Ahmose son of Abana, Autobiography of

Sethe

The hieroglyphic of "The Autobiography of Ahmose son of Abana", following the transcription of
Sethe (1927), number 1 (pp. 1-11).

Bibliography


Nederhof - English

Transliteration and translation for "The Autobiography of Ahmose son of Abana", following the
transcription of Sethe (1927), number 1 (pp. 1-11).
33-35, §§ 78-82; Lichtheim (1976), pp. 12-15; Sethe (1914), number 1 (pp. 1-6).

Bibliography

Naval commander Ahmose, son of Abana, justified, says:

"I speak to you, all people. I will let you know the favours that were granted to me.

I have been rewarded with gold seven times before the entire land, and with male and female slaves as well. I have been endowed with very many fields.

The name of a brave man is in what he has done, without ever perishing in this land." He says:

"I grew up in the town of Nekheb.

My father was a soldier of the king of Upper and Lower Egypt Seqenenre, justified,"
and was called Baba, son of Rainet.

Then I became a soldier in his place, on the ship 'The Wild Bull',

in the time of the lord of the Two Lands Nebpehtire, justified.

I was a young man, before I had married, and I slept in a hammock of net.¹

After I had established a household,

I was taken to the ship 'The Northern', because I was brave.

Then I followed the sovereign (l.p.h.! on foot
Ne m-h³ swtwt=f hr wrryt=f
Ne after him riding on this chariot.

Ne jw hms.tw hr dmj n Hwt-w³rt
Ne When the town of Avaris was besieged,

Ne wn.hr=j hr qnt hr rdwj=j m-b³h hm=f
Ne I showed valour on foot in His Majesty's presence.

Ne ³h³.n=j dhn.kîw r H³-m-Mn-nfr
Ne Then I was assigned to 'Rising in Memphis',

Ne wn.jn.tw hr ³h³ hr mw m P³-Ddkw n Hwt-w³rt
Ne and there was fighting on the water in Padjedku of Avaris.

Ne ³h³.n h³f³.n=j l jn=j ³r³t
Ne Then I made a capture and carried off a hand.

Ne smj.tw n whm-nsw
Ne wn.jn.tw hr rdjt n=j nbw n qnt
Ne When it was reported to the royal herald, I was given gold of valour.

Ne ³h³.n whmw ³h³ m st tn
Ne Then there was more fighting in this place,
Ne again I made a capture there and carried off a hand,

Ne and again I was given gold of valour.

Then there was fighting in Egypt south of this town,

I and I brought away a man as captive. I went down into the water,

for he was captured on the side of the town,

and crossed the water carrying him. When it was reported to the royal herald,

I was rewarded with gold once more.

Read ḫr, according to Breasted (1906).
Then Avaris was captured, and I brought booty from there:

\[\text{1 man and 3 women, altogether 4 people.}\]

And His Majesty gave them to me for slaves.

Then Sharahen was besieged for three years, and His Majesty captured it.

Then I brought booty from there: two women and a hand.

I was given gold of valour,

and I was given the captives for slaves.

After His Majesty had slain the bedouin tribes of Asia,
Ne 17

He sailed southward to Khent-hen-nefer

Ne 17

To destroy the Nubian nomads,

Ne 18

Then I brought booty from there:

Ne 18

Two living men and three hands. I was rewarded with gold once more,

Ne 19

And two female slaves were given to me. His Majesty sailed northward,

Ne 19

Rejoicing in strength and victory, having captured southerners and northerners.
And his fate brought on his doom when the gods of Upper Egypt grasped him. He was found by His Majesty at Tent-ta-o, and His Majesty brought him away as captive and all his people as booty.

Then I brought two warriors as captives from the ship of Aata. I was given five people and five arourae of land in my town, and the same was done for the whole crew.
Then that enemy called Tetian came,
who had drawn together rebels. His Majesty slew him
and his troop was annihilated.

Then I was given three people and five arourae of land in my town.
Then I conveyed the king of Upper and Lower Egypt Djeserkare, justified,
as he sailed southward to Kush
to widen the borders of Egypt. Then His Majesty smote that Nubian nomad
in the midst of his army, taken in a stranglehold, none missing,
The fleeing were felled as though they had never been.

Now, I was in the van of our army, where I fought properly, and His Majesty saw my valour.

I carried off two hands, and presented them to His Majesty.

Then his people and his cattle were pursued.

I brought a captive and presented him to His Majesty.

I brought His Majesty to Egypt from Upper Well in two days.

and I was rewarded with gold. Then I brought away two female slaves as booty,
Ne ḫrw nn n ms.n=j
Ne in addition to those I had presented
Ne to His Majesty.

Ne wn.jn.tw ḫr rdjt=j ḫȝwtj n ḫqȝ
Ne Then I was appointed to be warrior-of-the-ruler.

Ne wn.jn=j ḫr ḫnt nsw-bjtj ḫȝpr-kꜣ-Rꜣ mꜣꜣ-ḥrw
Ne Then I conveyed the king of Upper and Lower Egypt Aakheperkare, justified,

Ne jw=f ḫ m ḫnty t ḫnt-ḥn-nfr
Ne as he sailed southward to Khent-hen-nefer,

Ne r sswn ḫꜣꜣ ḫt ḫꜣꜣswt
Ne to crush rebellion throughout the lands,

Ne r dr bs n ḫꜣꜣst
Ne and to drive off intrusion from the desert region.

Ne wn.jn=j ḫr qnt m-bꜣꜣ=h=f m pꜣꜣ mw bjn
Ne I showed valour in his presence at the cataract,
During the towing of the fleet through the eddy.

Then I was appointed to be naval commander.

Then His Majesty (l.p.h.!) and His Majesty became as enraged as a panther.

His Majesty shot and his first arrow stuck in the chest of that enemy.

Then these despondent on account of his uraeus.

It was done there in an act of massacre,

and their people were brought away as captives. His Majesty sailed northward,
Ne h$swt nbt $m m$mmt=f
Ne all foreign lands in his grasp.

Ne jwn$tj-Stj pf hs m shd
Ne That wretched Nubian nomad hung with his head downward

Ne m h$t bjk n hm=f
djw r ti l m Jpt-swt
Ne from the prow of the falcon-ship of His Majesty. One landed l at Karnak.

Ne m-h$t nn wdj r Rtnw
Ne Thereafter one proceeded to Retjenu,

Ne r jc t jb=f ht h$swt
spr hm=f r Nhnr
Ne to vent his fury throughout the lands. When His Majesty reached Naharina,

Ne l gmt hm=f c.w.s. hrw pf ts=f skw
37
Ne l His Majesty (l.p.h.!) found that enemy marshalling troops,

Ne wn.jn hm=f hr jrt h$t g$t jm=sn
Ne and His Majesty carried out a large massacre among them.

Ne nn l t$nw t m s$qrw-n$h jnn hm=f m nh$tw=f
Ne Countless were the captives that His Majesty brought away from his victories.
Now, I was in the van of our army, and His Majesty saw my valour.

I brought away a chariot, its horse, and him who was on it as captive, and presented them to His Majesty. I was rewarded with gold once more.

I have grown old and reached old age.

The favours towards me are as before [...] beloved [...] I rest in the tomb that I myself built.

Again I was given by the king of Upper and Lower Egypt [...] 60 arourae in Hadjaa, altogether [...] arourae.
List of names of the male and female slaves from the booty given to me:

Male slaves:
- Pamedjai
- Pajabdju
- Senebnebef
- Sobekmes
- Kharai
- Paam
- Djehutisenebu

Female slaves:
- Sedjemesni
- Baket
- Ka[...]
isi
- Wabentasachmet
- female slave Taametju
- female slave Wabentasachmet
Se 63

Ne Wcq.b.n-tō-Shmt hmt Js-tō-rē-jw-mj hmt

Ne 63

| female slave Istarajumi; | female slave Itnefer; |

Se 65

Ne Jt-nfr hmt Hdt-Kwš hmt Jmn-hṛ-ssnb

Ne 65

| female slave Hadetkush; | female slave Amunhereseneb. |