

TABLET OF ALEXANDER ÆGUS II,  
SON OF ALEXANDER THE GREAT.

---

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN BY  
S. M. DRACH.

---

IN the *Zeitschrift f. Ægypt. Sprach.*, Jan., 1871, M. Brugsch has given an inscription on a slab of black basalt, covered with Egyptian representations and texts, which was found in excavating the foundations of a ruinous house in Cairo. On the top of the tablet is represented a diadem-crowned king, bestowing on Horus, lord of the land of Pe, a field on his left hand, and to the right paying homage by food and drink to Buto, the lady-goddess of the cities of Pe and Tep.<sup>1</sup> The inscription is dated in the seventh year, month Thoth, of Alexander the second,<sup>2</sup> by his satrap Ptolemæus, who afterwards

<sup>1</sup> The capital of the XIXth nome of Lower Egypt.

<sup>2</sup> Alexander Ægus reigned from B.C. 317 to B.C. 311, when he was murdered by Cassander (*Birch*).

ruled as the actual king, and in it he restores the regions about those two towns to the deities Horus and Buto, whom Xerxes had impiously deprived of their temple revenues. The king Khabash, or Khabas, who is mentioned in the tablet, was a native prince, and the opponent of Xerxes I.

The king here recorded, Alexander Ægus, was the unhappy son of Alexander the Great and Roxana. After his father's death, his mother fled with him to Cassander, who in concert with Olympias, put both of them to death in 309 B.C.,<sup>1</sup> when the Prince was about twelve years old. This tablet recognises his succession to his father's general rule though himself yet a minor.

See further a paper upon this tablet by Dr. Birch in *Trans. Soc. Bib. Arch.*, Vol. I., p. 20.

<sup>1</sup> According to Brugsch-Bey.



DECREE OF PTOLEMY LAGIDES, THE SATRAP.

---

- 1 IN the year seven, beginning of inundation, and the  
 Holiness of HORUS,  
 2 the youthful, rich in strength, Lord of the diadems,  
 loving the gods  
 3 (who) gave him his father's dignity, the golden HORUS,  
 the ruler  
 4 in the whole world, King of Upper and Lower Egypt,  
 Lord  
 5 of both lands, delight of AMEN'S heart, chosen by the  
 sun,<sup>1</sup> Son  
 6 of the Sun, of ALEXANDER the immortal, of the gods of  
 the city Pe (and) Tep  
 7 the friend. He being as King in the stranger's world,  
 as was His Holiness  
 8 in Inner Asia, so there was a great Viceroy in Egypt,  
 PTOLEMÆUS  
 9 was he called. A person of youthful energy was he,  
 strong in both arms,  
 10 prudent of mind, powerful amidst men, of firm courage,  
 steady foot,  
 11 repelling the raging, not turning his back, striking the  
 face  
 12 of his foes amidst their combat. When he had seized  
 the bow  
 13 not a shot is from the opponent<sup>2</sup> a flourish of his  
 sword in

<sup>1</sup> "Joy of Amen, the choice of the sun," an allusive compliment to his father, Alexander the Great being the son of Jupiter Ammon.

<sup>2</sup> The meaning is, his bow was so unerring that his opponent was at once shot down, and his fencing so good it killed his adversary.

- 14 the fight no one could stand his ground, of mighty hand,  
nor
- 15 was his hand repulsed, nor repented he of what his  
mouth utters,
- 16 none is like him in the stranger's world. He had  
restored the sculptures
- 17 of the gods, found in Asia, and all the furniture and  
books of the temples
- 18 of Northern and Southern Egypt, he had restored them  
to their place. He had made
- 19 as his residence the fortress of the King, "Loving the  
name of AMEN the sun-chosen
- 20 the Son of the Sun, ALEXANDER,"<sup>1</sup> as it is called on the  
shore of the great sea
- 21 of the Ionians.<sup>2</sup> Rakotis was its former name. He had  
gathered Ionians
- 22 many and their cavalry (and) their numerous ships, with  
their crew.
- 23 When he marched with his men to the Syrians' land,  
who were
- 24 at war with him, he penetrated its interior, his courage  
was as mighty as
- 25 the eagle<sup>3</sup> amongst the young birds. He took them at  
one stroke, he led
- 26 their princes, their cavalry, their ships, their works of  
art, all to Egypt.<sup>4</sup>
- 27 After this, when he set out for the region of Mermerti,<sup>5</sup>  
he took

<sup>1</sup> This long title is the name of the city of Alexandria.

<sup>2</sup> The Mediterranean Sea.

<sup>3</sup> Vulture.

<sup>4</sup> This refers to the defeat of Demetrius at Palai Gaza (Old Gaza) by Ptolemy, B.C. 312.

<sup>5</sup> The ancient Marmarica.

- 28 it in one time, he brought home their folk, men, women,  
 29 with their horses, as revenge for what they did to Egypt.  
 When  
 30 he arrived in Egypt, his heart was rejoicing on what he  
 had done,  
 31 he solemnized a holiday, (and) this great Viceroy  
 seeking  
 32 the best for the gods of Upper Egypt (and) Lower  
 Egypt. Spoke to him  
 33 his Sidesman,<sup>1</sup> and the Elders of Lower Egypt, the  
 maritime land  
 34 called land of Buto, whereto the King had an Image of  
 TANEN<sup>2</sup>  
 35 chosen by PTAH, Son of the Sun, KHABASH, ever-living,  
 to the gods  
 36 of Pe (and) Tep after His Holiness had gone to Pe-  
 Tep to  
 37 investigate the littoral,<sup>3</sup> all in their domain, to go into  
 38 the inner marshes, to see each arm of the Nile, that  
 goeth into  
 39 the great sea, to keep back Asia's fleet from Egypt.  
 Spake  
 40 His Holiness to his Sidesman,<sup>1</sup> This littoral country I  
 wish  
 41 to learn about. They spoke before His Holiness, The  
 sea-land, the land of  
 42 Buto is its name, was from old the property of the gods  
 of Pe-Tep, it was overthrown

<sup>1</sup> That is, the Chief Councillor, who stood at the side of the king.

<sup>2</sup> The Pigmy Pthah, called also Tatanen.

<sup>3</sup> The littoral district of the Delta is called Patanut, known to Classics and Copts, the Phthenetu of Pliny, belonging to the great Pharmutiachian mouth of the Nile. Hermopolis is the "Northern Unnu" (another Unnu is in Southern Upper Egypt).

- 43 by foe XERXES, who never gave anything to the gods  
44 of Pe-Tep. Then spake His Holiness to bring to him  
the Priests  
45 (and) Archons of Pe-Tep. They hastily brought (them)  
to him.  
46 His Holiness said, I wish to know the souls of the gods  
of Pe-Tep  
47 about this? What they did to the impious for the bad  
action he had done?  
48 They replied, The impious XERXES had acted wrong-  
fully to  
49 Pe-Tep, he took away his possession. They spake to  
His Holiness the King,  
50 Lord and HORUS, Son of ISIS, Son of OSIRIS, Ruler of  
Rulers, King  
51 of Kings of Upper Egypt, King of Kings of Lower  
Egypt, avenger of his father, Lord of Pe,  
52 origin of the gods, there being afterwards no King like  
him, threw away  
53 the impious XERXES from his palace with his eldest son,  
54 making themselves known in the city Saïs of NEITH on  
this day at the side  
55 of the Holy Mother. Thus spake His Holiness, This  
mighty god amongst the gods,  
56 there is no King after him, may he be bestowed on the  
way of  
57 holiness! I swear it. Then spake the Priests (and)  
Archons of  
58 Pe-Tep, May Your Holiness decree, to give the littoral,  
the land  
59 of Buto it is called, to the gods of Pe-Tep, with bread,  
drinks, oxen, birds,  
60 all good things, that it may be renewed in thy name for  
its donation

- 61 to the gods of Pe-Tep a second time, as remunerating  
the distinguishing  
62 action of thine. Then answered this great Viceroy :  
Let a decree be made  
63 in writing at the seat of the King's scribe of the audit  
64 to this effect. PTOLEMÆUS, Satrap of land of Buto, I  
give  
65 it to HORUS the avenger of his father, Lord of Pe, (and)  
to BUTO, the Lady  
66 of Pe-Tep, from this day and for ever, with its villages  
all,  
67 its cities all, all its inhabitants, all its meads, all its  
waters,  
68 all its oxen, all its birds, all its cattle herds,  
69 (and) all things produced therein, what was (formerly)  
and its additions (and) with the donation given by King,  
70 Lord of both lands, KHABASH, everliving.<sup>1</sup> Its South  
limit is domain of  
71 the city Buto<sup>2</sup> and Hermopolis,<sup>3</sup> on the North against the  
mouths of the Nile  
72 on the North, the downs on the shore of the great sea,  
on the West the mouths  
73 of the oarsmen<sup>4</sup> . . . .<sup>5</sup> against the downs in the East  
of the nome

<sup>1</sup> This Khabas was the legitimate ruler of the country under the Persian dominion, probably in the reign of Xerxes I., whom he revolted against and expelled, together with his eldest son, from the town of Sais. According to Lepsius, Khabash was the first king of the XXVIIIth dynasty; the name occurs on one of the Apis sarcophagi in the Serapeum, but its date is uncertain.

<sup>2</sup> Possibly represented by the modern ruins of Kum el Aman and Kum el Giz at the entrance of Lake Barullos.

<sup>3</sup> In the XVth nome of Lower Egypt, probably represented by the ruins of Kum Ferrain.

<sup>4</sup> The city of Sekhur, or "the pliers of rudders;" this was situated on the northern portion of the Borella branch of the Nile.

<sup>5</sup> Lacuna.

- 74 of Sebennys, so that its calves may be for the Great Hawk, its oxen  
 75 for the face of NEBTAUI-T, its cattle for the Living Hawk, its milk  
 76 to the Glorious Child,<sup>1</sup> its birds to him in Sa, who . . .<sup>2</sup> life  
 77 his . . . . .<sup>2</sup> is, all the fruits of its ground on the table of  
 of  
 78 HORUS himself, Lord of Pe, and of Buto (lady) to the crown of RA-HARMACHIS  
 79 for ever. All which is given to the utmost by the King, Lord of both lands,  
 80 Image of TANEN, chosen by PTAH, Son of the Sun, KHABASH,  
 81 ever-living, (and the gift) is renewed by this great ruling Viceroy of Egypt,  
 82 PTOLEMÆUS, the donations to the gods of Pe-Tep for ever. In reward of this  
 83 for what he has done, may he receive victory and strength to his heart's content,  
 84 so that he may always be dreaded as now by strange people. The land of  
 85 Buto, whoever tries to plan its removal of any part  
 86 thereof, let him be excommunicated by those in Pe, let him  
 87 be cursed by those in Tep, that he may be in the burning breath of  
 88 the goddess APTAUI<sup>3</sup> on the day of her dread, with neither a son nor a daughter to give him water.

<sup>1</sup> Horus Harpakhrut.<sup>2</sup> Lacunæ.<sup>3</sup> One of the goddesses of the *Akar*, or hell.



# END OF SAMPLE TEXT



The Complete Text can be found on our CD:  
**Primary Literary Sources For Ancient Literature**  
which can be purchased on our Website :  
[www.Brainfly.net](http://www.Brainfly.net)

or

by sending **\$64.95** in check or money order to :  
**Brainfly Inc.**  
**5100 Garfield Ave. #46**  
**Sacramento CA 95841-3839**

## **TEACHER'S DISCOUNT:**

If you are a **TEACHER** you can take advantage of our teacher's discount. Click on **Teachers Discount** on our website ([www.Brainfly.net](http://www.Brainfly.net)) or **Send us \$55.95** and we will send you a full copy of *Primary Literary Sources For Ancient Literature* **AND** our *5000 Classics CD (a collection of over 5000 classic works of literature in electronic format (.txt))* plus our *Wholesale price list*.

If you have any suggestions such as books you would like to see added to the collection or if you would like our wholesale prices list please send us an email to:

[webcomments@brainfly.net](mailto:webcomments@brainfly.net)