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

- R. Anthes. Die Felseninschriften von Hatnub. Hinrichs, Leipzig, 1928.
- A. De Buck. *Egyptian Readingbook*. Ares Publishers, Chicago, Illinois, 1948.
- R.O. Faulkner. *A Concise Dictionary of Middle Egyptian*. Griffith Institute, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, 1962.
- R. Hannig. Grosses Handwörterbuch Ägyptisch-Deutsch: die Sprache der Pharaonen (2800-950 v.Chr.). Verlag Philipp von Zabern, 1995.

l htmw-bjtj smr w^ctj jmj-r3 njwt t3ytj tstj s3b K3y dd I Royal seal-keeper and sole companion, leader of the city and grand vizier Kay says: jnk s³ s nht s³³ m3 n njwt=f n hntj 'I am a well-born man, strong and wise, who sees to his city for eternity, rh dw3w [n] jwt=f rdi si hr wit nt grg who brought it on the course of restoration, who knows the morning [before] it has come, rh-nsw hn^c qnbt=f w^c hr hw m³ n l nhh who sees to leternity, acquaintance of the king and his cabinet, one of a kind, jwtj snnw=f j.n n=f Šm^cw m ksw without equal, to whom Upper Egypt came bowing. ink s3 s jwtj [hsf]=f nb snd 3 šfyt nb hrt I am a well-born man, beyond [reproach], inspiring fear, greatly respected, inspiring terror, c3 mrwt hd hr nfr bjt ph3 ht šw m snkt greatly beloved, I bright of face, good of character, open-hearted, free of darkness, ntj t3 pn <u>h</u>r mrwt=f for whom this land has love. h^c.n rmt ntrw m hsfw hntjw=f at the approach of whose statues the people and the gods were rejoicing, hrw wd3=sn r hwt-ntr hpn k3w dd3 jw3w on the day they proceeded to the temple, with fat bulls and fat cows, 3 chw wcb stpt, l nb r³w cš³ 3pdw I possessor of geese, numerous in birds, great in braziers, pure of choice meat, sndm=f st hwt-ntr s³ Dhwtj n wn-m³^c so that he makes the odour of the temple sweet, true son of Thoth, mtwt K3-m3ct semen of the Bull of Truth.

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dw3.n njwt=f r pr=f r dw3 k3=f
whose city went early in the morning to his house to praise his spirit,
r^{c} nb n-c3t-n mr[wt=f]
every day because of the greatness of the love [of him]
[n] | nfr n jrrt=f n=s
                                         jw jr.n=j m<sup>3</sup><sup>c</sup>t spd r wšm
and I the goodness of what he does for it. I did justice, sharper than a needle,
jw nḥm.n=j m³r m-c wsr
                                        jw snf.n=j h3rt jwtt h3j=s
I freed the oppressed from the powerful, I succoured the widow without a husband,
                                   l jw ts.n=j d3m=sn hrdw
jw šd.n=j nmh jwtj jt=f
I raised the orphan without a father. I levied their troops of young men
n mrt cš3 hprw=s
so that the current ones were numerous,
                                                     hms m prw=sn n ch3=sn
jw grt d^3m = s^cq(.w) n ndsw
whereas its (old) troops have entered into citizenship, live in their houses, and didn't fight
                    pr-nsw jw nhm.n=j njwt=j
m rk snd n
in the time of fear of I the palace. I saved my city,
hrw cw3 m-c hrt mrt nt
                                           pr-nsw
on the day of robbery, from the evil terror of I the palace.
ink grt hnt=s hrw ch3=s
                                        nh\{3\}t=s m šdt š3
I was its foremost on the day of its battle, its stronghold in the swamp land,
               In Wnt hwd 9 hr-qd
s³ hq³
son of the ruler I of Unet, wealthy and great in every respect.
jw grt s<sup>c</sup>nh.n=j njwt=j r-dr=s m tsw nw
                                                       lßjw nn wn
I kept my whole town alive
                                  on the sandbanks of I the land, while there was nothing.
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wrw mj šrrw=s n ḥr ḫn n Ḥmnw

The great were as its small. There was no discontented face in Hermopolis,

Wnw | m-mjtt-jrj snš.n=j šnwt=j n bw nb jnk nb nfrt and the same in Unu. I opened my barn to everyone. I am a possessor of beauty,

mry ^cntjw | sm³y n hrw nfr Nḥrj K³y m³^c-ḫrw

loving myhrr, I companion of the holiday.' Kay son of Nehri, justified,

 ${}^{c}nh(.w)$ đt r nhh

may he live forever until eternity.