Hieratic Fragment from Medinet Ghurab (P. BM EA 10777)

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Abstract: This paper aims to publish the fragment of the hieratic papyrus P. BM EA 10777 stored in the British Museum. It also examines the role and function of the expression nḥt n niwt. This fragment represents a list of titles and names associated with the royal court. W. Petrie discovered the papyrus at Kom Medinet Ghurab. A. Gardiner donated it to the British Museum in 1958. According to the titles as well as the paleography, this papyrus probably dates back to the 19th Dynasty.

Keywords: Papyrus, Hieratic, Kom Medinet Ghurab, BM EA 10777, the 19th Dynasty.

1. Introduction:

This fragment is 28.5 cm high and 18.5 cm wide, written in black on one side only as a single sheet with two columns of writing. The first column consists of nine lines, headed by the word mr-wr, while the second one consists of four lines. Although the fragment's surface was cleaned, traces of palimpsest can be seen in six horizontal lines on the recto. The palimpsest traces cannot be read, but the earlier text might be administrative or letter. This papyrus has not been published, although Ranke mentioned some of the names that appeared in it.

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2. Content:

This fragment has a list of personnel names and their titles related to Kom Medinet Ghurab (mr-wr). Some of them are foreign names that may be associated with another unpublished fragment\(^1\) listing a group of workers belonging to the palace being sent out to work in cultivation in the northern region.\(^2\)

3. Dating:

H. Ranke referred to this fragment dating some names on it to the 18\(^{th}\) dynasty.\(^3\) He referred to some names, which appeared on this fragment and dated it to the 18\(^{th}\) Dynasty. However, the British Museum's database dates it to the 19\(^{th}\) Dynasty. According to the list of names and titles, e.g. the title ‘\(n\)ht n niwt\(^4\) that prevailed in the Ramesside period\(^4\) and the paleography (table. 1), this fragment probably dates to the 19\(^{th}\) Dynasty.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>P. BM EA 10777</th>
<th>18(^{th}) dynasty</th>
<th>19(^{th}) dynasty</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A147/48</td>
<td>Col.2.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>B1/61</td>
<td>Col.1.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>D2/80</td>
<td>Col.2.5</td>
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<td>G1/192</td>
<td>Col.2.5</td>
<td>Col.1.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>N35/333</td>
<td>Col.1.3</td>
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<td>S34/534</td>
<td>Col.1.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>W14/502</td>
<td>Col.1.3</td>
<td>Col.1.9</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\) An unpublished papyrus (P. BM EA 10776).
\(^3\) Ranke Hermann, Die ägyptischen Personennamen, I (Glückstadt: J.J. Augustin, 1935).
In addition to S. Wimmer's study, the following signs may reveal the papyrus date. The form of ligatured is of type (b) which was more common in the 19th Dynasty. The three forms of are of type (ba), which was only attested in the 19th Dynasty. All examples of are type (a) that was common in dynasties 19th and 20th.

4. Transcription:

<table>
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<td><img src="image11" alt="Hieroglyphs" /></td>
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<tr>
<td><img src="image12" alt="Hieroglyphs" /></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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5. Transliteration and Translation:

Col.1

[1] mr-wr (a)
[2] Hsw (b) 
[4] nhr(t) n niwt (c) It i3 
[5] hwy Krk 
[6] Hsw Swm mr n p3 nfr (d) 
[7] nhr(t) n niwt Ty s3 Nn3 
[8] nhr(t) n niwt nw wy s3 Rwl-3t (e)  
[9] Hsw 3y s3 Wtt mwy 

Col.2

[1] ..... gr-tb 
[2] 
[3] mniw (f) sr idr Mnwy 
[4] mniw sr idr G 
[5] s3w (e) N3-hrh (g) 

[1] mr-wr  
[3] The singer Nfr pry the son of the wrb priest Wsrt  
[4] Citizen It i3  
[5] hwy Krk 
[6] The singer Swm mr n p3 nfr  
[7] Citizen Ty daughter of Nn3  
[8] Citizen nw wy daughter of Rwl-3t  
[9] The singer 3y son of Wtt mwy  

[1] Herdsman of the herd of sr bird Mnwy  
[2] Herdsman of the herd of sr bird G 
[3] The guard N3-hrh ......

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2 See Ranke, Die ägyptischen Personennamen, I, 85.6.

3 It i3: Although the determinative of the name It i3 is a male, the name is feminine, confirmed by the title nh nt niwt. Perhaps the scribe forgets to add the diacritic mark for the sign.

4 hwy Krk: this name is Asiatic Thomas Schneider, Asiatische Personennamen in ägyptischen Quellen des Neuen Reiches,(Universitätsverlag Freiburg Schweiz Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht Göttingen, 1992), 202-203.

5 Swm mr n p3 nfrw: Ranke mentioned this name to be Swm mr. and he ignored the second part of the name. Ranke, Die ägyptischen Personennamen, I, 302.6.

6 See Ranke, Die ägyptischen Personennamen I, 277.22.

7 See Ranke, Die ägyptischen Personennamen I, 205.3

8 See Ranke, Die ägyptischen Personennamen I, 56.28

9 This name is not listed by Rank

10 See Ranke, Die ägyptischen Personennamen I, 58.18

11 This name is not listed by Rank.

12 See Ranke, Die ägyptischen Personennamen I, 151.12.

13 This name is not listed by Rank.
6- Paleographical Remarks:

**Col.1.1** [Hieroglyphic symbol]: The reading of several groups is uncertain because the lower part of the group is obscured by surface damage. The first sign is certainly to represent the title hsw and followed by the name of the singer who may be foreign where the determinative.

**Col.1.3** [Hieroglyphic symbol]: The handwriting of the determinative is similar to the form of hieratic graffiti from Deir el-Bahri 1.

**Col.1.4** [Hieroglyphic symbol]: This sign may represent the feminine determinative. In the papyrus understudy, it appeared with the other two forms on lines 7 and 8.

**Col.1.5** [Hieroglyphic symbol]: This sign represents the checkmark that allowed the scribe to ensure that all relevant entries on the document are correct. This dot may represent the presence or absence of the workmen. Checkmarks appeared with different forms as red or black dots, oblique strokes, and some individual hieroglyphic signs.3

**Col.1.6** [Hieroglyphic symbol]: This part of the papyrus is damaged, but the traces may represent where the first sign indeed represents.

**Col.1.8** [Hieroglyphic symbol]: This sign appeared with an unfamiliar form to represent the determinative. It is similar to the forms - which common in 19th Dynasty.

**Col.2.1** [Hieroglyphic symbol]: This part is damaged, but the last signs are.

**Col.2.2** [Hieroglyphic symbol]: At this point, the papyrus is damaged, so it is uncertain.

**Col.2.4** - **Col.2.5** [Hieroglyphic symbol]: These signs are an important element to characterize between the title s\(\text{sw}\) and m\(\text{niw}\) during the New Kingdom. The word for herdsman is written only with a sign in 19th Dynasty, and was used frequently almost completely completely supplanting the sign represents man seated and wrapped in mantle holding a stick with appendage that different from the form of the sign m\(\text{niw}\).

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1 Mohamed Nassar, "The hieratic graffiti in the 18th and 19th dynasties: paleographic and linguistic study", part 2 (PhD diss, Fayoum university, 2015), 10. Table.4
4 Ranke, Die ägyptischen Personennamen I, 302.6.
5 Wimmer, Hieratische Paläographie, II, 4.
8- Discussion:

(a) \(\text{mr-wr}\): this word appeared with different forms as \(\text{mr-r}, \text{mr-r}, \text{Hr}\).

3. Sometimes it appeared with determinatives \(\text{mr}, \text{r}, \text{Hr}\) to mean “Lake Moeris of the Fayoum” or “Great Channel”. It represents the name of Kom Medinet Ghurab.

Next to this channel, either the Bahr Yusef or a branch, the town was constructed.

(b) \(\text{hsywt}\): Berlin Dictionary introduces with different forms \(\text{hsywt}, \text{hsywt}\), \(\text{hsywt}\), \(\text{hsywt}\) to mean “Sängerin”. S. Naguib translated the title \(\text{hsywt}\), both men and women to mean “singer-player”. While Faulkner translates the female version “\(\text{hst}\)” to “concubines”, the earliest example of singers who had the title of “\(\text{hs}\)” is found in the Old Kingdom, exclusively females. The men include them in the middle of the Old Kingdom. During the New Kingdom, the importance of these singers appeared when the queen was given this title as Nefertiti and the wife of Rameses II. Also, these singers appeared in the religious matters related to the temple of Amon “\(\text{hst hnw n Imn}\)” “singer in the interior of the temple of Amun”. A singer who can accompany

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1 Möller, Hieratische Paläographie, II, 4.47,48.
2 Wb II, 97.
3 Heinrich Brugsch, "Der Môris-See", ZÄS, 30, (1893): 72
6 Wb III, 164-165.
8 Raymond Faulkner, A Concise Dictionary of Middle Egyptian (Oxford: Griffith Institute 1962), 177.

\(\text{ḥn(t)} \ n \ niwt\): According to G. Robins\footnote{Gay Robins, \textit{Women in Ancient Egypt} (London: Harvard University Press, 1993), 115.} and J. Jannson\footnote{Janet Janssen, "A Marital Title from The New Kingdom", Emily Teeter & Jone Larson (eds.), \textit{Gold of Praise Studies on Ancient Egypt in Honor of Edward F. Wente}, SAOC 58 (Chicago, 1999): 185-190.}, this title appeared on only three categories (letters- accounts- legal texts) in the Hieratic sources. It did not appear on the monuments and Hieroglyphic scripts. B. Lesko related it to administrative and judicial texts.\footnote{Barbara Lesko, "Rank, Roles, and Rights", Leonard Lesko, (ed.), \textit{Pharaoh's Workers: The Villagers of Deir el-Medina} (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1994): 154.} This title widely appeared with different forms as \(\text{ḥn(t)}\), \(\text{nīa}\), \(\text{nīi}\) since the Middle Kingdom, when it was exclusively used in the male form\footnote{Stelae CG20151= Hans Lang& Heinrich Schafer, \textit{Grab- und Denksteine des mittleren Reichs}, 4 vols. Catalogue général des antiquités égyptiennes du Musée du Caire Nos 20001-20780, I (Berlin, 1902), 178-179.}. Leprohon\footnote{Ronald Leprohon, "Administrative Titles in Nubia in the Middle Kingdom", \textit{JAOS}, 113 (3), (1993): 432, 129.}, O. Berlev\footnote{Oleg Berlev, "Les prétendus « citadins » au Moyen Empire", \textit{RDE}, 23, (1971): 286-288.}, and S. Quirke\footnote{Stephen Quirke, \textit{Title and Bureaux of Egypt 1850-1700 BC} (London: Golden House, 2004), 100.} translated and related it with the army to mean "a designation of soldiers". In the New Kingdom, it was used as a feminine title only with different forms \(\text{ḥn(t)}\), \(\text{nīa}\), \(\text{nīi}\) to mean "Citizeness"\footnote{William Ward, \textit{Index of Egyptian Administrative and Religious Titles of the Middle Kingdom} (Beirut: American University Beirut, 1982), 74, 604.}. Černý understood this title to represent "a free woman", not a servant\footnote{Jaroslav Černý, "The will of Naunakhte and the Related Documents", \textit{JEA}, 31 (1945): 44.}, while Bakir explained it as a servant who possesses the land\footnote{Abdel-Mohsen Bakir, \textit{Slavery in Pharaonic Egypt}. Supplément aux \textit{Annales du service des antiquités de l’Égypte} 18 (Cairo: Institut français d’archéologie orientale, 1952), 85-86.}. S. Katary adopted a literal translation to mean "Townswomen or a living being of the city"\footnote{Sally Katary, "Land-Tenure in the New Kingdom: The Role of Women Smallholder and the Military", Allan Bowman & Eugene Rogan (ed.), \textit{Agriculture in Egypt from Pharaonic to Modern Times}, Proceeding of the British Academy 96 (1999):71; Jones, \textit{An Index of Ancient Egyptian Titles, Epithets and Phrases of the Old Kingdom}, 353.1313.}. Gardiner argued that the title means lady\footnote{Gardiner, \textit{The Wilbour Papyrus}, 76.}.
According to the texts that widely appear in Deir el-Medina and Ghurab during the New Kingdom, this title was applied to women who played different roles, mainly:

- **A married (or widowed) woman in general:**
  Pestman reported that the title ‘nh n niwt was related to a married or widowed woman. In O. DeM 225, the woman li who bears the title ‘nh n niwt is a widow of hwy hw

  ![Hieratic Fragment from Medinet Ghurab (P. BM EA 10777)](image)

  Citizen li, the wife of hwy who is dead

  In the Turin Strike Papyrus, it is applied to married women (hmwt t3yw).

- **She is a wife or a widow of a controller:**
  According to P. Cambridge University Library MS. Add. 4167, three women appeared as waives of soldiers and controllers.

  ![Hieratic Fragment from Medinet Ghurab (P. BM EA 10777)](image)

  (5) Month 3, Akhet, day 13 Given to the citizen Titi, the wife of the controller Try ury

- **A rural smallholder:**
  During the New Kingdom, this title denoted a woman smallholder. 'nh t nt niwt appeared in P. Wilbour lists as Socio- professional categories. She is one of the high-frequency occupations among Wilbour smallholders after the cultivator, soldier and priest. She has only 10.8% of the total number of plots.

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- A witness at a local court:

Some women titled ‘nḥt nt niwt appeared on Pap. Cairo 65739\(^1\) among witnesses of a local court.

The number of witnesses named by the soldier Niḥy before the court: The chief of police mini, the mayor of the west R^c-msw, the web priest hwy-p3, the elder brother of the superintendent of the district S3 mwt, the citizen K^3fy the wife of the chief of police Psd, who is dead, the citizen Wṛt nfrt, the citizen hwt ḥ3, and the elder sister of the citizen B3k- mwt. It is a total of three men and three women; the total is six.

- A feminine equivalent to rmṯ-iswt:

According to the will of Naunakhte\(^2\), his daughters were called ‘nḥt nt niwt while the sons were called rmṯ iswt. ‘nḥt nt niwt might be the other face of the title rmṯ iswt.

Col.3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2-</td>
<td>the workman M33- nḥtw.f</td>
<td>3-</td>
<td>the workman Kn br ḫps.f</td>
<td>5-</td>
<td>the workman Ṭm nḥtw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-</td>
<td>6-</td>
<td>7-</td>
<td>Citizen Wįstį</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(d) mniw: Herdsman or Shepherd, it appeared with two different forms. The first one with the sign (A47) which appeared during the Old Kingdom. It continued to be used in this title until the 18\(^{\text{th}}\) Dynasty\(^3\). The second form with the sign (A33), which appeared from the period of the 19\(^{\text{th}}\) Dynasty and later\(^4\).

(e) sAw: The term s3 meaning 'protection', 'guard', 'watch', translated as the Greek translation 'phyle', in the literature texts is primarily associated with priestly service\(^5\).

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1 Alan Gardiner, "A Lawsuit Arising from the Purchase of Two Slaves", \textit{JEA}, 21 (1935): 142, pl. XV.
4 Urk. IV, 2174 (7) For more about this title see: Gardiner, "The Egyptian word for herdman":116-125.
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appeared with different forms 𓊨𓊪𓊠𓊰, 𓊨𓊪𓊠𓊰, 𓊨𓊪𓊠𓊰, 𓊨𓊪𓊠𓊰. During the Old Kingdom the word 𓊨𓊪𓊠𓊰 appears to be used for the herdsman or guardian. Sometimes it appears in a fully written 𓊨𓊪𓊠𓊰 to indicate any other reading than 𓊪𓊠𓊰, in the Middle Kingdom it appears with the same distinctions. This title related with the tomb (the guardian of the tomb) throughout the Ramesside period.

Conclusion:

According to the paleography, this papyrus dates back to the 19th Dynasty. The word for herdsman which appears in col.2.3,4 is written only with a sign 𓊪 in 19th Dynasty as well as the title 𓇃𓊠𓊰 𓊪𓊠𓊰 which more common in the Ramesside Period. The papyrus has a list of unfamiliar personnel names which don't appear on another papyri from Ghurab, and some of these names are foreign names who have living in Ghurab society during this period. The title 𓇃𓊠𓊰 𓊪𓊠𓊰 until now is not clear in terms of social status or the role, but we can note this woman maybe play a role in the palace where this papyrus represent a group of workers belonging to the palace.

4 Gardiner, "The Egyptian word for herdsman": 117-118.
5 Černy, *A Community of Workmen at Thebes in the Ramesside Period*, 149-150.
Fig. 1 P. BM EA 10777
Copyright of the British Museum
Hieratic Fragment from Medinet Ghurab (P. BM EA 10777)

Fig. 2 Facsimile of P. BM EA 10777
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