

INSCRIPTION OF UNA.

VITH DYNASTY.

TRANSLATED BY
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THIS inscription found by M. Mariette and subsequently placed in the Museum of Boulaq at Cairo, has been published and translated by the late Vicomte Em. de Rougé, *Recherches sur les monuments: six premières dynasties*, 4to, Paris 1866, p. 117 and foll., pl. 7, 8; Brugsch-Bey, *Histoire d'Égypte*, 8vo, Leipzig 1875, p. 70 and foll. The whole of the text, owing to the difficult passages which are in it, has not been translated by M. de Rougé, but a precis of the whole was given, with interlinear versions of the most important passages. It is one of the oldest historical

texts known, and is of the period of the VIth dynasty. In it is found the earliest known mention of the Negroes, who seem at that remote period to have been conquered by the Egyptians and conscribed for their armies. This text is not only one of the oldest historical documents of ancient Egypt, but it is also of great interest. Unfortunately it is extremely difficult to translate, some portions being very obscure, and others mutilated or imperfect.



INSCRIPTION OF UNA.

- 1 I WAS made Crown Bearer of the Majesty (of the King) TETA, and (had) the dignity of Superintendent of the storehouse. The great house made me Registrar (Sacred Scribe) of the docks.
- 2 Chief of the coffer of the Majesty of (the King) PEPI, His Majesty gave me the rank of Companion, Scribe, Priest of the place of his pyramid
- 3 (gave me the dignity) of Scribe for a time¹ His Majesty was satisfied with me (beyond all his servants. (He gave me also) to be auditor of every (thing). I was also the (Royal Scribe), and officer of all the secrets.²
- 4 (I built) in the name of the King, the royal seat of the temple of the Hexapolis. The King was satisfied with me more than any of his chiefs,³ of his family,⁴ of his servants
- 5 any by the Majesty of the Divine Lord I brought a white stone sarcophagus from the land of Ruau,⁵ His Majesty made me sail (there) as a Divine Sealer and Crown Bearer.
- 6 I (departed) under his orders bringing this sarcophagus from Ruau.⁵ It came thence brought in the great boat of the inner palace with its cover,
- 7 a door, 2 jambs and a *pedestal*⁶ never before was the like done by any servant, for it was a perfect pleasure to the heart of His Majesty.
- 8 It was a complete contentment to the heart of His

¹ Or, "scribe for a time:" temporary scribe.

² A kind of Secretary of State. ³ *Sar*, "chiefs," or "eunuchs."

⁴ *Sahu*, "mummies," family or ancestors.

⁵ Or, *Rufhu*, the Mons Troicus, or Tourah quarries. ⁶ Or, basin.

- Majesty, I was satisfying His Majesty when I was (a Sacred Scribe).¹ His Majesty made me sole companion of the palace, Superintendent of the (dock)
- 9 of the . . . of the King, Superintendent of the land of Khent. I was also doing the wishes of His Majesty in making what was approved, in doing the paths of the King, in setting me up as Chief I also
- 10 made His Majesty satisfied with it above all things, and receiver of things in the royal seat for the great royal wife AMTES in private. His Majesty appointed me to be auditor of each. There was not
- 11 any Royal Scribe, Magistrate, or Chief there except me alone so greatly to the contentment of the heart of His Majesty, and satisfying His Majesty there. I was made sole Scribe
- 12 and sole secret Scribe while my rank in the palace was Superintendent of the land of Khent; never was like an auditor of secrets of the palace before except when His Majesty appointed
- 13 one on account of the great confidence of His Majesty more than all his Chiefs, all his family,² all his servants. His Majesty turned the things of the Amu of the Herusha.³
- 14 His Majesty made soldiers of numerous ten thousands in the land of the South, likewise (he went up) from Northern Abu⁴ in the land of the North from the also those
- 15 in the land of Ster, within the land of Ster⁵ in the land

¹ Or, scribe for a time: or of the "door" or "mouth," temporary scribe.

² *Sahu*, literally "mummies," or "departed persons."

³ The *Herusha* are the Bedouins or Arab tribes of the Eastern desert.

⁴ Elephantine.

⁵ The name of this city is determined by three walls,

- of Aarut, the Negroes from Nam,¹ the Negroes from Amam the Negroes
- 16 from Uauat,² the Negroes from Kau,³ the Negroes from the land of Takam. His Majesty placed me at the head of that army.
- 17 Lo the Nomarchs, the Chancellors, the sole friends of the palace, the Superintendents, the Rulers of the nomes of the North and South, the friends, Superintendents of gold,
- 18 the Superintendent of the Priests of the South and North, the Superintendents of the register and at the head Officers of the South and the land of the North, and of the cities (drilled)⁴ the Negroes of these lands.
- 19 I made the arrangement; lo my rank in the palace was Superintendent of the land of Khent making a road to the place to the best of my hands.⁵ I was alone there as a second of His (Majesty)⁶
- 20 to the best of my power there; I was alone there bread and sandals in hand⁷ going in the road to the best of leading. I was alone there, laden in every place
- 21 to the best of my leading one of each of (his) family, of all persons, they placed them at the pool of the North, the morning of the day of bringing in peace the footstool of HORUS Lord of Truth, then were the of
- 22 all good things. Went the of that force, never was there a better going of any servants; this force came
- 23 in safety finding as it wished the land of Herusha. (Went) this army in safety it subdued the land of Herusha.

¹ Or, Tam.

² These were close to Egypt.

³ Or, Karau.

⁴ Rather, "they likewise," "also," "of."

⁵ Ability.

⁶ *Em sen*, perhaps "without a second," or, "one there of two."

⁷ Or, possibly, "having bread, and sandals in my hand," the word *χat* for food or bread occurs elsewhere.

- 24 This army came in safety it built the fortresses of Herusha. This army came safely it cut down
 25 its figs and its grapes, this army came safely it set fire to all (the dwellings) . . . all the (Negroes.) Came this army
 26 in safety it bound¹ the troops there by many ten thousands. This army came safely (it took the enemy)
 27 there very many in number as living captives His Majesty was pleased at it above all things. His Majesty sent me to set right
 28 five times, to subdue the land of Herusha to subdue their revolt by this force (His Majesty) was pleased at it beyond everything,
 29 saying, having revolted the natives of this tribe of the land of Khetam,² safely to Takhisa³ I sailed
 30 again in boats with this force. I subdued this country from the extreme frontier
 31 on the North of the land of Herusha. Then was ordered this army on the road. They subdued them also
 32 smiting all opponents there. The place was thrown under my sandals. The King of Upper and Lower Egypt MERENRA the Divine Lord the ever living gave me
 33 to be a Duke, Governor of the South ascending from Abu⁴ to the North of the nome *Letopolis*. I very much pleased His Majesty, I (greatly) pleased His Majesty to the satisfaction of His Majesty.
 34 I kept them under my sandals, His Majesty praised (me) on account of it selecting me that I was made in the place of a Chief more than all his Chiefs, all his household,
 35 all his servants. Never was this dignity granted to any servant before. He appointed me also Governor of the

¹ Or, "killed."² Or, "fortress."³ *Ter-hebu*, according to Brugsch.⁴ Elephantine.

- South. I attended to the best of my hands in it, without a second¹
- 36 making all the constructions, and preparing all the things (which were) to be prepared for the inner palace in that land of the South redoubling every hour the preparations for the palace in that land of the South a second time made the Chief of
- 37 constructing in that land. Never was the like done in the South before, and was praised on account of it. His Majesty sent me
- 38 to Abha to bring (for) the living Lord the sarcophagus of the living with its cover and pyramidion, a (statue)² for the pyramid Shanefer of the (King) MERENRA, the Divine Ruler.
- 39 His Majesty sent me to Abu³ to bring a granite doorway with sill, granite doors and lintels,
- 40 to bring a granite doorway, and sills, of the cornice on it, for the Shanefer pyramid of MERENRA, the Divine Ruler. I transported
- 41 (them) forthwith to the Shanefer pyramid of the King MERENRA in 6 boats of burthen three towing boats, 3 boats of 8 lengths, for the troops one vessel, never was there at Abha
- 42 (and) Abu³ a vessel of war in days of any King. All things were (according) to (what) His Majesty had ordered, all things were so, according to all the orders of His Majesty there. His Majesty sent me
- 43 to Hanub to bring a great slab⁴ of alabaster of Hanub I also extracted that slab in 17 days. Extracted from Hanub⁵ to place in its boat, to transport it in that boat of burthen

¹ *Em nem* or "again." ² Or *xet*, "valuable." ³ Elephantine.

⁴ Or, load, *hetp* is a table, or altar. A boat of 60 cubits long or about 100 feet would take in a *load* or slab.

⁵ The present alabaster quarries at Benoub-el-hammam near Siont.

- 44 I made for it a boat of burthen in the little dock 60 cubits in length and 30 in its breadth, put together in 17 days in the month of Epiphi. Then there was not
- 45 water in the turns (of the river) to tow to the pyramid Shanefer of MERENRA safely. It was done forthwith by me before the god.¹ His Majesty the Divine Lord ordered and sent me to excavate 4 docks²
- 46 in the South for 3 boats of burthen, 4 transports in the small basin of the land of Uauat. The Rulers of the countries of Areret, Aam, and Matam,
- 47 supplied the wood for them. It was made in about a year at the time of the inundation loaded with very much granite for the Shanefer pyramid of MERENRA. Then was made (to be constructed)
- 48 an edifice in these four docks likewise to adorn the worship³ of the spirits of the King of Upper and Lower Egypt MERENRA ever living (more than all the gods) for all things were done
- 49 before the god⁴ as His Divine Majesty ordered. I was the beloved of his father, the praised of his mother, the Chief,
- 50 the delight of his brethren, the Duke,⁵ the Governor of the South, the truly devoted to OSIRIS was I.

¹ *Xeft-hu*, "the face," *hu* replaces the determinative.

² Brugsch reads, "to cut down 4 forests."

³ Here an unintelligible phrase, it may be "a statue" or "chapel of taanau stone."

⁴ King.

⁵ Or, *ha*, "chief."



END OF SAMPLE TEXT



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