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BIFAO 30 (1931), p. 161-183

Alan H. Gardiner

Two hieroglyphic signs and the egyptian words for «Alabaster» and «Linen», etc.

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TWO HIEROGLYPHIC SIGNS
AND
THE EGYPTIAN WORDS
FOR “ALABASTER” AND “LINEN”, ETC.

BY

ALAN H. GARDINER.













Among the topics treated by the scholar whose contributions to Egyptology we celebrate in this number of the *Bulletin*, there is none where his perspicacity and erudition have been shown to better advantage than in the discussion of individual hieroglyphs. I need only mention his brilliant interpretation of the warrior chieftain's field-kit , and his determination of the readings of the sign of Seth  and of the fish-scale . It seems not unfitting, therefore, that my personal *hommage* should take the form of a study of certain hieroglyphs; and the hieroglyphs which I have chosen for the purpose are those representing respectively a loop of rope  and a bag . The conclusions which I shall seek to draw are, indeed, already set forth in brief in the sign-list to my *Egyptian Grammar*, but certain recent Egyptological publications (ERMAN, *Ägyptische Grammatik*, 4th ed., *Schrifttafel*, under V 6, V 33; *Ä. Z.*, 64, 136, line 2; POLOTSKY, *Zu den Inschriften der 11. Dynastie*, p. 14, line 4) show that these conclusions have been either overlooked or rejected. For that reason it seems desirable to defend them in a less categorical and more argumentative form.

I



The specific functions of the two hieroglyphs in question had, previous to the appearance of my *Grammar*, been quite imperfectly understood by Egyptologists, in whose excuse it may be said, however, that therein they were




Bulletin, t. XXX.

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but following the example of the Egyptians themselves. A still more valid excuse lies in the fact that not only do the forms of the signs closely resemble one another, but also their phonetic values (*šš*, *ššr*) were such as to render fusion and confusion practically inevitable. The generally accepted view has been that the bag or pouch either is the determinative of  “to envelop”, “bind up”, or else has the value *g*, whereas the rope or cord , properly the word-sign for  *šš* “rope” is the hieroglyph which enters into a whole series of words beginning with *šš* originally, but in some cases subsequently betraying a metathesis of those two letters. Such seems to have been the opinion of Griffith (*Hieroglyphs*, p. 48), Davies (*Ptahhetep*, I, p. 33), Erman and Grapow (see their *Handwörterbuch*, p. 186), to mention only living authorities. It has been taken for granted that the words  “linen”,  *Werivolles* (*sic*),  “corn”, and  “alabaster” all embarked on their literary careers with the reading *šš*, see the *Handwörterbuch*, *loc. cit.*, whereas I shall be at pains to show that this is true only of the last of these four words, the first three reading *ššr*, or at least having had that value in their early days. That the bag  ever had the reading *gb* is an error avoided by Griffith (*loc. cit.*) and expressly corrected by Lacau (*Rec. de trav.*, 35, 231); it lingers on quite unrepentantly in the *Schrifttafel* of the latest edition of Professor Erman's classical Egyptian Grammar. The earlier literature of the most important contributions to the subject comprises the fundamental article by Brugsch in *Ä. Z.*, 18, 1 and Griffith's discussion of   ( ) in *Proc. Soc. Bibl. Arch.*, 13, 74.

II

That two distinct hieroglyphs are represented by  and  has always been known, and a perfectly correct statement of their pictorial signification will be found in GRIFFITH, *Hieroglyphs*, p. 48. My own account merely repeats that just quoted in rather more elaborate form.

The loop of rope  (V 6 in my sign-list) is shown in examples of Dyn. IV with transverse markings representing the twisted strands, as in the sign of the tethering-rope . See figure 1, *a* from JUNKER, *Giza*, I, Pl. 27; the sign is white with red markings, like  on the same plate; quite similar contemporary specimens will be found in Lutz, *Egyptian Tomb Steles*, Pls. 1; 2, 1;

2, 2. A variant type which is possibly rather earlier shows a double cord arranged in the same way, but displaying a tiny loop at the end where the cord doubles back upon itself. See Fig. 1, *b* from PETRIE, *Medum*, Pl. 13 (reading ←•); similarly *op. cit.*, Pl. 16, bottom right; MURRAY, *Saqqara Mastabas*, Pt. 1, Pls. 1, 2 (in these three last cases in the combination ♂ ♀); the loop of the double end would, in our printed hieroglyphs, be on the left. Commoner at all periods are forms showing no internal markings, neither the transverse ones indicating the twisted strand, nor the central and parallel marking indicating that the cord is a double one; figure 1, *c* from PETRIE, *Medum*, pl. 16, bottom left, is typical; see too DAVIES, *Ptahhetep*, I, Pl. 14, no. 291. In this normal form ♂ is identical with the phonetic sign for *šn* ♂ (*op. cit.*, Pl. 14, no. 300), save that the latter sign (V 7) always shows the ends downwards instead of upwards. Probably a rigid convention was adopted in the very earliest period to employ ♂ for the verbal notion of “encircling”, as with a cord, in Egyptian ♂ *šnt* (3ae. inf.), whence the phonetic value *šn*, while ♂ was chosen for the substantival notion of “cord”, “rope”, in Egyptian —♂ ♂ *šš*, whence the phonetic value *šš*. On one funerary stela of Dyn. IV (JUNKER, *Giza*, I, Pl. 29) ♂ is written for the usual ♂ *šš* “alabaster”; cf. ♂ ♀, SETHE, *Urkunden*, I, 147, 12. For practical purposes we may eliminate the sign ♂ (V 7) from our discussion.

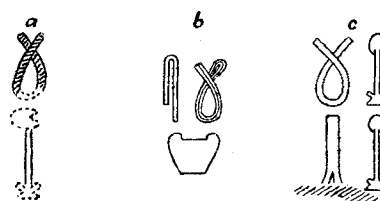


Fig. 1. — Old forms of the sign for the “rope” ♂ *šš*.

a. JUNKER, *Giza*, I, Pl. 27;

b. PETRIE, *Medum*, Pl. 13;

c. *Op. cit.*, Pl. 16, bottom left.

To turn now to the bag or pouch ♀ (V 33). The fine coloured plate in LEPSIUS, *Denkm.*, II, 96 gives several examples of the sign, the upper part being red and the lower part white. I frankly do not understand this colouring, since the sign there serves as an ideogram for “linen”, which one would expect to be wholly white. Bags of the same kind, doubtless containing eye-paint (*msdmt*, cf. NAVILLE, *Deir el Bahari*, Pl. 78) have similar colouring in DAVIES, *Puyemrē*, Pl. 34, where they are part of the Syrian tribute; in DAVIES and GARDINER, *Tomb of Huy*, Pl. 16, there are such bags containing gold-dust which are shown alternately red and white. Even where no colour is left, as in the fine example HOLWERDA and BÖESER, *Die Denkmäler des alten Reiches*,

Pl. 15, my figure 2, *d*, a line bisecting the bag horizontally often indicates that it was parti-coloured. Are we to imagine a bag of linen of which the upper half was covered with leather? Or was the upper half painted red? Or, as a third alternative, is this colouring purely ornamental and fanciful?

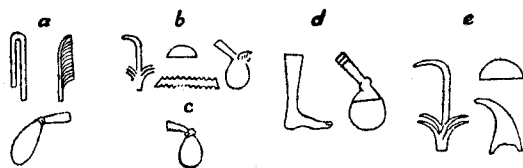


Fig. 2. — Old forms of the sign for the
“bag” 𓂏 *rf, ššr, g.*

- a.* PETRIE, *Medum*, Pl. 13;
- b.* BORCHARDT, *Grabdenkmal des Sahurê*, Pl. 61;
- c.* *Op. cit.*, Pl. 60;
- d.* HOLWERDA and BORSER, *Denkmäler des alten Reiches*, Pl. 15;
- e.* BISSING, *Gemnikai*, II, Pl. 38.

This last explanation must, at all events, hold good of the very variously represented bags for eye-paint on the Middle Kingdom coffins, see JÉQUIER, *Les frises d'objets*, p. 153, as well as in the example reproduced in colour GRIFFITH, *Beni Hasan*, III, Pl. 3, no. 27, from the entry 𓂏 𓂏 𓂏 *rf wd 2* “two bags of eye-paint” in a list of offerings. Griffith and Jéquier both conjecture that the bags in question

were made of leather, but the evidence which I shall produce renders it impossible not to conclude that they were of linen, at least in part. Since the hieroglyph constantly stands as the sign for “linen”, that material must have been definitely characteristic of such bags. The various alternative forms of the sign will be illustrated as we proceed.

III

I now pass on to discuss the use and phonetic value of the two hieroglyphs in question, beginning as before with the sign of the rope 𓂏. Brugsch (*Ä. Z.*, 18, 2) seems to have been the first to call attention to the word 𓂏 𓂏 *šš* found in the tomb of Ptahhotpe at Sakḳarah in the legend 𓂏 𓂏 𓂏 𓂏 “twisting ropes” over a scene of rope-making (see now DAVIES, *Ptahhetep*, I, Pl. 25); he also quoted examples of the abbreviation 𓂏 with its plural 𓂏 𓂏 𓂏 (see now *op. cit.*, Pl. 26) from the same wall. Thus was provided the explanation of the phonetic value *šš* which Goodwin (*Ä. Z.*, 14, 105) had already discovered from variants of the interrogative word 𓂏 𓂏 𓂏 *iššt* “what?”. Brugsch proceeded to enumerate various words containing 𓂏 in which the value of this

was likewise śś, e. g. —| ♂ śś(?) “bubale (antelope)”, ♂ ↗ ↖ śśrw “arrows”,
 ♂ * Śśmrw name of one of the decans. It is not my purpose to examine
 all these words afresh, but will merely state in general terms the main con-
 clusions at which I have arrived :



- (1) The sole phonetic value of σ in the Old Kingdom is $\acute{s}s$, and it was there used as a biliteral only in words of two consonants or in such tri-consonantal words as merely had a weak radical in addition to $\acute{s}s$ (i. e. in $\acute{i}\acute{s}\acute{s}t$, $\acute{s}s(\acute{z})$)⁽¹⁾.
- (2) From the Middle Kingdom onwards the use of σ was extended to certain tri-consonantal words, like $\frac{\sigma}{\sigma} \longleftrightarrow \acute{s}sr$ "arrow", $\frac{\sigma}{\sigma} \dots \acute{s}sm t$ a green mineral (see on this *JE A*, 5, 222).
- (3) After the Old Kingdom $\frac{\sigma}{\sigma}$ is usually written in preference to $\sigma\mid$, the former being a more sightly group.
- (4) From Dyn. XI onwards the reading of all words having σ as part of their phonetic writing is suspect and only to be decided by alphabetic variants, since now σ may be the result of confusion with τ .
- (5) Also due to a confusion with τ is the use of σ as a determinative for cloth and clothing of all sorts in the New Kingdom, e. g. in $\text{𓎃} \text{𓏏} \text{𓏏} \text{𓏏}$, $\text{𓎃} \text{𓏏} \text{𓏏}$, $\text{𓎃} \text{𓏏} \text{𓏏}$, $\text{𓎃} \text{𓏏} \text{𓏏}$.



IV


My concern in this article is only with those words in which the functions of \propto and 𐦩 have been confused by the Egyptians, by Egyptologists, or by both. The sole word of the kind which originally contained the sign of the rope is the word \propto which occurs again and again in the formula of offering and on funerary stelae. The parallelism of the two pairs of nouns in the formula $\text{𐦩} \text{𐦩} \propto \text{𐦩} \text{𐦩} \propto \text{𐦩} \text{𐦩} \propto \text{𐦩} \text{𐦩} \text{𐦩}$ led Brugsch to the translation “thousands of oxen, thousands of geese, thousands of cord, and thousands of woven stuff”, and his discovery of the word $\text{—} \text{𐦩} \propto$ “cord” (see above) and of the reading of \propto in the formula as šš (from a variant of Dyn. XI $\text{𐦩} \text{𐦩} \text{—} \text{𐦩} \propto \text{𐦩} \text{𐦩} \text{𐦩} \text{𐦩} \text{𐦩}$ *Turin*












(1) In an O. K. offering-list we find $\overline{\text{m}} \mid \text{c} \text{ ‡}$ four times and $\overline{\text{c}} \mid \text{ ‡}$ once for the loaf or cake usually written $\overline{\text{m}} \mid \text{c}$ or $\text{c} \mid \text{ ‡}$, *Aeg. In-*























































































































































schr. *Berlin*, I, pp. 105-6. These quite exceptional variants are due simply to confusion between \varnothing and \varnothing .


1447) seemed to him sufficient corroboration of his view (*Ä. Z.*, 18, 2). However, it was not very clear what benefit thousands of cords were going to confer upon the dead, so that before long some scholars at least had discarded “cords” and were translating šš *mnht*—often written together as —by “linen bandages” or the like. In this they were undoubtedly influenced by the supposed word  šš for “linen”, which Brugsch discussed in the same article. Such has, I think, for many years past been the prevailing view, though some have substituted “clothing” for “linen bandages”. Perhaps no Egyptologist has been very clear as to what was exactly intended by šš and by *mnht* respectively; something in the clothing line seemed to be meant, but nothing more precise could be said than that.


Such too was my own state of mind with regard to the problem when, in correspondence with Sethe, I submitted for his opinion my observations on the two signs  and . In his reply, Sethe startled me with the rendering “thousands of alabaster and thousands of cloth”. The incongruity of this collocation seemed so great, that I asked for evidence, which for once my learned friend had not ready to hand. A little research on my part showed me, however, that Sethe’s view, however unpromising at first sight, was not only plausible, but certain. At some time or other the Old Kingdom proofs must have attracted his attention, and particularly the passages from the Pyramid Texts which I shall quote below. Fortunately, Sethe’s acute discernment of the true rendering reached me in time for inclusion in my *Grammar* (p. 172).





















Additional evidence has come before me recently, and both for this reason and since scepticism has been expressed in certain quarters, it seems worth while to set forth the arguments in favour of the rendering “alabaster” at length. In the first place let it be realized that  šš in the offering formula could not possibly have anything to do with clothing, since, as we shall see below (under VI), the word for linen is *ššr*, not *šš*, and since there is absolutely no justification for supposing that the word for “rope” had also a subsidiary meaning “thread” or “cloth-fabric”. The choice, therefore, is between Brugsch’s “thousands of rope” and Sethe’s “thousands of alabaster”, the presumption being in favour of the latter for the reason that alabaster vessels containing ointment were regularly buried with the dead, while coils of rope were not.













That , later written , really means “alabaster” was formally proved by Brugsch (*Ä. Z.*, 18, 6) from the dedicatory inscription of the alabaster shrine in the temple of Ramesses II at Abydos. An unusually shaped monument made of alabaster, which was found by Legrain at Karnak (*Annales*, IV, 225), is described in its dedication as    “a place of purification (?) made of alabaster of Hatnub”; and an alabaster shrine of Amenophis I, recently found in the same temple (*Annales*, XXIII, 113; XXIV, 57) is likewise described in its inscriptions as    “of alabaster of Hatnub”. Alabaster of Hatnub is mentioned *Urk.*, IV, 640 and also in the quarries of that place, where the reading   (ANTHES, *Die Felseninschriften von Hatnub*, no. 10, 6; no. 25, 20) varies with  (*op. cit.*, no. 43, 2). I do not know why the Hebrew dictionaries (Gesenius-Buhl, Brown-Driver-Briggs) have ignored Brugsch’s comparison of the Hebrew word for “alabaster” $\psi\psi$, $\psi\psi$, and have preferred to connect $\psi\psi$ with the assyrian *šaššu*. Mr. Gadd tells me that the meaning of *šaššu* is quite uncertain, one text seeming even to indicate that it was a rare designation of “gold”. But the identification of the Hebrew word with “alabaster” also appears to be also somewhat doubtful.







In Greek the words *ἀλάβαστρος* (*ἀλάβαστρος* is a less good form) and *ἀλάβαστρον* are both used for receptacles made of alabaster, like our own English archæological term “alabaster”, of which *NED* quotes an example from the year 1398. Nothing could be more natural than that materials should give their names to the principal objects made of them, cf. our “fire-irons”, “biscuit-tins”; and if Egyptian used its word for “alabaster” in the same way as ourselves, this is a likely enough coincidence. Now some of the earliest tomb-stelæ give lists of funeral furniture, and here in two cases at least the word *šš* “alabasters” is found; so   (see here figure 1, b) in *Medum*, Pl. 13, beside vessels of red granite, lapis lazuli, etc.; and  JUNKER, *Giza*, I, Pl. 29, b, see too p. 280, next   “*nmšt*-jars” and   “*wht*-bowls”. It is all the more illuminating for Sethe’s thesis that under each of the items in the last-named list stands the word  “thousand”. If we now turn to the equally early stela of   in Lutz, *op. cit.*, Pl. 2, 2, we shall find under the offering-table the legend                                                                                                                                            





“thousands of alabasters and thousands of cloth (*mnht*)”. On the same plate another stela mentions thousands of various beasts and birds to the right of the table-post, and to the left merely ♂  “a thousand of alabasters”. The










































presence of only two “thousand”-signs for three hieroglyphs on the first stela, and only one “thousand”-sign for two hieroglyphs on the second, proves conclusively, in conjunction with the evidence already adduced, that ♂  is a single word composed of the phonetic sign ♂ *šš* and a determinative ; and since oil-vessels of the shape  found in the tombs are frequently made of alabaster, the rendering “alabasters”, i. e. alabaster jars for oil or unguents, is demonstrated about as well as is humanly possible. Other early examples of ♂  in parallelism with  are   ♂         *Pyr.* 745 and  ♂    in DARESSY, *Mastaba de Mera*, p. 559, sim. with ♂  545.

Both early and late ♂ alone is, of course, by far the commonest writing found on the funereal stelae, but that is merely testimony to its antiquity, not an argument against the rendering “alabasters”. In the history of writing, like that of language, man awoke but slowly to the necessity of making himself intelligible. The oldest inscriptions owe no small part of their obscurity to the absence of determinatives and of phonetic complements which would have rendered their component signs less ambiguous. The writing ♂ is a characteristic example of this blindness to the needs of the reader. That the phonetic ♂ *šš* was selected in place of the ideogram  was perhaps due, partly to the desire to stress the material rather than the shape or content, and partly because vessels of the form  were not the only ones intended. This last point is proved by the not infrequent Old Kingdom examples with  as determinative; examples are  *Aeg. Inschr.* Berlin, I, pp. 99, 104; MURRAY, *op. cit.*, Pl. 23; *Brit. Mus.*, 130;  (see above) JUNKER, *op. cit.*, I, Pl. 29, a; and above all       *Pyr.* 1332. That  represents a bowl or basin of alabaster is indicated by the markings shown in the more elaborate examples of the hieroglyph, and New Kingdom paintings show dead nobles standing up on bowls of the sort and receiving lustrations from lector-priests (see *Rec. de trav.*, 39, 54). Alabaster bowls of this shape measuring from 25 to 33 centimetres (10 to 13 inches) in diameter were found by Junker (*op. cit.*, pp. 109-110) in the IVth Dynasty mastabas at Gîzah. In passing


let it be noted that to regard  in  or  as a phonetic sign *hb* and so to render festival-alabaster or the like is quite impossible;  does not obtain the value *hb* until the Middle Kingdom, the previous sign for that phonetic value being  or ; see my sign-list under O 22, W 3.








In the Middle Kingdom  is still found, but not very commonly; so *Beni Hasan*, I, Pls. 7, 12; *Cairo* 20558; *Brit. Mus.* 557; *Louvre* C 2. A new variant substitutes for the two specific or exemplificatory determinatives already discussed the generic determinative ; for  see *Cairo* 20445, 20775; *Berlin* 8808. The writing  with a stroke but without any further determinative is not infrequent, e. g. *Louvre* C 1; *Leyden* V 6. Most of the references in this last paragraph are derived from the materials of the Berlin dictionary.


When  was immediately followed by  the habit arose, probably only after the Old Kingdom, of writing  within the two uprights of . The starting-point will have been writings like       *Brit. Mus.* 159 (Dyn. XI), where one “thousand”-sign does duty for each pair of separate items; so too *Berlin* 1118, 1119. Middle Kingdom examples of  are *Brit. Mus.* 861, 903; *Berlin* 7300; similarly, but with  below  so enclosed, *Cairo* 20093; *Leyden*, M. K. stela no. 34. In Dyn. XVIII the practice of writing  is exceedingly common, and it is probable that either *mnht* alone was read, or else *mnht šs(r)* with the meaning “cloth of linen”—as we shall see, *šsr* “linen” was read *šsr* in Dyn. XVIII. The phrase      *mnht nt šs(r)-nšwt* “cloth of byssus” actually occurs once, apparently among the revenue of a temple (*Urk.*, IV, 821, 2; reign of Tuthmosis III). As I have already noted,  (originating in ) becomes an ordinary substitute for  as determinative of clothing in Late Egyptian; in hieratic of the New Kingdom  is almost non-existent, see Möller, *Hier. Pal.*, II, no. 430. At this period therefore,  became a highly appropriate determinative or abbreviation for *mnht* “linen”. The Berlin *Wörterbuch*, s. v.   quotes  as a Late Egyptian alternative, and this shows very clearly that the  in  was now interpreted as the determinative of “clothing” at least wherever  is used in connection with *mnht*. In a letter Winlock quotes       “linen made by the high-priest of Amûn Masaherti” on the Dyn. XXI rewappings of the mummy of Queen Meryet-Amûn, see *Bull. Metr. Mus. of Art; the Eg. Expedition*, 1928-1929, p. 31.




In the inscriptions of Dyn. XI  is substituted for \mathfrak{s} of the offering formula with great consistency, see *Brit. Mus.* 614, vert. 1; NAVILLE, *XIth Dyn. Temple*, Pl. 21; *Cairo* 20512,7; 20543,2; *Moscow*, 4071,1; these examples are from POLOTSKY, *op. cit.*, p. 13, where more will be found. Since  is clearly a form of , we see that at this period the signs for $\mathfrak{s}\mathfrak{s}$ and $\mathfrak{s}\mathfrak{s}\mathfrak{r}$ were already confused. The cause of this is evidently similarity of form combined with similarity of phonetic value, though it does not seem that the metathesis $\mathfrak{s}\mathfrak{s}\mathfrak{r}$ for $\mathfrak{s}\mathfrak{s}\mathfrak{r}$ is anterior to Dyn. XVIII. Nor am I quite sure that the interpretation “alabasters” is shown by this writing to have been abandoned for “linen” at so early a date, for, as we have seen, \mathfrak{s} is not uncommon in Dyn. XII. Possibly throughout the Middle Kingdom there were two schools of thought in this matter, the one interpreting as “alabaster”, the other as “linen”.





















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
The uses of the sign for the “bag” or “pouch”  next claim attention. Its ideographic functions seem to result from the three different aspects in which the object in question can be regarded, namely (1) its purpose, (2) its contents, and (3) its material. I will deal with these in turn.



(1) The Egyptian word for a “bag” is $\mathfrak{s}\mathfrak{s}\mathfrak{r}$  $\mathfrak{r}\mathfrak{f}$, a word which often occurs in the long list of offerings as the receptacle for black ($\mathfrak{m}\mathfrak{s}\mathfrak{d}\mathfrak{m}\mathfrak{t}$) or green ($\mathfrak{w}\mathfrak{d}\mathfrak{w}$) eyepaint; cf. MURRAY, *op. cit.*, I, Pls. 21, 23; FIRTH and GUNN, *Tei Pyramid Cemeteries*, Pl. 3; BLACKMAN, *Meir*, IV, Pl. 12; NEWBERRY, *Beni Hasan*, I, Pl. 17 (the entire entry was quoted above as source of the coloured example GRIFFITH, *Beni Hasan*, III, Pl. 3, no. 27). Where the spacing makes it desirable, the alphabetic signs are omitted, so that we have such abbreviated writings as $\mathfrak{s}\mathfrak{s}\mathfrak{r}$  $\mathfrak{w}\mathfrak{d}\mathfrak{w}$ $\mathfrak{r}\mathfrak{f}$ “bag of green eyepaint”, STEINDORFF, *Grab des Ti*, Pl. 126; so too MURRAY, *op. cit.*, Pl. 19, and *Pyr.* 54. In these cases there is a certain variation in the shapes of the sign , but not the extreme variety which we shall find below in the writing of $\mathfrak{s}\mathfrak{s}\mathfrak{r}$ “linen” and the similarly sounded words to which it gives rise. The normal form in $\mathfrak{r}\mathfrak{f}$ is as in the printed hieroglyph  or as in Fig. 2, c. d. No examples of the triangular shape  have been found, and indeed in BISSING, *Gemnikai*, II, Pl. 41, the word $\mathfrak{r}\mathfrak{f}$ is written with  while, on the same Plate, $\mathfrak{s}\mathfrak{s}\mathfrak{r}$ $\mathfrak{n}\mathfrak{i}\mathfrak{s}\mathfrak{w}\mathfrak{t}$ is written with . In the scene in question,

assistant *ka*-priests are shown bringing  in bags of the shape of the hieroglyphs, but displaying an unintelligible hollow in the middle.

The cognate verb   'rf "envelop", "bind up" has not been noted before the Middle Kingdom, but good examples can be quoted to show that its specific determinative was certainly the bag and not the cord. See NAVILLE, *Deir el Bahari*, Pl. 84, 2; SETHE, *Urkunden*, IV, 364, 5. Earlier hand-copies of inscriptions containing this verb, like NEWBERRY, *El Bersheh*, II, pl. 21, 6 (Sayce); PIEHL, *Inscr. hiér.*, III 73, 6, usually substitute ♂ wrongly for .

(2) From the use of  to indicate a bag or the act of enclosing in a bag to its use as a determinative of what is so enclosed is but a short step, and that step was early taken. In PETRIE, *Medum*, Pl. 13 an entry      occurs in the midst of the oils and unguents, see figure 2, a; if  is a *linen* bag, *is* can hardly be an oil as the Berlin *Wörterbuch* (I, 130) supposes, but only some dry sweet-smelling substance. The same holds good of   MURRAY, *op. cit.*, Pl. 2, variant    *ib.*, Pl. I, which *Wb.* should have recorded under *wrs* rather than under *swr*, and also of   in the tomb of Methen, *Aeg. Inscr. aus . . . Berlin*, I, 87, which *Wb.* I, 63 does not quote, but implicitly and rightly connects with the ointment     . In these very early names of perfumes or ointments we find the sign  presented at an angle different from that of the more normal form seen in our hieroglyphic type, and this seems to have been its original aspect.

From these specific terms  will next have passed to the generic word for "perfume"  often so written in the Old Kingdom (e. g. *Pyr.* 18, 696, 1113; LEPSIUS, *Denkm.*, II, 22 b) and in the archaizing monumental inscriptions of Dyn. XVIII, e. g. NAVILLE, *Deir el Bahari*, Pls. 82, 94; *Annales*, XXIV, Pl. IV of the article by M. Pillet. The same sign enters into , R 9 in my sign-list, but this I will not discuss further here.

(3) The evidence set forth above does but amplify what is known and accepted, but in dealing with the use of  to indicate *linen material* I am seeking to controvert the view held hitherto, according to which the word for "linen" was *ss* and consequently employed the sign of the rope ♂ and not that of the bag . I shall create a more favourable atmosphere for my innovation, perhaps, if I start with some related facts which are not of the very earliest date.

In DAVIES, *Deir el Gebrāwi*, I, Pl. 8 are found the writings (see Fig. 3, *a* for the exact form) “bed”, “bedding” and (the first sign is damaged) “good fine linen”. Exceptional as is this use of it links up (*a*) with the common use of from Dyn. XIX onwards (and are by this time often

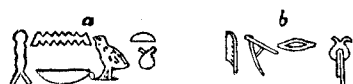


Fig. 3. — Exceptional O. K. determinatives for “clothing”.

a. DAVIES, *Deir el Gebrāwi*, I, Pl. 8;
b. STEINDORFF, *Grab des Ti*, Pl. 111.

interchanged) as a determinative of cloth and clothes of any kind, and (*b*) with the by no means infrequent variant as substitute for , of which the earliest example I have found is in the word “bind thou(?)”, sense unintelligible, STEINDORFF, *Grab des Ti*, Pl. 111, reproduced Fig. 3, *b*; *Wb.*, II, 105 quotes an O. K.




place-name ; from Dyn. IX and throughout the Middle Kingdom is common, cf. PETRIE, *Gizeh and Rifeh*, Pl. 13 *c* (); GRIFFITH, *Sinut*, Tomb I, l. 247 (*id.*). Just as represents a strip of cloth with a fringe, combined with the folded cloth , so too, doubtless, represents a common article of linen combined with the folded cloth .

It is the more strange that the reading *ššr* for the word meaning “linen” should have been overlooked, since the evidence for it is both abundant and clear. The hitherto accepted reading *šš* is due to Brugsch (*Ä. Z.*, 18, 5, and earlier *Geogr. Wörterb.*, 873), who having proved the value *šš* (*šš*) for the word for rope , (see above), promptly transferred that value to , overlooking the vital fact that in all early examples of this word the sign used is and not . As corroborative evidence Brugsch adduced the Hebrew loan-word *שש* and the Coptic *ⲙⲛⲥ* : *ⲙⲉⲛⲥ*, both of them equivalents of the Greek *βύσσος* “linen” (this a borrowing from Hebrew *בז*). The Coptic word he regarded simply as *šš* “mit eingeschobenem *n*-laut”, quoting parallels which would not be acceptable nowadays. In taking this course he abandoned his previous recognition that the demotic group which corresponds to *βυσσίνων* *ὁ[θονί]ων* in l. 17 of the Rosetta stone represents a hieroglyphic transcription and contains the word for “king” (BRUGSCH, *Wörterbuch* [1862], 1346). For that reason he had identified the demotic group with the word , which he read *suten*, and among the variants of which he quoted from the stela of Piankhi, l. 110. At the same time he added

“das koptische Wort dafür $\omega\epsilon\eta\epsilon$, $\omega\eta\epsilon$ scheint entstanden zu sein aus der Lesung *šen-suten* oder *šen-su* (cf. *šen* infra = $\mathfrak{s} \mathfrak{i}$)”. The last-named reference I am unable to find and can only imagine that Brugsch was confusing \mathfrak{s} $\mathfrak{š}$ with \mathfrak{s} $\mathfrak{š}$. The slipshod argumentation, which leaves it quite obscure what the real relation is between the supposed readings *suten* and *šen-suten*, is thoroughly characteristic of Brugsch’s brilliance of insight coupled with indifference to logic. The combination of the earlier and later views propounded by him seems due to Griffith, who gave *šs-(n)-stn* as his reading of the demotic group (*Stories of the High Priests of Memphis*, p. 89), comparing *Hn(?)*-*n-stn* for $\mathfrak{z}\mathfrak{n}\mathfrak{h}\mathfrak{c}$ Ehnâs. But the medial *n* still occasioned difficulty, which was removed only when Sethe proved the word for “king” to read *nšwt*, for which *nzw* was early substituted (*Ä. Z.*, 49, 17). To Sethe’s article I myself made a small contribution (*loc. cit.*, n. 1) by showing that the word thitherto read as $\mathfrak{f} \mathfrak{m} \mathfrak{s} \mathfrak{s}$ in Late Egyptian papyri did not contain \mathfrak{s} at all⁽¹⁾; but I was at fault in transcribing $\mathfrak{f} \mathfrak{m} \mathfrak{s} \mathfrak{s}$ instead of $\mathfrak{f} \mathfrak{m} \mathfrak{s} \mathfrak{s}$. Of this anon; at the present moment I am merely showing that the semi-final stage in the history of the prototype of $\omega\eta\epsilon$ assumed its reading to be *šš-nšwt* (*šš-nzw*). As such it appears in ERMAN-GRAPOW’s *Handwörterbuch*; so too SETHE in BORCHARDT, *Grabdenkmal des Sahurê*, p. 126, top.

In reality, however, the reading of the hieroglyphic word for Greek $\beta\upsilon\sigma\sigma\omicron\varsigma$, Coptic $\omega\eta\epsilon$, and Hebrew $\psi\psi$, is *ššr(w)nšwt* (*ššr nzw*). A title of which I have three examples from the Old Kingdom is “overseer of the king’s linen” which is written in the following ways : $\mathfrak{h} \mathfrak{f} \mathfrak{s} \mathfrak{t}$ MARIETTE, *Mastaba*, p. 307; $\mathfrak{h} \mathfrak{f} \mathfrak{s} \mathfrak{t}$ *op. cit.*, p. 252; $\mathfrak{h} \mathfrak{f} \mathfrak{s} \mathfrak{t}$ LEPSIUS, *Denkm.*, II, 100 c. In the funerary temple of Sahurê (BORCHARDT, *op. cit.*, II, Pl. 61) a fragment shows the writing $\mathfrak{f} \mathfrak{m} \mathfrak{s} \mathfrak{s}$ (fig. 2, b); over a box of linen depicted in a mastaba is written $\mathfrak{f} \mathfrak{m} \mathfrak{s} \mathfrak{s}$ or $\mathfrak{f} \mathfrak{m} \mathfrak{s} \mathfrak{s}$ FIRTH-GUNN, *Teti Pyramid Cemeteries*, I, p. 146; II, Pl. 6 D writes this more fully $\mathfrak{h} \mathfrak{f} \mathfrak{s} \mathfrak{t}$; cf. also $\mathfrak{f} \mathfrak{m} \mathfrak{s} \mathfrak{s}$ BISSING, *Gemnikai*, II, Pl. 38, see figure 2, e, with the variant $\mathfrak{f} \mathfrak{m} \mathfrak{s} \mathfrak{s}$ *ibid.* Any doubts as to the identity of the signs \mathfrak{s} and \mathfrak{s} are dispelled when we find an “overseer of linen” $\mathfrak{h} \mathfrak{f} \mathfrak{s} \mathfrak{t}$ LEPSIUS, *Denkm.*, II, 23 carrying an object shaped \mathfrak{s} in his left hand; in BLACKMAN, *Meir*, IV, 8 a $\mathfrak{h} \mathfrak{f} \mathfrak{s} \mathfrak{t}$ carries the same object over his

⁽¹⁾ The stroke \mathfrak{s} is clear in the great majority of the many instances in the Harris papyrus.

shoulder. In DAVIES, *Deir el Gebrāwi*, I, 16 a  stands in front of a (linen)-chest; the stroke shows that  is to be understood pictorially, so that the official is an “overseer of linen”⁽¹⁾. A scene in the tomb of Ti reproduced in my figure 4 is important in various respects. Behind a  stands his

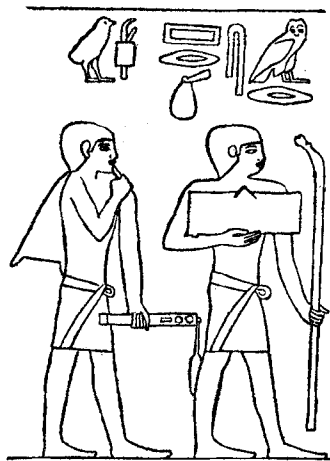




















Fig. 4. — Scene from the tomb of Ti
(STEINDORFF, *op. cit.*, Pl. 115).

servant, the latter carrying over his shoulder an object shaped  (STEINDORFF, *Grab des Ti*, Pl. 115). Here we find the full alphabetic writing of  or  for the first time. As we have seen, writings showing the first two radicals together with the ideogram are not infrequent; but for similar writings showing the third radical as well I can quote no other example beside that in the tomb of Ti. The discussion of the phonetic use of  and  below (VI) will, however, establish that value beyond a peradventure. For this reason, we need have no hesitation in identifying the word for “linen” written thus ideographically with the synonymous word written  or . In *Pyr.* 265 we find    and MARIETTE, *Mastaba*, p. 185   among titles. These writings show that the word for “linen” in its fullest form had a final -w; see too in the temple of Sahure, *op. cit.*, Pl. 59. In the tomb of Ptahhotpe at Sakḳārah there is a    (QUIBELL, *Ramesseum*, Pl. 38) and in DAVIES, *Deir el Gebrāwi*, II, 4 a  ; these are simply alternative writings of the titles already mentioned.

As if the varieties of spelling already quoted were not enough, another one of less certain authenticity has yet to be mentioned. On the funerary stelae of the early IVth Dynasty there are often lists of various kinds of cloth, where the word *ššr* would be expected to occur. A common heading there used is  which, since the Old Egyptian word for “arrow” was *ššr*, one would expect to read in the same way. Examples are LUTZ, *op. cit.*, Pls. 1; 2, 2; 2, 3; *Medum*, Pls. 13, 16, 20; MURRAY, *op. cit.*, Pls. 1, 2; *Aeg. Inschr.* *Berlin*, I, pp. 81, 99; JUNKER, *op. cit.*, I, Pl. 27 and p. 175. Junker has evi-

⁽¹⁾ In *Urk.*, I, 146, 13 = DAVIES, *Deir el Gebrāwi*, II, 13 the word for “linen” is written

with a stroke and a rather different form from any of those above quoted.

dently overlooked my proof, in the sign-list, of the reading *ššr* for the word meaning “linen”, since he reads \leftarrow as *šš(r)* (*op. cit.*, p. 31) or *šš* (*op. cit.*, p. 178) without note of interrogation. The same identification of \leftarrow with the word for linen 𓏏 found thus alone or in $\text{𓏏} \text{𓏏}$ had also suggested itself to me, but I had rejected it on the grounds (1) that in the Old Kingdom, so far as my evidence went, the phonetic value of the arrow \leftarrow was *ššr*, not *šš*, and (2) that \leftarrow in the lists in question did not appear to be a general name for “linen” or “cloth”, but a special variety; the four kinds mentioned in the lists are $\text{𓏏} \text{idmi}$, \leftarrow , $\text{𓏏} \text{𓏏} \text{šm}^t \text{nfri}$ and $\leftarrow \text{št}$. A piece of evidence recently found leads me now to believe that \leftarrow may be the generic word for “linen” after all; though in that case, of course, in view of the testimony adduced above, it could not read *šš*, but only *ššr* as the prototype of *ššr*, or alternatively itself *ššr*. My new evidence is a variant in the mastaba of ‘Ankhmaḥor (FIRTH-GUNN, *op. cit.*, Pl. 6, D, with the text, p. 97); on a wall in the burial-chamber four linen-chests are depicted, and above them the legends $\text{𓏏} \text{𓏏}$ “royal linen”, $\text{𓏏} \text{𓏏}$ “first-quality *i*-fabric (?)”; $\text{𓏏} \leftarrow \text{𓏏}$ “*ššrw*-linen” and $\text{𓏏} \text{𓏏} \text{𓏏}$ “good Upper Egyptian cloth”. Thus the only available witness to the phonetic value of the linen or cloth called \leftarrow presents it as *ššrw*. Perhaps the easiest hypothesis is to suppose that originally both the word for “arrow” and that for “linen” read *ššrw*, but that the word for “arrow” very early became *ššrw*, whence the arrow-sign \leftarrow was before Dyn. V abandoned, but for rare exceptions, in the writing of “linen”. I shall now produce evidence to show that at a much later date the word for “linen” underwent the same metathesis of *š* and *š*. In the tomb of Rekhmarē (Dyn. XVIII; *Urk.*, IV, 1143, 13) the captains of vessels announce to the vizier that the treasures are full of the tribute of all lands, including $\text{𓏏} \text{𓏏} \text{𓏏} \text{𓏏} \text{𓏏} \text{𓏏} \text{𓏏}$ “packed cloths containing goodly things”. In another part of the same tomb is a scene showing the allotment of new clothes and unguents to the prisoners of war who were serfs in the temple of Amūn; part of the legend (*Urk.*, IV, 1147, 10) reads $\text{𓏏} \text{𓏏} \text{𓏏} \text{𓏏} \text{𓏏} \text{𓏏} \text{𓏏} \text{𓏏} \text{𓏏} \text{𓏏}$ “the giving to them of linen, oil, and clothes”. These two passages show that at this period *ššrw* was read. For the altogether exceptional writing of *šš(r)-nišwt* as $\text{𓏏} \text{𓏏} \text{𓏏}$ *Urk.*, IV, 821, 2, see above p. 169, l. 21. In Coptic $\omega\eta\bar{\epsilon}$ displays as *š* all that remains of the *status constructus*.


The first of the two passages quoted from the tomb of Rekhmarē^c is interesting in other respects. Not only does it display the two signs ⚡ and ⚡ in close proximity and in their characteristic uses, but also the phrase *ššrw* 'rfw "packed cloths" seems to be the exact verbal description of the object indicated by the sign ⚡.






Before we leave the words for "linen" and "bag", it remains to point out that it is not always easy to know whether ⚡ is to be read *ššr* or 'rf when employed ideographically alone. The triangular form ⚡ is not ambiguous, as 'rf is not written with that sign. But how are we to read ⚡ in ⚡ in ⚡, or ⚡ in ⚡ in BORCHARDT, *op. cit.*, Pl. 60 (see my Fig. 2, c), or ⚡ in ⚡ in LEPSIUS, *Denkm.*, II, 96, cf. NAVILLE, *Deir el Bahari*, 130? I do not understand this phrase *ššr tpy* or (less probably) 'rf tpy.










VI

I would gladly have dwelt upon certain lexicographical aspects of the word for "linen" *ššr(w)* and of that for its finer sort *ššr(w) nišwt*, as well as upon the officials concerned with its keeping—a ⚡ has to be added (LEPSIUS, *Denkm.*, II, 22)—but the formidable length this article has assumed admonishes me to hasten on to consider the phonetic uses of ⚡ and its variant form ⚡. We have first to illustrate the value *ššr* derived from these signs as the exemplification of linen material (*ššrw*). In the Old Kingdom only one word is in question, namely the word written ⚡ or ⚡ and meaning "thing", "matter". It is even a little doubtful whether there is here any real phonetic *transference* at all, or whether the meanings "thing", "matter" be not merely extensions of the original meaning "linen". The English "stuff" and the German "Zeug" offer themselves as analogies, though in the latter case at all events the more special significance "cloth" seems secondary. The writings with the stroke ⚡ and later ⚡ suggest that the word is really identical with that for "linen". I will now illustrate one or two of its uses, whence it will be seen to be almost as colourless as ⚡ or ⚡, or as the Latin *res*.





A. Of *material* "things", especially to sum up such material items as it is not desired to specify individually.






















(1) “. 100 asses being with me bearing oil, honey, clothes, *thnt*-oil, and  everything”, *Urk.*, I, 136, 5. O. K.


(2) “A thousand of bread, a thousand of beer,    a thousand of everything good for the revered Antef”, *Aeg. Inschr.* *Berlin*, I, p. 122. Perhaps early Dyn. XI. So too   *Urk.*, IV, 60, 17.

(3) “. valuables being in my charge and under my seal of the choicest of all good things brought to the Majesty of my lord from Upper and Lower Egypt,    consisting of all delectable things”, *Brit. Mus.*, 614, Dyn. XI. So too    stands in parallelism with    *Urk.*, IV, 118, 10-1.

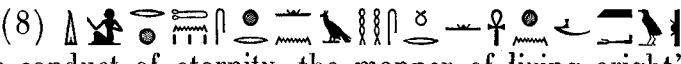
B. Of *actions*, to be rendered “thing”, “action”, “matter”, “service”, “respect”, according as the context demands. Often summarizing a number of actions not severally specified.

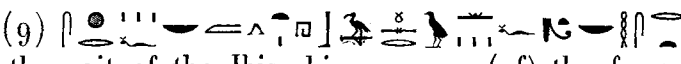
(4)     “I did this work adequately (?) in every respect”, MONTET, *Hammâmt*, no. 206 = *Urk.*, I, 149, 9. After O. K.


(5)                     

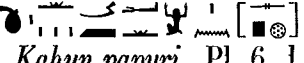


(7) “As for any great chieftain who shall not inflict punishment in his nome  upon any men who shall perform the said actions”, *op. cit.*, Pl. IV, decree of Wazkerē. The actions in question are curtailments of offerings and services to the statues of the vizier Idi; these possible curtailments have been previously specified in detail. Similarly PETRIE, *Abydos*, II, Pl. 17.

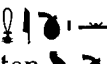
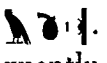
C. A *course* or *manner* of action, sometimes parallel to *šhr*, to be rendered “action”, “method”, “way” or the like.

(8)  “I cause you to know the conduct of eternity, the manner of living aright”, Cairo 20538, ii. c 9 = SETHE, *Lesestücke*, p. 68. PIEHL, *Inscr. hiér.*, III, 6 gives ♂ here with a thickening of the two ends protruding above, accordingly not quite like ♂ šš.

(9)  “All his actions are as the gait of the Ibis, his ways are (of) the form of the lord of Hesret (Thoth)”, Turin statue of Haremhab, l. 8.

So specially with the adjective  “true” :

(10)  [] “A successful method on a million occasions”, GRIFFITH, *Kahun papyri*, Pl. 6, l. 26. So EBERS, 1, 11 (with ♂ instead of ), and very often in the medical papyri as concluding comment in a prescription.

D. From Dyn. XVIII on in the phrase  “well”, “in order” (lit. “like a (good) way”), after Dyn. XVIII written . Doubtless the phrase originally contained some adjective, and subsequently *mī ššr mī* or *mī ššr nfr* was shortened down to *mī ššr*.

(11)  “Art thou well; behold, I am well”, *Pap. Brit. Mus.* 10103, recto 4 = JEA, 14, Pl. 33.

(12)  “Thy house is well, and thy servants are well”, *Pap. Bologna* 1094, 8, 4-5.








The evidence above quoted leaves no room for doubt that it is one and the same word which appears in all the examples, however varied the spel-





lings may be and are. It is now clear that the reading is *ššr* and not *šš*, the full phonetic value being shown by $\text{𓂏} \text{𓂐}$ in (4), where the roughly incised determinative shows a passable resemblance to the bag-sign 𓂏 in one of its early shapes (cf. Fig. 2, a). Unhappily in most of the other passages which I quote no quite exact facsimiles of the decisive sign in question are available, but it is at all events clear that the variants correspond closely to those in the word for linen. In $\text{𓂏} \text{𓂐}$ of the XIIth Dynasty example (8) the first and third radicals are shown, a writing like $\text{𓂏} \text{𓂐} \text{𓂏}$; the middle sign is either assimilated entirely to the rope-sign 𓂏 or is at least well on the road thither; 𓂏 in (2) seems to show that the confusion sometimes was made at the very beginning of the Middle Kingdom. In the Old Kingdom the triangular form of the bag-sign 𓂏 or 𓂏 seems to be preferred; so in (1), (5), (6). The reading of the sign in $\text{𓂏} \text{𓂏} \text{𓂏} \text{𓂏}$ of the decrees has been much debated. Moret (*Chartes d'immunité*, troisième partie, p. 140 = *Journ. asiat.*, 1917, p. 377) discusses the question at length, unfortunately deciding in favour of *db*. Borchardt, commenting on (5), had already discerned the true reading, but produced no proof of his view. In (7) 𓂏 appears in much the same form as in the example from Deir el-Gebrāwi, above fig. 3, a, and on the stela of Thethi (3) there is an analogous shape 𓂏 which, however, is also used for *šš* in the formula of offering (vertical l. 1), while a “treasurer” named $\text{𓂏} \text{𓂏}$ writes 𓂏 for *g* (see below) in quite the normal form. I shall allude to the hieratic variants at the end of this article. The only writing yet to be discussed is $\text{𓂏} \text{𓂐}$ (9) of which other examples of later date may be mentioned (*Golénischeff glossary*, 1, 2; CHASSINAT, *Edfou*, II, 13; *Ä. Z.*, 18, 10). Here apparently we have a metathesis of *š* and *š*, yielding *ššr* as in the case of the word for “linen”. Another word where similar variations of writing occur is $\text{𓂏} \text{𓂏}$ “corn” hitherto wrongly read *šš*. This word, quite common from the New Kingdom onwards, is written $\text{𓂏} \text{𓂏}$ with the rope-sign 𓂏 already in the Annals of Tuthmosis III (*Urk.*, IV, 743, 1), but the variants $\text{𓂏} \text{𓂏}$ (*Urk.*, IV, 372, 14) and $\text{𓂏} \text{𓂏}$ (ROUGÉ, *Inscr. hiér.*, 178, 3) definitely prove the reading *ššr* and show that the sign concerned is the bag-sign.



Finally, a rare verb $\text{𓂏} \text{𓂏}$ apparently meaning “to utter”, “express” something (GARDINER, *Admonitions*, p. 101) must also be read *ššr*. The Dyn. XVIII writing $\text{𓂏} \text{𓂏}$ (NEWBERRY, *Rekhmara*, Pl. 2, l. 15), with others of similar


appearance but later date (see my note *loc. cit.* and *Ä. Z.*, 18, 10-1) points to a metathesis such as we have found in late *šsr* for *ššr* both as “linen” and as “thing”. What account is to be given of the later variant $\frac{\text{𐀓}}{\text{𐀔}}$ for 𐀓 “tongue” of the Pyramids I do not know. Doubtless all the words written with $\frac{\text{𐀓}}{\text{𐀔}}$ have influenced one another.

VII

Yet another phonetic value appertaining to the bag-sign  is *g*⁽¹⁾. Whence this value was obtained is not definitely known. Griffith (*Hieroglyphs*, p. 48) connected it with the verb    *gʷ* “to be narrow”, “compressed”, and the suggestion in my sign-list linking it together with   *gʰt* “bundle”, (see on V 32, 33) is really the same view in another guise. Unhappily neither of these two related words is ever written with , though such may have been the case in very early inscriptions not preserved. The value *g* is, however, indisputable. The words in which it occurs—I quote all that I can find at the present moment—are as follows :

 ♂ ♂  wgg "be miserable", *Ptahhotpe*, 9; *Sinuhe*, B 168; var.  
Proc. Soc. Bibl. Arch., 18, 202, 9.





 *f* *g* a locality near El-Kâb, TYLOR, *Paheri* (E. E. F.), Pl. 8, cf. GAUTHIER, *Dict. géogr.*, s. v.; var.  BLACKMAN, *Dendûr*, p. 27.



 *Mggi*, masc. proper name, *Brit. Mus.* 614, Dyn. XI.

$\overset{\sim}{\delta}\delta \times ngg$ “break” Ebers, 40, 12, 14; geminating form of $\overset{\sim}{\delta} \times ngi$, see Berlin *Wb.*, 2, 348.

7] - *gbt* "to slit (?)" a fish, see MONTET, *Scènes de la vie privée*, p. 37. Two O. K. examples; for one of them see fig. 2, *d*.

𐎔𐎁𐎍𐎎 *Gbb*, writing of the divine name 𐎔𐎁𐎍𐎎, 𐎔𐎁𐎍𐎎 on a Lisht coffin, see *A. Z.*, 43, 147-149.

55.   *gbb* "earth" *Urk.*, IV, 146, 14; *Millingen*, 2, 8; var.   *Piankhi*,

⁽¹⁾ I am indebted to R. O. Faulkner for a reference to  "Take to thyself the fluid (??) which came forth from Osiris" *Pyr.* 117, where  takes the place of the

usual \int (ibid., 39, 105). The writing with \int is to me inexplicable, and in its isolation can hardly be taken to prove an equation $\int = k$.

𐀓𐀓 *gbgb* “dismember (?)”, *Pyr.* 678, cf. 𐀓𐀓 above; or else “overthrow” cf. later 𐀓𐀓 𐀓𐀓 “be overthrown”, e. g. *Urk.*, IV, 658, 1.

𐀓𐀓 *Gbtw* Koptos, see GAUTHIER, *op. cit.*, s. v.; var. 𐀓𐀓[⊕], MONTET, *Hammamdt.*, no. 47, l. 3.

𐀓𐀓𐀓 *Gzi* (?), masc. personal name, BORCHARDT, *Sahurē*, Pls. 57-58. Sethe (*op. cit.*, p. 124, and index) does not transcribe the name. Can it be the adj. from *Gš*; *Kûš* in spite of —?

𐀓𐀓𐀓[⊕] *Gš*; *Kûš*, *Pyr.* 308; var. 𐀓𐀓𐀓[⊕] *Pyr.* 312 and later 𐀓𐀓𐀓[⊕] see GAUTHIER, *op. cit.*, V, 178 for references.

The above list does not contain 𐀓𐀓[⊕] var. 𐀓𐀓[⊕] formerly identified with Goshen, Γέσημ, for the reasons I have given in *JEA*, 5, 218-223. Gauthier (*op. cit.*, 145) also accepts my reading *šsm*, though with some little hesitation⁽¹⁾. A further argument in my favour, and one which I have not hitherto employed, is that in GRIFFITH, *Kahun Papyri*, 2, 14 𐀓𐀓[⊕] is written with the hieratic sign for 𐀓 *šš*, not that for 𐀓 *g*, see below. But as the examples of *wgg* and *ngg* quoted above show, this argument is not decisive. In the Ramesseum Glossary both *Kûš* and Koptos are written with hieratic 𐀓. In hieroglyphic, let it be noted, the triangular form 𐀓 is never employed for the value *g*.

The use of 𐀓 for *g* is, as the examples cited above show, very strangely distributed. It is predominantly as an initial consonant that 𐀓 is so used, a position which would most easily be explained if 𐀓 or *𐀓 in some contexts were readable as *g*; or *gʔ*. But of this we have no evidence. Perhaps at the start 𐀓 = *g* was confined to the two town-names *Gbtw* and *Gš*. The name of Koptos will have supplied the reason for using 𐀓 in a number of other words beginning with *gb*. I cannot help thinking that the doubled 𐀓 in 𐀓𐀓𐀓[⊕] is due to the dual appearance of 𐀓 following, this recalling the suffix 3rd fem. sing. after dual nouns. The existence of 𐀓𐀓 in this latter variant of the name of *Kûš* will have motivated the use of 𐀓𐀓 in *wgg* and *ngg*, besides the two personal names *Mggi* and *Gzi* (?), all these being words where two *g*'s follow one another. Finally, *F'g* will have been written with 𐀓 simply because it is a place-name.

⁽¹⁾ It is not clear to me why Gauthier (*op. cit.*, 5, 179) reads the town 𐀓𐀓[⊕] 𐀓𐀓[⊕] as *qsmoui* (i. e. *gsmwy*).

VIII

With the usual summary of results appended to philological discussions I can here dispense, since that summary may be found in the sign-list of my *Grammar*. But a few words must be added upon the hieratic rendering of the signs here studied. The influence of hieratic upon hieroglyphic was far

rope a b

bag c d e








Fig. 5. — Hieratic forms of the "rope" ⚡ and the "bag" ⚡.















greater than is usually believed, and I am convinced that this has been the main source of confusion between ⚡ and ⚡. I must trespass no further upon the hospitality of the *Bulletin*, and a complete revision of Möller's treatment of these two signs must be left to others. In Fig. 5 I have drawn up a schematic summary of the distinction between ⚡ and ⚡ as seen in hieratic of the Middle and New Kingdoms. The rope ⚡ is made either in two (a) or in three (b) strokes; the characteristic feature is that the projecting ends form an angle with one another. Careless scribes, like those of *Sinuhe B*, *Prisse*, and *Ebers* write ⚡ in the same way, and our transcriptions ought then to show ⚡. More learned or conscientious scribes employ a sign for ⚡ not unlike hieratic ⚡ *mw*, the distinguishing mark being a horizontal, or nearly horizontal, line at the top (c). I have noted above that Koptos and Kûs are thus written in the *Ramesseum Glossary*; so too ššr m;^c in the Kahûn medical papyrus (GRIFFITH, *op. cit.*, 6, 26; however, not quite certain). Late Egyptian is much more careful about this distinction, which is usual in ⚡, — "(in) order", "(in) good condition", and invariable, as it would appear, in ⚡, — ⚡. It is an extremely curious fact that Late Egyptian regularly uses ⚡ as the determinative of clothing, though this certainly originated in ⚡; perhaps that determinative was now consciously believed to be the rope. Möller's evidence shows that a form of ⚡ with diacritical point (d) was sometimes employed in ⚡, —, and further that a new differentiation (e) was used in *Gbtw*, but nowhere else. In transcribing types c, d, and e ⚡ ought undoubtedly always to be adopted. Whether in d and e indications of the new diacritical marks should be added is a matter where difference of opinion is comprehensible.









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



POSTSCRIPT.

I am indebted for some very valuable remarks to M. Kuentz, who has devoted to the printing of my article a care and an interest far exceeding what could have been expected of an editor. These remarks I append below in somewhat abbreviated form, together with a few comments of my own.

P. 170, line 4. M. Kuentz inquires whether  is a closed (solid) or an open (hollow) sign; in the latter case it might be  with some exaggeration of the tie binding the two ends of the cord. So far as I can see,  is always solid, and is therefore likely to be an equivalent of . See, moreover,    (approximately so) for *ššrw* “actions” on p. 178, l. 2.

P. 175, lines 5-6. “Sans doute les Pyramides réservent à la flèche  la valeur phonétique *ššr* (406, 1545, 1866), tandis que *ššr* (« traire »; « lin ») n’a jamais  (265; 4437). Mais dans les tombeaux, au contraire,  a bien la valeur phonétique *ššr*”. M. Kuentz then cites examples of (1)  “boucher hermétiquement(?)”, var.  (MONTET, *Scènes de la vie privée*, pp. 240, 252) and of (2)  “to milk”, with many variants all pointing to *ššr* (*op. cit.*, pp. 107-8); and ends with the query: “Y a-t-il contradiction? ou faudrait-il lire aussi *ššr* les groupes   *Pyr.* 406, b;   1545, a;   1866, b;   1545 a? Y aurait-il là quelque métathèse graphique?”

P. 176, lines 9-12. “*Ššr tpy* signifierait-il: ‘première qualité’? Pour *ššr* ‘sorte’, ‘genre’ (sens connexe de celui de ‘manière’, p. 178), cf. p. ex. CHASSINAT, *Edfou*, II, p. 204 (laboratoire)     — ‘j’ai apporté l’encens sous toutes ses formes, avec toutes ses variétés’; cf. encore IV, p. 354    .” A suggestion well worth considering, in my opinion.

P. 180, note 1. “*Nk > ng* serait-il un exemple de cette sonorisation de sourde au contact de *n*, à laquelle Sethe avait songé pour expliquer   =  ?”