Ineni, biography

Sethe
Created on 2014-12-07 by Mark-Jan Nederhof.
Transcription of the biography of Ineni, following Sethe (1927), number 20 (pp. 53-62).

Bibliography

Nederhof - English
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Transliteration and translation of the biography of Ineni, following the transcription of Sethe (1927), number 20 (pp. 53-62).

Bibliography
Hatnub. Its doors were erected of copper, made from a single copper plate,
1 Depicts copper plate.

Its signs of electrum. I saw His Majesty making [...][...][...][...]| bronze, Asian copper,

Menits, vessels, collars. I was leader of all craftsmen,

Every office was under my command. [...] ordered [...] there,

Calendar festivals as well, for his father Amun, lord of the Thrones of the Two Lands.

They were under my supervision, entrusted to me. It was I who assigned [...]

There. His Majesty passed a lifetime with good years in peace, went to heaven,
Ne  he established his border to the crest of the world, the ends in the void of [Horus],

Ne  the good god, who smote the Asiatics, lord of strength, who defeated the bedouin.

Ne  as the tributes to Upper and Lower Egypt,
All things were entrusted to me under [the king of Upper and Lower Egypt,

because he trusted me.

I was appointed as count and overseer of the storehouses.

The fields of the god's offerings were under my command.

All excellent works together were under my authority.

I saw the great works that he built [in Karnak, erecting the magnificent hall of papyrus columns, erecting] great pylons next to it,
from beautiful white limestone, erecting the magnificent flagstaffs in front of the temple,

from fresh cedar from Lebanon, its tips from electrum. I saw erection of [...] plated with electrum. I saw erection of the great gate

Sechem-faw-Amun, its large door from Asian copper,

the sacred figure thereon made from gold. I saw erection of the two [great] obelisks

[in front of the temple from granite.]

I saw construction of a magnificent ship,

120 cubits long and 40 cubits wide, to ship these obelisks.
They came in peace, safe and sound, and arrived in Karnak.

I saw the digging of a lake,

which His Majesty made for himself on the west side

of the city. Its banks were planted with all kinds of sweet trees.

I saw the digging of the rock tomb of His Majesty in private, unseen, unheard.

I investigated what could be useful for this. [...] in excellent work.

My mind was vigilant seeking what would be useful. I created clay fields,

to cover their tombs in the necropolis. These were works that hadn't been done before.
What was ordered to me to be done there happened thoroughly.

1 Depicts oval walls.

For this, walls were built [...] I took thought for posterity,

which was labour close to my heart. My character was wise,

no instruction was given to me by an elder. I will be praised on account of my wisdom

for years afterwards by those who will emulate what I have done. I directed as I [...]

I was highest administrator of all works. Praise for me endured in the palace,

the love for me with the courtiers. His Majesty endowed me with labourers,
my provisions were from the storehouse of the palace every day.

The king departed from this life and went to heaven,

having completed his years in happiness. The falcon in the nest [...]

[had appeared on the Horus-throne,]

the king of Upper and Lower Egypt Aakheperenre,

so that he would govern the Black Land and rule the Red Land,

having taken possession of the Two Banks in triumph.

I was a confidant of the king in each of his offices.
He did more for me than others before. I reached the old age of the honoured elders.

I was in the favour of His Majesty every day, I was served from the table of the king, with bread from the royal breakfast, also beer, rich meat, vegetables, different kinds of fruit, honey, cakes, wine and ben oil.

I was greeted with 'health and life!' and His Majesty himself said it, for love for me.

He went to heaven and united with the gods.

His son took his place as king of the Two Lands.

and he ruled on the throne of his begetter. His sister, the god's wife Hatshepsut,
Ne hr jrt mḥrw t³ tōw ḫr sḥr=s bik.tw n=s
Ne governed the land; the Two Lands were under her direction. She is served,

Ne Kmt m ḫḥ tp prt ntr ḫḥt prt ḫḥnt=f
Ne while Egypt is humble, beneficent seed of the god, which came from him,

Ne ḫḥtt nt Šm=f w sḥr=s
Ne prow rope of Upper Egypt, mooring post of the southerners,

Ne phyt pw mnḥt nt Tα-mḥw nbt wḏ-mdw
Ne she is the excellent stern rope of Lower Egypt, a mistress of command,

Ne mnḥ sḥr=s hrjt jdbwj ḫft mdw=s
Ne with excellent plans, who satisfies the Two Banks when she speaks.

Ne hs.n wj ḫḥnt=s mr.n=s wj ḫḥ.n=s jqrw=j m ṣtp-s³
Ne Her Majesty praised me, she loved me, she recognised my excellence in the palace.

Ne ṣḥwd.n=s wj m ḫt ṣf³.n=s wj ṣmḥ.n=s jmb³=j m ḫḏ nbw
Ne She enriched me with property, she advanced me, she filled my hut with silver and gold,

Ne m ṣšrw nb nfr n pr-nsw n ḫḥ=j ḫḥ n=j ḫḥnt nbw
Ne and all good things of the palace, without me saying ‘O, I wish I had ...!’ about anything.

Ne ḫd=j n=ṭn rmt ṣḏmw jrd=ṭn b[w]-nfr
Ne I say to you, people: ‘Hear! Do good things.'
What was done for me will likewise be done for you,

The passing of my lifetime was in peace, there was no crime of mine,

my years were in happiness, there was no enmity towards me,

there was no accusation against me, I was not feeble,

there was no reproach against me, I was a leader of leaders,

there was no complaint against me, loyal to his lord, free of carelessness.

I was one who listened to what his superior had said.

I was not full of resentments towards the great ones in the palace.
Ne  jr skk rnpwt m ġsy  wnn bꜣwꜣ nh(.w) r- ng nb-ḏr
Ne  As for one who passes years being praised, his soul will live beside the Lord of All,

Ne  rm-ḏ nfr m rʲ nḥw
Ne  his good name will be in the mouths of the living,
¹ Depicts a double storehouse.

Ne  sjft ṣh-ḏ n ḏt  jmḏhy  ḫtj- ꨍ
Ne  his memory and his blessedness are for eternity.' Revered, count,

Ne  jmj-ḏ šnwtj n Jmn  sš Ḫnj mꜣ nb hw
Ne  overseer of the storehouses of Amun, the scribe Ineni, justified.