

# Dedication texts of tombs and their objects in the old kingdom private tombs

## Abstract

This article deals with the dedication texts of the Old Kingdom private tombs. These texts are collected from the tombs. The commentary considers the distribution of the texts in the Old Kingdom cemeteries, positions of writing these texts, dating of the texts, dedicators and those to whom the dedications were made, and context and construction of the dedication texts.

**Keywords:** old kingdom, dedicators, *ir.t(w)*, *nw*, *dd.f*, statue, main entrance, false door, offering table, sarcophagus

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**Saleh Soleiman,<sup>1</sup> Marwa Sayed<sup>2</sup>**
<sup>1</sup>Egyptology Department, Faculty of Archaeology, Damietta University, Egypt.

<sup>2</sup>Egyptology Department, Faculty of Archaeology, Fayoum University, Egypt

**Correspondence:** Saleh Soleiman, Department of Egyptology, Faculty of Archaeology, Damietta University, Egypt, Email saleh\_suleima82@yahoo.com

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## Introduction

The Ancient Egyptian tomb during the Old Kingdom was decorated with different scenes and writings. The dedication texts, which were inscribed on parts of the tomb or its funerary objects, formed part of this decoration. They state who built the tomb, or parts of it, and presented and dedicated it to the tomb owner. These texts are either written in the direct speech of the dedicator, using the suffix pronoun of the first person, or written without using this direct speech.

## Research methodology

This study is concerned with the presentations made by one individual to another. The king's presentations to individuals are excluded from this study and will be studied in a separate article. The texts which state the signature, titles and names of the artists are also excluded because they are not strictly dedication texts as the artists would have been paid for their work.<sup>1-3</sup> Also, these texts were the subject of another study.<sup>1</sup>

Strudwick collected some of these tomb texts, dividing them into two categories: private legal texts and dedicatory texts. These were translated but not analyzed.<sup>2</sup> El Saket tried to study these texts in Arabic. His study was only in the Memphite necropolis and the province cemeteries are not included. In this study, many texts that were not dedication texts were also included and studied as dedication texts, such as the text of Khufuseneb II, Neferenkhufo, Shetui, Kaennesut II, Redines, Ptahhotep-deshet, and Nefermaat.<sup>3</sup> Also, this study did not include many dedication texts such as that

of Iabtet,<sup>4</sup> Gerf,<sup>5</sup> Mersiankh III,<sup>6</sup> Nefertjes,<sup>7</sup> Iymerery and his wife persent,<sup>8</sup> Pekhernefret,<sup>9</sup> Sehy,<sup>10</sup> Seni,<sup>11</sup> Sethu,<sup>12</sup> Demedi,<sup>13</sup> Nikaankh,<sup>14</sup> Tepemankh II,<sup>15</sup> Seshu,<sup>16</sup> and Nikauptah.<sup>17</sup> Moreover, this study did not include all the positions of writing the dedication texts, nor all the cemeteries that contain these texts, nor the dating, nor all the dedicators and those to whom the dedications were made, nor all the context and construction of these texts.<sup>4-16</sup>

Here, in our study, we tried to covers more texts than Strudwick's and Al-Saket's studies: in all, about 78 texts from the Old Kingdom. These texts are categorized and listed in a table in chronological order from north-south, including the location of the tomb included dedication texts, dating, writing position, and context of these texts. Then we have a commentary that includes examining each of these elements listed in the Table 1.

<sup>4</sup>PM. III<sup>2</sup>, 134; Junker, Giza, I, 22–23, Abb. 51; Urk. I, 155 [4 (95)].

<sup>5</sup>PM. III<sup>2</sup>, 67.

<sup>6</sup>PM. III<sup>2</sup>, 197–199; Roveri, Sarcophagi Egizi, 119, tav. xxviii [1]; Dunham and Simpson, Mersiankh III, 21, 23, pl. xvii, fig. 14.

<sup>7</sup>Fischer, Egyptian Studies I, Varia, 19–21, pl. iv [1]; Roquet, BIFAO 77, 119–127, fig. 1.

<sup>8</sup>PM. III<sup>2</sup>, 99; Fisher, Minor Cemetery, 143–145, pls. 48, 50 [6].

<sup>9</sup>Saleh, MDAIK 30, 149–150, pl. 31.

<sup>10</sup>PM. III<sup>2</sup>, 447; Martin, Hetepka, 31, pl. 31 [72].

<sup>11</sup>PM. III<sup>2</sup>, 683; Jequier, Monument funéraire, III, 55, fig. 55.

<sup>12</sup>PM. III<sup>2</sup>, 698; Borchardt, Statuen, I, 130, Bl. 40.

<sup>13</sup>PM. III<sup>2</sup>, 729; Scott, BMMA 11, 116–118.

<sup>14</sup>PM. III<sup>2</sup>, 505; Borchardt, Statuen, I, 58.

<sup>15</sup>PM. III<sup>2</sup>, 482–484; Borchardt, Denkmäler, I, 84–91, Bls. 19, 20; Mariette, Mastabas, 200–201.

<sup>16</sup>PM. III<sup>2</sup>, 768; Borchardt, Denkmäler, I, 29.

<sup>17</sup>PM. III<sup>2</sup>, 744–745; Urk. I, 227 [S, B]; Strudwick, Administration, 106; Fischer, Varia Nova, 34, fig. 4.

<sup>1</sup>Kanawati and Woods, Artists in the Old Kingdom.

<sup>2</sup>Strudwick, Texts. 185–206, 239–250.

<sup>3</sup>El Saket, Texts of Dedication, 11–12, 16–21, 64–65, 128, 134–135.

**Table 1** Tombs nos. I–78

No.	Tomb	Location	Dating	Writing Position	Context	References
I	Mersiankh III	Giza East Field	Fourth Dynasty	- The Sarcophagus in Cairo museum JE 54935	- The mother made this sarcophagus for her daughter.	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 197–199; Roveri, Sarcophagi Egizi, 119, tav. xxviii [1]; <sup>4</sup> Dunham and Simpson, Mersiankh III, 21, 23, pl. xvii, <sup>5</sup> fig. 14.
	<i>mr.s-ḥ</i>			- The Statue in Boston Museum No. 30.1457	- The son made this statue for his mother.	
	G 7530 + 7540					

Table I Continued...

No.	Tomb	Location	Dating	Writing Position	Context	References
2	Nefertwenenes	Saqqara	Fourth Dynasty	Maybe a separate Stela or a part of false Door	Grandson made this stela for his grandmother	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 736; Borchardt, Denkmäler, I, 54–55, <sup>6</sup> Bl. 14; Urk. I, 228 [5 (145), E].
	<i>nfrt-wn.s</i>	Exact Position unknown				
3	Sesheu	Saqqara	Fourth Dynasty	The Offering Basin in Cairo Museum CG 1365	Grandson made this offering basin for his grandfather	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 768; Borchardt, Denkmäler, I, 29; Urk. I, 228 [5 (145), F]. <sup>6</sup>
	<i>sšw</i> C 18	Exact Position unknown				
4	Unknown Person	Unknown place, seen in a dealer Shop	Probably Fourth Dynasty	The False Door	The son made this false door for his father	Urk. I, 9 [7]
5	labtet	Giza	Fourth Dynasty	The False Door was made in the Fifth Dynasty.	Kai (possibly the son) made this false door for his mother.	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 134; Junker, Giza, I, 22–23, <sup>7</sup> Abb. 51; Urk. I, 155 [4 (95)].
	<i>l3bt</i>	West Field				
6	Senedjemib–Inti	Giza	Fifth Dynasty	The South main Façade wall and left Entrance Thickness	The son made the tomb for his father after his death and placed him in the embalming tent for 15 months.	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 85; Brovarski, Senedjemib, I, 101–102, figs. 18–20, 34. <sup>8</sup>
	<i>snḏm-ib</i> <i>inti</i> G 2370	West Field				
7	Ankhiwes and Medunefert	Giza	Fifth Dynasty	Two False Doors in Cairo Museum, 57123, 57189	The two sons made these two false doors for their two fathers.	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 133–134; Curto, Egitto antico, 78–83, figs. 32, 33. <sup>9</sup>
	<i>ḥw-ir.s</i> <i>mdw-nfr</i> G 4630	West Field				
8	Kaputah	Giza	Fifth Dynasty	The Statue in Cairo Museum JE 37716	A Lady, maybe the wife, made this statue for her husband.	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 56; Fischer, MIO 7, 301–302, fig. 2. <sup>10</sup>
	<i>k3-pw-ptḥ</i>	West Field				
9	Khufuankh	Giza	Fifth Dynasty	The double Statue for the Tomb Owner and his Wife	The son made this statue for his father and mother.	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 129–130; Reisner, Giza Necropolis, I, 507, pl. 67 [c]. <sup>11</sup>
	<i>ḥwfw-ḥ</i> G 4520	West Field				
10	Wepemnefert	Giza	Fifth Dynasty	The East Wall of the Son's Chapel	The Father built this chapel and burial chamber in his tomb for his eldest son.	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 281; Hassan, Giza, II, 179–200, fig. 219. <sup>12</sup>
	<i>wḫ-m-nfrt</i>	Central Field				

Table I Continued...

No.	Tomb	Location	Dating	Writing Position	Context	References
11	Hesi and Niankh-hathor	Giza	Fifth Dynasty	The Entrance Lintel	The son made this lintel or complete Entrance for his father.	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 286; Hassan, Giza, III, 219–220, pl. lxviii. <sup>13</sup>
	<i>hzi</i> <i>ny-ḥ-nzwt</i>	Central Field				
12	Nefertjes	Giza	Fifth Dynasty	The False Door in Copenhagen, Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek, Æ.I.N. 20	The son-in-law made this false door for his mother-in-law	<a href="http://www.griffith.ox.ac.uk/gri/8ste020.pdf">http://www.griffith.ox.ac.uk/gri/8ste020.pdf</a> ; <sup>14</sup> Fischer, Egyptian Studies I, Varia, 19-21, pl. iv [1]; <sup>15</sup> Roquet, BIFAO 77, 119–127, fig. 1. <sup>16</sup>
	<i>nfr-ts</i>					
13	Sokarhotep	Giza or Abusir	Fifth Dynasty	The False Door in Berlin, Ägyptisches Museum, I 1667	The son made this false door for his father.	Daoud, SAK 23, 83–102, Taf. 2. <sup>17</sup>
	<i>skr-htp</i>					
14	Tepemankh II	Saqqara	Fifth Dynasty	- The False Door of the wife in Cairo Museum CG 1415	- The husband made this false door for his wife.	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 482–484; Borchardt, Denkmäler, I, 84–91, Bls. 19, 20; Mariette, Mastabas, 200–201. <sup>18</sup>
	<i>tp-m-ḥ</i>	North of the Step Pyramid		- The false Door of the son in Cairo Museum CG 1417	- The Father made this false door for his son when he was a child.	
15	Washptah	Saqqara	Fifth Dynasty	The Right and left Sides of the Entrance in Cairo museum CG 1569	The eldest son made this entrance or the whole façade for his father.	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 456; Borchardt, Denkmäler, II, 40–41, <sup>6</sup> Bl. 69; Urk. I, 40–44 [27].
	<i>w3š-ptḥ</i> D 38	North of the Step Pyramid				
16	Kaiemhezet	Saqqara	Fifth Dynasty	The Entrance wooden Door panel in Cairo Museum JE 47729	The person made the tomb for his father and brothers.	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 542–543; Urk. I, 206–207.
	<i>k3-m-ḥzt</i>	North of the Step Pyramid, north west of Teti Pyramid				
17	Neferseshemptah and Sekhentyu	Saqqara	Fifth Dynasty	The East Wall of the Chapel	The son made this tomb for his father	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 645; Moussa and Junge, Craftsmen, 24, pls. 3, 4. <sup>19</sup>
	<i>nfr-sšm-ptḥ</i> <i>shntiḥ</i>	South of Unas Causeway				
18	Ankhirptah	Saqqara	Fifth Dynasty	The Statue in Cairo Museum CG 376	The Wife made this statue for her beloved Husband	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 722; Urk. I, 73 [50]; Borchardt, Statuen, I, 197–198, Bl. 59. <sup>20</sup>
	<i>ḥ-ir-ptḥ</i>	Exact Position unknown				
19	Kaiemrehu	Saqqara	Fifth Dynasty	The Entrance lintel	The son made this the lintel or complete Entrance for his father.	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 690; Mariette, Mastabas, 160; <sup>18</sup> Urk. I, 33–34 [20].
	<i>k3-m-rḥw</i> C 25	Exact Position unknown				
20	Kaemthenent	Saqqara	Fifth Dynasty	The Entrance lintel in Cairo Museum CG 1691	The son made this the lintel or complete Entrance for his mother.	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 693; Borchardt, Denkmäler, II, 137; <sup>6</sup> Urk. I, 34 [21].
	<i>k3-m-tnnt</i>	Exact Position unknown				

Table I Continued...

No.	Tomb	Location	Dating	Writing Position	Context	References
21	Sethu	Saqqara	Fifth Dynasty?	The Statue in Cairo Museum CG 190	The wife made this statue for his husband.	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 698; Borchardt, Statuen, I, 130, Bl. 40. <sup>20</sup>
	<i>stw</i>	Exact Position unknown				
22	B 6					
	Hetepkakhufu	Saqqara	Fifth Dynasty?	The Offering Basin in Cairo Museum CG 1324	The son made this offering basin for his father.	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 768; Borchardt, Denkmäler, I, 10–11, Bl. 40. <sup>6</sup>
23	<i>htp-k3-hwfw</i>	Exact Position unknown				
	G I					
24	Demedj	Saqqara	Fifth Dynasty	A Double Statue in Metropolitan Museum of Art 51.37	The son made this statue for his father and mother.	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 729; Scott, BMMA I I, 116–118. <sup>21</sup>
	<i>dmḏ</i>	Exact Position unknown				
25	Nikaupth	Saqqara	Fifth Dynasty	False door at Manchester Museum 10780	The Brother of the funerary estate made the false door for his lord.	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 744–745; Urk. I, 227 [S, B]; Strudwick, Administration, 106; Fischer, Varia Nova, 34, fig. 4. <sup>22</sup>
	<i>ny-k3w-pth</i>					
26	Nykaiankh	Tehna	Fifth Dynasty	North Wall of the tomb	The son and daughter made this tomb to their father Nykaiankh	PM. IV <sup>1</sup> , 131; Urk. I, 32 [17, E].
	<i>ny-k3-nh</i>					
27	The first tomb					
	The family tomb of Nykaiankh (or his second tomb)	Tehna	Fifth Dynasty	East Wall of the Tomb hall	The son Nykaiankh made this tomb for his parents.	PM. IV <sup>1</sup> , 131; Urk. I, 161 [11 (102), B].
28	<i>ny-k3-nh</i>					
	Khemtnu	Unknown place	Fifth Dynasty	A Part from Tomb Entrance in Cairo Museum CG 1526	The son made this entrance for his father	Borchardt, Denkmäler, I, 226. <sup>6</sup>
29	<i>hmt-nw</i>					
	Manefr	Unknown place	Fifth Dynasty?	A Part from false Door in Cairo Museum CG 1652	The son made this false door for his ancestors.	Borchardt, Denkmäler, II, 113. <sup>6</sup>
30	<i>m3-nfr</i>					
	Nedjemw	Giza	Late Fifth Dynasty	The Statue in Boston Museum 37.662	The son made this statue for his father.	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 93; Smith, Egyptian Sculpture, 75 [2420, 2] <sup>23</sup>
31	<i>ndmw</i>	West Field				
	G 2420					
32	Mersuankh	Giza Central Field	Late Fifth Dynasty	The False Door	The son made this false door for his mother.	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 269–270; Hassan, Giza, I, fig. 184; Urk. I, 229 [5 (145), J]. <sup>12</sup>
	<i>mr-sw-nh</i>					
33	Nimaatre and Neferesres	Giza	Late Fifth Dynasty	The Thicknesses of the Chapel Entrance of Neferesres	The Brother of the funerary estate made the tomb for his mistress.	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 282–283; Hassan, Giza, II, 206, fig. 226. <sup>13</sup>
	<i>ni-m3-t-r</i>					
34	<i>nfr.s-rs</i>	Central Field				

Table I Continued...

No.	Tomb	Location	Dating	Writing Position	Context	References
32	Kaiemsenu and Sehetepu	Saqqara	Late Fifth Dynasty	The Entrance Lintel and false Door	The two sons made this lintel or whole Entrance and false door for their father.	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 541; Firth and Gunn, Teti Pyramid Cemeteries, vol. I, 165 [1, 2], vol. II, pl. 63 [4, 5]; <sup>24</sup> Urk. I, 176 [20 (111), C, D].
	<i>k3-m-snw</i> <i>shtpw</i>	North of the Step Pyramid, west of Teti Pyramid				
33	Ma	Giza	Fifth or Sixth Dynasty	The Entrance lintel	The son made this the lintel or complete Entrance for his father.	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 53; Dennis, PSBA 27, 33.
	<i>m3</i>	West Field				
34	G 1026					
	Gerf	Giza	Fifth or Sixth Dynasty	The Offering Basin in Boston Museum 06.1880	The father made this offering basin for his son.	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 67.
35	<i>grf</i>	West Field				
	G 2011					
36	Irenre	Giza	Fifth or Sixth Dynasty	The left Thickness of the Entrance	The son made this thickness or whole entrance for his father.	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 144; Junker, Giza, III, Abb. 24. <sup>7</sup>
	<i>ir-n-r</i>	West Field				
37	Mesdjer	Giza	Fifth or Sixth Dynasty	The Offering Table in Berkeley Museum 6.19821	The son made this offering table for his father and mother.	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 178; Dennis, PSBA 27, 34; Urk. I, 230 [5 (145), O]. <sup>25</sup>
	<i>ms-dr</i>	West Field				
38	Khufuhotep	Giza	Fifth or Sixth Dynasty	The left Jamb of the Tomb Entrance	The eldest son made this tomb entrance for his father.	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 212; LD. II, 34 [C]; Urk. I, 9 [6].
	<i>hwfw-htp</i>	East Field				
39	LG 76					
	Thenti	Giza	Fifth or Sixth Dynasty	The left Jamb of the Tomb Entrance	The eldest son made this entrance for his father.	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 212; LD. II, 34 [d]; Urk. I, 8
40	<i>tnti</i>	East Field				
	LG 77					
41	Suf	Giza	Fifth or Sixth Dynasty	The Entrance Lintel	The grandson (the daughter's son) made this lintel for his grandfather.	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 253; Hassan, Giza, V, 259, fig. 116. <sup>26</sup>
	<i>swf</i>	Central Field				
42	Shepseskafankh and his father djedefwa	Giza	Fifth or Sixth Dynasty	The west Wall of the Chapel	The son made this tomb for him and his father.	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 272; Hassan, Giza, II, fig. 20. <sup>13</sup>
	<i>šps-k3.f-nh</i> <i>dd.f-w</i>	Central Field				

Table I Continued...

No.	Tomb	Location	Dating	Writing Position	Context	References
41	ly <i>iy</i>	Giza Central Field	Fifth or Sixth Dynasty	The Entrance Lintel and the false door	The wife made this entrance and the false door for her husband	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 285; Hassan, Giza, I, 101–104, figs. 172–175; <sup>12</sup> Urk. I, 227 [5 (145), C].
42	Thethi <i>tti</i>	Giza Probably Central Field	Fifth or Sixth Dynasty	The False Door in British Museum 157C	The son made this false door for his parents.	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 302; James, Hieroglyphic Texts, I, pl. 8; <sup>27</sup> Urk. I, 15 [11].
43	Kakhentiu <i>k3-hntiw</i>	Saqqara Exact Position unknown	Fifth or Sixth Dynasty	The Offering Basin in Cairo Museum CG 1352	The wife made this offering basin for her husband.	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 768; Borchardt, Denkmäler, I, 10–11, Bl. 40. <sup>6</sup>
44	Simery and Henutsen <i>si-mry hnut-sn</i>	Saqqara Exact position unknown	Fifth or Sixth Dynasty	False Door in Bologna, Museo Civico 1901	The person made this false door for his wife and son.	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 734–735; Curto, Egittio antico, 66–68, tav. 12 [4]. <sup>9</sup>
45	Kainefer <i>k3-nfr</i>	Dahshur East of the Red Pyramid	Fifth or Sixth Dynasty	The False Door and the Offering Table in British Museum 1324, 1345	The eldest son made this false door and offering table for his Father.	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 893; De Morgan, Dahchour, II, figs. 53, 54; James, Hiero. Texts, I2, pls. 9, 10; <sup>28</sup> Urk. I, 227 [5(145)]
46	Nefer <i>nfr</i>	Unknown	Fifth or Sixth Dynasty	The Offering Basin in Berlin Museum I 1665	The eldest son made this offering basin for his father	Urk. I, 165.
47	Kahif <i>k3-hi.f</i>	Giza West Field	Sixth Dynasty	The False Door	The son made this false door for his ancestors.	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 76; Junker, Giza, VI, Abb. 32. <sup>29</sup>
48	Ilymerery and his wife persent <i>ii-mry pr-snt</i>	Giza West Field	Sixth Dynasty	The Offering Basin and Drum in Philadelphia Museum E 13526, 13527	The son made this offering basin for his mother and the drum or the whole entrance for his father and mother	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 99; Fisher, Minor Cemetery, 143–145, pls. 48, 50 [6]. <sup>30</sup>
49	G 3098 Khepethet <i>hptt</i>	Giza West Field	Sixth Dynasty	The Offering Basin in Leipzig Museum 3133	The wife made this offering basin for her husband.	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 140; Junker, Giza, VI, Abb. 94. <sup>29</sup>
50	Khenkaus <i>hnt-k3w.s</i>	Giza West Field	Sixth Dynasty	The False Door in Turin Museum Sup. 1848	The father? made this false door for his daughter.	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 148–149; Curto, El-Ghiza (1903), 58–61, fig. 19. <sup>31</sup>
51	Hebi <i>hbi</i>	Giza West Field	Sixth Dynasty	The Offering Basin in Leipzig Museum 3140	The son made this basin for his father	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 108; Junker, Giza, IX, 118–120, Abb. 52. <sup>32</sup>

Table I Continued...

No.	Tomb	Location	Dating	Writing Position	Context	References
52	Inikaf <i>in-k3.f</i>	Giza West Field	Sixth Dynasty	The False Door	The son made this false door for his father and mother.	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 108; Junker, Giza, IX, 173–178, Abb. 78. <sup>32</sup>
53	Inpuhotep <i>inpw-htp</i>	Giza West Field	Sixth Dynasty	The Lintel and west Thickness of the Entrance	The son made this tomb entrance for his father.	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 106; Junker, Giza, IX, 159–161, Abbs. 72, 74. <sup>32</sup>
54	Hetepib <i>htp-ib</i>	Giza West Field	Sixth Dynasty	The Offering Table in Berkeley Museum 6.19761	The son made this offering table for his father.	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 54; Urk. I, 230 [5 (145), P].
55	G 1032 Medunefer <i>mdw-nfr</i>	Giza Central Field	Sixth Dynasty	The Entrance Lintel	The Sister's son (Nephew) made this entrance for his uncle.	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 258; Hassan, Giza, III, fig. 104. <sup>26</sup>
56	Pekhernefret <i>phr-nfrt</i>	Giza Menkaure Cemetery	Sixth Dynasty	The False Door	The son made the tomb for his mother	Saleh, MDAIK 30, 149–150, pl. 31. <sup>33</sup>
57	Nikacankh <i>ni-k3-nh</i>	Saqqara North of the Step Pyramid	Sixth Dynasty	The Statue in Cairo Museum CG 67	The son made this statue for his father.	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 505; Borchardt, Statuen, I, 58. <sup>20</sup>
58	Nubhotep <i>nwb-htp</i>	Saqqara Unas Cemetery	Sixth Dynasty	The False Door in Saqqara magazine	The husband made the false door for his wife.	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 652; Saad, ASAE 40, 683, fig. 72. <sup>34</sup>
59	Memi <i>mmi</i>	El-Hawawish	Sixth Dynasty	South Wall of the Chapel	The son made and decorated the tomb for his father.	PM.V <sup>2</sup> , 20; Kanawati, El-Hawawish, VII, 21–22, fig. 11. <sup>35</sup>
60	Ty <i>ty</i>	El-Hawawish	Sixth Dynasty	East Wall of the Chapel	The daughter and brother made the tomb for one person (her father and his brother).	Kanawati, El-Hawawish, VI, 53–54, fig. 23. <sup>36</sup>
61	Kahep <i>k3-hp</i>	El-Hawawish	Sixth Dynasty	The right Side of the façade	The eldest son made the tomb for his father	PM.V <sup>2</sup> , 20; Kanawati, El-Hawawish, I, 17–18, fig. 19; <sup>37</sup> Urk. I, 264 [21 (61), b].
62	Bawy <i>b3wy</i>	El-Hawawish	Sixth Dynasty	South Wall of the chapel	The son inscribed the tomb for his father.	Kanawati, El-Hawawish, VIII, 40, fig. 19. <sup>38</sup>
63	Meryca <i>mry-3</i>	El-Hagarsa	Sixth Dynasty	East Wall of the Chapel	The eldest son made the tomb for his father and erected his statues.	PM.V <sup>2</sup> , 34; Kanawati, El-Hagarsa, III, 32–33, pl. 35; <sup>39</sup> Urk. I, 266–267 [22 (62), A].
64	Iy <i>iy</i>	El-Hawawish	End of Sixth Dynasty or later	North Wall of the Chapel	The eldest son made the tomb for his father	PM.V <sup>2</sup> , 20; Kanawati, Hawawish, VII, fig. 8; Urk. I, 264 [21 (61), B]. <sup>35</sup>



Table I Continued...

No.	Tomb	Location	Dating	Writing Position	Context	References
65	Seneneu <i>sn-nw</i>	Giza West Field	Old kingdom	The Offering Table in Berkeley Museum 6.19752	The son made this Offering Table for his father	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 58; Urk. I, 230 [5 (145), N].
66	Unknown	Giza	Old kingdom	A Piece of a lintel reused in Nazlet el-Batran village near Giza pyramids	The son? made this architectural element (entrance lintel) for his father?	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 309; LD., Text, I, 127.
67	Unknown	South Giza	Old Kingdom	Block in Cairo Museum CG 1479	The son made this architectural element for his father	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 309; Borchardt, Denkmäler, I, 166; <sup>6</sup> Urk. I, 228 [5 (145), H].
68	Nyankhnemti <i>ni-<del>nh</del>-nmti</i>	Giza Exact Position unknown	Old Kingdom	The Offering Basin seen with a dealer at Giza 1907.	The son made this offering basin for his father	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 310; Urk. I, 165 [13 (104)].
69	Unnufer, Iadmet and Pehernufer <i>wn-nfr</i> <i>i3dmt</i> <i>phr-nfr</i>	Giza Exact Position unknown	Old Kingdom	The Offering Basin in Cairo Museum 57007	The person made this offering basin for his father, mother and uncle.	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 310; Kaplony, MIO 14, 202–203, Taf. 10 [17]. <sup>40</sup>
70	Shedy <i>šdi</i>	Saqqara	Old Kingdom	The Offering Basin Zürich, Museum Rietberg RAG 6	The eldest son made this offering basin for his father.	Fischer, ZÄS 105, 47–54, Id., ZÄS 107, 86. <sup>41,42</sup>
71	Hab <i>h3b</i>	Giza West Field	Late Old Kingdom	The False Door in Leipzig Museum 3121	The son made this false door for his father.	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 177; Urk. I, 230 [5 (145), Q].
72	Unknown S 4248/ 4321	Giza West Field	Late Old Kingdom	The Offering Basin in Hildesheim Museum 3172	The son made this offering basin for his father.	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 104; Junker, Giza, IX, 215, Abb. 98; <sup>32</sup> Urk. I, 229 [5 (145), L].
73	Unknown S 4233/ 4283	Giza West Field	Late Old Kingdom	The Offering Basin	The Ka servant made this offering basin for the tomb owner.	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 105; Junker, Giza, IX, 231. <sup>32</sup>
74	Sehy <i>shy</i>	Saqqara North of the Step Pyramid	Late Old Kingdom	The Offering Basin in the British Museum 68231	The father made this offering basin for his son.	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 447; Martin, Hetepka, 31, pl. 31 [72]. <sup>43</sup>
75	Seni <i>sn'i</i>	Saqqara East of Pepi II Pyramid	Late Old Kingdom	The Offering Table	The son made this offering table for his father	PM. III <sup>2</sup> , 683; Jequier, Monument funéraire, III, 55, fig. 55. <sup>44</sup>
76	Idu <i>idw</i>	El-Qasr wa es-sayd	Late Old Kingdom	The main Façade of the Tomb above the shaft	The tomb owner made a shaft for his wife.	PM.V <sup>2</sup> , 119–121; Strudwick, Texts, 188–189. <sup>1</sup>
77	Shemai <i>šm3i</i>	Kom el-kaffar South of Qift	Late Old Kingdom	The pillared Hall wall	The son made the chapels of his father and ancestors and erected their statues, offering tables and stelae.	Mostafa, ASAE 71, 170–184. <sup>45</sup>
78	Djafetka and Tjesu <i>df3-k3</i> <i>tsw</i>	Abydos	Dynasty VII to Dynasty XI	Stela in Brooklyn NY, Brooklyn Museum of Art, L69.19	The daughter made this stela for her parents.	<a href="https://www.brooklynmuseum.org/opencollection/objects/4248">https://www.brooklynmuseum.org/opencollection/objects/4248</a> . <sup>46</sup>



## Commentary

### Distribution of the dedication text in the old kingdom cemeteries

These texts exist in the Memphite Necropolis at Giza, Saqqara and Dahshur, also in the provinces at Tahna, El-Hawawish, El-Hagarsa, Kom el-Kaffer, and El-Qasr wa es-sayd. They were more common in the Memphite Necropolis than the provinces and more common in Giza than Saqqara.

#### They were found at Giza in five Cemeteries:

- A. West field:** These texts were more common in this necropolis than any other. They appeared here from the Fifth Dynasty onwards (Tombs nos. 5, 9, 29, 33–36, 47–54, 65, 71–73).
- B. East field:** These texts were found here during the Fourth Dynasty (Tombs nos. 1, 37, 38).
- C. Central field:** These texts were found here from the Fifth Dynasty onwards (Tombs nos. 10, 11, 30, 31, 39–42, 55).
- D. Menkaure cemetery:** These texts appeared infrequently here in the Sixth Dynasty (Tomb no. 56).
- E. South field:** These texts are rarely found in this cemetery in late Old Kingdom (Tomb no. 67).

There are many examples from Giza, although the exact location is now unknown (Tombs nos. 12, 13, 66, 68, 69).

#### These texts were found at Saqqara in three Cemeteries:

- I. Step pyramid cemetery:** These texts appeared in this cemetery from the Fifth Dynasty onwards (Tombs nos. 14–16, 32, 57, 74).
- II. Unas cemetery:** These texts appeared infrequently here in the Fifth and Sixth Dynasties (Tombs nos. 17, 58).
- III. South Saqqara:** These texts were rarely found in this cemetery in late Old Kingdom (Tomb no. 75).

There are many examples from Saqqara, the exact position is now unknown (Tombs nos. 2, 3, 18–24, 43–44, 70).

#### These texts also existed in other cemeteries:

- A. Dahshur:** These texts were rarely found here in the Fifth or Sixth Dynasty (Tomb no. 45).
- B. Tahna:** These texts appeared infrequently in this cemetery in the Fifth Dynasty (Tombs nos. 25, 26).
- C. El-Hawawish:** These texts were found here in the Sixth Dynasty (Tombs nos. 59–62, 64).
- D. El-Hagarsa:** These texts rarely appeared here in the Sixth Dynasty (Tomb no. 63).
- E. El-Qasr wa es-sayd:** These texts were rarely found here in late Old Kingdom (Tomb no. 76).
- F. Kom el-Kaffer:** These texts rarely appeared here in late Old Kingdom (Tomb no. 77).
- G. Abydos:** These texts were rarely found here in late Old Kingdom (Tomb no. 78).

### Positions of writing the Dedication Texts

#### These Texts were inscribed on:

##### A. Tomb's main entrance

The dedication texts were written on the lintels, jambs, thicknesses, drums, and panels of the main entrance (Tombs nos. 6, 11, 15, 16, 19,

20, 27, 31–33, 35, 37–39, 41, 48, 53, 55, 66) from the Fifth Dynasty onwards. Usually when the texts were written on any part of these five elements of the entrance, this seems to imply that the person dedicated only this part or the whole entrance. It is noted that these texts were inscribed on the main entrance only in the Memphite cemetery. They were more proven in Giza than Saqqara. These texts were found on the main entrance in Giza in the Fifth and Sixth Dynasties in the West Field, East Field, and Central Field and were discovered in Saqqara in the Fifth Dynasty north of the Step Pyramid. The entrance lintel was the preferred position for writing these texts. The entrance drum and wooden door panel were infrequently used to include these texts.

##### B. False doors and Stelae

The dedication texts were inscribed on the lintels and jambs of the false doors (Tombs nos. 2, 4, 5, 7, 12–14, 24, 28, 30, 32, 41, 42, 44, 45, 47, 50, 52, 56, 58, 71) from the Fourth Dynasty onwards and on the upper part of the stela (upper lintel because it imitates the false door) (Tomb no. 78). Inscribing the dedication texts on the false door was mainly discovered in the Memphite necropolis and infrequently in the provinces at Abydos. It is mainly found at Giza and Saqqara and infrequently at Dahshur. It rarely began in the Fourth Dynasty and continued with an increase from the Fifth Dynasty until the late Old Kingdom.

##### C. Tomb's walls

The dedication texts were written on the walls of side walls of the main façade and the inner rooms of tomb super-structures (Tombs nos. 6, 10, 17, 25, 26, 40, 59–64, 76, 77) from the Fifth Dynasty onwards. The writing of these texts on the walls of tombs was rarely known in capital cemetery at Giza and Saqqara in the Fifth Dynasty and was more known in the province cemeteries at Tahna, El-Hawawish, El-Hagarsa, El-Qasr wa es-sayd, and Kom el-kaffar from the Fifth Dynasty until the late Old Kingdom.

##### D. Offering tables and basins

The dedication texts were mentioned on the offering tables and basins (Tombs nos. 3, 22, 34, 36, 43, 45, 46, 48, 49, 51, 54, 65, 68–70, 72–75) from the Fourth Dynasty onwards. The writing of these texts on the offering tables and basins was known only in capital cemetery in Giza, Saqqara, and Dahshur. It was infrequently found in the Fourth Dynasty and was expanded in use from the Fifth Dynasty until the late Old Kingdom.

##### E. Statues

The dedication texts were written on the statues (Tombs nos. 1, 8, 9, 18, 21, 23, 29, 57) from the Fourth Dynasty onwards. These texts were rarely found on the statues of the Fourth and Sixth Dynasties. They were more related to the statues of the Fifth Dynasty.

##### F. Sarcophagus

The dedication texts were rarely shown on the sarcophagus (Tomb no. 1) and they were only found in Giza and during the Fourth Dynasty.

When these texts were written on the entrances, false doors, offering tables, basins, statues or sarcophagi, it is usually the case that these elements only were dedicated. When they were written on the wall of the inner rooms and side wall of the main façade, usually the whole tomb was dedicated to the deceased. There are only four tombs where this is not the case (Tombs nos. 6, 16, 31, 57), where the texts were written on a part of the main entrance and a jamb of a false door but mentioning that the whole tomb was dedicated to the deceased.

The person usually dedicated one of the previous elements (Tombs nos. 1–5, 7–9, 11–13, 15, 18–24, 27–30, 33–39, 42–44, 46, 47, 49–55, 57, 58, 65–75, 78), sometimes two elements (Tombs nos. 14, 32, 41, 45, 48), or the whole parts of the tomb (Tombs nos. 6, 10, 16, 17, 25, 26, 31, 40, 56, 59–64, 76, 77).

### Dating of the dedication texts

These Texts were inscribed from the Fourth Dynasty onwards at Memphis Necropolis, and rarely from the Fifth Dynasty onwards in the provinces. Their use increased during the Sixth Dynasty. They were more public in Memphis Necropolis.

- I. Fourth dynasty:** These texts rarely appeared in the Fourth Dynasty in Giza and Saqqara (Tombs nos. 1–5).
- II. Fifth dynasty:** These texts continued in the Fifth Dynasty (Tombs nos. 6–32) in Giza and Saqqara and appeared at Tahna.
- III. Sixth dynasty:** These texts continued in the Sixth Dynasty (Tombs nos. 47–63) in Giza, rarely in Saqqara and appeared at El-Hawawish and El-Hagarsa.
- IV. Late old kingdom:** These texts continued in Late Old Kingdom (Tombs nos. 64, 71–78) in Giza, Saqqara, El-Hawawish, El-Qasr wa es-sayd, Kom el-kaffar, and Abydos.

The dating of some tombs is uncertain (Tombs nos. 33–46, 65–70).

### Dedicators and those to whom the dedications were made

After studying these texts, 11 different persons were identified as those making dedications and 14 other persons were identified as those receiving the dedications. There are two relations between them, the family and work. The first one was more common than the other as follows:

- A. Son to his father, this was the most common one (Tombs nos. 4, 6, 7, 11, 13, 15–17, 19, 22, 25, 27, 29, 32, 33, 35, 37, 38, 40, 46, 51, 53, 54, 57, 59, 61–68, 71, 72, 75, 77).
- B. Son to his Mother (Tombs nos. 1, 5, 20, 30, 48, 56).
- C. Son to his Parents (Tombs nos. 9, 23, 26, 36, 42, 48, 52, 69).
- D. Son to his Ancestors (Tombs nos. 28, 47, 77).
- E. Son to his Uncle (Tomb no. 69)
- F. Son-in-law to mother-in-law (Tomb no. 12).
- G. Daughter to her Father (Tombs nos. 25, 60).
- H. Daughter to her parents (Tomb no. 78).
- I. Father to his Son (Tombs nos. 10, 14, 34, 44, 74).
- J. Father to his Daughter (Tomb no. 50).
- K. Mother to her Daughter (Tomb no. 1).
- L. Wife to her Husband (Tombs nos. 8, 18, 21, 41, 43, 49).
- M. Husband to his Wife (Tombs nos. 14, 44, 58, 76).
- N. Brother to his Brother (Tombs nos. 16, 60).
- O. Grandson to his Grandfather (Tombs nos. 3, 39).
- P. Grandson to his Grandmother (Tomb no. 2).
- Q. Nephew to his Uncle (Tomb no. 55).

- R. Brother of the funerary estate or the ka servant to the tomb Owner (Tombs nos. 24, 31).

Usually one person (Tombs nos. 1–24, 26–31, 33–59, 61–78), rarely two persons (Tombs nos. 25, 32, 60) dedicated one element or more, for usually one person (Tombs nos. 1–8, 10–15, 17–23, 25, 27, 29–35, 37–41, 43, 45, 46, 48–51, 52–68, 70–76), sometimes for two persons (Tombs nos. 9, 23, 26, 36, 42, 44, 48, 52, 78), or for more than two (Tombs nos. 16, 28, 47, 69, 77), from the previous persons.

The first person or the dedicator was always alive, but the second person, or the one to whom the dedication was made, was usually dead or sometimes a living adult or, rarely, a child.

### Context and construction of the dedication texts

These texts usually included all or some of these elements:

- A. Titles and name of the dedicator:** These came at the beginning, middle or end of these texts. Sometimes it is introduced by the article in.
- B. Titles and name of the one to whom the dedication was made:** These titles and names came at the beginning, middle or end of these texts. Sometimes they wrote only the suffix pronoun to express this person. This pronoun is back to the owner of the element.
- C. Dedication verb:** *ir/di* is usually written in the past tense or *ir:t(w)* in the passive form.
- D. Dedicated element:** *nw/nn* is a specific definition for this element in the ancient Egyptian language. Sometimes they did not refer to the dedicated element considering that writing the text on it is enough to express that.
- E. Dedication time:** This was made and dedicated to the person, usually when he/ she was buried, sometimes when he/ she is still alive as adult or child, other times years after burying him in memory of him.
- F. Purpose of the dedicated element:** Some of these texts mention that the person made and dedicated this tomb (Tomb no. 10) or offering table or basin (Tombs nos. 46, 68) to another person for placing offerings in, during the festivals and daily. Other texts (Tombs nos. 10, 17, 76) mention that the person made and dedicated this tomb or shaft to another person for his/her burial. Other texts mention the reason for the dedication is that the dedicator is fulfilling a promise made to the deceased when he was alive (Tomb no. 38).<sup>47–57</sup>

Sometimes this dedication text was written in the form of autobiography using the expression *dd.f*.

### Conclusion

The dedication texts are found in the Memphite necropolis and province cemeteries. They were more public in the Memphite necropolis than the provinces. They were found at Giza in five cemeteries: West Field, East Field, Central Field, Menkaure Cemetery, and South Field. These texts were found at Saqqara in three cemeteries: Step Pyramid Cemetery, Unas Cemetery, and South Saqqara. These texts were rarely existed in Dahshur. They were inscribed in the provinces at Tahna, El-Hawawish, El-Hagarsa, Kom el-Kaffer, and El-Qasr wa es-sayd.

These texts were inscribed on tomb's main entrances, false doors and stelae, tomb's walls, offering tables and basins, statues, and

sarcophagi. When these texts were written on the entrances, false doors, offering tables, basins, statues or sarcophagi, it is usually the case that these elements only were dedicated. When they were written on the wall of the inner rooms and side wall of the main façade, usually the whole tomb was dedicated to the deceased.

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The inscriptions of dedication texts on the false door were discovered mainly in the Memphite cemetery and rarely in the provinces at Abydos. It is found mainly in Giza, Saqqara and rarely in Dahshur. It rarely began in the Fourth Dynasty and continued with an increase from the Fifth Dynasty until the late Old Kingdom.

The writing of these texts on the walls of tombs was rarely known in capital cemetery at Giza and Saqqara in the Fifth Dynasty and was more known in the province cemeteries at Tahna, El-Hawawish, El-Hagarsa, El-Qasr wa es-sayd, and Kom el-kaffar from the Fifth Dynasty until the late Old Kingdom.

The writing of these texts on the offering tables and basins was known only in capital cemetery in Giza, Saqqara, and Dahshur. It was infrequently found in the Fourth Dynasty and was expanded in use from the Fifth Dynasty until the late Old Kingdom.

These texts are rarely found on statues of the Fourth and Sixth Dynasties. They were more associated with statues of the Fifth Dynasty.

The dedication texts were rarely shown on the sarcophagus and they were only found in Giza and during the Fourth Dynasty.

These texts rarely appeared in the Fourth Dynasty in Giza and Saqqara. These texts continued in the Fifth Dynasty in Giza and Saqqara and appeared at Tahna. They continued in the Sixth Dynasty in Giza, rarely in Saqqara and appeared at El-Hawawish and El-Hagarsa. They continued in Late Old Kingdom in Giza, Saqqara, El-Hawawish, El-Qasr wa es-sayd, Kom el-kaffar and Abydos.

Elven different persons were identified as those making dedications and fourteen other persons were identified as those receiving the dedications. There are two relations between them, the family and work. These persons are:

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- B. Son to his mother
- C. Son to his parents
- D. Son to his ancestors
- E. Son to his uncle
- F. Son-in-law to mother-in-law
- G. Daughter to her father
- H. Daughter to her parents
- I. Father to his son
- J. Father to his daughter

K. Mother to her daughter

L. Wife to her husband

M. Husband to his wife

N. Brother to his brother

O. Grandson to his grandfather

P. Grandson to his grandmother

Q. Nephew to his uncle

R. Brother of the funerary estate or the ka servant to the tomb owner

Usually one person, rarely two dedicated one element or more, for usually one person, sometimes for two persons, or for more than two. The first person or the dedicator was always alive, but the second person, or the one to whom the dedication was made, was usually dead or sometimes a living adult or, rarely, a child.

These texts usually included all or some of these elements: titles and name of the dedicator, titles and name of the one to whom the dedication was made, dedication verb, dedicated element, dedication time, and purpose of the dedicated element.

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