Punt expedition of Queen Hatshepsut

Nederhof - English

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Transliteration and translation for "The Punt expedition of Queen Hatshepsut", following the transcription of De Buck (1948), pp. 48-53.


The transliteration throughout follows Hannig (1995).

For a published transition of the first section, see Werbrouck (1949), pp. 76-79. For the remaining sections see Breasted (1906), pp. 102-122, §§ 246-295, and in particular for the respective sections: § 253, § 255, §§ 256-257, § 260, § 261, § 265, § 266.

Bibliography

Horus: Powerful of spirits; Two Ladies: Prosperous of years;

Gold Horus: Divine of appearance; The king of Upper and Lower Egypt: Maatkare;

Hr-nbw Nṯrt-hc w nsw-bjtj M₇c₃-k₃-Rc
sacred image of Amun, she whom he wanted to be on his throne.

He entrusted to her the heritage of the Two Lands, the kingship of Upper and Lower Egypt.

He gave to her what the sun revolves around and what Geb and Nut surround.

She has no enemies among the southerners,

She has no antagonists among the northerners.

Heaven and all foreign lands created by the god are completely subservient to her.

They come to her with fearful heart, their chiefs bowing their heads,

with tributes on their backs. They present her with their children,

so that they may be given the breath of life,

because of the greatness of the might of her father Amun,
who placed every land under her feet,

the king himself, the king of Upper and Lower Egypt Maatkare.

The majesty of the palace (l.p.h.!) beseeched the stairs of the lord of the gods

and instructions were heard from the Great Throne, an oracle from the god himself:

Explore the routes to Punt, I open the roads to the Myrrh-terraces,

and lead an expedition on water and on land to bring exotic goods from the God's Land

to this god who created her beauty.

Then one acted according to everything that the majesty of this noble god had commanded, as was the desire of Her Majesty about it,

so that she might achieve given-life, stability, dominion, like Re forever.

Words by Amun, lord of the Thrones of the Two Lands:

'Be very welcome to me in peace, sweet daughter who is in my heart,
nsw-bjtj M³t-k³-R³
| jrt n(=j) mnw nfrw

49:11
the king of Upper and Lower Egypt Maatkare, I who creates beautiful monuments for me,

sw³bt st nt psdt-³t
who purifies the place of the great Ennead,

m³t r³-pr=³j m ssh³ mrt=³
who fills my temple with remembrance of her love.

49:12
| ṯwt nsw jṯt tḏwj Ḩṯ-špswt ḡmnt-Jmn
| ṯt ḡbt

49:12
I You are the king who took possession of the Two Lands, Hatshepsut, great of sacrifice,

w³bt ṣḥbw sḥtp=³ jḥ=³ r tr nb
pure of I food offering. You satisfy my heart at every moment.

49:13
dj.n(=j) n=³ ḫnh ṣḥs nb ḥr=³ ḏḥt nb ḥr=³
I have given you all life and dominion from me, all stability from me,

49:14
| snb nb ḥr=³ ṯwτ-jb nb ḥr=³
| ṯw jb=³ jm=sn
49:14
I all health from me, and all joy from me.

dj.n(=j) n=³ tḏw nbw ḫšswt nbτ
I have given you all flat lands and all mountainous lands so that you may enjoy them.

49:15
| sr.n(=j) n=³ st ṣḥ Ṣḥ(=j) st ḡntj-r nn ḡš³ m rnpwt
| ṯw jb=³ jm=sn
49:15
I have ordained it to you long ago. I have been forseeing it for these many years.

49:16
| ḡmnt.n(=j) jrt n ḡḥt
| ṯw jb=³ jm=sn
49:16
I have planned doing the useful deed.

dj.n(=j) n=³ Pwnt mj-qd=³ r-mn-m tḏw nṯrw
I have given you Punt in its entirety including the lands of the gods,

50:1
| Ṭ³-nṯ ṭmm ḡnd=f
| ḡṭjw-³ntjw ḡm.n rmτ
50:1
I the God’s Land that has not been entered, and the Myrrh-terraces unknown to Egyptians.
It was learned of by hearsay, from the stories of the ancestors. Exotic goods were brought, from one to the other since the era of the ancestors, to the kings who were before, in return for many payments. No one will reach them except your explorers, for I will let your expedition enter it after I will have guided them by water and by land, disclosing to them the unexplored roads after I will have entered the Myrrh-terraces. It is a sacred region of the God's Land. It is my place of enjoyment. I created it for myself to gladden my heart with Mut, Hathor, Wereret, mistress of Punt, mistress of heaven Weret-Hekau, mistress of all the gods. May they take as much myrrh as they wish, and load ships to the satisfaction of their hearts with fresh myrrh trees.
and all good products of this foreign land. The Puntites unknown to Egyptians,

the ‘bearded people’ of the God’s Land, I placated them for your sake,

that they will give you praise as a god

because of the greatness of your might throughout the foreign land.

They know that I am their lord,

and have acknowledged that I am the rightful image of Amun-Re.

Daughter who subjugated the lords, the king of Upper and Lower Egypt Maatkare,

I begot her for me, I am your father. I set fear of you in the Nine Bows,

and they came in peace to Karnak while they brought many precious goods,

and every good thing from the God’s Land, for which you, Your Majesty, had sent them:

I large quantities of resin of myrrh and trees that always carry fresh myrrh,

I to be unpacked in the festivity hall for inspection by the lord of the gods,
and then Your Majesty yourself will plant them in the tree-garden around my temple,

to gladden my heart among them. My name is foremost among the gods

and your name is foremost among all living, forever.

Heaven and earth are flooded by incense and fragrance from the palace.

May you present them to me, pure and immaculate,

to express the 'ointment of divine limbs', may you bring myrrh, I apply ointment,

and adorn my chest with a collar. I give you the Njnj-greeting,

for this heart of mine is in joy because of seeing you. My very many wonders are for you,

for your beautiful face, which is lovely, the beauty of which I love to see.

My heart lives for your sake. ‘I Sailing on the sea,

setting off on a good journey to the God's Land, arriving safely in

by the expedition of the lord of the Two Lands,
in accordance with the utterance of the lord of the gods Amun,

lord of the Thrones of the Two Lands, foremost of Karnak,

to fetch for him precious goods from every foreign land.

together with the expedition who was accompanying him before the princes of Punt.

Bringing of every good thing from the palace (l.p.h.!) to Hathor, mistress of Punt,

for the life, prosperity and health of Her Majesty.

Approach of the princes of Punt, bowing their heads, to receive this expedition of the king.

They give praise to the lord of the gods, Amun-Re, the primeval one of the Two Lands,

he who enters the foreign lands. And they say they beseech peace.

‘Why have you come here to this foreign land, unknown to Egyptians?’

Did you descend on the road of heaven? Have you travelled on water or on land?
How happy is the God's Land, which you have entered like Re! As for the king of Egypt,

is there no road to His Majesty that we may live on the breath that he gives?'

Pitching camp of the envoy of the king and his expedition on the Myrrh-terraces of Punt near the sea, to receive the princes of this foreign land.

They are offered bread, beer, wine, meat, fruit and everything from Egypt as commanded in the palace.

Reception of the tribute of a prince of Punt by the envoy of the king.

Loading of ships to a very large extent with precious goods from the land of Punt,

all kinds of good herbs of the God's Land, and large quantities of resin of myrrh,

of fresh myrrh trees, of ebony and pure ivory, of green gold from Amu,

of tj̱ps-wood and hsyt-wood, of resin, incense and galena,
m jñw gjfw ṭsmw
of baboons, vervet monkeys and greyhounds,
of hides of Upper-Egyptian panthers,

m mrt ḫn c msw=sn
and of labourers and their children. Never was anything like that brought to any king

ḥpr ḍr p̄t t̄
who lived since the primeval time of the land. Travelling and returning safely,

dw r t̄ r Jpt-swt m ṭwt-jb jn mš c
landing in Karnak in joy by the expedition of the lord of the Two Lands,

wrw m-ḥt=sn n ḫst tn
followed by the princes of this foreign land.

jn.n=sn ntt n jn.l tw mjṭjw=sn
They brought things the like of which had not been brought to other kings of Lower Egypt,

m bjāw ḫst Pwnt
exotic goods from the land of Punt,

n-ṣjt-n
because of the greatness of the might of this noble god Amun-Re,

nb Nswt-t̄wj
lord of the Thrones of the Two Lands.