An Unpublished Stela of Kat-ef at
The Grand Egyptian Museum Giza

(GEM 14258)

(fig. 1)

By
Nahla Fahim El-Sayed
PhD in Egyptology

Dr. Adel Zine Al-Abedine
Department of Archeology Faculty Of Arts _Tanta University

Abstract:
This article aims to study a painting from Abydos now preserved in the Middle Kingdom Treasury of the Grand Egyptian Museum in Giza under the number (14258). It was previously in the Egyptian Museum warehouse in Cairo under the numbers (20034, 20253, 3/9450). This article also aims to discuss the meanings of names and surnames, copy and translate texts, and comment on spelling features and forms of signs. The painting is by a person named Cat F and its history dates back to the end of the Twelfth Dynasty.

Keywords:
Middle Kingdom, Cat F, Grand Egyptian Museum, Ain El Wagat, Ozer
Introduction

This research is an analytical study of a funerary stela, currently stored in the magazine of the Middle Kingdom in the Grand Egyptian Museum in Giza. It is a round-topped stela of a person named Kat-ef (GEM 14258). It found at the northern necropolis of Abydos. The genealogy of the owner of the stela is not mentioned on it, It is in good condition, The current condition of the stela in comparison with the black and white photographs taken at the time of its discovery shows no change, but a close study of its stylistic traits is helpful to determine its artistic origin and date. Both Lange and Schäfer transcribed the hieroglyphs of this stela and included it images, but they did not translate their texts, describe it scenes, nor investigate its style or inscriptions. The aim of this paper is to translate and comment this document, by investigating its style, inscriptions as well as its iconographica, epigraphical features and dating criteria.

General description

A round-topped stela of Kat-ef is made from limestone and measuring 36.5 cm in height, 8 cm in width and 23.5 cm in length and weight 11030g in weight, Now, It is registered with accession numbers (GEM 14258=CG 20034=JE 20253=SR 3/9450). It found at Abydos (fig.1). This stela has fine relief scenes and hieroglyphic inscriptions. There is a simple break from down. It has a base supporting the stela. It has residues of red color (It was not from the original colors of the stela). It is divided in three parts: a lunette, a horizontal register containing the main hieroglyphic text of four horizontal lines, the owner Kat-ef sitting on a seat and behind him standing his wife, in front of them is a man and a women half the size standing in the second register.

Scenes and inscriptions

The lunette

At the top of the stela is curved shape, in the center of the lunette, There are two udjat- eyes. The two symmetrical eyes fill all the space in the lunette. They are shown facing each other. They are almost identical, except for minor differences.

---

1 Badawy, A., La Stèle funéraire sous l’Ancien Empire; Son Origine et Son fonctionnement, in: ASAE 48 (Le Caire, 1948), 215.
The first register

There are the main text of four horizontal hieroglyphic lines running right to left, the text contains on the offering formula which represents the needs of the deceased from offerings that guarantee him continuity and eternity in the other world, the text reads:

Transcription:

1-Htp-di-nsw\(^b\) wsir\(^b\) xnty imntyw nTr-aA\(^c\) nb AbDw\(^d\)

2-di.f prt-xrw (m) t Hnqt kA(w) Abd(w)\(^c\) n-kA-n \(^f\) anx n niwt \(^g\) kAt.f \(^h\) mAa-xrw \(^i\)

3-Hmt.f mryt.f nbt-pr\(^j\) sAt-imn mAat-xrw in sA.f sanx

4-wab n Xrtyw-nTr Htp mAa-xrw sA.s ibs mAa-xrw

Translation:

A boon which the king gives\(^7\) (to) Osiris, foremost of the westerners, Great god, lord of Abydos, may he give invocation-offerings,\(^8\) (consist of) bread and bear, oxen and fowl, to the ka of anx n niwt kAt.f honest voice, his wife and his beloved, the lady of the house, sAt imn\(^9\) honest sound, by her son sanx\(^10\) priest of the stone masons\(^11\) htp\(^12\) honest sound, her son ibs\(^13\) honest sound.

---


\(^10\) Ranke, H., \textit{Die Ägyptischen Personennamen}, 1, 300 (22).


\(^12\) Ranke, H., \textit{Die Ägyptischen Personennamen}, 1, 257 (22).

\(^13\) This name came on stela in the British Museum number. 829, also came on a stela in Rio de Janeiro Museum number.1. See: Ranke, H., \textit{Die Ägyptischen Personennamen}, 1, 21 (17).
Comments:

a) Htp di nsw\(^{14}\): Offering formula appeared since the Fourth Dynasty.\(^{15}\) The phonetic writing of the Htp di nsw formula on our stela confirms its reading. That form of writing was attested from the Eleventh Dynasty until the Thirteenth Dynasty.\(^{16}\)

b) Wsir: In the late Twelfth Dynasty, the name of Osiris is written using the hieroglyphic sign Q2 ⬡ instead of sign Q1][]\(^{17}\). Osiris name is written here without a determinative.\(^{18}\) This sign was first attested under Amenemhat IV and it was used during the Thirteenth Dynasty.\(^{19}\)

c) nTr- aA: referring to Osiris, The horizontal arrangement of the aA-sign within the sequence of the Osiris epithets is already attested at the end of the reign of Mentuhotep II.\(^{20}\)

d) Nb AbDw: his sequence of epithets (wsir nb Ddw nTr aA nb AbDw) is the most frequent on the Abydos stelae.\(^{21}\) For the range and frequency of the sequences of epithets on Abydos stelae.\(^{22}\)

e) kAw-Apdw: Oxen and fowl is one of the most ubiquitous elements of the offering formula. It can be written with various combinations of determinatives. ⬝ ⬄ wrote this way without the plural sign Z2 \(\cdot\) during the Twelfth Dynasty and continued in some of the stelae written in this way during the Thirteenth Dynasty and the Second Intermediate Period.\(^{23}\)

f) n-kA-n\(^{24}\): All the inscriptions dating to the Thirteenth Dynasty use the form n-kA-n NN,”to the ka of NN” to introduce the recipient.\(^{25}\) And followed n-kA-n the name (and Titles) of the deceased to follow as well as one, or both, of the expected epithets nb imAx and mAa xrw.\(^{26}\)

\(^{14}\) For the Htp-di-nsw, see: Barta, W., *Aufbau und Bedeutung der altägyptischen Opferformel*; Lapp, G., *Die Opferformel des alten Reiches*.

\(^{15}\) Müller, H. W., *Die Totendenksteine des Mittleren Reiches*, ihre Genesis, ihre Darstellungen und ihre Komposition, 185.


\(^{18}\) Bennett, C. J., ‘Growth of the Htp-di-nsw formula in the Middle Kingdom’, 77-78.

\(^{19}\) Ilon-Tomich, A., *From Workshop to Sanctuary. the Production of Late Middle Kingdom Memorial Stelae*, (London, 2017), 9.


\(^{21}\) Barta, W., *Aufbau und Bedeutung der altägyptischen Opferformel*, 56.


\(^{23}\) Ilon-Tomich, A., Changes in the Htp-di-nsw Formula in the Late Middle Kingdom and Second Intermediate period, 24.


\(^{25}\) Ilon-Tomich, A., Changes in the Htp-di-nsw Formula in the Late Middle Kingdom and Second Intermediate period, 26.

\(^{26}\) Whelan, P., An Unfinished late Middle Kingdom Stela from Abydos, in: *Grallert, S., and Grajetzki, W., Life and Afterlife in Ancient Egypt during the Middle Kingdom and Second Intermediate Period*, GHP Egyptology 7, (London, 2007), 133.
g) anx n niwt: Citizen, Townsman. This title appeared in the Middle Kingdom and continued in the New Kingdom. According to the conclusions O.D. Berlev, the term anx n niwt belongs to the corpus of the regular military titles of the Middle Kingdom and the Second Intermediate Period and refer to armed forces in which units of young people (anxw) were organized in the frame of a specific territory. The title is usually rendered as a term that defines a “soldier” of the city regiment. However, these anxw n niwt could also have been engaged, when needed, in non-military tasks. Beside the single designation anx n niwt, there are several extensions to the title including anx n xA tpy. The anx of the first thousand was probably in charge of the detachment of troops engaged in military and non-military tasks.

h) kAt.f: Ranke mentioned that this name was not on any monument before this stela, It was mentioned only on this stela.

i) mAa-xrw: The formula “mAat-xrw” just voice“ refers to the judgment of the dead and to “declarations of innocence ”however, it does not strictly define the meaning of “deceased” associated with the characters to which it is attributed. expression “mAat-xrw” is then used as a qualitative for living or dead characters. With a present or future funeral perspective.

j) Nbt pr: “Lady of the house”, This title is found so frequently, on almost every funerary stela, precedes the names of sAt-imn, ttti, and ity, William Ward argues that this title was very common, and it was solely used by married women to indicate the duties of the wife as director of the addairs of the household it is considered one of the distinguished titles for stelas at the end of the twelfth dynasty, It was frequently used by women from nonroyal...
origin since the reign of Senusret III. The title is frequently attested on several stelae dating from the Thirteenth Dynasty in the British Museum, London.

**Second Register**

This register is divided into two sub-registers, the left half is covered by the seated figure of the deceased Kat-ef, facing right, sitting on a low-lagged chair. His chair has bull-hoof legs, high backrest not clear, he wears a big wig, leaving the ear covered, he places his left hand on his chest and his right hand spreads it over his knee, he wears a short-kilt up to the knee and belt around his waist, behind him stands a women (his wife), there is a red color residue on her hair and mouth, she hold her left hand with his shoulder and the other hand touching his elbow, she wears a long wig with all the hair falling over the back of her shoulders, leaving her ears uncovered and she wears ordinary long dress, her name is engraved at the top right, in a horizontal hieroglyphic line written from right to left:

```
Nbt-pr titi mAat xrw
```

The lady of the house titi honest sound.

The sub-register on the right, shows a man standing (perhaps one of his sons) with a shaved head, whose ears are not uncovered, raises his right hand as evidence that he is speaking, and he wears knee-length kilts with a girdle, in front of him a woman half his size (his wife), she wears a long wig with all the hair falling over the back of her shoulders, leaving her ears covered and she wears ordinary long dress, her arms are at the side of her side, in front of her is a line of vertical hieroglyphic inscriptions written from right to left:

```
Hmt.f mrt.f nbt-pr it mAa(t)-xrw
```

His wife and his beloved the lady of the house iti honest sound.

It is striking that the owner of the stela kAt.f has a wife called sAt imn her mentioned in the text, and another wife called titi her mentioned in the scene, It is known that polygamy was little in ancient Egypt, and this is one of the few cases that depict a person married with more than one.

**Dating of the Stela**

---

41 Ilin-Tomich, A., *From Workshop to Sanctuary. the Production of Late Middle Kingdom Memorial Stelae*, 5.
42 Stelae of titi and Iunesites (EA 197), Senwosretseben (EA209), Aki (EA210), Kheperka (EA227), Diti and Simontu (EA232), Khennes and Ib-ibi (EA238), Khentikhetywer (EA239), Renpyef (EA240), Sirerut (EA 242), Iufseneb and shithathor (EA 255), see; Franke, D& Maree, M., *Egyptian Stelae in the British Museum from the 13th-17th Dynasties: Fascicule I, Descriptions*, vol.1, (London, 2013), 23, 33, 38-39, 74, 80, 93, 99, 104, 107, 142, pls.5, 8-9, 15, 17, 20-23, 33.
43 Ranke, H., *Die Ägyptischen Personennamen*, 1, 49 (15).
44 Ranke, H., *Die Ägyptischen Personennamen*, 1, 49 (15).
There are several elements, allow us to date the stela to Late Twelfth Dynasty,⁴⁵ such as:

The simplified form of the Htp-sign (R4) with a tall narrow loaf of bread provides palaeographic evidence for the dating of this stela, because it was a characteristic sign during dating.⁴⁶ The order of signs in the phrase $\text{Htp-di-nsw}$ can be also regarded as evidence for the dating of the stela, the order of the offering formula $\text{Htp-di-nsw}$ with the sign of Htp in the middle between nsw and di,⁴⁷ and the arrangement of Htp-di-nsw with the $\text{t}$ sign centered above the Htp $\text{t}$ sign after the nsw $\text{nsw}$ sign was common in the Twelfth Dynasty.⁴⁸

The spelling of t,"bread" permits us to propose the Late Twelfth Dynasty as a date for this stela. The spelling of t,"bread" in the appeal to the living on this is the non-standard sign N35 $\text{t}$ and not the conventional sign X2 $\text{t}$. Vernus suggests that the reading of the sign $\text{t}$ on the late Twelfth Dynasty stelae lycon H2295 of senusret-ankh and Ny Carlsberg AEIN 1664 of Iytenhab is the same as the reading of the sign X1 $\text{t}$.⁴⁹ The use of the sign $\text{nsw}$ (S3) instead of the sign $\text{mka}$ (N35) in the formula n-kA-n, whether wrote $\text{mka}$ or $\text{mka}$ at the end of the Middle Kingdom, in the latter half of the Twelfth Dynasty,⁵⁰ then it became used on all stelae dating from the Thirteenth Dynasty.⁵¹ Moreover, female names preceded by the epithet nbt-pr epithet (the lady of the house) first occur on stelae dating to the end of the Twelfth Dynasty,⁵² from the reign of the king Senowsret III.⁵³

---

⁴⁶ Ilin-Tomich, A., From Workshop to Sanctuary, the Production of Late Middle Kingdom Memorial Stelae, 9.
⁴⁹ Barcena, T., La stèle familiale de sès︁os︁tris-ankh, in: BMML 4 (Lyon, 1997), 2-7; Ilin-Tomich, A., From Workshop to Sanctuary, the Production of Late Middle Kingdom Memorial Stelae, 19.
⁵² Ilin-Tomich, A., From Workshop to Sanctuary, the Production of Late Middle Kingdom Memorial Stelae, 5.
⁵³ Pflüger, K., ‘The Private Funerary Stelae of the Middle Kingdom and Their Importance for the Study of Ancient Egyptian History’, 129.
We could not identify other monument of the owner of the stela because his name was not mentioned on any monument, where Ranke\textsuperscript{54} states that this name was not mentioned except on this stela, also the name of the father and the mother was not mentioned on the stela, which makes it difficult to know the genealogy of the owner of the stela.

All these criteria and considerations clearly support a date of the late Twelfth Dynasty.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**


\textsuperscript{54} Ranke, H., *Die Ägyptischen Personennamen*, 1, 342 (23).

Ilin-Tomich, A., *From Workshop to Sanctuary. the Production of Late Middle Kingdom Memorial Stelae.*, (London, 2017).


Olette-Pelletier, J. G., Sue la réunion de deux fragments d’une Stèle de la fin du Moyen Empire, in: RdE 67 (2016), 55-76.


Quirke, S., *The Regular Titles of the Late Middle Kingdom*, in: *RdE* 37 (1986), 107-130.

Quirke, S., *The Administration of Egypt in the Late Middle Kingdom. The Hieratic Documents*, New Malden, (Surrey: SIA Publishing), 1990.


Satzinger, H., Beobachtungen zur Opferformel: Theorie und Praxis, in: LingAeg 5 (Göttingen, 1977), 177-188.


Stefanevic, D., *The Army of Pharaonic Egypt in the period of The Middle Kingdom (in Serbian)*, PhD Diss. (unpublished), Belgrade university, (Belgrade, 2006).
Stefanovic, D., The Late Middle Kingdom stela of the staff of provisioning sector (Sna) (Musées d'art et d'histoire, Genève 6875), in: SAK 39 (2010), 313-319.


Ward, W., Essays on feminine titles of the Middle Kingdom and Related subjects, (Beirut, 1986).

Whelan, P., An Unfinished late Middle Kingdom Stela from Abydos, in: Grallert, S., and Grajetzki, W., Life and Afterlife in Ancient Egypt during the Middle Kingdom and Second Intermediate Period, GHP Egyptology 7, (London 2007).

(fig. 1)

Stela غير منشورة من Kat-ef
المتحف المصري الكبير بالجيزة
(GEM 14258)

(الشكل 1)
إعداد
نجلة فهمي السيد
دكتورة الفلسفة في علم المصريات
د.عادل زين العابدين
أستاذ بقسم الآثار كلية الآداب جامعت طنطا

المستخلص:
تهدف تلك المقالة لدراسة لوحة من أبيدوس محفوظة الآن في مخزن الدولة الوسطى بالمتحف المصري الكبير بالجيزة تحت رقم (14258). وكانت من قبل في مخزن المتحف المصري بالقاهرة تحت ارقام (20320 2034 2033 2450). كما تهدف تلك المقالة إلى مناقشة معاني الأسماء والألقاب ونسخ النصوص وترجمتها، والتعليق على سمات التهجئة وأشكال العلامات. لوحة لشخص يدعى كات إف وتاريخها يرجع إلى نهاية الأسرة الثانية عشرة.

الكلمات الإفتتاحية:
الدولة الوسطى؛ لوحة كات إف؛ المتحف المصري الكبير؛ عين الوجات؛ أوزير