The Palermo Stone (Palermo Museo Archeologico)
The Palermo stone exists in fragments (1 in Palermo, Sicily, 4 in Cairo and 1 in London). It has short, year by year accounts of major events, mostly ceremonies, festivals and rituals. A palm branch arches over each register representing a year. The translation of each register therefore should start with the year of... which will be omitted. The bottom of each register records the Nile heights.

The Nile heights are in ancient Egyptian units of lengths:

- $db\bar{3}$ finger 0.74 inch
- $szp$ palm 4 fingers
- $mh$ cubit 7 palms

The strokes stand for multiples of the signs. For example, $mh 2 db\bar{3} 2$, means 2 cubits and 2 fingers. This converts to $2 \times 7 \times 4 + 2$ fingers = 58 fingers = 42.92 inches.

We will analyze the large part of the main fragment (in Palermo).

2nd Row: Part of the reign of a king, most possibly Djer (1st Dynasty).

Register 1: $wd(yt) hrw ms(w)t inpw$, Processional Tour (lit. journey) of Horus, Birth of Anubis (“birth” here and below probably refers to erecting a dedicatory statue or making a standard which after a ritual believed to become alive).

Register 2: $3bd 6 hrw 7$, 6 months and 7 days (time period in the year left because of the death of the king).
Register 3: 3bd 4 hrw 13 zm3 t3wi phr h3 inb, month 4 and day 13 (time of the new king’s ascension to the throne), Uniting Upper and Lower Egypt (represented by their heraldic plants around the sign zm3 unite), the festival “Going around the Wall”. (Both “coronation” ceremonies legitimize the new ruler’s assumption to the throne).

Register 4: wd(yt) hrw h3b dsr, Processional Tour of Horus, Desher-Festival.

Register 5: ms(w)t z3wi biti, birth of two royal children of Lower Egypt.

Register 6: wd(yt) hrw k3p […] Processional Tour of Horus, royal nursery […].

Register 7: hwt-ntr shm-ntrw h3 h3b-zkr, [designing] the temple” Might of the Gods,” attendance of the Festival of Seker.

Register 8: wd(yt) hrw ms(w)t s3t, Processional Tour of Horus, Birth of Seshat.

Register 9: h5(t) (n)swt ms(w)t mnw, Appearance of the King of Upper Egypt (a ceremony or a festival), Birth of Min.

Register 10: wd(yt) hrw, ms(w)t inpw, Processional Tour of Horus, Birth of Anubis.

Register 11: zp tp dt-h3b, first time of the Djet-Festival.

1 Signs that are not available in JSesh are left omitted. Obscure signs are left un-translated.
3rd Row: Part of the reign of a king, most possibly Den (1st Dynasty).

Register 1: \[\text{attendance (lit. standing) at the temple of Heka in Sais.}\]

Register 2: \[\text{smiting the Bedouin.}\]

Register 3: \[\text{Dual Appearance (in glory) of the King of Upper and Lower Egypt, Heb-sed.}\]

Register 4: \[\text{[numbering] all the people of west, north, south and east.}\]

Register 5: \[\text{2nd time of the Djet-Festival.}\]

Register 6: \[\text{[designing] the temple “Thrones of the Gods”, attendance of the Festival of Seker.}\]

Register 7: \[\text{Stretching the Cord (in foundation ceremony) by the Seshat-priest for the great door of the temple “Thrones of the Gods.”}\]

Register 8. \[\text{opening the lake of the temple “Thrones of the Gods”, harpooning a hippopotamus (possibly a ritual).}\]

Register 9: \[\text{attending the stone shrine of Herishef (Plutarch’s Arsaphes, creator ram-god) of Heracleopolis Magna.}\]

\[^2\text{Some signs are not available in JSesh. In these cases we use the customary writing.}\]

\[^3\text{This may be the same event as depicted on King Den’s hippopotamus ivory sandal label.}\]

\[^4\text{Instead of the dual of the noun another possible rendering is } n\text{, }\text{Appearances of the King of Upper Egypt and the King of Lower Egypt. This festival may be the combination of the two single ones.}\]
Register 10: \( \text{\(n\)}(t) \text{s}\text{\(h\)}(n)\text{swt hwt wr-\text{k3}, tour to Sahnesut, smiting of Werka. (The name of the town wr-k3 is a \text{nfr-\text{hr} construction, “great of spirit”.)} \)

Register 11: \( \text{ms(w)t sd, Birth of Sed (jackal-god, early form of Wepwawet). (As noted above, “birth” points to making the standard.)} \)

Register 12: \( \text{h}(t) \text{biti zp tp phrr \text{hpw}, Appearance of the King of Lower Egypt, the first running of the Apis Bull.} \)

Register 13: \( \text{ms(w)t s}\text{\(s\})t \text{m3fdt, Birth of Seshat and Mafdet (protective feline-deity).} \)

4th Row: Recording the events during the reign of

King Nynetjer (2\textsuperscript{nd} Dynasty):

Register 1: \( \text{h}(t) \text{(n)}\text{swt pd s}\text{s}\text{\(nw \text{hwt hrw-rn, Appearance of the King of Upper Egypt, Stretching the Cord for the temple Horus-Ren.} \)

Register 2: \( \text{wd(yt) h}\text{\(rw zp 4 }\text{\(tnwt, Processional Tour of Horus, 4th time of the census (lit. enumeration).} \)

Register 3: \( \text{h}\text{\(wwi nswt-biti [3]}\text{pd } \text{\(\text{s}\text{n}\text{\(h\)} h}\text{\(pw, Dual Appearance of the King of Upper and Lower Egypt, running of the (living) Apis Bull.} \)

Register 4: \( \text{wd(yt) h}\text{\(rw zp 5 }\text{\(tnwt, Processional Tour of Horus, 5th time of the census.} \)

Register 5: \( \text{h}(t) \text{biti zp 2 }\text{h}\text{\(3b-zkr, Appearance of the King of Lower Egypt, 2nd time of the Festival of Seker.} \)

Register 6: \( \text{wd(yt) h}\text{\(rw zp 6 }\text{\(tnwt, Processional Tour of Horus, 6th time of the census.} \)
Register 7: zp tp ḥr-pt-dw3 ḍ ṣm-r ḍ mḥw, first time of the festival “Horus of Heaven” hacking up the towns Shemra and Mehu.

Register 8: wd(yt) ḥrw zp 7 ṭnwt, Processional Tour of Horus, 7th time of the census.

Register 9: hṣ(t) biti zp 2 phrr ḫpw, Appearance of the King of Lower Egypt, 2nd running of the Apis Bull.

Register 10: wd(yt) ḥrw zp 8 ṭnwt, Processional Tour of Horus, 8th time of the census.

Register 11: hṣ(t) biti zp 3 ḥṣb-zkr, Appearance of the King of Lower Egypt, 3rd time of the Festival of Seker.

Register 12: wd(yt) ḥrw zp 9 ṭnwt, Processional Tour of Horus, 9th time of the census.

Register 13: hṣ(t) biti mḥw (n)sw(t) ḏt-ḥṣb ḥḥbt, Appearance of the King of Lower Egypt, the King offering to the goddess Nekhbet, Djet-Festival.

Register 14: wd(yt) ḥrw zp 10 ṭnwt, Processional Tour of Horus, 10th time of the census.

5th Row: Recording the events in the reign of King Khasekhemwy and King Djoser (3rd Dynasty).

Register 1: wd(yt) ḥrw zp 6 ṭnwt, Processional Tour of Horus, 6th time of the census.

Register 2: ḥṣwwi nswt-bitī ḏ Ṱr ṭr ṭmn, Dual Appearance of the King of Upper and Lower Egypt, stone building of “Enduring Goddess.”
Register 3: \[ \text{Processional Tour of Horus, census of the gold.(smiths).} \]

Register 4: \[ \text{birth of Khasekhemwy.} \]

Register 5: \[ \text{Processional Tour of Horus, census of the gold.} \]

Register 6: \[ \text{4 times bringing to completion the work of the wall of Duadjefa.} \]

Register 7: \[ \text{Dual Appearance of the King of Upper and Lower Egypt, Uniting the Two Lands, the festival “Going around the Wall.”} \]

Register 8: \[ \text{Dual Appearance of the King of Upper and Lower Egypt, [introduction]of the King to the refuge (of purification) “Shrine.”} \]

Register 9: \[ \text{Processional Tour of Horus, Birth of Min.} \]

Register 10: \[ \text{Dual Appearance of the King of Upper and Lower Egypt, Stretching the Cord for the temple “Refreshment of the Gods.”} \]

6th Row: Recording the events in the reign of King Sneferu (4th Dynasty).

Register 1: \[ \text{mḥ bṣk(t) mr(w) dwṣ-tṣwi mḥ 100 dpt} \]
16 (n)swt dpt 60 ʿd tḥ-nḥs int ʿnḥ-skṛ 7000 iwḥ-ṣwt 200,000 ḏ ūb šmḥw tḥ-mḥw snfrw ḫḥwt ʿnt dpt 40 mḥ ʿṣ, completion of work of a 100-cubit meru-wood dua-taui boat, 60 royal boats of type-16⁵, hacking up the land of the Nubians bringing 7000 captured prisoners, 200000 cattle, building a wall Upper and Lower Egypt “Enclosures of Sneferu,” bringing 40 boats filled with cedar-wood

Register 2: irt ḫḥwt 35 šzp mr(w) 122 mḥ bḥk(t) ʿṣ dwḥ-tḥw mḥ 100 dpt mr(w) mḥ 100 dpt 7 ūnwt building of 35 enclosures, receiving 122 bulls, completion of work of a 100-cubit cedar-wood dua-taui boat, 2 100-cubit meru-wood boats, ⁷th time of the census.

Register 3: sḥḥ ḫḥt snfrw ʿtp r sbḥt (r)sw nt snfrw ʿtp r sbḥt mḥtt irt ʿḥw sḥ-(n)swt ʿṣ zp 8 ūnwt, erecting the “White Crown of Sneferu on the Top of the Southern Gateway” and the “Red Crown of Sneferu on the Top of the Northern Gateway,” making cedar-wood doors of the King’s palace, ⁸th time of the census.

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⁵ Type-16 may refer to the number of oars or some dimension.