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A Monument of the Royal Scribe Tjuroy.

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A MONUMENT OF THE ROYAL SCRIBE TJUROY

To the south of the Zoser complex and just north Unas' causeway lies a medium-sized limestone block measuring 50 cm width and 80 cm hight [fig. 1]. The block seems to have been reused in a later period, probably as filling material in a building now destroyed. It is blank on three sides and the only relief shows an official standing with a staff in his left hand, while the other hand is upraised in worship or greeting. Perhaps it comes originally from the inner thickness of a left-hand doorjamb from a tomb chapel.

In front of the standing figure is one column of text which reads : *[sš nsw]* (?) *mꜣᶜ mr·f rꜥ n nswt ḫnty ỉnb-ḥḏ ỉmy-rꜥ nfrw n nb tꜣwy ṯꜣry ḏd n·f R-ᶜms-sw [-nḫt]*, ' The true [scribe of the king] (or, the real king's scribe), his beloved, the mouth of the king, chief in Memphis, superintendent of recruits of the Lord of the Two Lands, Tjuroy, who is called Ramesses[nakht] ' [1].

Although at first glance this block did not look particularly impressive, it proved to be of some interest as the inscription contains several important titles. An attempt will be made here to outline the career of this official.

At the beginning of the inscription, after the title ' the true [scribe of the king] ', this official is described as ' his beloved '. This term usually applied to high officials who were close to the ruler [2]. Then follows the title *rꜥ n nswt* ' the mouth of the king ' (*i.e.* the confidant of the king), which suggests that this official was particularly trusted by the king and may even have been on close terms with him in his youth. If this was so, when the king acceded to the throne, he perhaps wished to reward his former colleague by giving him the title *rꜥ n nswt*. This title is of special interest because it does not seem to be very common [3].

1. The surviving traces of the inscription suggest the word *nḫt*, making the second name of the official, Ramessesnakht. For a similar writing of this name, see P. Anastasi III, vs. 5,3 (= Gardiner, *LEM*, p. 32).

2. Cf. the wellknown architect of Amenhotep I and Thutmosis I, Ineni, who was given the titles *mrw nb.f rpᶜt ḥꜣty-ᶜ wᶜ iḳr imy-rꜥ šnwty n 'Imn*, ' beloved of his lord, prince, the only efficient count, overseer of the granaries of Amun ' (*Urk.* IV, 68, 1-4); also Hatiay, steward of the temple of Ramesses II at Abydos, *rpᶜt ḥꜣty-ᶜ sš nsw mꜣᶜ mry.f imy-rꜥ pr m tꜣ* (*Rᶜmsw Mry 'Imn*) *m pr Wsỉr*, ' the prince, count, true scribe of the king, his beloved, steward of the temple of Ramesses, beloved of Amun, in the estate of Osiris ' (K*RI* III, 202, 12).

3. *Wb* II, 390; G. Vittman, *Priester und Beamte im Theben der Spatzäeit*, 1978, p. 119, and K. Myśliwiec, " Zwei pyramidia aus Memphis ", *SAK* 6, p. 148, fig. 6.

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Thereafter this official is described as *ḫnty inb-ḥḏ* ' chief in Memphis ' [4], while the last title mentioned is a military one, *imy-r*(3) *nfrw* ' superintendent of recruits '. This military title is another point of interest, as it comes amongst the leading ranks in the army and its bearer must have had control over the new recruits, as well as the administrative staff, *sš nfrw* [5].

The general title *imy-r*(3) *nfrw* was given to a man named Seramun [6] in the XIXth Dynasty. Sometimes the title was associated with a religious establishment; for example, in the XVIIIth Dynasty, a certain military man named Amenhotep [7] held the title *imy-r*(3) *nfrw n pr-'Imn* ' superintendent of recruits of the House (*i.e.* Temple) of Amun '. More responsibility was probably attached to the title of our man, *imy-r*(3) *nfrw n nb t3wy* ' superintendent of recruits of the Lord of the Two Lands '.

The order of the offices which this official held is not clear from the text. He might have served in the army early in his career, then entered civil administration and before his retirement he was rewarded with the position at court. It is also possible that Tjuroy was appointed first to a position in Memphis after serving the king successfully in his youth, following which he was promoted to be ' superintendent of recruits '.

One cannot be certain whether the civil or military part of his career came first. Examination of the careers of some other New Kingdom officials may help to determine this. Amenemone, according to the inscription on his statue found at Deir al-Bahari [8], was given these titles in this order :

' a follower of His Majesty when he was a child,
charioteer and commander of horses,
commander of a host of the king's army,
king's envoy to all foreign lands,
overseer of works of all his monuments,
overseer of works in the Ramesseum '.

An equally important personage with a similar career was Penire'. Besides other references, his career is given on a limestone stela in the Ashmolean Museum [9] as follows :

' charioteer of His Majesty,
royal messenger to every land,
overseer of foreign countries in the north,
chief of Medjay,
chief of works in the Ramesseum '.

4. Myśliwiec, *op. cit.*, fig. 6.
5. Schulman, *Military Rank, Title and Organisation in the Egyptian New Kingdom*, Berlin, 1964, p. 159.
6. *Urk.* IV, 1796; Schulman, *op. cit.*, p. 144.
7. P. Bibliothèque nationale, r° l, pl. on p. 12; Shawabti Bologna 2143, Schulman, *op. cit.*, p. 144.
8. Lipinska, *Travaux du Centre d'Archéologie Méd.*, t. 8, *Études et Travaux* III, 1969, p. 42-49.
9. Nims, *MDIAK* 14, 1956, p. 146 f.

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We have no proof that our man, Tjuroy, followed the same sequence of office, but the two other examples quoted favour a military career followed by a civil one.

On the other hand, as the determinative of *nfrw* does not appear to be either the seated man or the child, which are the determinatives normally used with *nfrw* meaning ' recruits ', another interpretation of the title *imy-r*(3) *nfrw* may be possible. The determinative could be taken as a seated female figure holding a *nḫḫ* sign, which is used for queens ' names [10], in which case the word *nfrw* would mean ' the beautiful ones ', (*i.e.* the harim) [11] and Tjuroy's title *imy-r*(3) *nfrw n nb t3wy* would be ' superintendent of the harim of the Lord of the Two Lands '. Consequently, the block under study would be of more value and the official Tjuroy would be placed among the notable court officials of the capital city of Memphis, like Hori-Min under Seti I [12], or Pay under Ramesses II [13]. Both these examples held the title ' superintendent of the harim ' (in the more usual form *imy-r*(3) *ipt nswt*), but not that of ' mouth of the king ' (*r*(3) *n nswt*). Other New Kingdom references give the title *r*(3) *n nswt* unattached to ' superintendent of the harim ' [14]. The fact that the official on our Saqqara block held the two titles makes him more distinguished.

One can only hope that future excavations in the New Kingdom cemetery at Saqqara, south of Unas' causeway will result in the discovery of the tomb of Tjuroy [15], with more detailed information regarding his interesting career.

10. See Gardiner, *Egyptian Grammar*[3], Sign-list, p. 448, B 7.

11. *Wb* II, 258 : *ḥry nfrw*, ' he who is over the ladies '; cf. *Edfou* I, 164, where Osiris is referred to as ' he who makes fertile, the one who is over the beautiful ones ', (*Wsir wsn ḥry nfrw*).

12. K*RI* I, 309, where his name and titles are mentioned on a relief showing him rewarded by Seti I, Louvre Mus. Cat. 213, l. 4 and 7.

13. K*RI* III, 208-210, quoting the titles on a doorjamb now in Florence, inv. 2600, l. 10 and 14.

14. See n. 3 above.

15. This name is not uncommon; see Ranke, *PN* I, p. 395 (L-12) and P. Anastasi IV, 7, 4 (= Gardiner, *LEM*, p. 42).

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