Kay, Laudatory autobiography of

Nederhof - English

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Transliteration and translation for "The laudatory autobiography of Kay", following the transcription of De Buck (1948), pp. 73-74.
For an older transcription, see Anthes (1928), p. 54. A drawing of the original (Gr. 24) can be found in plate 24 thereof.
The transliteration throughout follows Hannig (1995).
For published translations, see Anthes (1928), pp. 55-56.

Bibliography

Royal seal-keeper and sole companion, leader of the city and grand vizier Kay says:

I am a well-born man, strong and wise, who sees to his city for eternity,

who brought it on the course of restoration, who knows the morning [before] it has come,

who sees to eternity, acquaintance of the king and his cabinet, one of a kind,

without equal, to whom Upper Egypt came bowing.

I am a well-born man, beyond [reproach], inspiring fear, greatly respected, inspiring terror,

greatly beloved, bright of face, good of character, open-hearted, free of darkness,

for whom this land has love,

at the approach of whose statues the people and the gods were rejoicing,

on the day they proceeded to the temple, with fat bulls and fat cows,

possessor of geese, numerous in birds, great in braziers, pure of choice meat,

so that he makes the odour of the temple sweet, true son of Thoth,

semen of the Bull of Truth,
whose city went early in the morning to his house to praise his spirit,

every day because of the greatness of the love [of him]

and the goodness of what he does for it. I did justice, sharper than a needle,

I freed the oppressed from the powerful, I succoured the widow without a husband,

I raised the orphan without a father. I levied their troops of young men

so that the current ones were numerous,

whereas its (old) troops have entered into citizenship, live in their houses, and didn't fight

in the time of fear of the palace. I saved my city,

on the day of robbery, from the evil terror of the palace.

I was its foremost on the day of its battle, its stronghold in the swamp land,

son of the ruler of Unet, wealthy and great in every respect.

I kept my whole town alive on the sandbanks of the land, while there was nothing.
The great were as its small. There was no discontented face in Hermopolis, and the same in Unu. I opened my barn to everyone. I am a possessor of beauty, loving myhrr, companion of the holiday.’ Kay son of Nehri, justified, may he live forever until eternity.