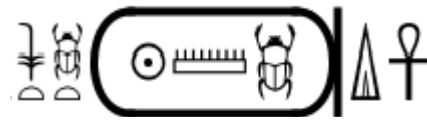




Froggy Papers Presents

The Canal Inscription of King Djehutymes III




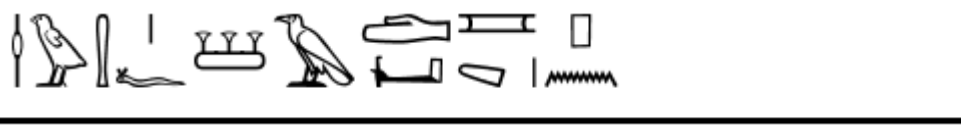







copyright 2010 by Bob Manske

Table of Contents

THE TEXT.....	4
GARDINER CODES.....	6
VOCABULARY NOTES.....	7
GRAMMAR NOTES.....	8
OBSERVATIONS.....	9
TRANSLATION.....	10
REFERENCES.....	11

The Canal Inscription of King Djehutymes III

THE TEXT

Page 46 Line 2	 
Page 46 Line 3	  
Page 46 Line 4	   

GARDINER CODES

Page 46 Line 2	M4-X1:O50-V20:V20-V20:V20-V20-T8-N37:N35:N35:N35-N5-V20*V20:Z4A-Aa1:D21-U36-Z1:N35-M23:X1-L1:X1<N5-Y5-L1>X8-S34-V24-G43-U36-Z1:I9-M8E-G1-D46:D40-N36:N21*Z1-Q3:N35
Page 46 Line 3	G17-M3:Aa1*X1-G28-X1:I9-M23-G43-T25-D58-G43-O36:D40h-G17-M17-N35:D21-O39:Z2-D35-S29-Aa28-D46:D54-N35-D46:Q3*X1-P1-D2:D21-I9-Aa1:D46
Page 46 Line 4	P1-N35:I9-D2:D21-I9-F34*Z1:I9-F40-G43-S29-U1-T31-N35:I9-Aa1*X1:I9-A14-Z3-I9-D21:N35-N35-N36:N21*Z1-Q3:N35-E34:N35-O31-D40-G1&X1
Page 46 Line 5	N31:X1*Z1-G17-F35-I9:D21:X1<N5-Y5-L1>S34-I10:X1:N17-M17-N35-N35:G1-N35-P4:D36-Z7-G43-K1:Z2-U23-D58-G43-N25-F30:D46-S29-N35:Z2
Page 46 Line 6	N36:N21*Z1-Q3:N35-V13:N35-W24-G43-M4-X1:Z1

VOCABULARY NOTES

Page 46 Line 2	<i>hsbt</i>	In this case <i>hsbt</i> is preferred to <i>rnpt</i>
	<i>š3d</i>	"dig"
	<i>mr</i>	"canal"
Page 46 Line 3	<i>db3</i>	"block up"
	<i>sqdy</i>	"sail a boat"
	<i>hd</i>	"travel downstream, head north"
Page 46 Line 4	<i>sm3</i>	"kill, destroy"
	<i>hftiw</i>	"enemies"
	<i>wn</i>	"open"
Page 46 Line 5	<i>nfrt</i>	In this case try something like "graciousness, goodness, etc."
	<i>wh^c</i>	"fisherman"
	<i>3bw</i>	"Elephantine"
	<i>šdi</i>	"dig out"
Page 46 Line 6	<i>tnw</i>	"every, each"
	<i>rnpt</i>	is preferred here.

GRAMMAR NOTES

Page 46 Line 2	<i>hsbt</i>	This is a decree given by King Djehutymes (Thutmosis) III. The decree begins with a complete date given in the standard form: year, season, month, day, name of king.
	<i>wḏ</i>	The specific decree follows with the beginning of a new sentence. The lack of ' <i>iw</i> ' at the start indicates that the sentence is not a straightforward declarative. It is usual to interpret ' <i>wḏ</i> ' as a narrative infinitive, but in actuality this is a focus (a term to be preferred to "second tense" or "emphatic tense") sentence. The reason why ' <i>wḏ</i> ' appears is due to ' <i>hd</i> ' at the end of line 3. The focus here is on the connection between the commandment and the king's remembrance of the canal in happier times.
	<i>s3d'</i>	is a prospective.
Page 46 Line 3	<i>gmt</i>	is an infinitive, the object of the preposition <i>m-ht</i> .
	<i>ḏb3</i>	If this is a passive participle then there would probably be some relative connotation, such as "the one which". But two things mitigate against this view: 1) if it is an imperfect passive then the form would indicate that the canal was habitually full, which does not seem to be the case; 2) a perfect passive participle would indicate the canal had been full, yet we are talking in present time. On the other hand, the stative ' <i>ḏb3.w</i> ' indicates a present condition which was not the case earlier.
	<i>n sqdy</i>	Indicates inability.
	<i>hd</i>	This sentence, taken at face value, seems an odd insertion unless it is understood as the reason for the king's interest in this particular canal. ' <i>wḏ</i> ' and ' <i>hd</i> ' must therefore be part of a focus sentence. The <i>reason</i> why the king did this is <i>because</i>
Page 46 Line 4	<i>t3</i>	Read ' <i>t3</i> ' at the end of the sentence. The word was misspelled for aesthetic reasons.
	<i>wn</i>	is a passive narrative infinitive.
Page 46 Line 5	<i>in</i>	Lines 5 and 6 comprise a participial statement. This focuses attention on the topic.
	<i>nfrt</i>	Feminine because it references a concept. It does not agree with <i>w3t</i> .
	<i>ḥnh ḏt</i>	Either a prospective or as a participle. The meaning will change depending on which you choose.
Page 46 Line 6		

OBSERVATIONS

Page 46 Line 2	<i>hsbt 50</i>	Very late in the reign of this king, about three years before his death. He legitimately dates his reign to the same time as Hatshepsut does. They were always co-rulers, at least in name.
Page 46 Line 3	<i>db3.w m inrw</i>	This canal dated back to the time of Sen-Wosret III, 400 years earlier. It had had apparently been maintained during some or most of the intervening time. It provided an easy route for troops around the rougher tracts of the Nile. Despite its military importance, a highway for incursions into Nubia and return trips, the canal had been allowed to fall into disuse.
	<i>hd.n.f hr.f</i>	So we know that the canal was open earlier in Djehutymes III's reign. This warrior-king used it at least once upon his return from a campaign in Nubia.
Page 46 Line 4		
Page 46 Line 5		
Page 46 Line 6	<i>tnw rnpt</i>	Like the Interstate Highway System in the United States, the canal was most likely a military highway and could be closed to other traffic as need be but the public was not denied access at other times. Either the fishermen of Elephantine had been using it for transport or fishing or both or they were just unlucky enough to be located nearby.

TRANSLATION

"Year 50, first month of harvest, day 22 under the Majesty of the King of Upper and Lower Egypt Men-kheper-Ra. The king orders that this canal will be dug out after his finding it now clogged up with stones and that a boat cannot sail upon it. This (order) is because he once sailed north upon it (the canal) in joy after having defeated his enemies. The name of this canal is "The Way is Opened in the Graciousness of Men-kheper-Ra Who Lives Forever (or May He Live Forever)". The fishermen of Elephantine, they are the ones who will dig it out every year."

REFERENCES

A. De Buck, *Egyptian Reading Book*, Ares Publishers, Chicago, 1948 - Provides the hieroglyphic text following Sethe's Urkunden.

Mark-Jan Nederhof, *Canal Inscription of Tuthmosis III*, Internet .pdf file - Provides a fine transliteration and translation of De Buck's work.

R.O. Faulkner, *A Concise Dictionary of Middle Egyptian*, Griffith Institute, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, 1996 - An indispensable reference.

J.H. Breasted, *Ancient Records of Egypt -- Volume II*, the University of Chicago Press, 1906 - Part of a monumental work of translations and commentaries.