MINISTÈRE DE L'ÉDUCATION NATIONALE, DE L'ENSEIGNEMENT SUPÉRIEUR ET DE LA RECHERCHE

BULLETIN
DE L'INSTITUT FRANÇAIS
D'ARCHÉOLOGIE ORIENTALE

en ligne en ligne en ligne en ligne en ligne en ligne en ligne en ligne en ligne en ligne

BIFAO 83 (1983), p. 133-134

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A Slab Stela from Qila' el-Dabba (Balât), el-Dâkhla Oasis (The New Valley) [avec 1 planche].

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A SLAB STELA FROM QILAʿ EL-DABBA (BALÂT) EL-DÂKHLA OASIS (THE NEW VALLEY)

Ali EL-KHOULI

On Wednesday, April 6, 1983, the policemen of the Egyptian Antiquities Organization found this stela in an antiquities' dealer's shop in Cairo [1]. When this stela was brought to my attention, I immediately recalled the latest report of the French expedition at Qilaʿ el-Dabba (Balât) on the work at mastaba II which I had only received the previous week [2]. The report notes a vertical inscription which was « probably engraved on the lid » of a chest and which « gives the series of previously well-attested titles of the governors of the oasis and a name *'Imȝ Ppi* » [3]. This new stela bears the same name and titles as that listed in the report.

The stela is of a yellowish limestone, measuring 77 cm. in length, 50 cm. in height, with a thickness of 12 cm. Each of its corners has been chipped and there is additional damage along the edges. Parts of the surface have suffered deterioration, particularly the head and the right shoulder of the seated figure of the deceased which are no longer visible.

The stela contains an incised text consisting of three vertical lines read from right to left and a single horizontal line below which is a very brief offering list with accompanying table. On the left of the stela, the deceased is seated on a stool with right forearm and hand on his lap and his left arm extended toward the offering table which is laden with the conventionalized, blade-like half-loaves of bread.

The inscription reads as follows (Pl. XXIII, A-B) :

(Vertical)

l. 1 : *wiȝ ʿpr imy irty ḥḳȝ whȝt*

[1] Case N° 1836/1983 Azbakiya.

[2] Rapport concernant la campagne de fouille de l'Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale sur le mastaba II de Qilaa El-Dabbeh (Balat, oasis de Dakhla), en février-mars 1983.

[3] For the mastaba of *Pipi-imȝ/Mry-Rʿw-imȝ* see J. Osing, *et al.*, *Denkmäler des Oase Dachla* (Deutsche Archäologisches Institut, Kairo, vol. 28. Mainz am Rhein, 1982), 21 ff.

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l. 2 : *imy-r ḥm-nṯr imꜣḫy*

l. 3 : *ḫr Wsir-Ḫnty-'Imntyw*

(Horizontal)

l. 4 : *Pipi-'Imꜣ*

(Offering list) *wšn ḫꜣ kꜣ ḫꜣ ḥnḳt ḫꜣ tꜣ ḫꜣ*

« Captain of the ship's crew, Governor of the Oasis, Overseer of Priests, an honoured one before Osiris-Khentyamentyw : Pipi-ima [1]. A thousand [2] of geese, a thousand of oxen, a thousand of beer, a thousand of bread. »

This brief text is quite similar to a number of others found at the mastaba of *Pipi-imꜣ* [3], in addition to texts of *Dšrw* [4], *Ḫnty-kꜣ* [5], and *Ḫnty-kꜣw-Pipi* [6], all of which were also found at Dakhla [7]. There can be little question that our stela originally came from that area also.

[1] The name is broken . Numerous other examples of this name give , see Osing, *op. cit.*, 53, 1; 54, 4, 5, 6 a; 55, 9; and 7 a, p. 22. However, the space between and the damaged face of the deceased may be too small to permit this fuller writing. The writing is also attested, see *ibidem*, 7 b, p. 22.

[2] For a discussion of the orthography of *ḫꜣ* see R.J. Leprohon, « A New Stela from Dakhleh Oasis », *JSSEA* XIII, N° 4 (1983-84), forthcoming.

[3] For texts with identical titles and sequence as our stela, see Osing, *op. cit.*, 53, 1; 54, 4; 54, 5; 55, 9. See also *ibidem*, 7 a and b, p. 22.

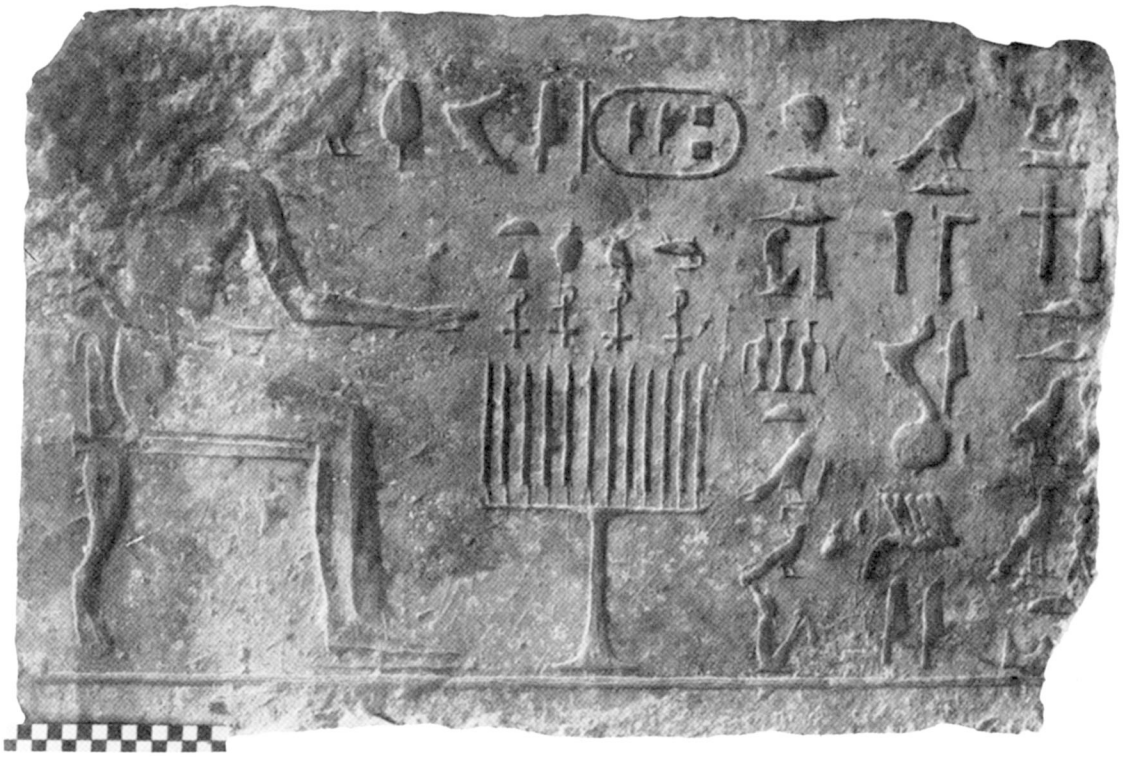
[4] *Ibidem*, 56, 12 (titles and sequence identical); 57, 14; 59, 22; 59, 23.

[5] *Ibidem*, 58, 21; 58, 21; 58, 21.

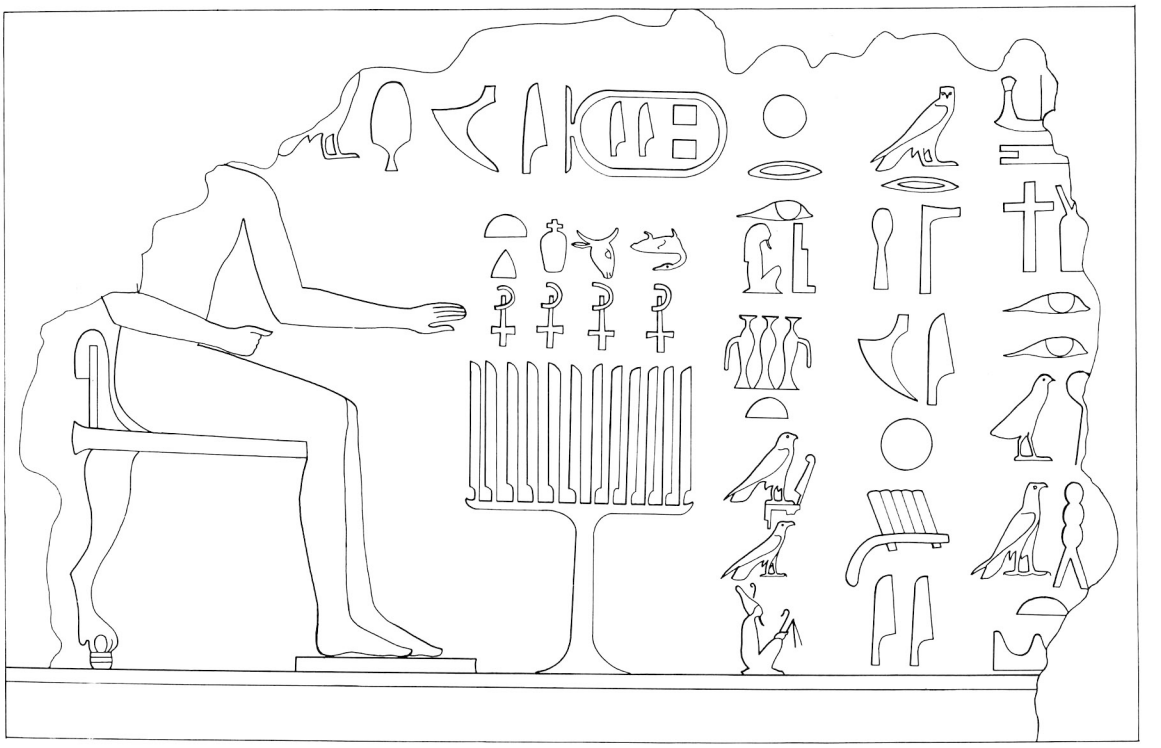
[6] *Ibidem*, 60, 27 (titles and sequence identical).

[7] See also the anonymous fragment, *ibidem*, 61, 35.

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