Second Semneh stela under Sesostris III

Lepsius (S)
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Bibliography
• C. R. Lepsius, Denkmäler aus Ägypten und Äthiopien, Tafelwerke, Abtheilung II, Band IV, 1849-1859.

Nederhof (S) - English
Other transcriptions are Sethe (1924), pp. 83-84; Aegyptische Inschriften (1913), number 1157, pp. 257-258.
The transliteration throughout follows Hannig (1995).
For a published translation, see Breasted (1906), pp. 294-297, §§ 653-660; Lichtheim (1975), pp. 118-120.

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• Aegyptische Inschriften aus den Königlichen Museen zu Berlin -- Volume 1. Leipzig, 1913.
• C. R. Lepsius, Denkmäler aus Ägypten und Äthiopien, Band IV, Abtheilung II, 1849-1859.
Le
1

Ne 1 cnh Hr Ntrj-hprw  nb tj Ntrj-mswt

Ne 1 Live Horus: Divine of being; Two Ladies: Divine of birth;

Le
1

Ne 1 nsw-bjtj Hc-j-kw-Rc
dj cnh  Bj k-nbw cnh-hpr

Ne 2 The king of Upper and Lower Egypt: Khakaure, given life; Gold Horus: Living of being;

Le
2

Ne 2 sRc n ht=f mr=f nb twj S-n-Wsrt

Ne 2 Son of Re, of his body, his beloved, lord of the Two Lands: Sesostris,

Le
3

Ne 3 dj cnh dd wj s dt
given life, stability and dominion forever.

Le
3

Ne 3 rmt-sp 16 jbd 3

Ne 3 Year 16, third month of the Season of Growing.

Le
4

Ne 4 jrt hm=f tš rs r Hh
His Majesty established the southern border at Heh.

Le
4

Ne 4 jw jr.n=j tš=j hnt=j jtw=j

Ne 4 I established my border further south than my forefathers.
I added to what was bequeathed to me. I am a king who speaks and acts.

I make happen what I conceive, eager to seize,

hasty to succeed, in whose heart a matter doesn't slumber,

anticipating inferiors, suppressing mercy, merciless to the enemy who attacks him,

who attacks one who would attack, who is silent when one is silent,

who replies to a matter as befits it. For to be idle after an attack

is to strengthen the heart of the enemy. Aggression is valour and retreat is cowardice.
Who is driven from his border is truly a coward.

For the Nubian listens to the word of mouth. Answering him is making him retreat.

If one acts aggressively towards him, he turns his back.

Retreat and he will take occasion to act aggressively.

For they are not respectable people. They are wretches with broken spirits.

My Majesty has seen them; it is no lie.

I carried off their underlings, went to their wells, drove off their bulls,
Le 16
Ne  wh₃jt=sn  |  rdj h₇ jm  ḋḥ n=j jt=j  dd=j m-m³t
Ne  tore out their barley, I set fire to it. As my father lives for me, I speak truthfully,

Le 17
Ne  nn ḏn {n} 1 jm  |  n ḍb c pr m r₃=j
Ne  there is no boast that comes from my mouth.
1 As explained by Sethe (1928). p 139.

Le 18
Ne  jr grt s₃=j nb  |  srwd.tj=fj tīš  |  pn jr.n ḏm=j
Ne  As for any son of mine who shall maintain this border that My Majesty established,

Le
Ne  s₃=j pw ms.tw=f n ḏm=j  |  twt s₃ ndtj jt=f
Ne  he is my son, born to My Majesty. It befits a son that he be the champion of his father,

Le 19
Ne  |  srwd tīš n wṭt sw  |  jr grt ḏḥ.tj=fj sw
Ne  |  and maintains the border of his begetter. As to him who shall lose it,

Le 20
Ne  tm.tj=fj ḍḥ  |  ḏr=f  |  n s₃=j js  |  n ms.tw=f js n=j
Ne  who shall not fight for it, he is not my son, he was not born to me.
Ne  jst grt rdj.n ūm=j jr.tw twt n ūm=j
Ne  Now, My Majesty had a statue of My Majesty made

Ne  hr tš pn jr.n ūm=j  n-mrwt rwd=t tn hr=f
Ne  at this border that My Majesty established, so that you may be persistent at it

Ne  n-mrwt ẖṯ=t tn hr=f
Ne  and that you may fight for it.