Khnumhotpe, prince of Beni Hasan, Biography of

Nederhof - English

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

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

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

to be prince regent, count, leader of the eastern lands, priest of Horus and Pakhet,

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

He erected the Upper Egyptian boundary marker for me,

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

as was done for the father of my mother,

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

Horus: Who repeats birth; Two Ladies: Who repeats birth; Gold Horus: Who repeats birth;

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,

He erected the Upper Egyptian boundary marker,

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, n=f jtr c;j hr jjt|f
and his northern to Input. He divided the great river along its middle,
mw=f jhwt=f jsr=f sl=c=f r-mn-m hswt jmntt
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,
r hq| jw|t=f m Mn^t-Hwfw | m hst cjt | nt hr nsw
to be ruler of his inheritance in Menat-Khufu, as a great favour of the king,

m wdt pr| t r' n hm n Hr cnh-mswt
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;
nsw-bjtj | Hpr-k^3-R^c s^3-R^c S-n-Wsrt
The king of Upper and Lower Egypt: Kheperkare; Son of Re: Sesostris,

dj cnh | dd w^3s mj R^c dt s^h=j tp n mswt=j
given life, stability and dominion, like Re forever. The foremost nobility of my birth was

wd^3 mwt=j r jrt-p^f t | h^3tt-c
that my mother proceeded to become regentess and countess,

m st hq| | n M^3-hd r Hwt-Shtp-jb-R^c
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,

centering 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,

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 wḥtj djw r ḫt nt tī-šmśw was made sole companion and was appointed to be chief of Upper Egypt.

djw n=f tfoot ṣh jn ḫm n Hr Sšmw-tŵwj
Every dignity was conferred on him by the majesty of Horus: Leader of the Two Lands;

nbtj Šḥj-mšt Bjk-nbw ḥtp-ntrw
Two Ladies: Who makes truth appear; Gold Horus: Who placates the gods;

nsw-bjtj Ḥc-j-ḥpr-Rc Sš-Rc S-n-W srt
The king of Upper and Lower Egypt: Khakheperre; Son of Re: Sesostris,

dj ẖnh dd ṭs mj Rc dt jr=f mnw=f m Ḥnpwt given life, stability and dominion, like Re forever. He built his monuments in Input,

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

rdj ṛḥ=f ṭš=f ḫdt sjp r ntt m jswt letting it know its boundary according to the land register, investigating what was of old,

dj wḏ r ṭš=f šmś placing a boundary marker at his Upper Egyptian boundary,
smnḥ mḥtj l mj pt smn ḫr sḥwt l nt ḫrw

and restoring the northern, like heaven, erecting on the fields of the lowland

dmd-smā l wḏ l 15

a total of 15 boundary markers,

smn ḫr ḫḥwt=f mḥtj tīš=f r Wbwt

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

psš.n=f l jtr c ḫr jšt=f l gs=f jmnty n Jnpwt

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

r-mn-m ḫṣltwt jmnty

reaching as far as the western lands,

ḥft spr l jṛj-pᶜ t ḫṭj-c Hnm-htp sš Nḥt l mšš-c ḫrw nb jmš ḫ r-dd

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

n ṛḥ mw=j l ḫswt wṛt nt l ḫr ns

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

ky wr l m nd m smr wᶜ tjt l c jmn n smlrw

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

cšš jnw pr-nsw smr wᶜ l nn wn ḫr ḫw=f

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

sqmwt n=f sqmtw rš wᶜ l ḫtm rḏw

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

jnn ḫḥt l n nb=s rš-cj Ḫšwt

who brings advantage 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.

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, I for the shrine of the august chamber

I 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 and built its portal

that gave air to this colonnaded hall.

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

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

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

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

so that my name might be excellent upon every monument that I built, founded on me
nn mnst jm sh3 ln=j jmw ky
without fault. I made the ship of another descend,1

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

220
jrj-p’t ḫrtj-נ Nhrj s; Nmn-hṯp
jr.n Bq’t mẖ-c-hr w nb jmẖ

221
prince regent and count Khnumhotep son of Nehri, born of Baqet, justified and revered.

222
ḥṛp js jmj-r’hṯmt Bq’t

222
Supervisor of the tomb, treasurer Baqet.'