Khnumhotpe, prince of Beni Hasan, Biography of Nederhof - English

Created on 2006-11-04 by Mark-Jan Nederhof. Last modified 2009-06-08.

Transliteration and translation for "The biography of Khnumhotpe, prince of Beni Hasan", following the transcription of De Buck (1948), pp. 67-72, with line numbers following plates 25 and 26 of Newberry (1893) up to line 200, and following plate 11 of Montet (1930-1935) from line 200 onward.

The transliteration throughout follows Hannig (1995).


Bibliography

Prince regent, count, acquaintance of the king,

beloved of his god, leader of the eastern lands, Khnumhotep, son of Neheri, justified,

born of a count's daughter, lady of the house Baqet, justified.

He built this as his monument. His foremost deed was adorning his city,

that he might perpetuate his name forever,

and that he might adorn it for eternity in his tomb of the necropolis.

He perpetuated the name of his cabinet, elevated according to their offices,

the excellent ones and inhabitants of his house, whom he raised over his servants,

concerning every office that he held and every craft according to its nature. His mouth says:

'The majesty of Horus: Who rejoices in truth;
nbtj  Hkn-m-Imc.t  Bjk-nbw mjc-hrw

Two Ladies: Who rejoices in truth; Gold Horus, justified;

nsw-bjtj Nbw-kšw-Rc  sš-Rc  Jmn-m-hšt

The king of Upper and Lower Egypt: Nebukaure; Son of Re: Amenemhet,

dj ṑnh ḏd wšs mj Rc dt
given life, stability and dominion, like Re forever, appointed me

r  jṛj-pš t hštj-c jmj-rš hšswt jḥbtṭ .smš Ḫr ṭḥšt
to be prince regent, count, leader of the eastern lands, priest of Horus and Pakhet,

r jwš t  jt mwt=j  m Mnšť-Hwfw

and to the inheritance of the father of my mother in Menat-Khufu.

smn.n=f  n=j wḏ šmc

He erected the Upper Egyptian boundary marker for me,

smnh.n=f mḥtj mj pt  psšš.n=f jṭr Ḥr jḥṭ=f

while restoring the northern, like heaven. He divided the great river along its middle,

mj jrryt n jt  mwt=j

as was done for the father of my mother,

m tpt-lš prt m ṣ n ḫm n

by the pronouncement that issued from the mouth of the majesty of

| Ḫr Whm-mswt | nbtj Whm-mswt | Bjk-nbw (whm-)mswt
| Horus: Who repeats birth; Two Ladies: Who repeats birth; Gold Horus: Who repeats birth;

nsw-bjtj Shṭp-jb-Rc  sš-Rc  Jmn-m-hšt

The king of Upper and Lower Egypt: Sehotepibre; Son of Re: Amenemhet,
given life, stability and dominion, like Re forever.

He appointed him to be prince regent, count, leader of the eastern lands, written fDjt=f.

He erected the Upper Egyptian boundary marker, in Menat-Khufu.

He divided the great river along its middle, while restoring the northern, like heaven. He divided the great river along its middle,

its eastern side to the Mountain of Horus reached as far as the eastern land.

At the coming of His Majesty, he repelled evil, appearing as Atum himself,

and he restored what he found ruined and what one city had taken from another,

while he let city know its boundary with city, restoring their boundary markers like heaven,

and know their waters according to what was in writing, investigating what was of old,

because he loved justice so much. Then he appointed him to be prince regent and count,

esteemed assistant and great chief of Ma-hedi.
He erected the Upper Egyptian boundary markers as his boundary to Unet, and his northern to Input. He divided the great river along its middle, its water, its fields, its tamarisks and its sand reached as far as the western lands.

He appointed his eldest son Nekht, justified and revered, to be ruler of his inheritance in Menat-Khufu, as a great favour of the king, by the command that issued from the mouth of the majesty of Horus: Living of birth; Two Ladies: Living of birth; Gold Horus: Living of birth; The king of Upper and Lower Egypt: Kheperkare; Son of Re: Sesostris, given life, stability and dominion, like Re forever. The foremost nobility of my birth was that my mother proceeded to become regentess and countess, as the daughter of the ruler of Ma-hedi, to Hut-Sehotepibre,
given life, stability and dominion, like Re forever,

and to become the wife of the prince regent, count, ruler of the new settlements,

praised by the king of Upper Egypt, pupil of the king of Lower Egypt,

congering his rank of leader of the city, Nehri, justified and revered.

The king of Upper and Lower Egypt Nebukaure,

given life, stability and dominion, like Re forever, brought me

as son of a count into the inheritance of the rule of the father of my mother,

because he loved justice so much. He is Atum himself, Nebukaure,

given life, stability, dominion and happiness, like Re forever.

He appointed me to be count in the year 19, in Menat-Khufu. Then I adorned it,

and it acquired all kinds of things. I perpetuated the name of my father.
I restored their mortuary chapels. I followed my statues to the temple.

I brought to them their offerings of bread, beer, libation, wine, incense and meat-offering,

assigned to the mortuary priest. I endowed him with fields and servants.

I commanded a mortuary offering of bread, beer, oxen and fowl,

at every feast of the necropolis, at New Year's Day, the opening of the year,

the feast of the great year and the feast of the small year,

the end of the year, the great feast, at the Great Burning and at the Little Burning,

at the five epagomenal days, at the taking of the sand,

at the 12 monthly feasts and the 12 mid-monthly feasts,

every feast of the happy living and of the dead. As for the mortuary priest or any person
who shall disturb them, he shall not be, and his son shall not be in his place.

The praise of me in the palace was greater than that of any sole companion.

He raised me over his nobles. I was [placed] before those who had been before me.

The cabinet of the palace assembled to give praise according to my appointment, according to the favour that came to pass in the presence of the pronouncement of the king himself.

Never happened the like to servants whom their lords had praised.

He knew my eloquence while my appearance was youthful.

I was honoured with the king, my praise was with his courtiers, and the fondness for me was before his companions.

The prince regent and count Khnumhotep son of Nehri, revered.
Another favour granted to me: My eldest son Nekhet, born of Kheti, was appointed to be ruler of Input, and to the inheritance of the father of his mother.

shpr m smr wFTj djw r ḫt nt t-يتهاw
was made sole companion and was appointed to be chief of Upper Egypt.

djw n=f tn\w s\h jn ḫm n Hr Sšmw-t\w\j
Every dignity was conferred on him by the majesty of Horus: Leader of the Two Lands;

nbtj Sh\c j-m\c t Bjk-nbw ḫtp-ntrw
Two Ladies: Who makes truth appear; Gold Horus: Who placates the gods;

nsw-bjtj ḫ\c j-hpr-R\c S\c -R\c S-n-W srt
The king of Upper and Lower Egypt: Khakheperre; Son of Re: Sesostris,

dj \c nh dd w\c s mj R\c dt jrf mnmw=f m Jnpwt
given life, stability and dominion, like Re forever. He built his monuments in Input,

m smnh gmt.n=f wš(.tj) jlt.n njwt m snumtj=s
restoring what he found damaged and what one city had taken from another,

rdj rh=f tš=f ḫdt sjp r ntt m js\w t
letting it know its boundary according to the land register, investigating what was of old,

dj w\d r tš=f šm\c
placing a boundary marker at his Upper Egyptian boundary,
and restoring the northern, I like heaven, erecting on the fields I of the lowland

a total of 15 boundary markers,

establishing on its northern fields its boundary as far as Wabut.

He divided I the great river along its middle, I its western side to Input

reaching as far as the western lands,

when the prince regent and count Nakht son of Khnumhotep, justified and revered,

petitioned: "My waters do not know I the great favour from the king."

Another prince I was appointed as sole companion, I greatest of the companions,

numerous in gifts from the palace, sole companion, I whose equal has never been,

to whom the authorities listen, only mouth I that silences the mouths,

who brings advantage I to its possessor, entry of the foreign lands,
Khnumhotep son of Khnumhotep son of Nehri, born of the lady of the house Kheti.

I kept alive the names of my forefathers that I'd found obliterated upon the doorways, legible, accurately spelled, without confusing one with another. He is an excellent son, who perpetuates the names of the ancestors,

Khnumhotep son of Nehri, justified and revered. My foremost nobility was that I built a tomb, as a man should imitate what his father did.

My father built for himself a mortuary chapel in Mer-neferet, of good limestone, in order to perpetuate his name forever. He adorned it for eternity, so that his name might live in the mouths of the people,

and remain in the mouths of the living and on his tomb of the necropolis, in his excellent house of eternity, his place of everlastingness,
according to the favour from the king and the love of him in the palace.

He ruled his city when he was an infant before his circumcision.

He executed a royal commission and his two plumes danced when he was a child at his mother's breast, for the king knew his eloquence while his appearance was youthful, Nehri son of Sobek-ankh, justified and revered,

whom he raised over his nobles to rule his city. Achievements of count Khnumhotep:

I built a monument within my city. I rebuilt a colonnaded hall that I found in ruins.

I erected it with columns anew, I inscribed with my own name.

I kept alive the name of my father upon them. I inscribed what I did upon every monument.

I made a door of seven cubits of cedar from Negau, for the first doorway of the tomb,
and double doors of five cubits and two palms, l for the shrine of the august chamber

| that is within this tomb.

The requisites for a mortuary offering of bread, beer, oxen and fowl,

were on every monument that I built. I inundated a pond l and built its portal

dd tw n wbh pn

that gave air to this colonnaded hall.

My monuments within this city were greater than those of my forefathers,

a child of this city,1 and the monuments of its burial place were more excellent

Montet reads some verb in place of sḏt with the meaning "to bloom" ("épanouir"), leading to something like: "This city bloomed, as the monuments ...".

than those of the ancestors built before me. I was distinguished in monuments.

I taught every craft I that had been forgotten within this city,

so that my name might be excellent upon I every monument that I built, founded on me
nn mnst jm shš. ln=j jmw ky
without fault. I made the ship of another descend,¹

¹ I take 𓊳 as determinative. Alternatively one could read ky šps, "another nobleman", as independent phrase.

220
jrj-pᶜ t ḥṯj-c Nḥṛj ṣḥ Ḥnm-ḥtp  jr.n B³qt m³c-ḥrw nb jm³ḏ
prince regent and count Khnumhotep son of Nehri, born of Baqet, justified and revered.

222
ḥrp js  jmj-r³ ḥmt B³qt
Supervisor of the tomb, treasurer Baqet.'