Sehetepibre, Stela of
Nederhof - English

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Transliteration and translation for "The stela of Sehetepibre", following the transcription of Sethe (1924), pp. 68-70.

The transliteration throughout follows Hannig (1995).

For published translations, see Breasted (1906), pp. 324-327, §§ 743-748; Lichtheim (1975), pp. 125-129; Simpson (1972), pp. 198-200 (covers only the teaching on verso).

Bibliography

Prince regent, count, royal seal-keeper, overseer of the administration,

deputy of the treasurer, Sehetepibre, justified, says: 'I built this grave,

which was consecrated after its place had been established.

I have made contracts for payments to the priests of Abydos. I acted as Loving Son,

in the service of the House of Gold, in the mystery of the lord of Abydos.

I directed the works on the Neshmet-barque and fashioned its cordage.

I conducted the Haker-ceremony for its lord and the procession of Upwawet.

I made all festival offerings for him, and recited to the priests.

I equipped the god with his regalia, in my function of initiated and my duty of clothing priest.

It is I who presented the hands in adorning the god, a Sem-priest with clean fingers,

so that I might be a follower of the god, in order to be glorious and mighty

at the stairway of the lord of Abydos.' Beginning of the teaching

that he composed for his children: 'I say something great, I let you hear,

I let you know eternal counsel, the right conduct of life, passing a lifetime at peace.
Worship king Nimaatre (may he live forever!) in your bodies!

Join with Your Majesty in your hearts! He is wisdom in the hearts,

his eyes see after every body. He is Re by whose rays one sees,

who illuminates the Two Lands more than the sun,

who makes the land verdant more than a great Nile flood.

He has filled the Two Lands with life force. Noses turn cold when he starts to rage,

he is at peace to let one breathe air. He gives food to those who are in his following,

he nourishes who is loyal to him. The king is sustenance, his mouth is abundance,

who will be is his creation. He is Khnum of everybody, begetter who creates mankind.

He is Bastet who protects the Two Lands, who worships him will be protected by his arm.

He is Sakhmet to who defies his command, whom he hates will bear distress.

Fight for his name, respect his oath, and you will be free of disloyalty.

The beloved of the king will be blessed.

There is no grave for him who rebels against His Majesty, his corpse is cast in the water.

If you do this, your bodies will be well and you will be able to use them forever.'
Prince regent, count, royal seal-keeper, overseer of the administration, Sehetepibre,

justified, says: 'O beloved of the king, o beloved of his city god, priests of Osiris,

foremost of those in the west, in Abydos, priesthood of the temple of this god,

priests of the king of Upper and Lower Egypt Nimaatre

(may he live forever until eternity!) and the king of Upper and Lower Egypt Khakaure,

justified, their priesthood, those in your city, and all people of Abydos

who will pass by this monument going north or south, as your king loves you,

as your city gods praise you, as your children remain in your places, as you love life

and ignore death, you will say: "A thousand of bread, beer, oxen, fowl, alabaster, clothing,

incense, oil, all kinds of plants, all kinds of offerings on which a god lives,

for the spirit of the revered, the prince regent, count, royal seal-keeper, beloved of his lord,

beloved sole companion, deputy of the treasurer, Sehetep(ib)re, justified,

born of Dedetnkhbet, justified and revered." 'Prince regent, count, royal seal-keeper,

beloved sole companion, great one of the king of Upper Egypt,
important one of the king of Lower Egypt, magistrate at the head of the people,

leader of horn, hoof, feather, scale, and of the two pleasure ponds,

whose coming is awaited by the courtiers, to whom people have told their matters,

whose excellence the lord of the Two Lands perceived,

whom he raised over the Two Banks, administrator of silver and gold,

keeper of all precious stones, man of justice before the Two Lands,

truly righteous man like Thoth, initiated in the temples, overseer of all works of the palace,

more accurate than a plummet, like a scale, patient, with effective counsel,

who says what is good, recounts what is desired, patient without equal, good at listening,

excellent in speaking, magistrate who solves problems, whom his lord raised over millions,

true image of love, free from wrongdoing, devoted to the king who has tried him,

pillar of Upper Egypt in the palace, who follows his lord in his strides,

his intimate before the courtiers, who attends his lord alone, excellent Horus in the palace,

true favourite of his lord, to whom secret matters are told, who finds the right words

1 Read - as ".
snďm qsnt  jr jḥt r tp-nfr  ḥtmw-bjtj
and eases pain, who does things successfully, royal seal-keeper,
jmj-rꜱ gs-pr  jdnw n jmj-rꜱ ḥmtm  Shṭp-jb-Rꜱ ḏď=ꜱ
overseer of the administration, deputy of the treasurer, Sehetepibre, says:
j ḫtj-ꜱ jmj-rꜱ ḥm-nṯr nb  ḥm-nṯr ꜱ nb  ḥrj-ḥḥt  ḥtmw nṯr
'O every count and leader of priests, every high priest, lector priest, divine seal-keeper,
wš Jnpw nb  ḥm-nṯr ꜱ nb  mtjw-n-ꜱ nb
every embalmer of Anubis, all many priests, all controllers of phyles,
ꜱnꜱ nb n njwt tn {nb} ḫpr.tį=f j m ḥwt-nṯr tn  swꜱ.tį=sn ḥr ḥꜱꜱ ꜱ tn
all who live in this town, who will appear in this temple, who will pass by this monument,
šd.tį=sn wḏ pn  m mrr tn Wṣjr  ḡntj jmmtįw
who will read this stela, as Osiris loves you, foremost of those in the west,
whm=tñ jrt ḥbw=f  m mrr tn Wpj-wꜱwt nṯr=tn bnr mrwt
as you repeat his feasts, as Upwawet loves you, your lovable god,
ndm-jb=tn m nsw r nhš  mrw=tn ꜱ nhš  smḥw=tn mwt
as you rejoice in the king forever, as you love life and ignore death,
snb n=tn ḥrdw=tn  ḏḏ=tn m tpt-rꜱ=tn  ḥṭp-dj-nsw
and as your children thrive for you, you will say as your utterance: "A royal offering:
1000 m t  ḥnqt kꜱw  ḫpdw šs  mnḥt  jḥt nb bnrt
A thousand of bread, beer, oxen, fowl, alabaster, clothing, all sweetness
ꜱnh nṯr jm  n jmḥ  ḫrj-pꜱ t  ḫtj-ꜱ ḥtmw-bjtj
on which a god lives for the revered the prince regent, count, royal seal-keeper,
jmj-rꜱ gs-pr  jdnw n jmj-rꜱ ḥmtm  Shṭp-jb-Rꜱ j r Dḏt-Nḥḥt
overseer of the administration, deputy of the treasurer, Sehetepibre, born of Dedetnekhbet,
mꜱ-ḥrw
justified."