

Kamil Omar Kuraszkiewicz

West Saqqara: The Owner of Chapel 15 and his Family

Polish Archaeology in the Mediterranean 15, 123-125

2004

Artykuł został opracowany do udostępnienia w internecie przez Muzeum Historii Polski w ramach prac podejmowanych na rzecz zapewnienia otwartego, powszechnego i trwałego dostępu do polskiego dorobku naukowego i kulturalnego. Artykuł jest umieszczony w kolekcji cyfrowej bazhum.muzhp.pl, gromadzącej zawartość polskich czasopism humanistycznych i społecznych.

Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach dozwolonego użytku.

THE OWNER OF CHAPEL 15 AND HIS FAMILY

Kamil Omar Kuraszkiewicz

In the decoration of Chapel 15¹⁾ both the owner and members of his family are represented and the inscriptions that accompany them contain the names and titles of the depicted persons. The name of the tomb owner, Ny-ankh-Nefertem (*Nj-^ḥnḥ-Nfr-tmw*), is not attested in the Memphite necropolis and it fails to be listed by Ranke,²⁾ but it follows the well attested pattern *Nj-^ḥnḥ-[<]god's name[>]* and means “Live belongs to Nefertem”.³⁾ His second name, Temi (*Tmj*)⁴⁾ is evidently a short form of the full name, which is confirmed by its graphy using the sign U15 (according to Gardiner's list).

The following titles of Ny-ankh-Nefertem are attested in his tomb chapel:

1. *jmj-r3 j^ḥw-r3 nswt* – overseer of the king's repast;⁵⁾
2. *jmj-r3 jswt špswt Pr-^ḥ3* – overseer of the noble places of the Great House;⁶⁾
3. *jmj-r3 sšr* – overseer of linen;⁷⁾
4. *jmj-ḥt ḥmw-ntr Nfr-swt-Wnjs* – under-supervisor of the god's servants of the pyramid of Wenis;⁸⁾
5. *jrj jht nswt* – keeper of the king's property;⁹⁾
6. *ḥm-ntr Nfr-jswt-Wnjs* – god's servant of the pyramid of Wenis;¹⁰⁾
7. *ḥm-ntr Dd-jswt-Ttj* – god's servant of the pyramid of Teti;¹¹⁾
8. *ḥrj-pr Pr-^ḥ3* – majordomo of the Great House;¹²⁾
9. *ḥrj sšt3* – privy to secrets;¹³⁾
10. *ḥrj sšt3 nj Pr- Dw3t* – privy to secrets of the House of the Morning;¹⁴⁾
11. *ḥrj sšt3 nj mdw ntr* – privy to secrets of the god's word;¹⁵⁾

1) Cf. report by K. Mysliwiec in the present volume.

2) H. Ranke, *Die ägyptischen Personennamen I* (Glückstadt 1935) (= Ranke, PN).

3) Cf. E. Edel, *Altägyptische Grammatik I* (Rome 1955), 158-159, § 366; Ranke, PN I, 171-172, PN II, 231.

4) Not listed by Ranke. On abbreviated name forms, see: Ranke, PN II, 129-130, 232.

5) D. Jones, *Index of Ancient Egyptian Titles, Epithets and Phrases of the Old Kingdom* (Oxford 2000) (= Jones, Index), vol. I, 53, no. 263.

6) Jones, Index I, 221, no. 826.

7) Jones, Index I, 234, no. 864.

8) Jones, Index I, 289-290, no. 1054.

9) Jones, Index I, 327-328, no. 1206.

10) Jones, Index II, 527, no. 1966.

11) Jones, Index II, 587-588, no. 2150.

12) Jones, Index II, 606-607, no. 2222.

13) On various types of the *ḥrj sšt3* office and comprehensive list of its holders, see: K. Rydström, “*Hry sšt3*, ‘In Charge of Secrets’. The 3000 year evolution of a title”, *DE* 28 (1994), 53-94; Jones, Index II, 609, no. 2233.

14) Jones, Index II, 620, no. 2275. This was the most important and highest title of the *ḥrj sšt3* group (cf. Rydström, op. cit., 65-68); probably, the holders of this title assisted the king in preparations for divine rituals (cf. H.G. Fischer, *Dendera in the Third Millennium B.C.* (New York 1968), 137-138).

15) Jones, Index II, 622, no. 2281.

12. *hrj sšt3 nj nswt m jst.f nb(t)* – privy to secrets of the king in his every cult-place;¹⁶⁾
 13. *hrj sšt3 nj ntr.f r^c nb* – privy to secrets of his god every day;¹⁷⁾
 14. *smr w^ctj* – sole companion.¹⁸⁾
 15. *šhd pr nswt* – inspector of the royal estate;¹⁹⁾
 16. *šhd Pr-^c3* – inspector of the Great House.²⁰⁾

The titles are attested in several sequences in the decoration of the chapel. It is not possible to restore the full sequence of the tomb owner's titles, nevertheless some observations can be made. The highest titles are those connected with the funerary temples. Then follow the titles *smr w^ctj* and *šhd pr-nswt* which are higher than *šhd Pr-^c3* and *hrj sšt3 n Pr-Dw3t* (although the hierarchy of the latter two could not be established). Lower than *šhd Pr-^c3* is the sequence *jmj-r3 j^cw-r3 nswt jmj-r3 jswt špswt Pr-^c3 jmj-r3 sšrw*, as is the title *hrj-pr Pr-^c3*.

Beside the priestly functions at the funerary temples of Teti and Wenis,²¹⁾ the

inscriptions of Ny-anekh-Nefertem present him as an official of fairly modest rank, although his functions probably kept him close to the king himself. Some of his titles indicate that he served at the royal court, and not in the administration.²²⁾ He probably directed the personnel responsible for provisioning²³⁾ and was in charge of the royal wardrobe.²⁴⁾ Several titles containing the element *hrj sšt3*,²⁵⁾ as well as the epithet *jm3hw hr nswt*²⁶⁾ seem to confirm that he had direct contacts with the king.

FAMILY MEMBERS

As attested in the reliefs and inscriptions, the tomb owner was married to a woman named Seshseshet (*Zšzšt*),²⁷⁾ who held the titles of keeper of the king's property (*jrjt-jht nswt*)²⁸⁾ and priestess of Hathor, Lady of the Sycamore (*hmt-ntr Hwt-Hr nbt Nht*).²⁹⁾

Four of Ny-anekh-Nefertem's sons are depicted in his tomb. The eldest, Meruka (*Mrw-k3*),³⁰⁾ was *wab* priest of the Great House (*w^cb Pr-^c3*)³¹⁾ and inspector of the royal estate (*šhd pr-nswt*). Two younger

16) This form of the title is attested in the neighboring tomb of Merefnebef; it may possibly be a variant (perhaps only in graphic terms) of the title *hrj sšt3 nj nswt m jswt.f nbwt*, cf. Jones, Index II, 630-631, no. 2311.

17) The title is attested elsewhere without the addition *r^c nb*: Jones, Index II, 632-633, no. 2316.

18) Jones, Index II, 892, no. 3268. This title, very important and exclusive in the previous period, became only a "ranking title" during the Sixth Dynasty, cf. W. Helck, Untersuchungen zu den Beamtentiteln des ägyptischen Alten Reiches (Glückstadt 1954), 25, 111, N. Strudwick, The Administration of Egypt in the Old Kingdom (London 1985), 224-225.

19) Jones, Index II, 926, no. 3406.

20) Jones, Index II, 924-925, no. 3401.

21) As evidenced by the *hmt-ntr* titles and possibly also by *jrjt-jht nswt*, cf. M. Barta, "The Title 'Property Custodian of the King' during the Old Kingdom Egypt", ZÄS 126 (1999), 88.

22) I.e. *hrj-pr Pr-^c3*, *šhd pr-nswt* and *šhd Pr-^c3*.

23) As evidenced by the title *jmj-r3 j^cw-r3 nswt*, cf. A. M. Moussa, F. Junge, Two Tombs of Craftsmen (Mainz 1975), 34.

24) As *jmj-r3 sšrw* and possibly also *hrj sšt3 n Pr-Dw3t* (cf. Fischer, op. cit., 137-138).

25) Cf. Rydström, op. cit., 64-65, 81-85.

26) Cf. G. Lapp, Die Opferformel des Alten Reiches (Mainz 1986), 212, § 362.

27) Ranke, PN I, 298, no. 1.

28) Jones, Index I, 327-328, no. 1206.

29) Jones, Index II, 545, no. 2024.

30) Probably *Mr-wj-k3(j)*, Ranke, PN I, 162, no. 7.

31) Jones, Index I, 371, no. 1372.

sons were Wedjawy (*Wd3wj*),³²⁾ under-supervisor of the Great House (*jmj-ḥt Pr-ḥ3*),³³⁾ and Tjetji (*Ttj*),³⁴⁾ functionary and attendant of the Great House (*jmj st-ḥntj-š Pr-ḥ3*).³⁵⁾ The fourth son, Mereri (*Mrrj*),³⁶⁾ must have been the youngest as there is no title attested for him. Moreover, he is depicted as a naked child.

Attested are also two daughters: Metjut (*Mtwt*)³⁷⁾ and Khenut (*Hnwt*),³⁸⁾ both held the same title, that of keeper of the king's property (*jrjt-ḥt nswt*).

Apart from titles containing the names of the pyramids of Wenis and Teti, which give only a *terminus post quem*, there is no data for a more precise dating of the chapel.

32) Not listed by Ranke, possibly a variant of the name *Wd3.j*: PN I, 88, no. 14.

33) Jones, Index I, 285, no. 1032.

34) Ranke, PN I, 395, no. 24.

35) Jones, Index I, 300, no. 1094.

36) Ranke, PN I, 162, no. 22.

37) Ranke, PN I, 167, no. 18.

38) Ranke, PN I, 270, no. 6.