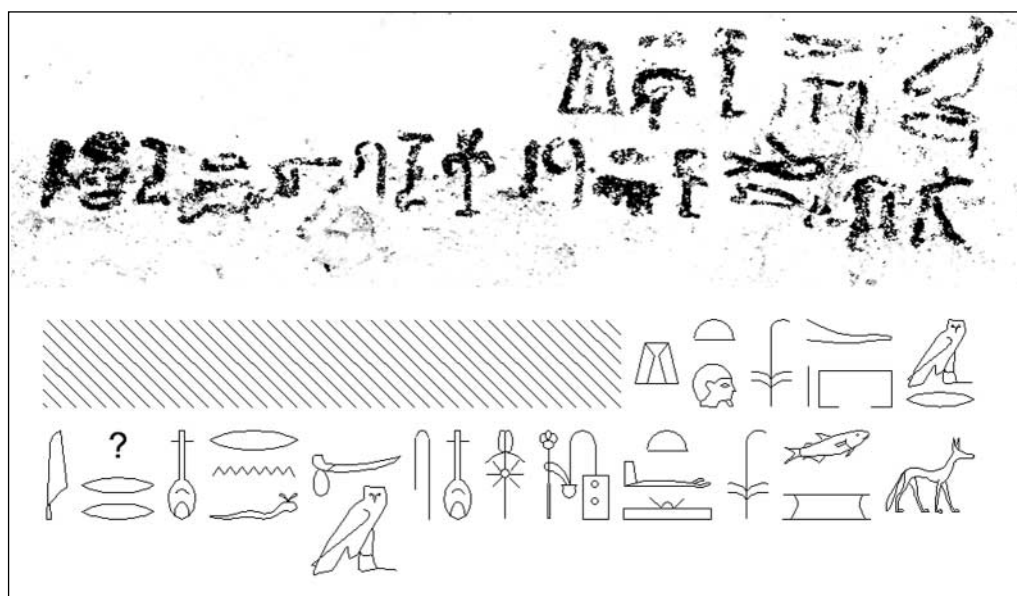


Fig. 3. Inscription on block S/04/26
(Drawing K. Kuraskiewicz)

- 10 The sign below the *t* is hardly legible; it occupies a low and broad half-square space. It could also be interpreted as a *pr* sign; then the title would be *zh3 pr njswt*: scribe of the royal domain (Jones, Index, 850, no. 3106).
- 11 Faint traces of the *m* sign are visible below the line of the text.
- 12 A single high and narrow sign between *zh3* and *nfr* resembles the ʕr or *šlm* signs (Möller's nos. 380 and 449, respectively). However, one should expect the name of a deity as part of a theophoric private name in this case. It seems that the sign can be identified as *Sš3t*, although its old hieratic version does not seem to be attested otherwise. For the name Neferseshemseshat: Ranke PN I, 200, no. 11.
- 13 Jones, Index, 269-270, no. 969.
- 14 Jones, Index, 788, no. 2874. Cf. also H. Goedicke, "Titles for Titles", in S. Allam (ed.), *Grund und Boden* (Tübingen 1994), 227-234 (interpreted as *tpj hr(t) njswt* – property administrator of the king).
- 15 Jones, Index, 806, no. 2947.
- 16 Jones, Index, 838, no. 3057.
- 17 On the possible interpretation of the phrase (X) *rn.f nfr* Y as a virtual relative clause, cf. K. Kuraskiewicz, in: K. Myśliwiec et al., *The Tomb of Merefnebef, Saqqara I* (Warsaw 2004), 71, n. 22.

On the smaller block (inv. no. S/04/27; measuring approximately 48 x 28 x 30 cm), only traces of the *z3b* sign are visible.

There is presently no certain evidence for attributing any tomb or burial shaft to

Neferseshemseshat. Shaft 69 does not seem to belong to this official, considering that the skeleton found in the burial chamber of this tomb was identified as a female.¹⁸

FRAGMENT OF FALSE DOOR STELA

Fragments of a limestone slab, c. 11 cm thick, with relief decoration (inv. no. S/04/10a-b) were found in the debris in square 2002, 1.20 m south of Shaft 35. Only one of the fragments (S/04/10a, 20 x 27 cm) [Fig. 4] bore decoration on both sides. It was evidently a decorated block that was reused to carve new decoration on the back after rotating it ca. 90° counterclockwise.

Of the original decoration carved in low raised relief, only parts of an offering list and the title *hrj-tp njswt*¹⁹ can be seen. Preserved are two cells from the left lower corner of the offering list; a kneeling offering bearer was depicted in the lower one, while the upper one contained the numeral '1'. The contents of these two cells indicate that the list was composed of tripartite



Fig. 4. Fragment of the false door of Pehi, front and back
(Photo K. Kuraszkiewicz)

¹⁸ Personal communication from Prof. M. Kaczmarek.

¹⁹ See above, n. 16.

rows; the upper cells in each row contained the name of the offering or rite, the middle ones an indication of quantity and the lower cells a unit of measure. Traces of polychromy were visible in places: black on the hair of the *tp* sign, green on the *sw* sign and blue on the *hr* sign. The inscription and the offering list are antithetically oriented, thus the block most probably belonged to a scene depicting the tomb owner sitting at the offering table, in front of an offering list. However, the name of the deceased is not to be ascertained.

A false door was carved on the back of the slab and decorated with inscriptions and figural representations in shallow sunken relief. The whole surface of the false door was painted red in imitation of granite. The fragments found in 2004 preserved parts of the inner lintel, the adjoining left jamb and a panel of the false door. The fragment S/04/10a adjoins another

fragment (S/03/05), found in 2003 in square 1906 near Chapel 15 (Temi), but without a preserved back. The rear part of a lion-legged chair is visible in the panel, and fragments of two columns of inscription on the lintel and jamb:

(1) *Phj* (2) [...] *jwn [Kn]mwt* [...]

(1) Pehi (2) [...] Support of Kenemut²⁰

The name of the owner, the style of the relief, as well as the red color of the surface identify these fragments as belonging to the upper part of the false door of Pehi (Pehenptah), found *in situ* in Chapel 3 (square 2002).²¹ Another small fragment (S/04/10b) contains the final part of the name Pehenptah (signs *h* and *n*) written horizontally; it comes most probably from the outer lintel of the stela, but has no direct connection with the fragments described above.

²⁰ Jones, Index, 6, no. 22.

²¹ Kuraskiewicz, *ArOr*, op. cit., 360-361.