

# On the saite epithet *wr m nTrt*, the great one in Netjerit

## Opinion

The epithet of the Late Saite non-royal elite member, Neshor Named Psamtikmenkhib, *wr m NTrt* “the Great One in Netjerit”<sup>1</sup>, is interesting and requires a further comment. The first holder of this epithet was the ruler of Sais, Tefnakht, in the great victory stela of Piye<sup>2</sup>. According to JJ Clère, the vizier Bakenrenef, a contemporary of Psamtik I, held this epithet on his libation basin, probably from his tomb at Saqqara<sup>3</sup>. The Late Saite official Wahibre, from the reign of Amasis, had this epithet on his statue Cairo CG 672<sup>4</sup>. The owner of shabti Vienna no. 5285, the Thirtieth Dynasty<sup>5</sup> official Djed Hor also held this epithet as HATj-a *wr m NTrt m P dp* “the HATj-a, the great one in Netjerit, and in Pe and Dep”<sup>6</sup>. This refers to the existence of this epithet in Buto as well. The shabti of Tjanefer, also of this dynasty, has HATj-a *wr m NTrt*<sup>7</sup>. Yet another Thirtieth Dynasty<sup>8</sup> monument, statue Cairo JE 43778 of Nectanebo, from the central Delta not far from Sais, gives *jrj-pat HATj-a wr m NTrt*<sup>9</sup>. In addition to Behbeit (Hebyt), the geographical locality of NTrt is sometimes connected

<sup>1</sup>I dedicate this article to my late teacher of Mesopotamian history at the Faculty of Archaeology, Cairo University, Dr. Gaballa Ali Gaballa, Professor of History of Ancient Egypt and Near East.

<sup>2</sup>See NC Grimal (1981) *La stèle triomphale de Pi(ankhy) au Musée du Caire*: JE 48862 et 47086-47089, Paris 5(L.3), 5(12).

<sup>3</sup>See JJ Clère (1982) *Un bassin à libations du vizir Bakenrenef*. ASAE 68, 84(4-5).

<sup>4</sup>See L Borchardt (1930) *Statuen und Statuetten von Königen und Privatleuten im Museum von Kairo Nr. 1-1294*. Vol III, Berlin, 18-20; G Posener (1947) *Les Douanes de la Méditerranée dans l'Égypte Saïte*, RPLHA 21(5): 124, J Yoyotte (2012) *Les principautés du delta au temps de l'anarchie libyenne* (2nd éd.), Le Caire 155(8), H De (1956) *Meulenaere Trois Personnages Saïtes*. CdÉ 31(5): 252, R El-Sayed (1975) *Documents relatifs à Saïs et ses divinités*, Le Caire 6: 73-93, C Favard-Meeks (1991) *Le temple de Behbeit el-Hagara : Essai de reconstitution et d'interprétation*, Hamburg, pp. 389.

<sup>5</sup>JJ Clère (1951) *Une statuette du fils aîné du roi Nectanabô*, RdE 6: 144 wants to date statue Cairo JE 43778 of Nectanebo to the beginning of the Ptolemaic Period on the ground of the presence of the graphical sign of *jmj-rA*, (Clère reads *mr* and translates “chef”), which is also used in this Thirtieth Dynasty shabti. For the writing of this military title, see W Wreszinski (1906) *Aegyptische Inschriften aus dem KK Hofmuseum in Wien*, Leipzig pp. 185.

<sup>6</sup>For this example, see Wreszinski, *Aegyptische Inschriften aus dem KK Hofmuseum in Wien*, 185, who translates “Grosser Fürst in Buto.” De Meulenaere, “Trois Personnages Saïtes” 6: 252, Yoyotte, *Les principautés du Delta au temps de l'anarchie libyenne* 7: 155, W Helck (1974) *Die altägyptischen Gauen*, Wiesbaden 181; Favard Meeks *Le temple de Behbeit el-Hagara* 389-390.

<sup>7</sup>See JL Chappaz (1984) *Les figurines funéraires égyptiennes du Musée d'art et d'histoire et de quelques collections privées*. Genève 158: 123-124, Favard-Meeks, *Le temple de Behbeit el-Hagara* 390.

<sup>8</sup>This statue should be dated to the Thirtieth Dynasty, see Favard-Meeks, *Le temple de Behbeit el-Hagara*, 687: 390, who does not support the opinion of Clère, “Une statuette du fils aîné du roi Nectanabô” 144[R] and dates it to the Thirtieth Dynasty.

<sup>9</sup>See G Daressy (1912) *Statue de Kom Ebchan* ASAE 12: 281-2 who translates it “le prince, gouverneur, grand dans Nutrit”; see also De Meulenaere, “Trois Personnages Saïtes” 7: 252, Yoyotte, *Les principautés du Delta au temps de l'anarchie libyenne* 6: 155, Favard-Meeks, *Le temple de Behbeit el-Hagara* 390, miswrites the word *wr*.

Volume 2 Issue 3 - 2017

Hussein Bassir

Director of the Antiquities Museum, Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Egypt

**Correspondence:** Hussein Bassir, Director of the Antiquities Museum, Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Egypt, Email [housseinbassir2001@yahoo.com](mailto:housseinbassir2001@yahoo.com)

**Received:** November 16, 2017 | **Published:** December 13, 2017

with Sebennytos, Sema-Behedet, and Sais<sup>10</sup>.

This honorific epithet has received different readings and translations. H De Meulenaere reads it *wr m NTrt* and mentions many instances, in addition to that of Neshor, in which it occurs<sup>11</sup>. C Favard Meeks<sup>12</sup> reads and translates *wr m NTrt* as a separate title after with the title HATj-a<sup>13</sup> as “HATj-a *wr m NTrw*<sup>14</sup> Le comte, grand dans NTrw.” G Vittmann<sup>15</sup> points out that Pabasa and others held the title “HATj-a *wr m WAst*.” He states that the correct reading should be (HATj-a + *wr*) *m WAst*, and not HATj-a + (*wr m WAst*). That means he considers *wr* as an adjective of HATj-a, rather than standing in its own right as an adjective functions as a noun, “the great one”<sup>16</sup>.

The title HATj-a + place name was common in the Late Period<sup>17</sup>. The preposition *m* and the genitival article *n* were used to connect the adjectival noun *wr* with its toponym. H De Meulenaere<sup>18</sup> refers to the existence of the title HATj-a *wr m*<sup>19</sup> and the title HATj-a *wr n*<sup>20</sup>.

<sup>10</sup>See Favard-Meeks, *Le temple de Behbeit el-Hagara* 683: 389. For more see also C Favard-Meeks (2002) *Les toponymes Nétjer et leurs liens avec Behbeit el-Hagara et Coptos* Topoi Supplément 3: 29-45.

<sup>11</sup>Meulenaere *Trois Personnages Saïtes*. 252-253. I have recently discussed this epithet in my book, albeit in much less detail; see H Bassir (2014) *Image and Voice in Saite Egypt: Self-Presentations of Neshor Named Psamtikmenkhib and Payeftjaemawyneith*, Tucson, p. 58-59.

<sup>12</sup>See Favard-Meeks, *Le temple de Behbeit el-Hagara*, p. 389.

<sup>13</sup>De Meulenaere, “Trois Personnages Saïtes”, 252(4) previously made this point.

<sup>14</sup>Favard Meeks, *Le temple de Behbeit el-Hagara* 389 ff., is not consistent and reads *nTrt* as *NTrw*, *NTr* and *NTrj*. However, Clère, “Une statuette du fils aîné du roi Nectanabô”, 144 [R], translates “Neterou.”

<sup>15</sup>G Vittmann (1977) *Neues zu Pabasa, Obermajordomus der Nitokris SAK* 5(36): 255.

<sup>16</sup>The book of the temple distinguishes between HATj-a *wr* and HATj-a *jmj-jxt*.

<sup>17</sup>See De Meulenaere (1958) *Le Vizir Harsiësis de la 30e Dynastie*. MDIAK 16: 233. There are more recent discussions of this title and combination of HATj-a *wr m/n*, see O Perdu (2006) *Documents relatifs aux gouverneurs du Delta au début de la XXVIe dynastie* RdÉ 57: 151-88; I Guerneur (2004) *Le groupe familial de Pachéryentaisouy*. Caire JE 36576 BIFAO 104: 245-89.

<sup>18</sup>There are more recent discussions of this title and combination of HATj-a *wr m/n*, see Perdu, *Documents relatifs aux gouverneurs du Delta au début de la XXVIe dynastie* 151-188; Guerneur *Le groupe familial de Pachéryentaisouy*. Caire JE 36576 pp. 245-89.

<sup>19</sup>See De Meulenaere *Le Vizir Harsiësis de la 30e Dynastie*. 7: 233.

<sup>20</sup>See De Meulenaere *Le Vizir Harsiësis de la 30e Dynastie*. 6: 233.

E Graefe<sup>21</sup> refers to the formation of the title wr m/n + toponym with or without HAtj-a. H Ranke<sup>22</sup> mentions another form of it associated with NTrt, “*HAtj-a n mr-NTrt*.”

## Conclusion

It is obvious that the formation of Neshor’s epithet wr m NTrt is different because it independently stands in its own right, and is not directly attached to his title HAtj-a, because his title xtmj-bjtj

<sup>21</sup>E Graefe III (1978) *Stellung, Familie und Herkunft des 'Ankh-Hor'*, In: M Bietak and E Reiser-Haslauer, *Das Grab des 'Ankh-Hor: Obersthofmeister der Gottesgemahlin Nitokris I, mit einem Beitrag von E Graefe und Relief und Fundzeichnungen von H Satzinger*, vol I, Wien 47; id. “(1974) *Die vermeintliche unterägyptische Herkunft des Ibi, Obermajordomus der Nitokris*. SAK I: 202 A4.

<sup>22</sup>H Ranke (1907) *Statue eines hohen Beamten unter Psammetich I*. ZÄS 44: 42-54.

separates the two<sup>23</sup>. The designation of this epithet holder is not exactly known; however, H Kees characterizes it as a Saite honorific specification, while De Meulenaere<sup>24</sup> states that it neither attaches its holder to the families of Behbeit nor confirms whether he was originating from the Delta.

## Acknowledgement

None.

## Conflict of Interest

Author declares that there is no conflict of interest.

<sup>23</sup>De Meulenaere *Trois Personnages Saïtes*. 4: 252 pointed out that the title wr m nTrt is not attached to the title HAtj-a as in the other examples that he brings up.

<sup>24</sup>See De Meulenaere *Trois Personnages Saïtes*. pp. 253.