

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

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- 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.

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-^{c3}t-n mr[wt=f]

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

[n] | nfr n jr^rt=f n=s

jw jr.n=j m³ct spd r wšm

and | 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 ḥ³rt jwtt ḥ³j=s

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

jw šd.n=j nmḥ jw^{tj} jt=f

⁶ | jw ts.n=j d³m=sⁿ ḥrdw

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

n mrt ^{c3}ḥprw=s

so that the current ones were numerous,

jw grt d³m=s ^cq(.w) n ndsw

ḥms m prw=sⁿ n ^cḥ³=sⁿ

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

m rk sn^d n | ⁷ pr-nsw jw nḥm.n=j njwt=j

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

hrw ^cw³ m-^c ḥrt mrt nt

⁸ | pr-nsw

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

jnk grt ḥnt=s hrw ^cḥ³=s

nh {}t=s m šdt š³

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

s³ ḥq³ | ⁹ n Wnt ḥwd ^{c3} ḥr-qd

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

jw grt s^cnḥ.n=j njwt=j r-d^r=s m ts^w nw

¹⁰ | t³ jw nn wn

I kept my whole town alive on the sandbanks of | the land, while there was nothing.

wrw mj šrrw=s n hr hn n Hmnw

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

Wnw | ¹¹m-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 ¹²ḥntjw | smḳy n hrw nfr Nhrj Kḳy m^{3c}-hrw

loving myhrr, | ¹²companion of the holiday.' Kay son of Nehri, justified,

ḥnh(.w) dt r nhḥ

may he live forever until eternity.
