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IPUY IN CRACOW

The workmen's village at Deir el-Medina and the nearby tombs and chapels have been extensively exploited as a source of antiquities from the early nineteenth century. As a result the monuments of the workmen have been scattered widely. Many have been tracked down and recorded in the invaluable Porter and Moss, and more recently by Prof. K. A. Kitchen¹, but a few have hitherto escaped detection.

One such piece is a small round topped limestone stela in the Cracow collection, Inv. No. 10.598, which was first published by S. Wenig in Polish². It apparently comes from the collection of Nicholas Wisłocki (1821—1866), who was in Egypt in 1844—1845³. The stela measures 23.6 cm high, 15.6 cm wide and 2.8 cm deep. The stela consists of two registers (Fig. 1). In the upper register the god Ptah is seated on the left, behind whom is a large floral bouquet. There is an altar in front of him on which rests a water pot. On the right a figure in a long robe holding a brazier raises his arms in adoration. Three short columns of text name "Ptah, Lord of Truth" and "the

¹ B. Porter, and R. Moss, *Topographical Bibliography of Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphic Texts, Reliefs and Paintings*, Vol. I, 2, Oxford² 1964, pp. 685—749; K. A. Kitchen, *Ramesside Inscriptions*, I—VII, Oxford 1975—1990, passim (henceforth *KRI*).

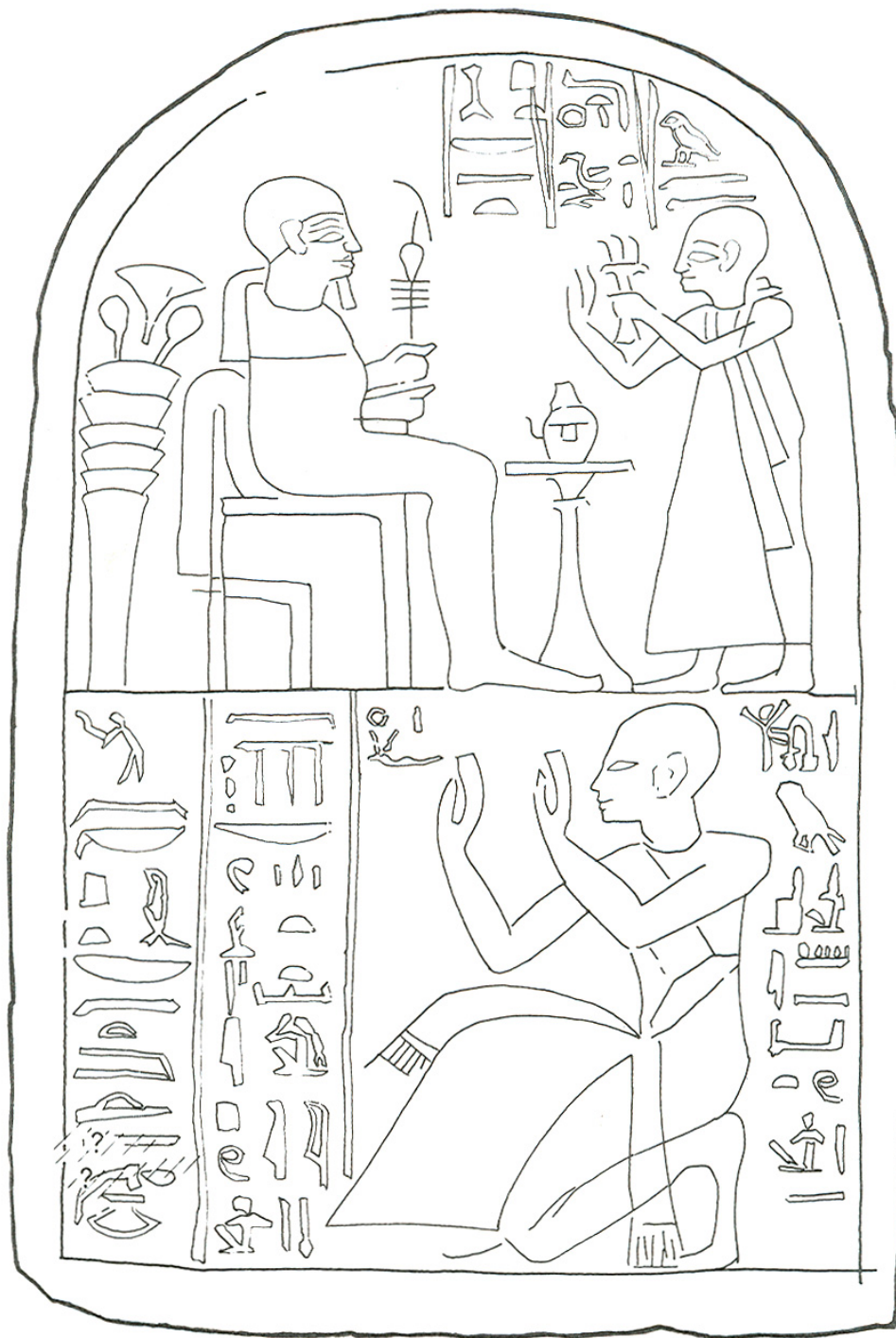
² Collection of the Department of Mediterranean Archaeology, Cracow University. Cf. *Zabytki Archeologiczne Zakładu Archeologii Śródziemnomorskiej Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego. Katalog*, ed. by Maria L. Bernhard, Kraków 1976, pp. 31—32.

³ Information from Professor J. Śliwa, see also his *Historia zbioru zabytków starożytnych w Uniwersytecie Jagiellońskim*, *Eos* LXXIX, 1991, pp. 135—154.



Fig. 1. The Egyptian stela from Deir el-Medina. Collection of the Department of Mediterranean Archaeology, Cracow University (Inv. No. 10.598). Phot. by the University Museum, Cracow

overseer of the city, vizier Hori, justified". In the lower register are two columns of text on the left, the lower part of the first column being slightly damaged. This text consists of a prayer to Ptah on behalf of Ipuy. "Adoration to you Ptah, Lord of Truth, in the place (?) of the gods of the West (by) Ipuy justified". On the right is a kneeling figure in adoration. In front of the figure is part of an inscription which is continued in a column behind him. The text



around him names “his son the draughtsman (*sš kꜥd*) in the Place of Truth Amennakht justified”.

The vizier Hori is a well-known figure, serving during the reigns of Sethos II to Ramesses III. He was out of office by year 16 when he had been succeeded by the vizier To⁴. He was directly in charge of the community at

⁴ *KRI* 4, 281, 339, 357—362; *KRI* 5, 376—378. Kitchen suggests in *KRI* 5, 23 that ón year 12 (?) assigned to the vizier To should probably be read as year 22 and thus has no bearing on Hori’s career.

Deir el-Medina and is recorded in ostraca from the site. The draughtsman Amennakht son of Ipuw is also very well attested, both as a draughtsman and more importantly as scribe of the community to which post he was promoted by the vizier To in year 16 of Ramesses III⁵. He was already in the workforce before this date as a simple draughtsman, but no datable references survive. He held his post probably until the reign of Ramesses V, and died in year 7 of Ramesses VI⁶.

The position of his father Ipuw is more intriguing since very little is known of this man and his career. In a few graffiti, Amennakht refers to his father as chief workman⁷. There is no independent confirmation of this title. The post of foreman of the left side was held throughout this period by Hay. However, the position on the right became vacant by the removal of the foreman Paneb towards the end of the Nineteenth Dynasty. Eventually the post was filled by Nekhenmut who is attested securely from year 11 of Ramesses III⁸. There is thus room for Ipuw as well as a mysterious foreman Aanakht at the very end of the Nineteenth Dynasty, or the beginning of the Twentieth Dynasty at precisely which time the vizier Hori was in office. Unfortunately Ipuw does not bear a title on the Cracow stela. Nothing is known of his background apart from a brother named Pahatia. There is a workman Ipuw attested at the end of the Nineteenth Dynasty, but the name is too common for any precise identification⁹.

Thus the stela can be dated with certainty before year 16 of Ramesses III to a period when the vizier Hori was still in office and Amennakht was still only a draughtsman. The stela would seem to indicate a close tie between the family and the vizier which is probably to be explained by Ipuw's promotion to the post of foreman by the vizier Hori. This post did not long remain in the family, but the links between the family and the vizier were not broken as under the next vizier Amennakht secured the equally prestigious appointment as scribe of the Tomb which office was to be held by many of his descendants.

⁵ J. Černý, *Community of Workmen at Thebes*, Cairo 1973, pp. 339—345.

⁶ R. J. Demarée and J. J. Janssen, *Gleanings from Deir el-Medina*, Leiden 1982, pp. 135—136 and 149—150.

⁷ J. Černý, *A Community of Workmen*, p. 345; J. Černý, and A. Sadek, *Graffiti de la Montagne Thébaine*, Vol. IV, 2, Cairo 1971, No. 2664 (Ipuw alone) and No. 2705, Ipuw with title of wab and his son the draughtsman Amennakht appear on a stela of Ipuw's brother Pahatia. See *Hommages à la Mémoire de Serge Sauneron*, Vol. I, Cairo 1979, pp. 281—283.

⁸ J. Černý, *A Community of Workmen*, pp. 305—306.

⁹ M. L. Bierbrier, *The Late New Kingdom in Egypt*, Warminster 1975, p. 39; J. Demarée, *The 3h ikr n R^c Stelae on Ancestor Worship in Ancient Egypt*, London 1983, pp. 50—52.