The Third Intermediate Period Lintel at the Egyptian Museum

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Abstract: This door lintel was found at Sheikh Abd El-Qurna at Thebes and is currently housed at Cairo Museum. It was reused and contained the names of the two scribes, imn htp and pš-śd-hnsw from 22\textsuperscript{th} till 23\textsuperscript{rd} dynasty. There is no tomb that had the names of these two scribes at Sheikh Abd El-Qurna at Thebes, so either it has not been discovered yet or if there were a close relationship between them as two brothers perhaps buried in the tomb of the wšt priest of Khonsu, the scribe of the house of the gold of Amun and the scribe of the treasury of the temple of Amun, hnsw-ms\textsuperscript{1} exist in the same place. This scribe had a son his name and titles were the wšt priest of Khonsu hr-hbyt\textsuperscript{2}, so he might had been the grandfather of the tow scribes.

Keywords: Door, lintel, third intermediate period, scribe, Sheikh Abd El-Qurna, Thebes, Khonsu, temple of Amun

1 PM. II, 672; PN I, 271,7
I. Description:

This rectangular sandstone door lintel measures 102 cm × 49 cm, the text of this lintel is written above another older text which referred that this block was reused from older period, the hieroglyphs and the scenes are in sunken relief. The right part of the text consists of nine columns of hieroglyphs, but the ninth one was destroyed. The left part consists of eight columns of hieroglyphs. The text is on the upper part of the lintel upon the depictions of the two brothers and their wives containing the htp di nsw, offering formula, the names and the titles of the deceased and each column of the text is separated from the next by a vertical line. Below the text is a relief divided into two parts, each part represents one of the two scribes with his wife sitting opposite to the other.

The right part of the relief shows the scribe imn htp, wearing a short simple wig that shows his ears, a simple collar with no details and a long skirt, holding in his left hand a lotus flower in front of his nose and grasping a handkerchief in his right hand. His wife tIt.i wears a long wig, showing her ears, a simple collar with no details and a long tight dress; she puts her left arm on her husband’s left shoulder and holds his right arm with her right hand. They are sitting on a chair with lion legs and a low back, standing in front of them is an offering table, upon which is a calf head, a wine vase, fruits, a pair of slaughtered birds and a bouquet of roses and under it there is a perfume jar. On the other side of the offerings table stands a woman wearing the same wig, collar and dress as tIt.i, extending her right hand. Both the offering and identification texts that accompany this figure are damaged.

The left part of the relief shows the scribe p3-šd-hnsw tht has the same wig, clothes and collar of his brother imn htp and he also holds a lotus flower up to his nose with his right hand and a handkerchief in his left hand. The only difference between them is that p3-šd-hnsw has a small beard and his wife t bikt n(t) Mwt wears the same wig, collar and dress as Imn htp’s wife and she adopts a similar pose. Like the first, the second couple sit on a chair with lion legs and a low back, before an offerings table on which two thighs of calf, a wine vase, fruits and a bouquet of roses and under the table there is a perfume jar.

The upper corners of the lintel were broken, and it was cracked in the middle.

Fig.1
II. Text Study:

A. The Right Part:

1. "Irt htp di nsw w'b sp-snw"

Making the offering which the king gives to be purified twice.

2. "N Wsir sš Imn htp  mš hrw in // // //"

To the deceased writer Amun Hotep¹, true of voice, by

3. "Wš b sš hsb "it n hmt ntr 'Imn htp  mš hrw"

The priest writer counter of barley (taxes) of God’s wife, Amun hotep true of voice.

4. "hmt. f nbt ëšš 'mš hrw"

His wife the lady ëšš, true of voice.

B. The left part:

5. "Irt htp di nsw w'b n Wsir sš w'b hsb //////////////"

Making the offering which the king gives, to the deceased priest writer counters (scribe of taxes)

6. "it n pr 'Imn Pššš-št-hnsnšš 'mš hrw"

¹ Gordon J., "The Graffiti of Khonso", 115, Graffito no.278. 96, PN I, 247, 15 Dyn. 22
² Wb 3, 167. 8-10; L. Lesko, A Dictionary of Late Egyptian, III (USA: B C Scribe Pubns, Providence 1987), 96; W. Ward, Index of Egyptian Administrative and Religious Titles of the Middle Kingdom (Beirut: American University of Beirut: 1982), 162 no. 1405
³ PN I. 59, 8
of barley of the temple of God Amun, Pashed- Khonso, true of voice.

"ḥmt.f nbt tḥ bḥkt n(t) Mwr Dst ḫrw"

His wife lady Ta Baket nt Mut, true of voice.

III. Comment:

a) This lintel was reused in the two brothers tomb because the current text was overwriting another older one and the traces of the older text still exist especially at the right part which belongs to Imn htp and between the two wives.

b) The column of hieroglyphs that contains the caption for the lady who is making the offerings on the table is damaged and her name is not preserved.

c) In line (2), the name of Amon from the name of the deceased Imn htp is damaged.

d) In line (2), the determinative at the end of imn htp’s name is written instead of the usual.

e) sš hsb: This title was known since the Old Kingdom and it appears often during the New Kingdom. The scribes who bear this title worked in the fields to collect information about the crops for calculating the state taxes.

f) Wḥb sš hsb: These two titles are uncommon and they appeared during the Late Period. They are perhaps related to the priest scribe who counted grain for the fields of the temples or who calculated taxes.

g) At line no.(5), the left part of the lintel has lost part of its corner, which contains parts of the htp di nsw formula (irt and n wsir wḥb sš are lost).

h) imn htp, father of priest of Amon Pẖ di mnw and son of the wḥb priest of Khonsu ḫr-hḫbyt (hr m ḫḥ bit).

i) Pẖ-šd-hnsw: The ḫḥb priest of Khonsu son of ḫr-hḫbyt, 22nd till 23rd Dynasty.

j) hnsw ms: His tomb was discovered at the Early of the 19th century, its contents were dispersed, in Porter and Moss. It was mentioned that this tomb belongs to hnsw ms and his family, so if there is a family connection with our two scribes they may have been buried in the same tomb.

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1 PN I. 119, 18; Gordon J., "The Graffiti of Khonso", 115, Graffito no. 251, 87
2 PN I. 356. 6
3 F. Daumas. Valeurs phonétiques des signes hiéroglyphiques d'époque gréco-romaine (Montpellier: Université de Montpellier, 1988), 63.1089
5 Gordon J., "The Graffiti of Khonso", Graffito no. 278, 96; PN I, 247, 15 Dyn. 22
6 Gordon J., "The Graffiti of Khonso", 115, Graffito no. 251, 87
7 PM. F, 672; PN I, 271, 7
k) *hm ntr*: This priestly title was first appeared at the beginning of the New Kingdom and from Dynasty XXI onwards it was always the king’s unmarried daughter or sister who was given the title of ‘God’s Wife’ which her role becomes increasingly important.

IV. Conclusion:

This reused door lintel belonged to two scribes; the $w^b$ priest of Khonsu and the scribe counter of the God’s wife, *imn htp* and the $w^b$ priest of Khonsu and the scribe counter of the temple of the God Amun, *Pš-šd- lnsw* and their wives. These two scribes were probably sons of the $w^b$ priest of Khonsu *hr-ḫbyt*. As shown in the graffiti of the foot at the roof of the temple of Khonsu at Karnak, this lintel dates back to 22nd till the 23rd dynasties and comes from their tomb which its position is unknown at Sheikh Abd El-Qurna. There is a tomb from the 21th dynasty that was found at the early of the 19th century and its contents has been dispersed; this tomb belongs to the $w^b$ priest of Khonsu, the scribe of the house of gold of Amun and the scribe of the treasury of the temple of Amun, *lnsw-ms* which exist in the same place. This scribe had a son whose name and title was the $w^b$ priest of Khonsu *hr-ḥbyt*. He may have been the grandfather grandfather of the two scribes who own this door lentil.

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2 $Hr-xbyt$ (Hr m Ax bit): PN I. 247, 15 Dyn. 22
3 Gordon J., "The Graffiti of Khonso", 111, Graffito no. 278 (graffiti of pA-di- мнw son of имн Htp) & 251(graffiti of pA-Sd-xnsw brother of имн Htp)
4 PM. I, 672; PN I, 271, 7
5 Gordon J., "The Graffiti of Khonso", Graffito no. 332-333. 117
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(Cairo JE.2213)
A Late Period Lintel at the Egyptian Museum
(Cairo JE.2213) Left part (detail)
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